

**RG-50.407.0235**

**Summary**

*The interview conducted in Hungarian with simultaneous translation into English.*

Klara Grunfeld, born to Ilana [PH] and Elias Shimon in a small town in central Hungary on May 15, 1923, describes having a younger brother and two sisters, one of them a twin; having an extended family, many of whom were lost in the Holocaust; her family having a grocery shop; in 1944, the family being taken to a brick factory (Békásmegyer ghetto), then taken by train with other Jews to Lippstadt camp, where the women and children were separated and put to work in a factory producing munitions; living in a single barracks with 36 people; not admitting to being sick or injured, as those who were unable to work were sent to the gas chamber; not knowing the geographic location of the camp; the presence of a crematorium; speaking Hungarian in the camp; having contact with Polish Jewish girls in the camp; not knowing what was occurring outside of the camp; struggling against hunger and cold; remaining in this camp until liberation; some of the work supervisors, but not Klara's, treating the inmates with occasional kindness; nobody praying, believing that if there was a god, they would not be where they were; Kara and her sister being liberated by the Americans; hoping to find their family alive but not believing they would; her older brother, taken for slave labor, escaping and surviving the war, but her younger brother perishing; receiving occasional help from Hungarians; everything being a matter of luck; following liberation, walking as a group for approximately 36 km; taking a month to get home; living in her cousin's house; [Returning to questions about early life:] having a very nice family life; having gentile friends but generally not much contact with gentiles; having two synagogues in the town and an active Jewish population; her parents observing only on high holidays; traveling to Palestine with her sister and being married en route; being caught by the British and interned for months in Cyprus; arriving in Jaffa (Yafo); having a child in the Jaffa hospital amid gunfire; her twin sister settling in Chile; struggling to get by in 1948 during the War of Independence; being determined to survive the Holocaust; it being very important for Jews to remain Jews; being grateful to live in Israel, where she feels secure. [Note: Klara continues to live in Israel is visiting her daughter, brother, and sister in Australia.] not being interested in visiting Hungary; having annual reunions of survivors of her camp.