

Date: 09/09/2017

Interviewee: Miriam Weisz Stillmann

Interviewer: Yael Siman

City/Country: Mexico City, Mexico

Language: Spanish

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Summary

Miriam Weisz Stillmann (nickname "Buba"), born March 8 1926 in province of Transylvania, Gherla, describes her family and childhood; at three years old, moves to capital of Transylvania (Cluj); has four siblings (the eldest to youngest: Miguel, Bella, Elizabeth, Rela (nickname "Itzu")); speaking Hungarian at home; the German invasion of Poland; Jews being required to wear the Jewish star; two soldiers come and take her family from home; spend 5 days in the train; arrive at Auschwitz in May 1944; upon arrival: their heads are shaved, put on uniform; receive tattooed numbers on arms; describing life at the camp: wake up at 3am, given a mug of black liquid at 3:30; becomes friends with others in barracks; never learns fate of her parents; cuts and carries wood for labor; learns German and is given cigars for translating to German; has encounter with Dr. Mengele; transferred by walking from Auschwitz to Bergen-Belsen; sent to Unterluss; works in porcelain factory; liberation by English; Miriam weighs almost 40 kilos at liberation; can hardly move or communicate; Itzu and Miriam fall asleep for two weeks; English treat them well; after war, Miriam and Itzu clean for families; they don't talk about the camps; take a boat from Switzerland with missionaries to Veracruz; stop in Cuba on the way; meet their sister Bella when they arrive at Veracruz; live with her two years; Miriam attends Beth Itzhak Synagogue in Mexico City; has two daughters (Patricia and Monica); closing words: you cannot fully rehabilitate or forget the experiences of the Holocaust