

## Summary

Dora Golubowitz Freilich was born December 25, 1926 in Pruzany, Poland, near Bialystok. She describes pre-war life: schooling, relations with non-Jewish Poles, Jewish community life and youth groups. She talks in great detail about the Russian occupation 1939-41, including expropriation of her family's business. After the German invasion, her family had to move into the Pruzany ghetto June, 1941. She describes living conditions, cultural activities, labor units, *Judenrat*, and contact with Jewish partisans in the ghetto. A non-Jewish ex-employee of her father hid her baby sister but later the family asked him to return the child.

Dora describes the evacuation of the ghetto January, 1943, and her family's transport to Auschwitz-Birkenau. She witnessed Mengele's sadistic games with prisoners and was aware of medical experiments which she describes in great detail. She details sadistic behavior by guard, including shooting her sister for sport. Conditions at Birkernau: slave labor, types of prisoners, orchestra, death process, and relations among inmates are described. She explains how older girls tried to help the younger ones and the coping strategies they used to survive.

She describes the sabotage of a crematorium October, 1944 and the public hanging of four girls held responsible. She describes the escape, capture and execution of Mala Zimetbaum.

January 1945 she experienced the final days of the camp and described the death march to and conditions in Ravensbrück. After three months she went to Malchow. Dora and 11 girls escaped into the forest. They were liberated by Russian soldiers May 1945. She describes treatment by Russians which ranged from kindness to brutality.

The girls returned to Pruzany after a three month journey where Dora experienced both antisemitism and help from non-Jews. They went on to Lodz. Their attempt to go to Palestine with Aliyah Bet failed. Dora and a friend married two brothers. In 1946 they went to Feldafing, a Displaced Persons camp. She emigrated to the USA March, 1949. Dora talks about survivor's guilt and how the Holocaust and the loss of her family still affects both her and her daughter.