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Oral history interview with Frieda Fried

Interview date: November 4, 1987

Summary

Frieda Fried (née Stern), born on October 10, 1928 in Palana [PH], Czechoslovakia, discusses her middle-class, Orthodox family and childhood living in Palana until 1944; her parents Jacob Stern and Fanny Stern nee Kleinman; her three siblings Hitler (b. 1922?), Helen (b. 1924?), Margaret (b. 1926?), Frieda was the youngest, her grandparents, aunt and uncle with their six children living next door; her mother's large family, her mother had six siblings, her self-employed father working in lumber business; discusses her childhood memories Hungarians arriving in Palana when she was twelve, switching to Russian school with Jewish children, being prohibited from baking matzah for Passover, in 1944, being round up on the last day of Passover 1944 and sent to Munkács ghetto for about five weeks, being deported to Auschwitz, tattooed, shaved, stripped, showered, in block B with sister Margaret; Helen had been separated and taken to work in Czechoslovakia for the Krupp. Frieda discusses being taken with a group of ten girls from Auschwitz to have their blood drawn, returning to Auschwitz, then being transported with Margaret to Bergen-Belsen for about six weeks, cleaning the barracks, having a cousin working in the kitchen helping to give her some food, after six weeks being put into cattle train to Landsburg small camp for about four weeks, then Mauthausen for 16 days. Liberated by U.S. on May 5, 1945. Frieda and Margaret reuniting with their sister Helen in Bratislava, assistance from UNRRA for food, reuniting with her brother who was sick after liberation in Mauthausen, returning to Munkács for a few weeks, then staying in Budapest, Prague, Germany in Gabersee DP camp, and then to USA. As a minor, staying in a children's home and emigrating to USA two years before her sisters, corresponding with her father's two brothers and a sister in USA through assistance from her cousin's brother, an American soldier in Germany. On September 21, 1947, arriving in USA at age 18, attending night school, working and operating electric machines in New York for about 10 years in a factory, siblings arriving in NY with the help of their uncle, marrying her husband in 1951; discusses knowing him from Gabersee in Germany, he arrived in USA in 1947, serving in US army during Korean War and stationed in Germany, marrying in May 1951, having three children and a grandchild.