



*Photo courtesy of Karen and Andrew Edlin*

*How could a stamp of "A" or "B"  
mean life or death?*

## LOLA BORKOWSKA LANSKY AND RUBIN LANSKY

Lola Borkowska was born in Lodz, Poland in 1926. Lodz was the second largest city in Poland and almost a quarter of a million Jewish people lived there. When Hitler invaded Poland in September of 1939, twelve year old Lola and her siblings were sent to stay with their grandparents in the country.

In 1941, German doctors arrived in the village, summoning all of the Jews to report to a local public school. There, they were ordered to undress. They were each inspected by doctors, who graded them and stamped them with an "A" or "B". Those stamped with a "B" were sent away. Among them were Lola's grandparents, aunts, and cousins. She never saw them again.

It was later discovered that they had been sent to Chelmno extermination camp. Those stamped with an "A," including Lola, her father, stepmother, and siblings, were sent to a ghetto in the nearby town of Ozorkow. There they were placed in an apartment with another family. In 1942 they were moved into the Lodz ghetto where conditions were terrible, with hardly any food and sanitation. When the ghetto was liquidated in 1944, Lola and her family were among the last Jews to be deported to Auschwitz concentration camp.



*Photo courtesy of US Holocaust  
Memorial Museum*

Upon arriving at the camp, Lola, her sister, and her stepmother were separated from her father and brother. A few months later the women were put on a transport to Ravensbrück concentration camp. From there they were transported to a sub-camp of Buchenwald, then transported again to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. From her time in the horrible conditions in the camps and the frequent deportations, Lola's stepmother became ill with pneumonia. She was sent to the camp infirmary where Lola and her sister remained with her, sleeping under her bed. Lola's stepmother died on April 14, 1945 –just one day before Bergen-Belsen was liberated by British forces.

## *Lola remembered people in the camps telling her, “Don't forget us!”*

Lola received good news when she learned that her father and brother had survived. Lola, her sister Helen, her brother Lou and their father Michael – reunited at the Feldafing displaced persons camp. It was at Feldafing that Lola met Rubin Lansky.

Rubin Lansky, a native of Ozorkow, Poland, was 17 when World War II began with the invasion of Poland. He was arrested and conscripted for forced labor on the German highway system and railroads. He was moved to a variety of camps in Latvia, Estonia, and Germany. Five and a half years later, he escaped into Czechoslovakia, and eventually went back to his hometown of Orzokow. There he learned that he was the sole survivor of his family.

At age 23, he ended up in at the Feldafing displaced persons camp. It was there that Rubin Lansky and Lola Borkowska fell in love.



*Photo courtesy of Karen and Andrew Edlin*

Lola immigrated to New York with her remaining family and Rubin soon followed. Lola and Rubin married and moved to Atlanta in 1953. All their lives they were committed to sharing their stories about the Holocaust. They were instrumental in founding Eternal Life Hemshech, an organization for survivors and their families, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and building the Memorial to the Six Million in Atlanta.

Lola and Rubin Lansky's family grew to include two children, and many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Lola Lansky passed away in 1999, Rubin in 2005.



*Map courtesy of US Holocaust Memorial Museum*