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-NOTES-  
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1:00:00 Lucille's former name is Cecilia Lundau(ph). She was born In Hamburg, Germany in 1925.

1:01:00 Her parents were Polish nationals living in Germany at that time. She lived the first sixteen years of her life in both Germany and Poland alternately.

1:02:00 Her family traveled back and forth between the two countries. She had a sister, five years younger. They had a comfortable life. Her father was a businessman. She went to a private Jewish school. She started school in 1930.

1:03:00 Her life at home was comfortable. She traveled with her parents all over Europe. Her first feeling that something was not right came in 1933 . She had been sick the entire winter previous to April 1933 when Hitler came to power. A doctor recommended that she go to a resort with curative facilities.

1:04:00 They rented a house on an estate whose owner was a German with whom they became friendly. Her father would talk with him. Her father was blue-eyed, not very Jewish looking, and spoke German without an accent. The day they were supposed to leave, the owner of the estate invited them over for coffee.

1:05:00 The man said, "Isn't it amazing what Hitler has done in these short few months for the Germans? He is working on unemployment, social ills, and last but not least, he is taking care of the Jews". Her father got angry and told the man he was a Jew. She recalls that things changed after that.

1:06:00 German children would not play with them. Some children left for Palestine. It did not touch them personally because they were considered foreigners with permits to live in Germany. They were not considered Jews. It did not appear on their passports.

1:07:00 She had difficulty in school because of all that was taking place around her and because it was a parochial school. Most children in her school came from Germany.

1:08:00 About twenty children in her school came from Russia, Poland, and Hungary. In the mid 1930s, when German authorities requested Jewish children to state their parent's date of birth, nationality, and place of birth, it became obvious who was a foreigner in the school. German Jewish children made ugly remarks, would not talk or play with her.

1:09:00 In 1938, a month before Kristallnacht, German police came to the house at six in the morning and asked them to dress and come downtown.

1:10:00 Her father told police he would come without the family. By afternoon they had found out that the Polish Jews had been rounded up in Germany and they were being sent back over the border to Poland. By late afternoon, someone told them where the Jews were being held and they should bring a suitcase with clothing.

1:11:00 Lucille and her sister went with their cousins. They found her father and uncle and asked her father to come with them through the unguarded gate. Her father wouldn't because it was not honorable. The authorities took the people from Germany and physically walked and pushed them over the border.

1:12:00 The Jewish Polish community on the other side took them in for a little while then distributed them throughout Poland. Her father went home to where his family lived in Sambor and stayed until May 1939. In the meantime, Lucille and her mother had to move because restrictions were more severe. They tried to obtain a certificate for Palestine. Her father had two brothers who left in 1934, when they had asked her father to go with them then, her mother had said she did not want to go to Palestine. Her parents were still fairly certain they would be left alone because they were Polish nationals.

1:13:00 Her father gave up his business voluntarily in 1939 because he did not need it. Money was not a problem. Her mother shipped the contents of the larger apartment to Palestine while they waited for the certificate.

1:14:00 In May of 1939, her father came back to Germany by the permission of the Germans to take all of them back to Poland unless they received the certificate for Palestine. They got an extension because the certificate had not arrived yet. Her father knew an Italian consul in Germany who could get them a three day visa to Palestine. The consul told him to just go but her father refused.

1:15:00 Her father did not want to take risks. Most of their friends had left. She remembers Martin Buber coming to the house before he left to tell her father it was time to go. The war broke out September 1, 1939; the Gestapo was at their house an hour later. They picked up her father and interned him in a county prison for four weeks.

1:16:00 Afterwards they sent interned Polish men to Oranienburg,

Sachsenhausen, and Dachau. They moved again, had to wear a Yellow Star, had food rations, and bought food in a specially designated store. They weren't allowed out at night, people were beaten, arrested, and some managed to leave. They went daily to the Jewish community center to obtain an exit visa for her father, he would have been released if he had a permit.

1:17:00 During one visit to the center in December 1940, they heard that a friend of her father's, had been released from prison. Lucille was worried about going out in the late afternoon. She wanted to take the star off her coat. Her mother told her it was more dangerous to take it off than keep it on after dark. She reminded her mother that an elderly woman had been found dead one morning.

1:18:00 The woman had a note pinned to her Yellow Star that roughly translated, "out at night, dead at daylight". The woman had been beaten. When they saw him, they stood staring, not recognizing him. He did not ask them in.

1:19:00 It was dark outside when they left. Germany was blacked out. As they were walking, they heard sudden footsteps coming behind them with flashlights. She and her mother panicked and scattered.

1:20:00 Lucille twisted her ankle and fell, landing in a gutter. Someone stepped on her hand but the soldiers kept going. They got home and her ankle was broken. The fear that she experienced remained; she could not forget this fear.

1:21:00 In February 1941, the Gestapo rang their bell. She opened the door and soldiers in uniform asked for her mother. They came into the kitchen where her mother was, dropped a cigar box on the table and said three words, "Ashes from Dachau". Her mother started screaming.

