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Summary

Anna Sonnenschein describes being age 19 in 1940 and her husband and child being in the Łódź ghetto at the time. In 1942, she was separated from her one-year-old child and sent to Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen where she worked making parts for planes and tanks. Her husband had already been deported. Her parents, sister, and brother were killed. She was liberated April 16, 1945. With the help of a US Army soldier, after six years of separation, Anna found her husband as he was recovering from a bullet wound. They waited two years in Germany before gaining entry to the US.

An unidentified Czechoslovakian man discusses being sent to the Czech Army, then to the Hungarian Army, then to the German Army onto Stalingrad. He was never identified as a Jew, but survived as a skilled truck mechanic. During the retreat, he escaped upon reaching the Carpathian Mountains, making his way to Romania. After working the Russian, he returned to his home in Munkach (now Ukraine), but finding no one, he went to a DP camp in Germany to await a visa to the US which came in 1949. While traveling with the German Army, he witnessed numerous massacres. He secretly passed food to prisoners when he could. In the US, he worked as a mechanic and then a limousine driver. He married and had two daughters.

An unidentified Polish man, born in 1925 in Radom, Poland, discusses being age 13 in 1939 when the war broke out, he survived in various ghettos and camps until liberated by the American army. He then came to the US with his father and one brother. Another brother, his mother and a large extended family were all killed. He was in Auschwitz for only a day before he was sent to another concentration camp. He describes a near-death experience when black marketeers were killed by SS troops. He was brought to the US by the American Jewish Appeal. He served three years in Korea in the Army, after which he was married and had children. He expresses concerns that such an atrocity could happen again.

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An unidentified woman begins mid-statement. She describes her observations on how to treat people with respect. From Miskolc, Hungary, her father had been a wine-maker, but his property was confiscated. She was 21 when Hitler invaded in 1944. She described the subsequent persecutions, especially the harsh treatment and thievery by long-time family friends. Her family was one of the last to be sent to Auschwitz. She remembers Mengele selecting her and her mother to live, the musicians playing on their arrival, and the piles of shoes. She was assigned to work on airplanes until American paratroopers liberated them. The paratroopers allowed them to attack their guards, but her crew of 500 women declined to mirror their captors' brutality. She returned to Hungary after the war, found her brother living in France, and arranged passage to the US through third cousins.

Sheina Sachar-Gertner, born in Lithuania, describes how, as a 21-year-old, she and her husband barely escaped a massacre in a forest near Vabalninkas, Lithuania. She later wrote a book, *The*

Tree Stood Still, about her experiences. She was hidden by a local farmer for most of the war, while arranging safe refuge elsewhere for her husband, until liberated by the Russians in July 1944. She went to Moscow where she remained until 1970 when, after demonstrating against persecution, they were allowed to go to Israel. [For her book see <https://collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/bib97835>]