

Lea Indyk Testimony Transcript

Interviewer: Could you tell us about growing up in Poland?

Lea: We got good parents. My father was almost a rabbi. We got a closet with books – the Hebrew.

Interviewer: How about when you and your brothers and sisters were children in Poland, can you tell us about that?

Lea: They all got married and they got children. I don't know what I can say. My brother got two children – a boy and a girl. My sister – she left a baby [unclear] not Jewish people.

Interviewer: You were in Mszczonów [mispronounced] in '39? Mszczonów [mispronounced] ?

Lea: I don't know what mean Msz...?

Interviewer: Your home town.

Lea: Ah, Mszczonów.

Interviewer: Mszczonów. What was that like?

Lea: That was not far from Warsaw. The capital city from Poland was Warsaw – a very big city and a beautiful. If in all small towns – they sell to Warsaw. And they make Warsaw smaller, smaller, smaller, smaller. And I was in the last maybe 20 people. After this they sent me to Majdanek. And in Majdanek they said nobody go here alive from this place. Still after a few months they choose to go to Auschwitz – not all. And I was between them. And in the time when we was in Majdanek, they hanged a girl, maybe 18 years old. And they put her with the trash. Where we passed by, we saw it lay – maybe 8 days, maybe 10 days. And after this – Auschwitz. After Auschwitz, the last few months they sent us to Czechosłowacja [Polish for Czechoslovakia] – not all, just a few. And this was 24 kilometers from Praga [Polish for Prague] to make amunicja [ammunition]. One time, I remember, I was so hungry, I catch a carrot. And the German lady says, “I make you todt.” That means, “I kill you.” So she don't kill me. I was so hungry, I catch a carrot to eat, mit [German for with] the skin, mit everything. Not washing the carrot. Was so hungry, we eat – was clean or not. When you hungry, you eat everything. And one time what I remember, they have the German Shepherd. You know, the big dogs. They give the dog eat – soup – a big thing. He left and I finished this. So, oh, this helped me so much, I said this dog's food... so hungry, I finished the soup from the dog left. And then the Russian soldiers – that make me free. They cut everything – door.

Interviewer: Where did you go after the Russians liberated you?

Lea: I come home. It was after the war. '44? I think. And after the war was 1944? You don't know?

Interviewer: '45.

Lea: '45? Not '44. Anyway, I come home, I go my city - nobody. I saw the place we was living. We got a store – it's very hard to talk about this. Just I was in Lodz.

Interviewer: And where did you go after that... How long were you there and then where did you go?

Lea: No, not, not long and I got married, after, after the war in 1945.

Interviewer: Where did you go... where did you live after Lodz?

Lea: In Lodz.

Interviewer: After that.

Lea: Oh I find a place. There was lot empty places when I come.

Interviewer: Did you stay there until you came to America? To the US?

Lea: Yeah, I stayed there and I got married there.

Interviewer: Did you live anywhere else between Lodz and the US?

Lea: No. No. Oh, from Lodz I go to Israel. I forgot. I was in Israel two and a half years. And I come to America from Israel.

Source: Lea Indyk edited video testimony - <https://mchekc.org/portfolio-posts/indyklea/>