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**Summary**

Éva Nánási was born on August 29, in Beregszász, Carpatho-Ruthenia, part of Czechoslovakia at the time (now Bereghove, Ukraine). The town had about 20,000 inhabitants, ca. 5,000 were Jewish. Her family was religious, Orthodox, and kept a kosher household. They had a middle-class existence; her father was an accountant working for the Chevra Kadisha, and also owned a small soda water factory. Her parents insisted upon her and her brother's education (born in 1924), even though they had to attend school on Saturdays. She went to high school, which was not common for girls at the time and under her circumstances. She did not experience any discrimination under the Czech government. The first time, she had such an experience was in Tarcal, Hungary where her grandparents lived and a boy hit her and called her a "stinking Jew." In [November] 1938 Hungary reoccupied Carpatho-Ruthenia and beat up some of the Jews in Beregszász. As of 1939, anti-Jewish legislation was introduced. Discrimination became palpable in school as well. Her father lost his factory. Ration cards were introduced, but Jews did not get bread and sugar rations. She finished high school in 1941. She began working in her cousin's clothing salon. In 1942, she was invited to a family wedding in Nyiregyháza where she met her future husband. They married in 1943. Her husband came from a wealthy family: they owned about 50 houses, a hotel, and a lumberyard, which is still called "the Friedmann yard." Shortly after the wedding, her husband was called up for forced labor, but was soon released.

However, in September 1943, he was called up again to Szentkirályszabadja where a forced labor battalion of wealthy Jews was formed and sent to the Soviet front. She was pregnant and managed to see her husband at the border station, Csap (Chop, Ukraine) where his train had a stop. This was the last time she saw her husband. They corresponded, and he knew that his daughter was born in December 1943.

After the German occupation in March 1944, Jews had to wear the Yellow Star and all other restrictions followed. In April, she had to go to the ghetto with her baby where the conditions were terrible. Not only Jews from Beregszász, but also Jews from the surrounding villages were moved there, around 12,000 people. After two days, her father who was in the local Jewish council arranged for her and her mother to move to the building of the Jewish community. On May 14, 1944, on the last day of Passover, gendarmes came and told them to go to the train station. They were brutal: they beat up and spat on the chief rabbi who put on his WWI medals. They took away her baby carriage, forcing her to carry the baby and luggage through the town. Before entrainment, body searches were conducted, and the gendarmes were beating and torturing many Jews. There were 80-100 people in the railway car, which was only opened in Kassa (Košice, Slovakia) where Germans took over guard duty.

Answering the question whether she and others knew about Auschwitz and what would happen to them, she said no, but she mentioned the 1941 deportation of Beregszász Jews who could not certify their Hungarian citizenship. She had a friend who was deported at that time and climbed out of the pit into which Jews were shot, and made her way back to Hungary. From her and other survivors, the population learned of the murder of the Jews.

On May 16 or 17, they arrived in Auschwitz. She was together with her mother, father and brother, but men and women were immediately separated. Prisoners in striped garb told her in

Yiddish to put the baby into her mother's arms, which she did after some initial hesitation. During selection by Mengele, they were sent in different directions, but she had no idea what it meant.

She went through the shower, but was neither tattooed nor received a prisoner's uniform. She stood in *Appell* for a day and then was sent to the barracks. Next morning, she saw her father and brother through the fence; they were being sent somewhere. She was in *A Lager*, across from Mengele's experiment barrack. The *Blockälteste* were Slovak and Polish women who explained to the new arrivals that their relatives had gone up in smoke, which they could see and smell all the time. One of them, Drechselka (sp?) was a very beautiful blonde woman, bestially cruel who also did random selections.

She had fever because she was full of milk. A Slovak overseer took her secretly to the hospital to pump her milk. She worked on road construction. When going to work she saw that corpses were burned, and on one occasion that babies were thrown on the fire. She also witnessed a public execution with music in the background. She said that they had music during the *Appells* as well, which sometimes lasted for several hours.

