

RG-50.031.0063

Dora Rosenthal (nee Berkowitz) b. 5/3/1923 in Stronitz [PH] near Radom, Poland, parents, 3 siblings, grandmother; family farm/grocery store/lumberyard; Polish schooling until "not allowed by Germans"; Jewish home "grandfather walked to schul"; experiencing antisemitism, called "dirty Jew - teacher didn't care," Polish stealing from family businesses; family moved to a larger city; father badly injured in riot; liquidation of the city; Jews forced labor shoveling snow, beatings & hangings in markets; fleeing to another town; her pain seeing father taken away bleeding at head, taken into forest, shot; father had been buried but brother unearthed him for proper funeral; Nazis' list "Doctors, lawyers, butchers, the smart, educated went first", grandmother taken, part of "old people & children - had no place to go"; In liquidation, "There was a fire."; roundup of Jews in market, mother (sick from typhus) & two youngest children taken to Tomaszow ghetto; Dora & brother went to a slave labor camp picking potatoes; 1941 transferred to Radom ammunition slave labor camp; in interview, Dora returns to trauma endured in family separation at ghetto, "whips hitting people, pushing people into piles, some children shot"; after Tomaszow liquidation, Dora's cousin reported that Dora's mother had been separated from two youngest children (taken to Treblinka); (Summer 1943) 3 day death march in 100 degree heat from Radom to Auschwitz, people kicked, whipped; arrival to Auschwitz, undressed in big room in front of men with whips, found aunt (who was later killed), heads shaved, cousin whipped for removing piece of striped-uniform to cover her shaved head; Dora's Birkenau tattoo #A24502; most mass killings were on Jewish holidays; mother & brother were at Auschwitz; brother escaped Hungarian block where children were later shot after 3 days being denied food/drink; no work assigned in Auschwitz "just waiting for death...sometimes standing outside in snow for hours"; 1944, 100 women picked in selection, "We were lucky"- taken to Siemens ammunition lab; beaten by female SS; making soup from two potato peels; "One day looked out, no dogs," then Russians came in; in liberation, the malnourished getting sick from eating too much; reunited with mother; post-war, enduring robbery, having to flee several cities times post-war, ending up in Stuttgart; marriage to man met in cousin's hometown; immigration to States; 1 daughter, 3 sons; Dora laments loss of childhood