1:22:00 After that, they only had a few more months. She went to school during this time. The Germans had combined the boy's and girl's schools into one school. She graduated from school and by this time, everybody had left or was leaving. All those who had been arrested like her father had either died or were killed.

1:23:00 In the fall of 1941, they received notification that they had to report downtown to be shipped East. It was labelled "relocation". She and her mother assumed if it was Poland they could manage. They had no details. They were each allowed a suitcase and a duffle bag. They were put in railroad cars, guarded and sealed from the outside.

1:24:00 They were on the train for a few days. When the doors opened, they were confronted by men in black uniforms and hats with an orange band around it with a star. Her mother asked them who and what they were and found out they were the Jewish police. They had been brought to Łódź Ghetto.

1:25:00 It was obvious to her that they had been brought to a slum.

1:26:00 She describes the experience as being unreal, like a movie. They had outhouses and pumps instead of running water. They were brought to a school which is still standing but not used.

There they stayed four or five weeks. They slept on the floor.

1:27:00 There was little food. The previous inhabitants of the town tried to sell them scraps of food for whatever valuables or currency they had. Next to them on the floor was an elderly couple who shared a mutual acquaintance. They shared a small assigned room in the Ghetto with four other people. The Ghetto was divided by a wooden bridge in various parts.

1:28:00 The elderly woman, Julie, asked her to call her son if she got to New York before she did. She did not call him, the couple was transported to a death camp three months later. She couldn't call him, met him at a party and somebody had told him she had known his parents.

1:29:00 She married him in 1946. The room in the Ghetto they shared with four other people had wooden bunks and an iron stove which they cooked on. Their room had one window which saw out onto the barbed wire that separated them from the Polish side and the guardhouse.

1:30:00 The guard kept constant vigil. She saw Poles carrying bread and food on the other side of the barbed wire; they had no contact with them. There was no entrance or exit to the Ghetto and no possibility for contact. There were no underground sewers. It was a difficult living situation.

1:31:00 In January of 1942, the elderly couples started harassing her to get a job. She couldn't get a job; she was only sixteen and didn't speak Polish. She learned it a year later. She went to the department of labor. The director had come to Poland from Hamburg when they had pushed the Jews over the border.

1:32:00 He granted an ordinance which was hard to get. He told her in German that no jobs were available, despite the fact that factories were plentiful in the Ghetto -- wood, metal, hat making, uniform making, and carpentry.

1:33:00 She asked if she could come back in four weeks to see if anything had turned up. She came back in four weeks and he told her to go and not come back. She went back in a few weeks and told him she really needed a job; a job meant an extra ration of soup. She also asked about work for mother and a school for sister in the factories.

1:34:00 She wanted her little sister to go to the hat factory or where ever there was a possibility for her to attend make- believe school and get some extra soup. The director was angry with her because he had told her there was nothing there. His sister was the go-between for the German administration and the Ghetto officials.

1:35:00 She saw the director again at the end of the war. Lucille was working for the English army for war crimes in 1945. She gave them a list of forty-two SS officers, who were arrested and stood trial. They went around ringing doorbells in Hamburg and physically picking them up to go jails.

1:36:00 She took time off for lunch along with four officers and the driver. She did translating mainly. They were walking down a street in Hamburg after eating lunch at the officer's club and the director passed them on the left side. They made eye contact and he recognized her instantly.

1:37:00 He turned and ran down the hill and around the corner. The English asked her if it was anyone she knew. She said no. She finally found a job in the Ghetto, through a former neighbor who had convinced Rumkowski that the Ghetto needed beautification -- parks, schools, trees, and buildings. Rumkowski thought this was a good because "after all, he was king of this empire".

1:38:00 Rumkowski named Adolf Gertz (ph), an engineer, to hire people to draw up plans. She worked in the office that dealt with paperwork only, drawing up plans. A former neighbor of their's knew she needed a job and offered to hire her. She sat in the office for six months; she was the secretary.

1:39:00 In 1942, Gertz came with his wife. He hired many Czech Jews from Prague. Many people were working in the office with academic credentials and titles.

1:40:00 They drew up blueprints and got soup. She got thinner; there was much Typhus going around that summer. Towards the end of fall, Rumkowski called Gertz to tell him that he was closing the office next week; he had changed his mind. There was nothing Gertz could do. He was just a skeleton by that point.

1:41:00 Gertz told her he would try to find her something else. He died in the winter and was buried in an unmarked grave -- one of seventy thousand. She started looking for work but it was difficult; she didn't have connections. She tried to get her sister into a school in a factory but the manager wanted something in return.

1:42:00 She realized in the Ghetto nothing is free -- something was given for something. She went to talk to a woman she knew who worked in the factory. The woman was not there but a stranger introduced himself.

1:43:00 He said, "I'm Yishi Yahoospeigel (ph)". He told her he knew that she was looking for work and that he was ordered to start a new office in two weeks to fill out coal rations for the German Reich, computing individual rations and sending back the completed applications. Yishi was asked to head the office by Heinrich Naphtali(ph.), a lawyer before the war.

1:44:00 Rumkowski was temperamental and difficult. She didn't believe Yishi would give her a job. She worked as his secretary for nine months, from fall 1942 to summer 1943.

