



On display at the Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center.  
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.

