

Mrs. Sylvia Katz



By: Sarah Mainprize

Table Of Contents



Mrs. Katz



- œ Born In Poland in 1927
- œ 13 when the war broke out
- œ 5 years in the concentration camp
- œ Liberated April 27, 1945
- œ Came to Canada in 1947
- œ Married in 1950
- œ 2 Children
- œ 5 Grandchildren



Deportation



- ✧ Letter From the government came for her father to clean for the Germans.
- ✧ Decided to send Mrs. Katz instead because they would treat her nicer
- ✧ Deported from Poland to Skarzysko-Kamienna



Skarzysko-Kamienne



- œ Labor Camp.
- œ Mrs. Katz spent 5 years working.
- œ Would work prisoners to death.
- œ Was in Poland.
- œ Evacuated to Germany when the Russians got too close to Poland.



Help In The Camp



- ⌘ While Mrs. Katz was in the labor camp she had help from a Gestapo Nurse.
- ⌘ This Nurse, helped Mrs. Katz and got her jobs.
- ⌘ She also would recommend Mrs. Katz to get a better job.
- ⌘ This Nurse saved Mrs. Katz life a few times.

Work



- œ Munitions Factory
- œ Hospital
- œ Cleaned men's barracks
- œ Cooked
- œ Cooked and Clean for a Gestapo Nurse



Munitions Factory



- œ This was Mrs. Katz first job.
- œ She and twelve other girls worked all day every day.
- œ They measured shells for the guns.



Hospital



- œ Worked there for awhile.
- œ Harsh Conditions.
- œ Was exposed to many different things.



Men's Barracks



- œ Moved onto cleaning the mess barracks after working in the hospital.
- œ Had a few to clean a day.
- œ One day an inspection came by the head Gestapo.
- œ Mrs. Katz was then asked to cook.



Cooked and Cleaned



- ⌘ While Mrs. Katz was Cleaning, and working she worked for the Gestapo Nurse.
- ⌘ Who had been giving her work.



Evacuated to Germany



- œ When the Russians got too close to Poland, Skarzysko-Kamienna was evacuated to Germany.
- œ Once there Mrs. Katz could no longer wear her own clothes.
- œ But she kept her job.
- œ She describes it as, “They picked up and moved to Germany.”

Typhoid



- ⌘ While Mrs. Katz was in Germany, she got typhoid fever.
- ⌘ She remembers that her cousin who had the same name had it too.
- ⌘ She became unconscious when the fever became too high
- ⌘ While she was unconscious, guards came to take her and her cousin to be killed.
- ⌘ But Gestapo nurse had told them that Mrs. Katz was a hard worker.
- ⌘ Mrs. Katz was saved

Evacuated to Leipzig



- ⌘ Thief was before liberation where all the prisoners of the camp were 'Walked to Death'.
- ⌘ Mrs. Katz says, "If you went to get a piece of grass to eat or got sit down, you were shot."
- ⌘ They were also walking past the battle fields.
- ⌘ "We say the bullets and everything" said Mrs. Katz



Sanatorium



- œ Mrs. Katz was taken here to be nursed.
- œ This is where she started to eat more frequently.
- œ She had teaspoon a day.
- œ The reason she was feed like is, was to stretch her stomach.
- œ Many other survivors died because they dug into food and didn't stop.



Liberation and Going Home

- ∞ Mrs. Katz was liberated just outside of Giebelstadt, Germany.
- ∞ In April 27 1945.
- ∞ Mrs. Katz wanted to go home because she thought that someone in her family would be alive.
- ∞ Once Mrs. Katz got back no one in her family had lived through the Holocaust.
- ∞ She then ran into her neighbor, who was the Mayor of Poland who told her to run and that 3 Jews have already been killed.
- ∞ The Reason they were killed, was because the people who had taken their homes were scared that they were going to take them back.

Going Home



- ∞ Mrs. Katz decided to leave her name at the post office incase someone was looking for her.
- ∞ No one ever did.
- ∞ She later decided to go back to Germany.
- ∞ She then ran into a girl that was in the camp with Mrs. Katz.

Getting Work After the War

- ☞ Mrs. Katz had even finished public school.
- ☞ So she didn't know how to read or write.
- ☞ She wanted to be a telephone operator, but since she hadn't been able to finish school she couldn't.
- ☞ Mrs. Katz then got a lead on a job and went for it.
- ☞ It was a job to be a guard in the women Jail.
- ☞ She took a 6 week high school course and graduated.

Working In The Jail



- ∞ While she was working in the jail Mrs. Katz, realized that she couldn't treat the women prisoners like she had been treated.
- ∞ She then had saved up enough money and deduced to leave Poland and go back to Germany.

Israel



- œ Once Mrs. Katz was in Germany she contacted a Jewish group that would help her.
- œ She was supposed to go to Israel but couldn't yet.
- œ But before this could happen Mrs. Katz went into a Displaced Persons (DP) Camp.

DP Camps



- ∞ This DP Camp that Mrs. Katz went to was in Fuerstenfeldbruck.
- ∞ While she was there she was able to learn new skills.
- ∞ One skill that she learned was sewing.



Finding Family



- ∞ Mrs. Katz had received a not that said there was some of her family in America.
- ∞ But later Mrs. Katz found out that it was Actually Canada and here family was in Toronto.
- ∞ She Then got in contact with her family.
- ∞ Her family wanted to bring her over the Toronto so they could be together.

Getting Papers



- œ For Mrs. Katz to go to Canada she had to be 17 and under.
- œ This was a law that Mackenzie Kings made.
- œ By this time Mrs. Katz was 19-20 and wasn't allowed in.
- œ Now for Mrs. Katz to get into Canada she needed to take her cousins identity.
- œ But the all ready had the same name it was just for her age.
- œ Her cousin was 17 and no one knew about her death yet.
- œ The government had given Mrs. Kats the papers and she could go to Canada.

Canada



- ∞ So her stuff went to Israel and she went to Canada.
- ∞ Once she got to Canada she moved in with her Aunt.
- ∞ She then had to go and learn English.
- ∞ She picked it up very easily, that is one thing that Mrs. Katz prides her self in.
- ∞ Then Mrs. Katz got a job working in a factory.

Social Life



- œ In Toronto there was a 'New Comers' club.
- œ This was where all the refugees would gather and hangout.
- œ Mrs. Katz had started to date one man who later proposed to her.
- œ But Mrs. Katz didn't like him as a husband and more as a friend.
- œ So she declined his proposal.

Social Life Con't



- œ One night her and her ex-boyfriend/ friend went to a party.
- œ Where one guy kept calling Mrs. Katz a very affectionate name.
- œ Mrs. Katz asked him why he was calling her such an affectionate name when his girlfriend was right next to him.
- œ But the man did come over to Mrs. Katz's group.
- œ He then told her friend, "Why didn't you introduce me to such a nice girl before."

Social Life Con't



- ☞ Mrs. Katz and that man who would later become her husband and the father to her children, got her phone number and asked her out the next night.
- ☞ They then became very happy with each other and got engaged in the May of 1950, and married in June.
- ☞ They bought a house and wanted a family right away since they didn't have anyone.
- ☞ They had two children



Thank you Mrs. Katz for sharing her story with
us!