1:45:00 In the meantime, in 1942, her mother died from hunger. They didn't bury the dead in July of 1942; there were not enough people to do the job. She and her sister went to the cemetery after a week. They entered a building and saw bodies piled from floor to ceiling.

1:46:00 The bodies were tied between two wooden boards with string, with name tags tied to their toes. They found two shovels, dug a grave, and then went to go look for their mother. They found her and buried her without ceremony or grief.

1:47:00 Six weeks later, the Germans affected a curfew, which was to last a week. No one was allowed out of the buildings or to work. Rumkowski had a proclamation posted all over town. There was no place to hide. The Germans went street to street with dogs. This happened in September of 1942. On the third day, the police came to their house.

1:48:00 She was worried about her sister and put make up on her face. Her sister smiled and talked, her first reaction, since their mother's death. Her sister was eleven at this time. They went downstairs. Their neighbor upstairs had a baby, which she hid and came downstairs without.

1:49:00 Downstairs the Germans had an amplifier and told everyone to get out of the building. Lucille and the other people stood in the courtyard. The Germans went into the house with dogs. They found a father and son and another man and put them on a truck outside. It was a selection; the young and old were put on trucks within seconds. Her sister was among them -- none of these people were ever heard from again. She thinks it was the single largest number of all the deportations.

1:50:00 Lucille moved next door and shared a room with two girls who had lost their parents, to share coal and lumber. She was now totally alone, and shortly afterward lost her job. She found a new job working as a secretary. All jobs in the Ghetto had a lot of politics involved.

1:51:00 There was a lot of favoritism and personal connections involved, having the right connections was the only thing that mattered. She worked for Spiegel, a writer. After a few months, he asked her to stay late after work to read her some stories, poems and Ghetto stories. They were first drafts.

1:52:00 They were never printed. He was about thirty-eight or thirty-nine years old. He had an estranged wife. He was on Rumkowski's black list. He had written a poem about a child who's father had told the child that there were no raisins or apples.

1:53:00 The poem told of a father who is not able to get work, which was a direct reflection of Rumkowski's rule. Rumkowski was angry when he heard the poem and banished Spiegel from writing. Rumkowski was ready to deport him, but Heinrich Naphtali convinced him to change his mind, with the understanding that he would never write about Rumkowski.

1:54:00 Her work was not difficult; there were about four hundred people computing forms. She knew her job would soon be obsolete. Rumkowski knew the same. He had a habit of making inspections of "his" factories and offices.

1:55:00 Rumkowski could dole out favors, which were few. He could also take people out of offices if he needed them in the factories, which was harder work with bad physical conditions. Rumkowski came to the office to interview people because he knew the job would be ending soon. He assigned jobs to people at random. Spiegel sat in the main office and they ignored each other.

1:56:00 Heinrich Naphtali did the talking between them. She tried to hide, not to be called in. She managed to avoid him until late afternoon until someone told on her. Rumkowski asked her name, about her parents, what kind of work she did, and her age.

1:57:00 He told her she would be hearing from him. She had thoughts of what she would say to him if she met him, yet when she stood in front of him, she could not talk. He made fun of her in a few words.

1:58:00 He told her she was a German; she told him she was a Polish national and a Jew. He was a white-haired gentleman, well-dressed. A month later, Heinrich Naphtali asked her to transfer to the statistical department. She didn't want to leave her friends and Spiegel but had no choice.

1:59:00 She went to the statistics department the next day and Oscar Singer introduced himself. He wanted her to type or rewrite daily reports of statistics within the Ghetto.

1:01:00 Singer mixed with the Jewish elite to get information. He got extra food rations because of his position. He had a son and a daughter her age, whom he introduced her to. She worked for him for six months.

1:01:00 He was a journalist before the war. He was better fed than she was. He got an occasional food gift but he was not well fed.

2:00:00 Repeat information from tape one.

2:01:00 It was Rumkowski on the phone. She had to go to his office the next morning. To get to his office, people had to go through Jewish police, German police, various secretaries. Rumkowski's office was in a building surrounded by barbed wire.

2:02:00 He called her attention to a house in the Ghetto for young people, with or without parents, where they got some schooling and extra food. He told her he planned to open another branch which would be all kitchens and he needed people to staff the kitchens and offices.

2:03:00 Rumkowski's idea was that if a worker did good work in the factory, they would get a coupon to come to the kitchen for two weeks to get an extra meal. He wanted her to run an office. The staff would be teenagers and the cooks older people.

2:04:00 She had to compute how many grams of food would be allocated to each person. He came every afternoon; he had a distinctive walk with a cane, which he used hit people if he was displeased. Spiegel did not like her working there because Rumkowski had a horrible reputation of being a child molester.

2:05:00 He ran an orphanage before the war and would have been sent to trial if it had not been for the war. She did not want to refuse his offer because Rumkowski was liable to send her out of the Ghetto. He came to visit her every day and eventually suggested that she move to the apartment above the kitchen.

2:06:00 She did not want to move. Rumkowski was angry. He came back the next day and asked her about her family in Palestine and if they were well-off. He asked her to promise him that her family would help him financially after the war because he got her a job.

