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Summary

Lilly Feig and her mother, Helen Kormis, discuss living a comfortable life in Solotvina, Czechoslovakia (now Solotvyno, Ukraine) before the war; Helen posing as a gentile in order to visit her mother after a travel ban was imposed in 1939; being treated kindly by the Wehrmacht who were billeted in confiscated homes; being treated harshly by the Hungarian gendarmes; living in the ghetto for six weeks before being transported by train to Auschwitz; Lilly's father being put to death upon arrival; remaining in Auschwitz for approximately one year where they were put to work breaking stones; protecting Lilly's younger sister from the cold by sheltering her between them during Appell (roll call) until she was eventually killed; Helen's 14 year old son who escaped from the camp while on a work detail and survived by joining partisans in the forest; being sent to Welbout work camp near the town of Debreceno in Sudeten where they made bombs and mines and were grateful for the improved living conditions; being transferred to Terezin after spending one night at Litomerice; being liberated by the Russians, some of whom raped and terrorized the women; Lilly's efforts to transport her mother to a hospital in Prague where she was treated for Typhoid; Lilly arranging for her mother, a cousin who had been in Buchenwald, and another woman to leave the hospital and travel to Budapest where her brother had been seen; returning to Czechoslovakia after finding her brother and being told that there was nothing left of their home; supporting her family by working in the billing department of a factory; smuggling themselves across the border into Germany in 1948 when the political situation in Czechoslovakia deteriorated; immigrating to the U.S. in 1951 with the assistance of the International Refugee Organization.