

# Testimony of Rozsi (née ACKERMAN) WEISSMAN

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## THE LIQUIDATION OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Rozsi described the liquidation of Jewish life in Kaszony as follows:

Roth Dez. and my father Lajos Ackerman were the last elected officials of the Jewish community in Kaszony. The Germans arrived in Kaszony on Erev Pesach (the day before Passover) and took over the organization of the "resettlement" program in cooperation with the local gendarmerie. Already on the first day of Passover some of the Jewish families were transferred to the Kont and Vary brick factories in Beregsz.

Three days later all Jewish families of Kaszony were transferred into the local schools and the synagogue and from there to the brick factory. We were allowed to take with us no more than that we could carry in our own hands. The ten-mile journey to Bereguasz was carried out by horse-drawn carriages, supplied by the largest Jew landowner, Menyus Klein.

In the brick factory/ we were sleeping on the floors without any roof above our heads. We built protective walls from the bricks, but this didn't protect us from the rain and wind. For the first few days we still had food from home, but later food became scarce. Sanitation facilities were horrendous and medical services or medicine in short supply. Some of the old and very young died in the ghetto.

The evacuation started on May 15, 1944. We were packed in freight cars, not less than 80 people in one sealed wagon. In Kassa, the train was taken over by the Germans, but we still didn't know anything about our destination. The trip to Auschwitz lasted about three days.

There we went through the selection process. Only the young and healthy people were selected for work. I was separated from my father, my mother and Joli, my youngest sister. I have never seen them again.

After some months I was sent with several hundred other girls to work in a factory in the Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia, where I was liberated by the Russian army in May of 1945.

I was lucky to find two of my older brothers in Debrecen, Hungary. We decided to move to Israel and not to return to Kaszony ever, ever again.