2:07:00 He was sure there would be an after the war. If anyone would survive, he would and he assumed she would too because of her age. Every time he visited, he reminded her of the promise.

2:08:00 He didn't talk about the apartment anymore; an older woman occupied it in her place. In the kitchen, she met Oscar Singer's daughter, Ellie. They became very close friends.



2:09:00 The soup they ate was water with frozen, fermented potatoes.

2:10:00 Much of the food they ate was raw. While she was working in the kitchen she got jaundice. Rumkowski sent her to a doctor. He sent someone to her house with soup everyday and gave her a present of two pounds of sugar.

2:11:00 The doctor put her on medication. Rumkowski arranged for someone to bring in four vials of it, but it didn't help. After four days she went back to work; she was afraid not to. When she was home alone sick, she locked the door from the inside because people were stealing.

2:12:00 She had a fever. There was a loud knocking at the door. She found out the next day that it was Rumkowski. She was glad that she didn't let him in; she was afraid that he would molest her. The next day he closed the kitchen.

2:13:00 He closed it because he ran out of food and there was no food coming in from the German side. When she had first started working in the kitchen, a Jewish policeman came to the door and told her she had been summoned to the Criminal Polizei.

2:14:00 He walked her to the Gestapo door, yelled out her name and ran. There was a German behind the desk.

2:15:00 He was alone in the room. He asked her name and address and told her it had been reported that she had a radio. She insisted she didn't. This continued for two hours and every time she said no, he would hit on the side of the head.

2:16:00 One day she and Spiegel noticed that she did not hear out of her left ear. She went to the doctor but there was nothing that could be done. She still only hears out of her right ear.

2:17:00 She was haunted by the fact that someone had denounced her. She could never figure out who or why. Later, she found out it was Spiegel's former wife.

2:18:00 She saw him one more time in the Ghetto. Her name appeared on a list, in January 1944, of people who were to be deported from the Ghetto. Ellie suggested she talk to Spiegel because he might be able to intervene due to his connections.

2:19:00 Ellie went instead and a few hours before she was to be deported, her name disappeared from the list. The man Spiegel had talked to was Polaufski(ph. ), head of the leather factory and Spiegel's friend before the war. She went to thank Spiegel and he gave her a scroll of poems.

2:20:00 She never told him about his wife until recently. He got back with his wife towards the liquidation of the Ghetto. After Rumkowski closed the kitchen, she went to work in another factory.

2:21:00 She worked there until August 1944, when it was announced that the Ghetto was to be liquidated. They were told that they were being sent to another camp. The Germans closed off certain streets and those people would have to report. Her's was the first street.

2:22:00 She knocked on the door of different friends whom she thought would be able to help her but they wouldn't answer. At the railroad site; she saw Oscar Singer and his family and went to stand with them so they could get on the same car. The trip was slow because troop trains had priority. They had no idea where they were going.

2:23:00 She first came to the Ghetto in 1941. The first deportation she was aware of was in the Winter of 1941, when the elderly Jews from Eastern Europe were deported. There were various deportations throughout. Her name, along with her mother's and sister's, appeared on a list that was posted three months after they arrived. It was intended for German and Austrian Jews, so she had to take their Polish passports to the Ghetto officials to tell them they were not German Jews.

2:24:00 She convinced them to let them stay. They never knew who was going to be deported. She has an acquaintance from Austria who claims he had a radio and knew.

2:25:00 If he knew, Rumkowski would have known and maybe there would have been resistance. She finds it hard to believe that any of them knew of a place like Auschwitz. Rumkowski himself went out on the last train with a letter of recommendation from a German SS officer.

2:26:00 The letter said that, when he arrived, he would be accorded all courtesies and Rumkowski believed it. They had no idea of anything until the cattle cars opened in Auschwitz. Lucille was aware of the possessions that were often shipped back after the deportations because some of the shipments came into the basement of the factory where they worked.

2:27:00 She didn't know what they were, however, because she didn't recognize any of it as belonging to anyone she knew. In the Ghetto, people became callous, selfish, like a non-feeling thing, but she still had good friends.

2:28:00 People bloated because of the unbalanced food and lost tremendous amounts of weight. She had hallucinations of food.

2:29:00 In the Ghetto, death had to be reported and the ration coupons were to be handed in. People were deported for not doing this.

2:30:00 People wouldn't report death because you could cash in the

rations for food. Many horror stories of child abuse, parent abuse. Many parents went to the camps with their children because they didn't want to give them up.

2:31:00 Not all deportations were performed in an orderly fashion. Lists were drawn up by various branches of the Ghetto administration. The Germans gave them the option of doing it themselves or else they would do it.

2:32:00 The lists were drawn up according to a variety of factors: age, gender, occupation. It was hard to predict who would show up on the list; it wasn't always a non-producer. The Germans came in only once to do a deportation during the Spierer(ph.), one week house arrest.

2:33:00 The Jewish police would bring them to the railroad in Marachime(ph).

2:34:00 All the food came into that place, where it was unloaded by the Jewish Police and brought into the Ghetto by horse-drawn wagons. There was also a cemetery where people from the Ghetto were taken.

