

Summary of Oral History: Eva Elson

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This Summary was written by a USHMM Volunteer on [04/2022]

Eva Elson was born in 1913 in the village of Magnuszew near Radom and Chojnice , Poland; her maiden name was Rachel Perel (?); she came from a comfortable religious home; was not as observant as her family and married a man with similar ideas; they moved to Warsaw where her husband opened two men's clothing stores and they had three children who they sent to religious training; Eva describes her Holocaust experiences of hiding with the children in Warsaw's Big Ghetto when selections are made daily in 1942; she and her husband repaired suits; one day the entire family was selected and awaited departure and her husband was required to return to work and they were all excused; another day the children were selected when cared for by the mother-in-law and Eva was beaten when she requested to escort them; daily selections continued and her sister-in-law, age 26, cared for her as Eva continued being depressed; they hid in a tunnel that had been created in '39 and after 12 days on April 26, 1943 the Germans removed them; Eva and the sister-in-law were sent to Majdanek and her sister-in-law continued to help her but soon disappeared leaving Eva alone; Majdanek was destroyed and Eva was sent to Auschwitz where she helped the Kapo keep the barracks clean and helped the prisoners; again daily selections and Eva hid in the Kapo's bed and the Kapo saved her; Eva waits 10 days wearing just a blanket and the doctors do not select her; in '45 she gets moved to Bergen-Belsen where she does some work; she gets liberated by the British; former fellow prisoners asked her to remain in Czechoslovakia as they recall her kindness to others in Auschwitz but she goes to Germany; Eva worked 29 years despite her many infections and other medical problems resulting from her Holocaust experience; she lived in Israel; Eva no longer feels like attending religious services as so many of her relatives were murdered.