RG-50.002.0097

Dora Schoen, Interview 23 March 1988

Interviewers: Selma Dubnick, Henry Kaplotwitz

Summary

Dora Schoen (Basch), born on July 10, 1919 in Sighet, Romania, describes her family and childhood; was one of six children, Abraham (b. 1906), Kalman (b. 1909), Roze (b. 1910), brother (b. 1913), and Zelda (b. 1921); her father who was a butcher, and her mother who helped in the butcher shop; helping to deliver meats; working at a lawyer's office; the Hungarian occupation of Transylvania at the end of August 1930; Jewish lawyers no longer being allowed to practice; the German invasion on 19 March 1944; Germans placing all Jews in ghettos within Sighet in April 1944; the confiscation of all their jewelry; how the Jews were put in groups and told they were being taken to Hungary to work on farms; being put in cattle trains and arriving in Auschwitz on 14 May 1922; being separated from her family and never seeing all but one sister again; being checked and reviewed by Doctor Josef Mengele; being given a tattoo of the number 87606 and placed in a working barrack; spending two months in Beldorf working in an ammunition factory; being liberated by the Red Cross at the Danish border where she was quarantined and fed; being transported to Landskrona, Sweden; Swedish people were very kind and bringing them clothes; her aunt in the United States sending her money and her surviving brother's address (he had been in Paris at the time of the German occupation); how her brother and sister Zelda were both back home in Sighet; remaining in Sweden for three years and working as a house mother for 40 people at a clothing factory; receiving letter in 1946 from a relative in Palestine; getting married at the end of April 1948, five days before Israel's Independence; living in Israel for eight years (1948-1956); not being able to have children; and immigrating to the United States to live near her sister and brother.