2:35:00 People were buried where ever there was space, not in rows.

2:36:00 Some people believed the place they were being deported to would be better than the Ghetto. There was an equal amount of people who believed that it would be worse. "No one imagines that one human being could do to another human being what the Germans did".

2:37:00 She had no thoughts of where she was going. Death was all around them but it had lost its horror because it was so familiar. They (the Jews, people in the Ghetto) came to realize they were not in control of their destinies.

2:38:00 She became numb -- she tried not to think. It was a strange frame of mind. People had thoughts of escape out of Marischeme; people wanted to crawl under the wire.

2:39:00 There were guards stationed at regular intervals and to get away was difficult. People killed themselves but escapes were few. If caught, they were hung in the Ghetto. The bodies were swinging in the wind for days before they were allowed to cut them down.

2:40:00 When she lost her family, her friends provided a sense of community for her. She still has the same friends. Surviving the concentration camps required a friend and luck.

2:41:00 It all depends on being in the right time at the right place. She owes Spiegel her life. In the camp, it helped to have Ellie as a friend. Holidays and Hasidic services in the Ghetto at someone's house.

2:42:00 They were ultra-orthodox services, intended more for men. In the Ghetto, she attended a concert, a poetry reading, and a dance. Rumkowski didn't know about these things; if he had, there would have been trouble.

2:43:00 At one point, there was a library in the Ghetto. There was no time to read -- they worked twelve to fourteen hours a day. There was no light, no energy, and no desire.

2:44:00 When she lived in Germany, Jews were afraid on Hitler's birthday or other days of German importance. Hitler's birthday didn't matter as much in the Ghetto as it did in the work camps. In the camps, the SS were in close proximity and could punish and hit the Jews easy. In the Ghetto, the Germans remained outside.

2:45:00 There were two systems of rations. One was a soup kitchen in which milk cans were sent to factories. Soup could range from pure water or it might have minimal vegetables floating in it.

2:46:00 The other system was a proclamation, posted at irregular intervals by the Ghetto administration, stating that on a particular date, people could go to a Ghetto store where portions would be parcelled out. The proclamation would state the rations.

2:47:00 They never knew when the new ration would come. The new supplies were allocated to the soup kitchen, extra rations to the privileged, and some to the rest. People locked room where they kept their extra food or hid it.

2:48:00 They hoped their roommates wouldn't steal. She fantasized about food a lot.

2:49:00 She never saw fruit from 1940-1945. There was no milk.

2:50:00 There was a very small variety of vegetables. Women all had amenorrhea -- no conceptions.

2:51:00 They never knew it was due to malnutrition. She weighed 100 - 110 lbs. before and during the war. She was working twelve hours a day. Children would stand on the corner and sing songs about Rumkowski.

2:52:00 The words to their songs were spontaneous: "Saccharine, buy ten for a mark, it will make you sweeter than Rumkowski".

2:53:00 A street singer in Ghetto would go around singing songs. There is a lot of literature about him in Jerusalem.

2:54:00 Her money was worthless. She couldn't use her salary to buy bread. Food and belongings were the only currency that had real purchasing power. No rent.

2:55:00 They were allowed one light bulb from the ceiling. There was no bill.

2:56:00 There was a black market --- ways and means to get things. Her family was religious. Grandmother's side was very religious.

2:57:00 Her parents were from Sambor, Poland, in what is now the Ukraine. Her father lost his parents when he was very young. He came from a well-off family; his grandfather had a lot of property. Her father and his brothers were taken out of school to be apprenticed. Her father ran away to the home of a distant relative in Vienna and went back to school.

2:58:00 Her father was drafted for the Austro-Hungarian war in 1914 and came to Germany in 1918. He met a man with a brother in Dresden who offered them a job importing and exporting wine. The man brought his sister from Poland to go to school. Her father married her in 1922.

2:59:00 They moved to Hamburg. It had a substantial Jewish community. It was affluent but not as affluent as Berlin.

2:01:00 It was not as large as Berlin. In Germany, Yiddish was not used. Hamburg had the first reform temple in Western Europe; she wasn't allowed to go to it.

2:01:01 Her father did not approve of the temple. He imported and exported wines and travelled around Europe. He knew Martin Buber.

2:01:02 She does not know how her father met him.

3:00:00 The first visit to Poland she recalls is when she was four years old.

3:01:00 Her grandmother had a store. She spoke Yiddish to Lucille. Peasants cultivated the lands around her house.

3:02:00 Peasants brought chickens to the store in horse-drawn carriages.

3:03:00 Her uncle had a hardware store in the center of town. He had three sons. They had trouble at the university because they were Jews. Her father and uncle pooled their money and sent the boys to study in Paris.

3:04:00 Her mother had eight children in her family. No one survived. They originally came from Sambor.

3:05:00 It was the portion of Poland that was under German, then Russian control during the war.

3:06:00 Her mother's and father's family communicated until 1941. The letters were in careful language and coded phrases. She once wrote a letter and signed it Cecilia Lundau w.w., the German abbreviation for widow, to imply to her uncle that she was the only one left in her family.

