

Ida Grinspan

Wartime Experience: Concentration Camp Survivor

I was born in Paris on November 19, 1929. My parents were Jankiel and Chaja Nysenbaum. I have a brother named Adolph. My parents arrived from Poland in 1924. My father was a custom tailor who worked at home with my mother. Our family was not very observant, yet we possessed a strong Jewish identity. My parents often hosted many of my friends at our home.

Every Thursday, I went to a tutor to learn to write Yiddish, which is the language we spoke at home. My parents would take us to a Yiddish theatre where I performed in some of the children's plays.

During the war, from June 1940 through January 1944, I was placed in hiding in a farmer's home in a small village named Deux Sevres. On July 16, 1942, my mother was taken away during the "Grand Rafle" (mass arrest and deportation in Paris). Two years later, on July 31, 1944, my father was deported in the last convoy to Auschwitz from Drancy. Neither of my parents survived.

In 1944 I was deported to Auschwitz. In 1945 when the war was over, I was taken to the mountains in Switzerland to be healed and remained there until September 1946.

Then, at 17 years old, I found myself completely penniless with no financial means to return to my studies. I did not know what to do. Some friends recommended that I work in clothing manufacturing. I had no choice. Therefore, for my entire life, I found myself working in a profession that I did not like. This is a major regret of mine.

In 1953, I married Charles Grinspan, whose mother had also been deported. On June 24, 1967, I had the good fortune of giving birth to my daughter Sophie. She is the joy of my life.

Des dossiers du Mémorial de la Shoah-Paris

Ida GRISPAN

Née le 19/11/1929 à PARIS, de Jankiel FENSTERZAB et Chaja NYSENBAUM (Polonais arrivés en France en 1924).

Enfant cachée, déportée par convoi n°68 du 10/02/1944 pour AUSCHWITZ, rescapée des camps

Enfance heureuse partagée avec de nombreux amis. Le jeudi j'allais au patronage pour apprendre à écrire le yiddish que l'on parlait à la maison. Au théâtre yiddish, je jouais dans les

petites pièces d'enfants. A partir de Juin 1940, je suis cachée chez des paysans dans un village des Deux-Sèvres jusqu'en Janvier 1944.

16/7/1942: ma mère est arrêtée et déportée le 31/07/1942, convoi n° 11 pour AUSCHWITZ

31/7/1944: mon père est déporté pour AUSCHWITZ par le convoi n°77 partant de DRANCY. Aucun n'est revenu.

1945: mon retour de déportation, séjour en SUISSE dans un sanatorium. J'ai presque 17 ans, aucun métier, complètement démunie. J'apprends le métier de finisseuse en confection, un travail que je n'ai jamais aimé tout au long de ma vie active.

1953: j'épouse Charles GRISPAN dont la mère a été déportée

24/6/1961: naissance de ma fille Sophie.