



On display at the Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center.
On loan from the family of Siegfried Fedrid. Photo by Harve Bergmann.

Blanket

Siegfried (Fred) Fedrid was born deaf to Jewish parents who were also deaf.

In 1944, Fred was deported to Auschwitz where he obtained this woolen blanket.

He managed to keep this blanket while in Dachau and Dachau's sub-camps.

Later, in America, Fred explained that this single blanket could keep him and five other men warm.

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A seven year-old Siegfried "Fred" Fedrid pictured with his mother, an aunt, and other cousins in Vienna, circa 1927. Fred was the only survivor.

Siegfried "Fred" Fedrid was born in April 1920 in Vienna, Austria. Fred was born deaf to Jewish parents who were also deaf. In 1936 Fred graduated from the School for the Deaf in Vienna. At 16 years old, he began an apprenticeship in a custom tailor shop. He trained there until 1938, when the Nazis forced the owner of the shop, a Jewish man, to close his business.

In October of 1941, the Gestapo arrested Fred and his family. They were sent to the Lodz Ghetto in Poland. The Lodz Ghetto, surrounded by barbed wire fence, was crammed with more than 150,000 Jewish people. The Germans established factories in the ghetto, and the Jews were used as slave labor.

That winter in the ghetto was bitterly cold. Fred's father, suffering from starvation, froze to death. Fred's mother died of starvation several months later.

While the working conditions were terrible, Fred was lucky to have a job as a tailor – a job meant food and life. For long hours he was forced to work in a factory altering uniforms from dead soldiers to fit current recruits.

The Nazis liquidated the ghetto in the summer of 1944. Fred was deported to Auschwitz, and from there he was taken to Dachau in Germany. He was liberated by the American army at the beginning of May 1945 near Dachau.

When Fred returned to Vienna to look for his friends and relatives, he found no one. Further, he was told that the Nazis had sold all of the possessions he and his parents had left behind. He had lost everything.

"He wanted people to know that deaf people are capable, intelligent, and able to support themselves financially."

Fred was hired at a custom tailor shop, lived in a rented room, and supported himself.

"It was very important to him to never rely on handouts or government subsidies to live. He wanted people to know that deaf people are capable, intelligent, and able to support themselves financially," writes his daughter Eleanor Corner in an article published by the Jewish Deaf Community Center in California in 1999.

Fred immigrated to New York where his aunts and uncle lived. There he met his future wife Doris Rosenstrauch, also a deaf Holocaust survivor.



This metal pin was worn by Fred Fedrid in a displaced persons (DP) camp after the war. The pin bears his number and is imprinted with the word "Taubstumm" meaning "deaf and mute." It is unclear whether Fred received this pin from soldiers while in Dachau, or if American liberators fashioned the pin for him.



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Photo by Harve Bergmann.

Bowl from Allach

This bowl was used by a woman who was a slave laborer in Allach, a labor camp in Germany. Allach was a sub-camp of Dachau.

The woman survived Allach, and when the camp was liberated in 1945, she took the bowl with her to Feldafing, a displaced persons (DP) camp in Germany.

There she met Magda Schaloum, and gave her the bowl to use.

Magda, born in Hungary, was a survivor of Auschwitz, and slave labor camps Plaszow, Augsburg and Muldorf. She used this bowl as a cooking pot while in Feldafing, and brought it to Seattle in 1951.

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Magda Schaloum is a member of the Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center's Speakers Bureau.



Magda in 1947 at Feldafing, a displaced persons camp in Germany.

Magda Schaloum was born in Gyor, Hungary. The Nazis occupied Hungary in early 1944 and anti-Jewish laws were quickly put into place. Mass roundups and deportations of the country's Jewish population to Auschwitz began just a few months later. In June 1944, the Nazis deported Magda, her mother, and brother to Auschwitz.

