

3. On 25th. December 1943 I was sick with typhus and was picked out at a selection made by Doctors MENCKLE and TAUBER along with about 350 other women. I was made to undress and taken by lorry to a gas chamber. There were 7 gas chambers at Auschwitz this particular one was underground and the lorry was able to run down the slope and straight into the chamber. Here we were tipped unconsciously on the floor. The room was about 12 yards square and small lights on the walls dimly illuminated it. When the room was full a hissing sound was heard coming from the centre point on the floor and gas came into the room. After what seemed about 10 minutes some of the victims began to bite their hands and foam at the mouth and blood issued from their ears, eyes and mouth and their faces went blue. I suffered from all these symptoms together with a tight feeling at the throat. I was half conscious when my number was called out by Dr. MENCKLE and I was led from the chamber. I attribute my escape to the fact that the daughter of a friend of mine who was an Aryan and a Doctor at Auschwitz had seen me being transported to the chamber and had told <sup>her</sup> ~~my~~ mother who immediately appealed to Doctor Mengele. Apparently he realized that as a political prisoner I was <sup>of</sup> more value alive than dead and I was released. Regina Biatek

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