

Interviewee:	<u>HOCHBERG</u> , Ethel	Date:	April 22, 1985 ¹
Interviewer:	Rabbi Gorman		
Audio tapes:	2 English	Transcript:	Draft, unaudited
Restrictions:	None		1 vol. (unpaged) English

SUMMARY

Ethel Hochberg, née Lylberberg, the youngest of three children, was born in Lodz, Poland in 1918 to a non-orthodox Jewish family, which observed kashrut and attended shul. Her parents were in the leather good business. Ethel attended a *gymnasium*. She contrasts her not feeling any increase in anti-Jewish sentiment in the Lodz society with what her brother witnessed when he traveled to Vienna. She was 18 when the war broke out. In 1940 Germans confiscated their apartment and they had to move. She lived in the Lodz Ghetto until 1944. She describes the creation of the *Judenrat*, the scarcity of food, lack of medical care, crowded conditions, and lack of education for children. Her father and grandmother died in the ghetto. After her father died, Rumkowski gave her an office job in the ghetto and she was able to get extra food. She describes conditions in the ghetto: starvation, illness, lack of medical care and sanitation.

She details the Nazi ruse of getting Jews to volunteer to “work.” Ethel, her brother, mother and sister-in-law all volunteered and she describes being sent in cattle cars to Auschwitz. She details the journey, arrival, confusion, selections, being separated from her mother, and meeting a neighbor from Lodz-- an *Ältester* (block leader) who helped Ethel and her sister-in-law. Another prisoner helped her secure a job stapling quilts and knitting which provided better food. After one month she is deported to Breslau, where she works in a factory under slightly better conditions, and then endures a forced death march to Mauthausen, then to Gross-Rosen where they were put on trains. She describes the bombing of Nuremberg when German soldiers deserted the train, then returned to deport the prisoners to Bergen-Belsen. In Bergen-Belsen, she met that same neighbor who again took care of her. Ethel was liberated April 15, 1945 by the English. She describes the emotion of liberation, many who died from eating rich food, establishment of hospitals and her own severe illness from lice. She credits her survival to her sister-in-law with whom she stayed the entire war. After liberation she was reunited with one brother (the husband of her sister-in-law), but never found out what happened to her other brother who had fled to Lemberg (Lvov) in 1939. The three went back to Germany to Stuttgart Displaced Persons Camp. Ethel emigrated to the United States in 1949. Her brother and sister-in-law came here a few years later after living in Israel.

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

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

Holocaust Jewish (1939 - 1945) Poland
Holocaust Jewish (1939 - 1945) Personal narratives Jewish, female
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) Psychological aspects
Lodz Ghetto - Poland
Aid by Jews
Death Camp - Auschwitz
Concentration Camp - Bergen-Belsen
Forced labor
Death march
World War (1939-1945) Concentration camp - Liberation
World War, 1939 - 1945 – Concentration camps

²Recorded at the 1985 American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors in Philadelphia, PA.