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Peter Wortsman Collection Interview with Three Hungarian survivors at Ravensbruck Reunion, November 22 1974. RG-50.569*0013

I was in various concentration camps; Dachau, Ravensbruck, Spandau and Oranienburg. When we arrived, there were no more vacancies in the barracks. We were taken to an improvised hall with nothing in it. Just bricks and stone, no furniture. It was divided into two parts, in one part there were people looking like skeletons, with striped uniforms, shaved heads. They could not even be called people anymore. We were with 2000 or 3000 women, there was no place to sit down or lie, just to stand. We had no blankets; it was December and we were just wearing summer dresses. It is not quite clear how we consumed the food. We just had cups that we couldn't clean. We did not even have plates or spoons. It was always dark, so dark that we didn't even know if it was night or day. We were so hungry that when the food was distributed we would all go forward at the same time. The older women that could not get up fast enough often got trampled on. In the end we got some "beds" but they were too small so we could never stretch out and there was always so much noise that we could only sleep 3 or 4 hours per night.

(Some stories of atrocities in the camp are told that have not been included in this report.)

The guards were beating us and poured water on us. They yelled at us all the time: "you will all go to the Crematorium soon anyway!" There were so many horrible things happening there, they are indescribable... we would love to forget, but some things are so deeply engraved in our minds, it is impossible. There were no washing facilities; no place to undress or change. Early in the mornings we had to stand in line waiting to be counted; the same in the evenings. We understood that, as long as we could work, our lives might be saved. There were some factory owners in need of workers: we had to stand outside, to be looked at; looked over, and chosen; there were so many tears and screams as mothers, daughters, sisters were separated.

These selections took a whole day, including medical exams. We had to stand in line in a long corridor, without any clothes on; we had to throw all our belongings in a corner. The doctors were sitting cross-legged behind some tables and we had to parade in front of them. If there were blemishes on our skin, or we did not stand straight or look healthy enough, we had to stay. Those who were chosen for work left at night, on foot. They arrived at a small railway station, where they were forced into the wagons, half frozen already. After four days they arrived at the factory.

There was another camp not far from there, an extermination camp. There were 200-300 young people, who stayed there, but we were taken back to Ravensbruck, approximately 20-25 women. The Germans tore down those buildings.