3:07:00 She got a postcard out of Sambor in early 1944 from her uncle. He was in forced labor camp; he didn't give any details. In the beginning of their time in the ghetto, they were receiving mail and they could send out three or four postcards during the first two years.

3:08:00 The postcard had slipped through in 1944. It was very current, having only travelled a week.

3:09:00 Sambor was a large Jewish community. It had a Jewish cemetery and synagogue. Her mother and grandmother were born there.

3:10:00 The story of her father's family is that they came from Spain. The last time she saw Sambor was as a child in 1935.

3:11:00 The town of Sambor was deported to various camps . Most were killed in small sub-camps and some were killed in mobile units before reaching Auschwitz.

3:12:00 She hasn't come across a group of people who stayed late in Sambor and survived. She tried to go back there but she had difficulty getting into that part of the Soviet Union with an American passport.

3:13:00 She had the same clothing for five years in the Ghetto.

3:14:00 She had the cobbler make a pair of shoes from the leather from an old hatbox of her mother's and paid him with the left over scraps of leather.

3:15:00 For food or money they could have gotten anything from the black market but she didn't have extra. They didn't bathe; they cleaned themselves with water drawn from a pump.

3:16:00 Her teeth started to decay. She lost fillings. She lived four years without a shower or bath.

3:17:00 There was a problem in the Ghetto with lice that carried Typhoid.

3:18:00 The train ride was stuffy and hot. They held a loaf of bread with them. Oscar Singer was very optimistic about where they were going. The train came to a stop at three in the morning.

3:19:00 When the door opened, the first thing they saw were spotlights and SS officers with dogs. She didn't drop her luggage when she was told so an SS officer tore it out of her hand.

3:20:00 Almost immediately, the men were separated from the women

and then the women were separated again by age. She asked a Kapo where they were.

3:21:00 After separation, they were taken to another barracks and asked to take off their clothing and jewelry. Anyone who didn't was beaten. Then they were taken to another barrack.

3:22:00 People were lined up in rows and the Kapos were shaving all body hair off.

3:23:00 She describes them as bowling balls with protruding ears and frightened eyes. The SS officer who gave the orders to the Kapo slapped her.

3:24:00 After the shaving, they were rushed through cold showers. An SS officer laughed at them and said, "the gas chambers are overworked today, we will get you tomorrow." They had never heard of gas chambers.

3:25:00 They were thrown a garment at random. They didn't know they were at Birkenau.

3:26:00 They started marching towards the barracks and passed an orchestra with shaven heads playing Beethoven. They saw three chimneys with black smoke coming out of them but didn't know what they were.

3:27:00 They were crammed in the barracks. In the center of the barracks was a walkway and on either side of that were squares, into which five people were allocated. The soup was served without plates or spoons.

3:28:00 The Kapo in their building was a young Jewish woman who beat people often.

3:29:00 She took orders from the Germans and there was a rumor about her that an SS officer spent every night with her. In 1946, she found out they had married and were living in New York. At five every morning, they were counted.

3:30:00 The Kapo told them Dr. Mengele would be coming to inspect them. She followed Ellie through the line and they were both motioned to the same side.

3:31:00 She didn't know they were being selected to go to a hospital, gas chamber, or work camp. They were marched to another barracks where they were given shoes and coats. They were then loaded onto another train for four days.

3:32:00 They arrived at the siting in the evening. The SS was waiting for them. The Commandant told them they were at a concentration camp near Hamburg.

3:33:00 She was only in Auschwitz for a couple of weeks. They worked the first three weeks that had been bombed by Americans. They were then transferred to another camp twenty miles away to construct temporary housing.

3:34:00 There were frequent beatings. On the second day, she was summoned to work in the office, adjacent to the Commandant's, because she was from the area. The Commandant would beat them when he was in a foul mood.

3:35:00 Ellie was still there with her. People were jealous because she didn't have to work out in the cold.

3:36:00 A low ranking SS officer started talking to her. He knew she was from Hamburg.

3:37:00 He said he was a Communist before the war and that he didn't like his duty anymore than she did. She offered to make a deal with him. If he would find her a place to hide and get her some extra food, she would sign over one of her father's houses to him.

3:38:00 Weeks passed and eventually she found out he had been replaced. She didn't hear from him until 1947, when she received a letter about what she had "promised" him.

3:39:00 She stayed at the camp until the end March 1945, when they were suddenly put into trucks and transferred to another camp.

3:40:00 They later found out they were in Bergen-Belsen. There was no water and little food. There was a huge pit of naked decaying bodies. They were assigned no work detail and there was typhoid going around.

3:41:00 They were there two weeks when one afternoon, tanks arrived at the camp. She started working for the English Army that day.

3:42:00 Both the Army and the camp occupants had no idea what was going on. The British were looking for interpreters. That night, food from German warehouses was distributed.

3:43:00 They were given two pound cans of pork and fat. People ate them and were dead in the morning. Ellie's mother died this way. The first and second day, the major went to the different barracks to talk to people.

