

About Mala Tribich MBE

Mala was born Mala Helfgott in 1930 in Piotrkow Trybunalski, Poland. When the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939, the family decided that it would be safer for Mala to be taken to the town of Czestochowa to try and pass as Christian children.

Mala was eventually taken back to the ghetto at Piotrkow. Shortly after Mala's return to the ghetto there were further round ups during which her mother and eight year old sister were taken. All these people were murdered in the local forest. When the ghetto was liquidated, Mala became a slave labourer until November 1944, when the remaining Jews were deported, Mala was sent to the Ravensbruck concentration camp.

After about 10 weeks they were transported in cattle trucks to Bergen-Belsen where conditions were appalling and Mala contracted typhus. At the time of the liberation by the British army, Mala was very ill. She was transferred to a hospital/children's home and it was many weeks before she recovered. Three months later she was sent, with a large group of children, to Sweden where she spent nearly two years. Mala was surprised to receive a letter from her brother Ben in England, the only other member of her close family to have survived.

In March 1947, Mala came to England to be reunited with Ben. In 1949, she met Maurice, whom she married in 1950. Whilst her children were growing up, Mala studied and gained a degree in Sociology from the University of London. Today Mala has two children and three grandchildren.