"When we got to the train station, they put us in a cattle wagon. When we were inside, I looked out the window and saw my father standing just outside. He was holding in his hand a package and trying to come up to the train. I ran to the door and I thought, well, let me give him a last hug. And of course they wouldn't let me get off the train. He couldn't come up so he stayed there crying and we were standing at the window and we couldn't do anything. And then the train started to move. That was the last time I have seen my father."

- Magda Schaloum, from "Never Again I Hope," a video project produced by the Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center (1994).

After arriving in Auschwitz, Magda and her family were separated. Magda was sent to a series of slave labor camps, including Plaszow (near Krakow, Poland), Augsburg, and then later to Muhldorf, both in Germany.

Her stay in Muhldorf was short. The Nazis rounded up the prisoners, including Magda, and loaded them into train cars. The Nazis planned to transport the prisoners to an unknown location, and murder them.

As the train cars began to travel, the Nazis plan was interrupted by Allied troops that intercepted the train and liberated the prisoners.



Magda Schaloum came to Seattle in 1951. She brought with her this bowl. "Why give up something that could be useful?" she explains.

This bowl from Allach has an imprint on it (see the photo above).

Under the lip of the bowl are engraved the letters **BMW**. A capital letter "E" is to the right of this. BMW is the logo for *Bayerische Motoren-Werke*.

BMW operated factories in the sub-camps of Dachau and Buchenwald concentration camps, including Allach. The factories produced and built parts for Nazi warplanes.

In Allach, Jewish inmates were forced to work in the BMW factories. In 1944 there were as many as 5,000 prisoners working at the BMW factory at Allach, Germany.

Today BMW is best known for their cars.



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Photo by Harve Bergmann.

Bowl from Lenzing

*When I was liberated, I still had my dish and didn't let it go.
I took it to America and all the way to Seattle...It's just a simple dish.*

-Survivor Ilse Huppert Wolf

Ilse Huppert Wolf received this bowl in Lenzing, a sub-camp of the concentration camp Mauthausen in Austria.

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I worked eight hours making synthetic fibers from cellulose using liquid sulfur. I secretly made a length of silken rope to tie my bowl around my waist so I would not lose it. One had to have a bowl in order to receive the daily ration of food. We worked three shifts. We were hungry.

Walking back and forth from the factory to where we slept I was so hungry I looked to pull up a dandelion. I was so happy to find one.

-Survivor Ilse Huppert Wolf

Ilse Huppert Wolf was born in Vienna, a city known for being an important center of Jewish culture and education. Nazi Germany annexed Austria in 1938; the Germans quickly put into place anti-Jewish laws. Jews were increasingly excluded and forbidden to hold certain positions and jobs. The German SS* and police began systematic deportations of Austria's Jews to ghettos and camps. In 1942 Ilse was deported to Theresienstadt, a concentration camp in what is now the Czech Republic.

After two years of imprisonment in Theresienstadt, the Nazis deported Ilse in a cattle car to Auschwitz, in Poland. She, along with 500 girls, was transferred from Auschwitz to the slave labor camp Lenzing, in Austria. Lenzing was a sub-camp of the concentration camp Mauthausen.

Lenzing was run by the Nazis. The prisoners there were forced to work in a factory owned by the company Lenzinger Zellwolle A.G. Today, **Lenzinger Zellwolle A.G.** is one of the biggest manufacturers in the world of cellulose fibers for textile and non-textile uses.

Ilse was in Lenzing from November 1944 until May 5th, 1945 when she was liberated by American soldiers.

Ilse was one of the lucky few. The German SS and police deported over 47,000 Austrian Jews to camps during the Holocaust. Almost all of them were murdered.

