Auschwitz was a "Musterlager" - the population was always kept constant. There were never more than five hundred or less than five hundred. If less were there then they brought from Birkenau some more. If more were there, then they eliminated them for any kind of infraction. In Auschwitz Musterlager was death. For example, when we first got there we were told that you must keep yourself so clean and if you have any nits or lice, it's immediately crematoria. We had no combs, we had no things to do this with. So the first thing I did, they had blankets. This was the first time that we had blankets. So I shook out the blanket, out the window, in order to make a clean bed. So one of the kapos came running up and she took me by the scruff of the neck and she says: "You come with me right away." I says: "Why?" She says: "You're not permitted to shake out a blanket outside the window." I says: "I didn't know. We just arrived, we just got here." "Well, just so you know. If I ever catch you again." You know, that kind of thing. But I was lucky that she didn't take me right away. So one of the infractions for which you got killed was to sing and that night when we came back to the barracks, a girl who claimed that she was born in Oswiecim which was Auschwitz and who had a beautiful voice started to sing "A Yiddishe Mamme". Now that song was forbidden for two reasons. First of all, the prisoners themselves couldn't take it because everybody started to cry and become hysterical because they all had lost their mothers. Now Marlot and I never called our mother "Mutti", never during the camp. We always called her by her first name. It would have been suicide to call her "Mutti". So everybody had lost their mother and the song was forbidden by the Germans and was forbidden by the prisoners. And she started to sing and the entire barracks started to sing "A Yiddishe Mamme". I shall never forget that. And the next morning, of course, they made us stand in "appell" for double time, but they didn't kill us. It was late in the day because this was already late in the time. It was already December of 1944 and they knew they were going to lead us out to the Death March.
Source: Yad Vashem Archives 0.3- 9416