

Interviewee:	<u>KLEIN</u> , Violet	Date:	September 9, 2009 and
Interviewer:	Patricia Rich		November 23, 2009
Audio tapes:	3 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	None		

### SUMMARY

Violet Klein, nee Iboya Löwy, was born in Miskolc, Hungary on August 2, 1921 to an upper middle class family who were traditional in their Jewish observance, but not very religious. She had three brothers and one sister. When she completed high school, Mrs. Klein worked as a dressmaker. She reports that while growing up she did not experience antisemitism. She tells of how, when Germany occupied Hungary in 1944, ghettos were set-up and she and her family were moved to Diósgyőr. She was then moved to government farm work in Adonotanya [phonetic, possibly Ádámtonya].

Eventually the family was reunited and transported via cattle car to Auschwitz. Mrs. Klein describes the arrival at Auschwitz and the selection by Mengele. She talks about the daily routine at Auschwitz. One of 600 girls selected for work detail, Mrs. Klein then went to Bremen Hagen to clean up after Allied bombings. She reports receiving food from German civilians and tells of narrowly escaping Allied bombs. Mrs. Klein was then transported to Bergen-Belsen and describes the liberation, or what she remembers of it, and that she was very ill with typhus. She was taken to Sweden to recuperate and stayed there for two years, recovering and working in a factory.

Mrs. Klein tells of her marriage when she returned to Hungary from Sweden. She describes a demonstration for the Hungarian revolution in which she participated with a friend in 1956. They both took their children along, not realizing how dangerous it would be. She and her husband decided to leave Hungary and Mrs. Klein recounts their attempt to escape across the border.

The family did finally get to Austria, to a refugee camp, and eventually were able to come to the United States through a cousin in New York in January, 1957.