

Interviewee:	<u>CAHN</u> , Lory	Date:	May 4, 1981
Interviewer:	Marian Salkin		
Audio tapes:	4 English	Transcript:	1 vol., 54 pages English
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SUMMARY

Lory Cahn¹, nee Grünberger, was born May 17, 1925 in Breslau, Germany into a religious home. Her father was a lawyer. Her younger brother was sent to England in the 1930's, joined the British army and remained in England permanently.² Lory's schooling stopped after *Kristallnacht*, 1938. The family's attempts to emigrate to Argentina failed. Because her father was a captain in the German army during World War I, he was able to buy his way into Theresienstadt and Lory was allowed to stay with her parents when the family was deported in the spring of 1941. Lory reports in detail the roundup of Jews, the transport by cattle car, and every aspect of life in Theresienstadt. She was treated for meningitis with medicine provided by the Red Cross.

In 1943 Lory was sent to Auschwitz after a two week trip in a cattle car. She survived a selection by Dr. Mengele. She describes living and working conditions of female prisoners and mentions the Auschwitz orchestra. Auschwitz was so overcrowded prisoners were exterminated before being processed. Lory witnessed many brutal acts.

In 1944 she was sent to Mauthausen after ten days in Buchenwald. Outside Buchenwald Jews in the transport were bombed during an air raid. She describes a brutal trip, guarded by SS, to Kurzbach, a labor camp in Silesia. Pointless labor and a starvation diet were designed to kill the prisoners.

After a death march to Gross-Rosen, in the fall of 1944 (which only 30 of the 150 in her group survived) they were taken to Bergen-Belsen. She describes conditions in Bergen-Belsen. Prisoners who reported sick disappeared. Due to extreme starvation, some prisoners resorted to cannibalism. Just before the war ended the SS guards gradually disappeared and the number of prisoners who died increased greatly. Lory survived bitter cold, typhus, and starvation and was liberated by British troops April 15, 1945.

¹Former first name Hanna Lore.

²Mrs. Cahn was to go on the Kindertransport. She tells in detail the story about being settled on the train and her father pulling her out the window of the train as he was saying goodbye to her in the film, *Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport*. Warner Brothers, 2000, DVD.

She describes chaotic conditions in Bergen-Belsen and attempts to rehabilitate the survivors after liberation. Many prisoners died from eating regular food. At a Jewish information office in Hannover Lory learned that her mother was gassed in Auschwitz and her father was still alive in Theresienstadt. She went to Bavaria, in the American zone, with friends. American Jewish soldiers looked after them. One managed to find her father in Berlin. Her father joined her in Bavaria, April 1946. After some time in a Displaced Persons camp in Germany she came to the United States on April 17, 1947 and married one of the soldiers she had met in Bavaria. Her father stayed in Germany.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

Holocaust Jewish 1939 – 1945 – Personal narratives
Jews – German
World War, 1939 – 1945 – Concentration camps
World War, 1939 – 1945 - Prisoners
World War, 1939 – 1945 – Concentration camps - Liberation
Theresienstadt (concentration camp)
Auschwitz (concentration camp)
Buchenwald (concentration camp)
Mauthausen (concentration camp)
Kurzbach (labor camp) Silesia
Gross-Rosen (concentration camp)
Bergen-Belsen (concentration camp)
Slave labor
Atrocities
Death march from Buchenwald