

Hilde Berger (1914-2011)



Profession: secretary, translator

1914: Born on June 13 in Berlin as the daughter of a Jewish tailor from Galicia.

1931: After graduating from school, works as a stenotypist and foreign language secretary (E, F). Politically active against National Socialism.

1936: Arrested in November for "high treason". Sentenced to 2.5 years in prison in January 1938 after 14 months in Gestapo solitary confinement; penitentiaries in Jauer (Jawor) and near Kassel

1939: Discharged on May 6, 1939, deported to the Polish border, in August arrival in Boryslaw, where she meets her parents who had been expelled from Germany and her older sister. Endangered as a Trotskyist and because of her criticism of the Hitler-Stalin Pact, she works as a mechanic's assistant in Soviet-occupied Galicia.

1941-1943: 1.7.1941 German occupation of the Galician oil district. In May 1942, she is employed as a stenotypist at the Beskid Oil Company in Drohobycz, then from summer 1942 as the 2nd secretary at Berthold Beitz in Boryslaw. Her parents and older sister were killed in the Belzec extermination camp. Beitz protects Hilde Berger until he himself is drafted by the Wehrmacht in early 1944.

1944: On April 4, deported from forced labor camp (ZAL) Boryslaw to concentration camp (KL) Plaszów (where she put her name on Schindler's list), in November to KL Auschwitz-Birkenau, and from there to the Schindler factory near Brünnlitz.

May 9, 1945: Liberation of the "Schindler Jews!". In Poland she learns that her husband and brother were also murdered by the Nazis. In October 1945, she emigrates to Sweden. She collapses and needs medical care.

1949: Emigration to the USA. 1952; witness in the Hildebrand trial; died in Denver City in 2011

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»In the office of Hauptscharführer Müller I happened to see a permit... which said that the entire Schindler camp with ... 1,000 Jewish prisoners was to be brought to Brünnlitz in Czechoslovakia. Before I checked the transport list ... a few SS men asked Müller to include the names >of their Jews<, that is, the Jews they wanted to save. I realized that this Brünnlitz transport had a better chance of survival than all other transports. That is why I put myself, Cuba and some other close friends on this transport list as well."« (Hilde Berger tells her life story 1914-1945, in: Hesse, p. 54)

Sources: Hesse, Ich schrieb mich selbst auf Schindlers Liste; Sandkühler, „Endlösung“; Archive documents