She was in Auschwitz for about two months. One night toward the end of July, her barrack was awakened for selection, carried out by Mengele. They had a shower, got gray prisoner outfits, wooden sandals, and some food, and boarded a train. After three days, they arrived in Gelsenkirchen, a town on the Rhine. She had the number 5555 on her uniform. The guards were old Wehrmacht soldiers, not SS. She and other prisoners befriended one who was a journalist before the war and treated them decently. Gelsenkirchen had around 10,000 prisoners. They were loading and unloading ships on the Rhine. They were housed in military tents, slept in beds, and there was running water in the camp. The food was a watered-down version of military provisions. She was lucky because she met an elderly Slovak woman who got her a job in the kitchen. She also had to clean the rooms of the Organization Todt Headquarters. Before that she had to undergo a medical examination. She always had extra food that she shared with her prison mates.

In September 1944, there was a big bombardment that left ca. 500 bodies on the ground. One of her friends from Ungvár died there. German nuns saved many prisoners by providing treatment and there was sympathy in the town as well.

End of September-early October 1944, she was transferred to Sömmerda, a sub camp of Buchenwald close to Erfurt. There was a big weapon factory. Most of the prisoners were French and Dutch. The foremen in the factory were Germans. She worked in the food storage facility. Her boss was a German and his wife was from Magdeburg, a former cigarette factory owner who delegated work to her. She bought the provisions as well, and, although she was always accompanied by a guard, she had relative freedom of movement.

In her barrack, a woman from Ungvár gave birth. The SS guards killed the baby. The woman stayed alive.

She was in Sömmerda until April 4, 1945, when the camp was emptied. Initially ca. 15,000, the prisoners marched from April 4 until May 6. Many prisoners died, others, who could not keep up, were shot dead, many escaped. They all starved and struggled through the Sudeta mountain range. They were about eight kilometers [did not understand the name of the village] from Karlovy Vary [Czechoslovakia] when they stopped.

On May 8, 1945 she woke up to the Marseillaise that the French prisoners were singing. The German guards disappeared during the night. First the Americans appeared, but in three days, the Russian took over the liberated prisoners, and their treatment was not good. For a few days they were in Karlovy Vary, in a sanatorium. Then they were sent to Prague, where the sick people received treatment.

In July, she arrived in Budapest. She registered in Bethlen tér with the Jewish community and the Red Cross, and began searching for her parents and husband. Her cousin, Sándor Haupt found her and took her to his home. They lived in Dohány St and had a leather business. She regularly went back to Bethlen tér, and found out that nobody in her family was in Nyiregyháza, but heard that her father was alive. One day, looking down from the balcony, she saw her father on the street. Her father, who heard that she was in Dohány St, went from house to house to find her. Her father survived because he was sort of a jack-of-all trades and the Germans used his skills. Her brother died of typhus before liberation in Bergen-Belsen. She went with her father back to Nyiregyháza. She heard that her husband arrived home in November 1944. After recovering, he looked around in the center of town and was taken by Russians for work to the Soviet Union ("malenkij robot"). He died of typhus in 1945.

She also went back to Beregszász. Ukrainians lived in their former home. Before the border to Hungary was closed, she managed to get back to Nyiregyháza.

From her large extended family of approx. 100 people, 12 survived.

She married again, and had a son, János in 1953.

Her father also married, immigrated to Israel, and had a daughter from the second marriage. The gendarmerie commander of Beregszász was captured in Budapest, tried, and sentenced to 12 years. Her father was a witness in his trial. However, the gendarmerie commander had been released earlier and left for Argentina in 1956.

She settled in Nyiregyháza. At the time of the interview, there were 150 Jews in the town. They had no rabbi and no kosher butcher; those services were only available in Debrecen.

She said there was and still is anti-Semitism in Hungary. Once again, Jews are blamed for all the sins of socialism. She still votes for the communists, because they are the only protectors of Jews.

She said that we should never forget what happened, and she is always ready to tell everyone what happened to her. She was often emotional during the interview.