

The Last Selection

A CHILD'S JOURNEY
THROUGH
THE HOLOCAUST

BY

Goldie Szachter Kalib

WITH

Sylvan Kalib and Ken Wachsberger

The University of Massachusetts Press

AMHERST

Contents

<i>List of Illustrations</i>	vii
<i>Foreword • Aaron Berman</i>	ix
<i>Preface</i>	xi

PART ONE: My Early Childhood in Bodzentyn

1. My Hometown of Bodzentyn	3
2. Our Home	13
3. Joys of Early Childhood	19
4. Grandfather Nus'n's Estate	25
5. An Evening at Home	31
6. Sabbath at Home	33
7. The Yearly Cycle in Bodzentyn	41

PART TWO: War Comes to Poland

8. The Approach of War	71
9. The Outbreak of War	80
10. The Beginning of the Occupation under the Nazis	90
11. 1940: New Edicts and the Influx of Refugees under the Nazis	98
12. 1941: The Confiscation of the Family Enterprises and the Arrest of Uncle Froyim	106
13. 1942: Father Is Sought for Questioning	115
14. The Decision to Abandon Bodzentyn	122

PART THREE: From Bodzentyn to the Labor Camp at Starachowice

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 15. We Abandon Bodzentyn | 129 |
| 16. To the Surowjecki Farm in Świętomarz | 138 |
| 17. The Liquidation of Bodzentyn | 143 |
| 18. The Liquidation of Starachowice | 149 |
| 19. Ups and Downs at the Surowjecki Farm | 158 |
| 20. The Family at the Starachowice Labor Camp | 170 |
| 21. Perils and Tragedy at the Surowjecki Farm: Świętomarz Becomes Too Unsafe to Remain My Haven | 182 |
| 22. A Short Interval in Jadowniki | 187 |
| 23. A Longer Interval in Świślina | 192 |
| 24. Back with the Family at the Labor Camp in Starachowice | 199 |

PART FOUR: To the Death Camps

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 25. The Journey to Auschwitz | 217 |
| 26. Arrival and Initiation at Auschwitz | 219 |
| 27. Auschwitz: Structure and Order | 223 |
| 28. Settling into the "Life" of Auschwitz | 226 |
| 29. The Last Gold Coin | 231 |
| 30. Family Illness at Auschwitz | 233 |
| 31. Through the Valley of the Shadow of Death | 237 |
| 32. The Last Weeks at Auschwitz | 243 |
| 33. The Death March to Bergen-Belsen | 247 |
| 34. Bergen-Belsen: Structure and Order | 251 |

PART FIVE: The Liberation and Its Aftermath

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| 35. The British Enter Bergen-Belsen | 257 |
|-------------------------------------|-----|

Epilogue 264

List of Close Relatives 267

List of Illustrations

Map of Poland, 1919-1939 2

Town of Bodzentyn 11

Photographs follow page 152