

Testimony of Helen (née Jakobovits) Antin

Courtesy of Helen Kastenbaum

Application for Claims Conference Article 2 Fund

In 1941 I was living in Drohove, Czech Republic, with my father's parents.

My mother was in hospital in Budapest in 1941; my father was taken to the Hungarian army labor battalions.

Hungarians were taking Jews away - we heard to Poland.

The assistant mayor of the town put me and my younger sister in hiding in an attic, where we had little food apart from honey.

In 1944 the Hungarians set up a ghetto near Seconitza about 15km from Drohovo and from Chust, and about April 10th, around Passover, we were taken to the ghetto.

After no more than a month or two there we were loaded into trains and sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau. If we had known about our fate, we would have had opportunities to hide.

Except for me and my father all the family were killed on arrival: 5 people including the grandparents.

After a few months in Auschwitz, I was sent to Stutthof concentration camp where I worked on a farm clearing weeds. I saw workers beaten for taking a potato.

In the fall of 1944, I was at a camp near Danzig, and Prosst, Poland, among 1,000 women doing manual labor to help build a new airfield.

I was liberated about March 12 by Russian forces in Polish mountains.

I was sick and taken to hospital.

April 6, 2006

prepared with assistance of Holocaust Community Services,
Jewish Family & Community Service, Skokie.