3:44:00 She saw a man who was slicing pieces off corpse and eating the flesh. The army's first order was to bring water, food, bury the dead, and open hospitals. She worked as an interpreter for them from December of 1945 until she had to be rushed out of Germany.

3:45:00 She gave the English the names and addresses of forty-two



SS officers which she had memorized while doing paperwork in the office at Asazel(ph). They stood trial October 1945. Sometimes those convicted would plead to her for intervention or mercy.

3:46:00 Two commanders were sentenced to death. Families made threats against her because she was a witness at the trial. The English wrote a letter to the American Embassy in Paris to help get her out. They drove her and three other women to Holland.

3:47:00 They entered Holland illegally and continued on to Brussels. They stayed at the house of someone the captain knew. The woman did not want prisoners in her house so they had to sleep in the hall. The next morning they crossed the border into Paris.

3:48:00 She had obtained a French visa from an officer stationed at Bergen-Belsen whose father was the French Cabinet Minister.

3:49:00 The British army car was stolen so she had to take a train to Paris. Before she left, she asked the captain why he did took so many chances for her. He told her he was a Jew. He had lived in Berlin and left in 1936.

3:50:00 She arrived in Paris and went to the Jewish Youth Hostel. She knew some people there from Bergen-Belsen. The American Embassy would only give her a visa if she found her own passage to America. The ticket cost \$600, which she got from her uncle in Palestine.

3:51:00 She got a visa in February of 1946. Her family in Palestine sent her cousin, who was in the English army, to pressure her to come to Palestine, where they had arranged a marriage for her. She was twenty-one at this time and went to New York instead.

3:52:00 Three days after liberation, she asked the major to post a letter in his name to Palestine to let them know she was alive.

3:53:00 She didn't consciously memorize the SS officers' names.

3:54:00 The first commander of Asazel transferred and was replaced by one who was very high ranking before the war and turned SS. The third one was a former gardener who was very cruel.

3:55:00 Her son wrote to her after the war to ask if she would intervene with his conviction.

3:56:00 In the work camp, the wife of one of the ghetto police chiefs stepped out of line while marching.

3:57:00 The commandant flew into a rage and beat her mercilessly. The woman didn't survive.

3:58:00 She had no idea what kind of separations were occurring at Auschwitz. She didn't know people were being immediately selected for death.

3:59:00 She can't describe Mengele because she made a point not to look at him. She was not aware of any of other transports from the Ghetto coming in at that time. She knew the ghetto was being liquidated. There were 150,000 people in Lodz and 1,000 went out on each transport.

3:01:00 The chimneys were always working. There was smoke always rising out of them.

3:01:01 They entered Birkenau, 5 km from Auschwitz.

First two minutes repeat information from tape three.

4:02:00 The Jews were housed in barracks at Birkenau.

4:03:00 After a couple of days, she realized the purpose of the camps. Most of the people didn't want to think or talk about it. They hoped for a miracle. She didn't have any idea about the progress the allies were making against the allies in Germany.

4:04:00 They didn't know that Holland, Poland, and Belgium had been liberated.

4:05:00 She had visited a camp where they housed all men, and one of the prisoners told her that the war was over but she didn't believe him.

4:06:00 At one point she contemplated electrocuting herself. She and Ellie made it a point to stick together. They once had to line up alphabetically and she changed her name to Singer to be with Ellie. She knew there were no records to prove it.

4:07:00 They worked together in Auschwitz, along with Ellie's mother and aunt.

4:08:00 Ellie's father, Oscar Singer was in his fifties when they were deported. Her mother was in good shape to make it all the way to Bergen-Belsen.

4:09:00 She didn't blame her parents for not leaving Germany when they could have. Her father turned down a three day visa for the whole family. They could have gone to Palestine in the early 30s.

4:10:00 When she got to Auschwitz, she made a conscious decision not to talk about the past. Her age and youth sustained her in the camps, as well as luck and good friends.

4:11:00 She had a classmate who left for England in 1939. She helped Lucille when she got to America and found her a job.

4:12:00 She didn't tell people about her experiences. At Liberation, the British soldiers had no idea what they were going to find. They kept them in the camps and asked for an English

speaker to tell them what happened. The British told them the Germans were gone.

4:13:00 She had two badly damaged kidneys and at the time of Liberation she was fighting Typhus. She had kidney problems in the ghetto.

4:14:00 Compared to others in the ghetto, she was doing alright. She learned English in school when she was in the third grade.

4:15:00 She went to school until 1941, so she was able to keep up her German. She was a civilian employee of the British army after Liberation.

4:16:00 She was brought of Germany in December of 1945 because they were afraid someone would kill her. In between liberation and December, they were relocated to nearby army housing

4:17:00 The barracks were clean and six to eight people shared a room. She made friends with several men and women in the British army. She didn't regain her health until fifteen years later.

4:18:00 After the war was over, she didn't want to go to the hospital because of an old fear in the ghetto that if you went to the hospital you would be deported. She couldn't imagine the British hospital just being what it was.

4:19:00 When she came to America, she thought it was a country free of pre judice. She was devastated when she couldn't get jobs because she was a Jew.

4:20:00 She didn't want to go to Palestine because her family had everything planned for her. She didn't want to be controlled anymore.

