

October 10, 1989

Testimony of Malka Grungold

[Transcribed and revised by Matthew Swindell, Feb. 25, 2025, from handwritten notes by Roberta Stoller.]

Interviewers: Deborah Shelken Remis and Natalie Lederman

- 0:40 Name Malka Grungold
lived in Poland until
1942 – when sent to concentration camp
- 1:00 Family background -
good life until war came -
from _____
- 1:55 Ran away for a number of days when Germans came into the city
When came into city -
Synagogue burned
- 3:35 In 1942 – money taken from families
The day before Shavuot-
3 people from family taken away
- 6:00 Sister taken away
Aug 12-
description of how people selected
- 9:15 Father sent to _____
killed by a shovel
- 10:58 Uncle saved brother's life
- 11:00 Sent to Dulag and then sent to an English factory in Greenberg (?)* in Germany until 1945
When Himmler came to inspect the camp – girls were required to take off their clothes for
inspection & walk around him no closer than 2 meters
- *The notetaker didn't recognize the place, but Mrs. Grungold was most likely referring to
Grünberg in Schlesien, home to numerous forced labor and Gross-Rosen sub-camps, and
where “English industrialists purchased some of the city's textile factories during the 1870s
and 1880s“ (“Zielona Góra“, Wikipedia).
- 14:00 Description of camps, around the camp where she was sent
- 14:50 Work in the camp – weaving on a machine
Was the youngest person when sent to the camp
- 18:00 Saw how others were beaten in the camp
- 18:30 Picture of Malka as a girl

- 19:00 1942–1943 – rec'd postcards from mother
- 23:00 Mother's youngest brother sent to Germany
saved a lot of people during the war
- 23:50 People were x-rayed for tuberculosis. If sick - sent to Auschwitz
- 25:00 In 1945 – transport brought in from Auschwitz – half brought to her camp – from Hungary, Belgium
Walked from camp; on road started to kill people. Many tried to run away
Walked for 3 days to Camp Kristianstadt.
Girls tried to run away. Couldn't believe how Germans killed the girls who had tried to run away.
In night – names were called to come out of barracks
Hungarian girls had tried to steal bread. 15 Hungarian girls were killed; (they had to dig their own grave) in retaliation for those who had tried to steal bread
- 30:00 In march – Camp Helmbrechts (?)*
Walked 60 km a day – walked a whole day through the forest. Sometimes evenings too.
Reason for walk – to move prisoners from camp for fear the prisoners would be liberated by British
- *The notekaker apparently didn't recognize it, but Helmbrechts was “a women's subcamp of the Flossenbürg concentration camp founded near Helmbrechts near Hof, Germany in the summer of 1944.” (“Helmbrechts concentration camp,” Wikipedia)
- 32:00 Liberation – pilots threw down flyers
When a young girl couldn't walk, German soldier shot her in the head. Malka walked w/o shoes (in the winter). Determined to make it.
- 35:40 In Voletin – many sick people where people couldn't walk any more
So many sick people – tried to move them in trucks
- 38:00 Sleeping between 2 girls
In the morning, both were dead
- 40:00 129 survived the march out of 3,000 people, but many died after the war
- 41:00 Was liberated while working on a Road
Taken to Czechoslovakia.
Sent to hospital – just for typhus
Patients were isolated
- 48:00 Jewish brigade
Went to Italy
- 50:00 In Italy Could register for 3 countries
America, Canada, Australia
After 1948, registered for Israel

- 54:00 Move to America
Assistance in applying for U.S. Citizenship
- 57:00 Should never forget. It could happen again.