In the mid 1900's, life for most Jews spiraled down wards. People of all ages were forced to watch strangers and friends suffering every day. They saw dead bodies like we see trees today; everywhere. Adolf Hitler, a well known ruler of Germany, had instructed for all Jews to be imported to concentration camps for enslaved work or death across many countries. This time period is known as the Holocaust. When one usually thinks about the Holocaust, they think of innocent Jewish people being punished for who they are. And that's almost exactly what it was. Hitler ordered his men into Hungary to round up all of the Jews after Hungary tried pulling out of their alliance. Lilly Klein, a survivor, and her family, were unfortunately affected as they were forced out of their home and sent to work.

Lilly Klein was an ordinary girl living her life as a Jew in Debrecen, Hungary. She came from a large family. Her parents Sara and Sandor Klein had seven children who all lived with them; up until the invasion of Germans of course. Their family was separated in 1944 when Nazi's unexpectedly attacked the city. For Lilly, life had just taken a fast and sudden drop as she was taken control of and little did she know what the future held for her. As one could imagine, going from being a 17 year old student to working in a camp for years to come is a change that would take over powering strength and faith to overcome.

When the German Nazi's had arrived to the Klein's household, they were sent to a sealed off ghetto together for about 2 months. For the family, this would be the last 2 months
they would ever spend together let alone see each other. When the enemy had arrived, they were all shipped off to concentration camps. Lilly was put on a train at the end of June and was supposed to be sent to Auschwitz, a camp known for the hard labor and death place of many Jews during the Holocaust. Instead, the train tracks were bombed and ruined, sending the train on another route to the Strasshoff concentration camp in Austria.

From researching, it was found that the Strasshoff camp during the Holocaust was considered one of the most brutal camps to work at. It is said that food was very scarce and if you didn’t have the right amount of energy to work there, you would be murdered right away. Lilly had worked everyday for a year to a point of total exhaustion. The camp was liberated in 1945, leaving Lilly very sick and fighting for her life. Luckily, she survived and lived to tell the unimaginable, heart breaking, and tear jerking story of her Holocaust experience and how it changed her life for ever.

After reading Lilly Klein’s story, I realized that the Holocaust truly was as bad as its reputation. It teaches one to be more appreciative of their freedom. The Holocaust needs to be a constant reminder of those precious lives affected by this horrific event. Hopefully this time period of history will never repeat itself and from now and into the future we will let people of all differences live free. Lilly Klein and her family is a perfect example of people being
unexpectedly torn apart against their will; something most of us couldn’t even imagine happening.