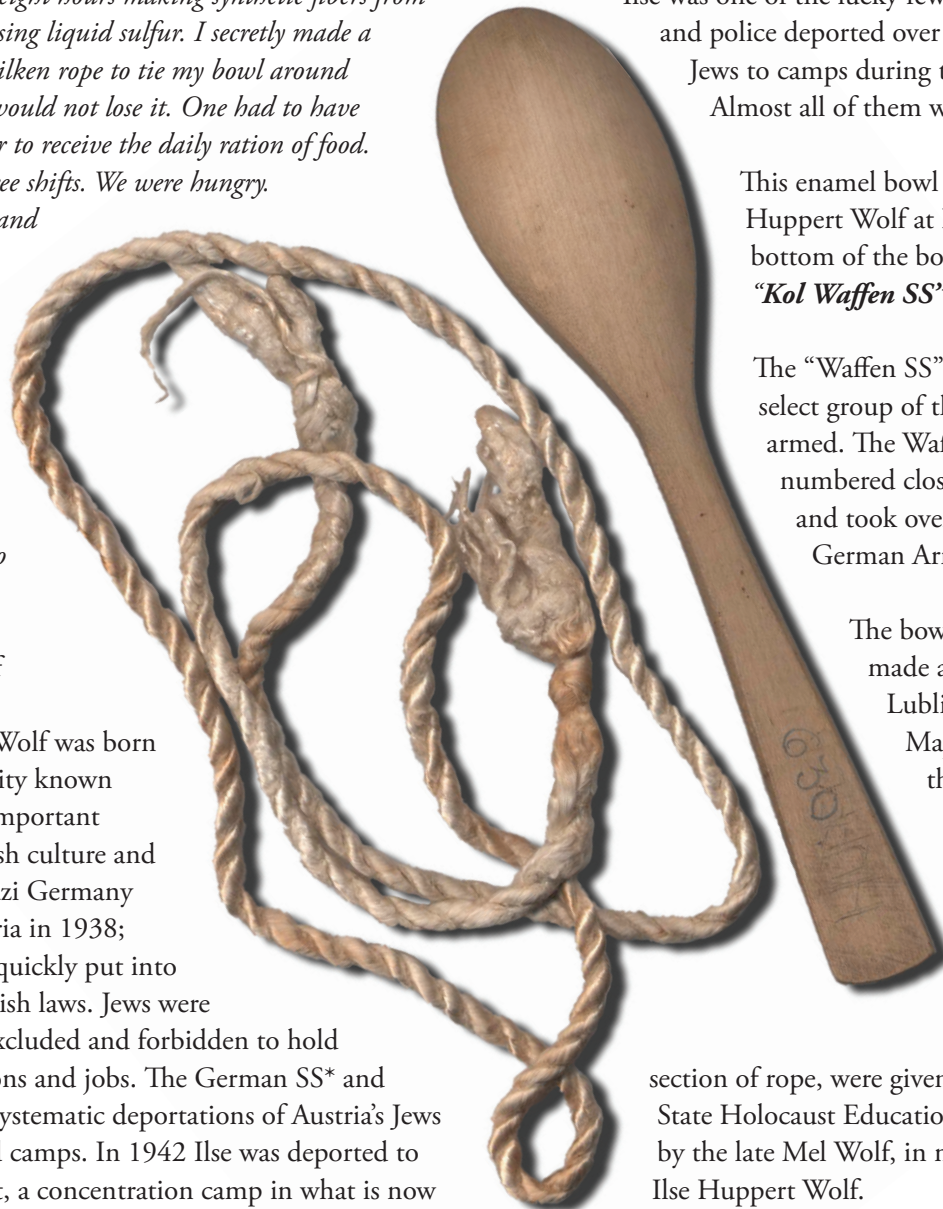
This enamel bowl was issued to Ilse Huppert Wolf at Lenzing. On the bottom of the bowl are the words "*Kol Waffen SS*" and "*Lublin.*"

The "Waffen SS" was a powerful select group of the SS that were armed. The Waffen SS eventually numbered close to half a million and took over the role of the German Armed Forces.

The bowl was probably made at a camp in the Lublin District, possibly Majdanek in Poland. In this area three major killing centers were built—Belzec, Sobibor, and Treblinka.

