

Interviewee:	<u>KINEGAL</u> , Genya	Date:	June 5, 1987 ¹
Interviewer:	Sylvia Brockmon		
Audio tapes:	1 Yiddish ²	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	None	Translated:	Yiddish to Eng. (written)
		Translated by:	Sylvia Brockmon

SUMMARY

Genya Yetz Kinegal, nee Goldfisher was born December 24, 1925 in Skolne, Poland (Galicia), a small village with 3,000 Jews. The town was occupied by Germans in 1939, then by Russians until 1941. Genya briefly describes the Russian Occupation. When the Germans took over, Genya took on a Polish identity and rented an apartment for a time but eventually was captured by the Germans in the fall of 1942, deported to the Przysucha Ghetto, and then to Plaszow where she did forced labor for a year sewing uniforms. In 1943 she was sent to Skarzysko-Kamienna, in Poland where she worked in a munitions factory making launchers for grenades. In August 1944, she was sent in cattle cars to a women's camp connected to Buchenwald to work in another munitions factory. All the prisoners in these camps were Jews.

Genya describes the daily routine in the camps, hunger, living and working conditions, as well as clandestine attempts to celebrate Jewish holidays. An attempt to save a newborn baby led to dire consequences for all the women in the camp. She explains the "selections" that determined who would live and who would die. The prisoners formed small groups of four or five to support and protect each other.

Genya along with the other prisoners were driven out of the Buchenwald satellite camp in March 1945. They wandered about on foot until they encountered American soldiers on May 5, 1945. The Americans provided food, clothing and shelter. Jewish soldiers obtained certificates that enabled survivors to go to Palestine legally. Genya found out that her entire family perished. She explains how what she went through still affects her psychologically and physically, and how much was taken away from her during the Holocaust.

¹This interview took place in Haifa, Israel.

²Ms. Kinegal helped organize Kibbutz Afakim. The interview ends before they discuss this.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) Poland
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) Personal narratives
Holocaust, Jewish (1939- 1945) Psychological aspects
Jewish ghettos (Poland)
Ghetto - Przysucha
Labor camps - Skarzysko-Kamienna - Poland
World War, (1939-1945) - Concentration camp-Liberation

HOLOCAUST TESTIMONY

OF

GENYA YETZ KINEGAL

Transcript of Audio-taped Interview

Interviewer: Sylvia Brockmon
Date: June 5, 1987

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