4:21:00 She met her husband at a party. He heard that she had been in the ghetto and asked if she knew his parents. She told him her story.

4:22:00 They got married at the end of 1946. They moved to San Francisco in 1949.

4:23:00 They had children. She went back to school when her kids were older and got an insurance license. Her husband had studied Economics in Brussels. He made the mistake of going back to Germany. He was arrested and his family got him out with a forged visa to Cuba.

4:24:00 He was on the one of the three boats of the Voyage of the Damned that was allowed to land. She didn't tell her children about her experience until they were much older.

4:25:00 Her children can't cope with the past. She won't go back to Germany.

4:26:00 She went back to Poland in 1989, after forty years.  
Anti-Semitism is alive in Poland.

4:27:00 Her father saw Anti-Semitism as being of a lesser degree in France and Germany and wanted his children to grow up there. He didn't want his children to experience Pogroms. When she was younger, she didn't know what Kossachs or Pogroms were or what it meant to kill Jews.

4:28:00 When she was younger, she was frightened by the Nuremburg Laws. She was not affected by them until 1939 because she was still considered a foreign national.

4:29:00 She had a false sense of security and got larger food rations. She did not have to wear a star until Poland lost the war. The Nuremburg Laws did not affect them until 1939. They did not have to hand in their gold nor were they affected by the "Sarah"/"Israel" law.

4:30:00 After 1939, all differences were erased -- a Jew was a Jew. Eventually all Jews were forced to leave public schools and go to Jewish schools.

4:31:00 No new Jewish schools were created despite the increase in numbers. In 1941, shortly after she graduated, there was a law passed that decreed that all the schools would have to close permanently.

4:32:00 They didn't talk about what was going on in High school.

4:33:00 She recognized the female Kapo of Auschwitz in New York. When she told the woman where she knew her from, the woman tried to justify her actions in the camp.

4:34:00 She asked the woman about the SS officer who was rumored to have spent every night with her and found out they were married.

4:35:00 It is hard for her to point the finger and another Jew. She was able to avoid deportation in the ghetto. Someone might have gone in her place.

4:36:00 She can't point the finger unless they have killed someone. The ex-Kapo and the SS officer had reason to fear her. The Jobs Commissioner had drawn up deportation lists in the ghetto and also been mean to her.

4:37:00 He might have avoided her because of that.

4:38:00 He won't give interviews. He married a woman in the ghetto.

4:39:00 Lucille once applied for a job in the ghetto because she spoke German. The Jobs Commissioner's sister, who was Rumkowski's right hand person in language and execution, would not allow it.

4:40:00 His sister could run interference with the Germans. She was in the ghetto at the start and that gave her an advantage.

4:41:00 The Gentiles outside the ghetto did not help them; they had no access to them. They received no help from her father's Gentile business friends when they were deported. She recalls few instances of help. Her father's lawyer would alter their accounts so they could get extra money out of their account.

4:42:00 She wrote a postcard from the ghetto to the man who packed and shipped their belongings to Palestine and he sent her twenty marks. When she was working in the shipyard, the man who ran the canteen used to have a shop not far from the area where her father's wine cellars were.

4:43:00 He remembered her father and allowed her to come to the canteen for three days to eat as much as she wanted. He also gave her a torn leather jacket.

4:44:00 Some SS showed compassion in return for favors. They would occasionally drop an apple while marching.

4:45:00 At the end of the war she was angry. She channeled her energy by working for the British army.

4:46:00 She still doesn't like Germans, especially those of her generation. She went to Hamburg once after the war with her son, because they were invited. They left after two days because she couldn't deal with the bureaucracy or Hamburg's Jews.

4:47:00 The Jews were different. She thinks they have forgotten about the past because they have made their peace.

4:48:00 When she and her son arrived they were picked up by secret service. She didn't like that.

4:49:00 The mayor of the city did not make an appearance at the ceremony. His substitute made a statement that the past is over and they can only hope it will not reoccur. She told them that was unacceptable. At the luncheon, she sat next to a man who instrumental in the treaties between Germany and Israel.

4:50:00 She asked him what he was did in the years 1933 - 1945. He didn't want to answer her.

4:51:00 On her left was a councilman who gave her a brochure about a camp that teachers from a high school had put together from interviews with the local population. It was full of flaws and errors and the diagram of the camp was wrong.

4:52:00 She sent it back corrected and told them to do some research -- to talk to Jews instead of Germans. She never heard from them again. She tries to keep an open mind about young Germans.

4:53:00 For the older ones, she holds no forgiveness. Her anger ceased when she came to New York, because she got away from "them".

4:54:00 Ellie now lives on a Kibbutz in Israel. She has no recollection of the past. She kept in touch with Spiegel until he died.

4:55:00 They wrote once a month and phoned a couple of times a year. They had different memories.

4:56:00 His wife from the Ghetto was killed in Mauthausen.

4:57:00 She told him in April of 1988 that his wife had denounced her to the Gestapo.

4:58:00 She is writing a book. She hopes to tell one more story.

4:59:00 The end of the tape is photographs of her family that she brought in.  
.END.□