The bowl, along with a spoon and a section of rope, were given to the Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center by the late Mel Wolf, in memory of his wife Ilse Huppert Wolf.

***SS – Schutzstaffel.** An elite Nazi force. The SS controlled the German police and the concentration camp system. Among other things, the SS was responsible for security, identification, and population policy. The SS was known to be excessive in their force and brutality.





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Bowl from Sobibor

THOMAS BLATT'S BOWL FROM SOBIBOR DEATH CAMP

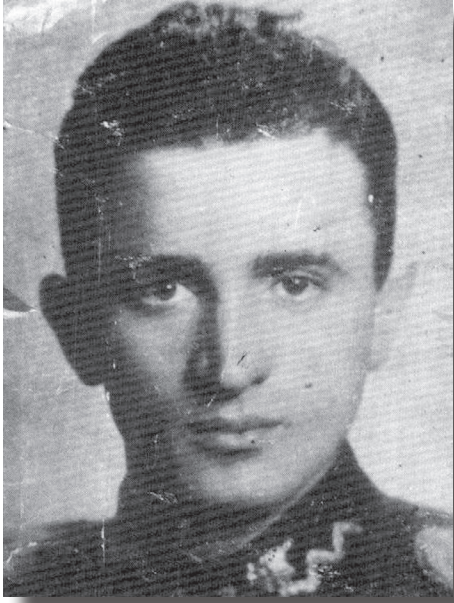
Each of us was given our own eating pot. Each day at five I picked up my pot from under the pillow of my bunk and joined the others in line for supper. When my turn came, the cook poured out about 16 ounces of black liquid that tasted like sweetened warm water, I received dark bread with a warning that it should last me until the next evening.

-Thomas Blatt

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Thomas Blatt, age 17

Thomas “Toivi” Blatt was born in Izbica in the Lublin district of Poland in 1927. After the Nazi occupation of his town in 1939, Thomas escaped from the ghetto in Izbica, but was caught and imprisoned at the age of 15. He managed to escape prison again and return to family in Izbica.

On April 28, 1943, the Nazis deported Thomas and his family to the Sobibor death camp. His family was murdered shortly after they arrived at Sobibor. Thomas was selected to be a part of the camp’s labor force.

In Sobibor, Thomas became associated with several prisoners, including captured Jewish officers from the Soviet Army, who were planning a revolt.

We knew our fate. We knew that we were in an extermination camp and death was our destiny... We had no dreams of liberation; we hoped merely to destroy the camp and to die from bullets rather than from gas. We would not make it easy for the Germans.
-Thomas Blatt, in his memoir [From the Ashes of Sobibor: A Story of Survival](#) (1997).

By October 1943, 250,000 Jewish people had been murdered at Sobibor.

“For all those left behind.”

On October 14, 1943 the prisoners of Sobibor revolted. This revolt had been carefully planned for months by a select group of prisoners, including Russian prisoners of war, within Sobibor. The plan was to quietly kill Nazi officers one by one. The prisoners could then overtake the remaining guards and escape.

300 prisoners (out of the 600 who attempted to escape) broke out of the camp. Unfortunately, many of these escapees lost their lives on the minefields surrounding the camp.

The camp was closed shortly after the revolt and the Germans burned it down in an attempt to get rid of any evidence.

The revolt “made my improbable survival possible,” explains Thomas.

Of the 300 prisoners who escaped Sobibor, only 53 lived to witness the liberation of the region by the Soviet army in 1944. Thomas Blatt, age 17, was one of them.

Before the revolt took place, Thomas buried his eating bowl in the sand of his barracks with valuables placed inside. Late in 1944, he recovered his bowl. Why? “For all those left behind.”

Thomas Blatt was a member of the Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center’s Speakers Bureau for many years. He is the author of two books, *From the Ashes of Sobibor* (1997) and *Sobibor: The Forgotten Revolt* (2004). Thomas was also a consultant for the 1987 movie “Escape from Sobibor.” He currently resides in Santa Barbra, California.