

Ida Welchman

Wartime Experience: Concentration Camp Survivor

Ida was Born April 5, 1923, in Sosnowiec, Poland. She lived with her parents Isaac and Rachel Czarna, her sister Simone and her brother Serge. Her father had a workshop in which he made fur collars for men's coats. The family lived on the third floor of the same building in which he worked. The family life was Yiddish centered and was very full.

In September 1939 the Germans crossed the border into Poland and the next day they came into the town. An "open" ghetto was created that year and Ida was sent to live there with her family. In 1943 a larger and closed ghetto was created for the Jews of Sosnowiec and Bedzin.

In April 1942, Ida's brother Serge was arrested while going to work and was deported to Gros Rosen. Her sister was deported in early 1943. Ida and her parents remained in the ghetto until September 1943 when they were deported to Auschwitz. During the selection there, Ida wanted to remain with her parents, but her mother insisted that she go to the other side with the younger people realizing that the one side meant immediate death while the other might mean life. Her parents were 43 and 46 years old when they were killed.

In Auschwitz, her brother underwent medical experiments by the notorious Dr Mengele. One day, he saw a woman who had been a family friend. He called out to her, and she told him that Ida was there too. He was not able to see her because of the dogs and the guards. Sometime later, someone threw a rock over the fence to him with a note from Ida. She said that their parents were dead,

Ida's brother Serge had been sent to Dachau where he was liberated by an American tank division. Ida was liberated from Auschwitz by the Russians and Americans. Her sister Simone was liberated in Gliwiz.

Ida was sent to Paris by the Red Cross where she also discovered that she had an uncle living in France. She was reunited with her sister and then with her brother when he came to Paris just after the war.

Ida met her husband Henri in Paris in 1947. He was from Lodz and also had lost his family in the Holocaust. Together, they have two children who also live in Paris, a daughter who is a lawyer and son who is a dental surgeon.

Ida remains close to a circle of women who knew each other in the camps. They all live close to one another in Paris and their children are friends as well.

Ida WELCHMAN

née CZARNA le 5/04/1923 à SOSNOWIEC (POLOGNE) d'Isaac CZARNA et Régine(Rachel) KAMINSKI.

Déportée depuis la POLOGNE à AUSCHWITZ. Rescapée

Septembre 1939 les Allemands envahissent la POLOGNE et créent le ghetto. Ida et ses parents y sont transférés. En 1943 un autre ghetto accueillera les juifs de SOSNOWIEC et BENDZIN. Avril 1942, Serge frère d'Ida est déporté à GROS ROSEN puis à AUSCHWITZ. Sa sœur Simone le sera également début 1943. Septembre 1943, Ida et ses parents sont conduits à AUSCHWITZ. Ses parents âgés de 43 et 46 ans seront immédiatement tués. Serge subira des expériences médicales pratiquées par MENGELE. Transféré à DACHAU il sera libéré par les Américains en avril 1945. Ida sera libérée par les Américains et les Russes. Ida sera transférée à PARIS par les soins de la CROIX-ROUGE où elle retrouvera un oncle vivant en France et aussi son frère après la guerre. Ida a rencontré son mari à PARIS en 1947. Originaire de LODZ, il avait perdu toute sa famille dans l'holocauste. Ida est restée proche d'un groupe de femmes ayant connu les camps. Elles vivent à PARIS et leurs enfants sont amis.