

ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

MAIN ENTRY: Hance, Eva

DATE OF INTERVIEW: May 31, 2006

LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Lubbock, Texas

INTERVIEWER: David Marshall

FORMAT: CD

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 4173 2132 9645

LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 2:26

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: Eva Hance relates her experiences growing up in Hungary as a Jew during World War II. She discusses her life and family before the war and during the war. Eva, her mother, and her brother were taken to Dachau Concentration camp for 7 months. They were returned to Hungary at the end of the war and Eva discusses the difficulties they had after returning home. In 2006, Eva made public speeches about her experiences and she talks about letting go of hatred and living in peace.

ABSTRACT:

CD ONE

TIME STAMP

Background Information

0:00

Born in Budapest, Hungary

Born September 10, 1933

Moved to Budapest from small town when 2 years old

Lived in apartment with 2 rooms until 1949

Parents born and raised as Jews

Mother's side mixed ethnicity

Eva grew up with Jewish faith

Parents' varying toleration of different religions

Grandfather (Mother's Father) was a lawyer

Grandmother (Mother's Mother) was a teacher	
Both mothers' parents held doctoral degrees	
Grandparents earning degrees	
Grandparents met in Austria	
Eva brought up speaking 3 languages	
Had a good life until 1944	
Father designed their clothes	
Mother died in 1978 in the United States	
Father died in 1987 in the United States	
They were a middle class family	
Her mother stayed home, did not work	
Being of Jewish descent before and after the war	00:09
Personality and friends before the war	
Exposure to hatred during the war	
Parents' knowledge of the impending war	
Grandfather hired refugees in his factory	
Comparison of war to September 11, 2001	
Did not realize the war could happen to them	
Treatment of Jews in the concentration camps	
Good and bad people in any religion or race	
Hitler coming to power in Germany 1933	00:16
Helping Germany at the beginning of his power	
Jewish people not farmers, wanting better life	
Suffering to obtain a better life	
Resentment of prosperous Jews	
Discusses possibility of similar hatred directed toward anyone	00:21
Eva's speeches call for peace	
Hatred is a poison	
Becoming a Christian and the power of prayer	
Effects of hatred	
Forgiveness and forgetting	
Events leading to placement in concentration camp	00:25
Placement in Ghetto	
Arrival of German paratroopers	
Finally beginning to believe the refugees stories	
Too late to leave the country	
Announcement that Jews must wear the yellow star	
Increasing restrictions on Jews	
Informants on Jews	
Father went to Romanian front, 1939-1945	
Family finances were becoming difficult	

Increasing discrimination against the Jews	00:33
Former family friends showing hatred	
Former playmates' ill treatment of Eva	
Example of Christ and Bible scripture	
Developing her own hatred, way of coping when younger	
Placement in Ghetto	00:38
Numbness leaving home and being placed in Ghetto	
Grandparents lived in a home inside the Ghetto already	
Seeing dead people on trip to Ghetto	
Curfews	
Description of Grandparents' apartment	
Grandparents' housing people in apartment and factory	
Conditions in Ghetto growing worse	
Electricity for one hour a day	
Cooking	
Starvation of people in Dachau	00:45
Eva and her brother's age and weight at Dachau	
Available food while in the Ghetto	00:46
No meat available	
People sleeping in shifts in Ghetto apartment	00:47
Surviving conditions mentally	00:47:30
Humiliation	
Nazis summoning Jews in Ghetto in middle of night	
Roll calls in Dachau and treatment	
Treatment of Jews for entertainment	
Abuse of children and babies	
Coping with the trauma later in life	00:55
Giving back to society	
Leaving the Ghetto	00:56
Transported by cattle car	
Conditions during transport	
Effects on her brother who was 7 years old at the time	
Effects on others	01:01
Holocaust survivors in Israel in mental institution	
Steven Spielberg's interview (1997) of Eva Bruder in Holocaust Museum	
Difference in living with hate and letting it go	
Finding peace	

Self preservation after traumatic experience	01:11
Survival Mentality	
Power of human mind	
Finding positive outlook on situations in life	
Gaining perspective after liberation	01:19
Growing up and letting go of hatred	
Hated everyone who was not a Jew	
Reasoning and logic	
Compassion and love from other people	
Events after arriving at Dachau	01:26
Packages issued to Jews	
Tattooing numbers on Jews	
Living in barracks	
Receiving water every few days	
Cruelty towards Jews, especially the sick	
Her mother worked making soap from dead people	
Her mother also made lamp shades from Jews' skin	
Children left in the barracks during the day	
Lice used for entertainment	
Health issues Eva had after leaving Dachau	01:35
Frostbite and pain for many years	
Difficulty bearing children	
Returning home from Dachau	01:37
Germans disappeared from the camp before Americans came	
Jews did not know what was happening	
American arrival after 3 or 4 days of abandonment	
Kindness of Americans	
Receiving medicine and food	
Jews were given food, money and shoes to return home	
Train ride home on flat bed cars	
Arrival Home	01:47
People living in their apartment	
Family items were still there in the apartment	
Mother got sick	
Eva went to work at 11 years old	
Workers and boss gave her food and various things	
Eva and brother were taken from their sick mother	01:52
Taken outside of Budapest to a small town	
Eva was separated from brother	
How Eva was treated at the foster home	

<p>Introduced to a Christian church Her brother, Peter, found Eva Peter brought meat to Eva everyday Peter and Eva decide to walk home, but they are picked up Arrival of their mother to pick them up Foster families upset by their departure</p>	
<p>News of their father's death Eva did not believe he was dead Last day of August (1945), her grandmother and father arrive Father got their family household items back</p>	02:01
<p>After the war Grandfather would walk the street everyday Only one of his five sons returned Father saw one of his brother's family in Auschwitz Grandfather waited for his sons until his death in 1947 Eva's mother never forgot some of the trauma Developing survival attitude</p>	02:05
<p>A few acts of kindness by German soldiers and others Gathering of Jews by the Nazis at the Danube River Shooting the Jews row by row German soldier saved Eva and a few others' lives Eva's ability to speak German helped her and her family Many of the German soldiers had no choice Kindness of Hungarian priest Nuns saved her father's life Among all the tragedy, still acts of kindness</p>	02:12
<p>Eva's father wrote his accounts from the war in Hungarian Eva plans to have it translated</p>	02:23
<p>Eva graduated from 7 years of study in Bible school in 2006</p>	02:25

DATE OF BIRTH OF INFORMANT: 1933

GENDER OF INFORMANT: Female

ETHNICITY OF INFORMANT: Jewish