

Students told of Holocaust horrors

WASHINGTON • In the 62 years since Susan Taube was liberated from a Nazi extermination camp, the horrible details of the Holocaust sometimes dissolve into a blur of unbearable memories.

But if there's one thing the 81-year-old survivor will always remember, it is the ease with which the Nazis killed. Whether it was shooting an elderly woman for becoming too ill to sweep sidewalks, or shipping thousands to die in a gas chamber, the Nazis murdered with a casual indifference.

"People were killed for no reason," Taube told 250 Canadian students visiting the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington on Tuesday. "They just took the gun, and you were shot."

Taube's harrowing account of a childhood spent living through "different phases of hell" in Hitler's Europe prompted an emotional response from her teenage audience, in Washington as part of the Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program.

"It's really important to meet people like her, because we are the last generation who will get to hear the stories of Holocaust survivors first-hand," said 15-year-old Meghan Plotnick, a Grade 10 student from Windsor, Ont.

"It's up to us to carry on the message of the Holocaust to make sure it will never happen again."

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