

Interviewee:	<u>EISNER</u> , Malvina Gerlich	Date:	April 22, 1985 ¹
Interviewer:	Gladys Bernstein		
Audio tapes:	1 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	None	Libr. Catlg. #:	D 810.J4 G7 no. 77

SUMMARY

Malvina Gerlich Eisner² was born in Svidnika, Czechoslovakia, August 24, 1924. Her father was a grocer. She was the second of nine children. All of her siblings and her parents perished. She lived with her grandparents and went to school in Bardějov.

In 1942 Malvina and three cousins hid to escape the first roundup and transport. Later she hid in the woods and then in her grandparents' apartment after their deportation. In June 1942 Malvina and her friends were reported to the police, arrested, and taken to Auschwitz and then Birkenau where she stayed until October 1944. She describes conditions in Auschwitz-Birkenau, brutal rollcalls, and selections. She worked as part of *Kommandos* (work groups) removing corpses, delivering food to the sick blocks, and picking up trash. She avoided a selection purely by chance. Malvina got very sick and survived because the other girls fed her and covered for her. She briefly describes Passover observance and a Seder at Auschwitz. She mentions transports arriving from Hungary constantly.

Her group was taken to a camp in Hindenburg, run by the S.S. in the fall of 1944. As the Russian army approached, the inmates were evacuated on foot and in box cars to Bergen-Belsen. She was liberated by the British army on April 15, 1945. She is proud that she and the other girls preserved their humanity. She recites the names of her siblings and close family members who were murdered.

¹Recorded at the 1985 American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors in Philadelphia, PA.

²Gerlich was her maiden name.

Interviewee: EISNER, Malvina Gerlich

Date: April 22, 1985

SUBJECT HEADINGS

Jews, Czechoslovakia

Hiding

World War, 1939-1945-- deportations from Czechoslovakia

Auschwitz (concentration camp)

Brezinka (Poland: concentration camp)

Selections

Resistance - spiritual