

RG-50.091.0111

Summary

Eva Reis, born in a small town near Kielce, Poland describes growing up, as the youngest of 10 siblings; moving in with an older sister when she was 14 years old so that she could learn dressmaking; her father's death of typhus in 1941; escaping a Nazis roundup in 1942 and hiding in the woods for three weeks with her brother, sister, and niece before going to a larger city; hiding from another roundup while her brother-in-law brought them food and advised them to go with Mr. Fleming (whom she credits with saving her life) from Kielce HASAG who was taking people to work; working at HASAG for 2 ½ years under reasonable conditions; as the Russian army approached, being sent to dig ditches for 2-3 months in 1944; being sent to Czestochowa until 1945 when she was transported to Bergen-Belsen, living under very difficult conditions for 6 weeks; being taken, with others who had previously worked at Kielce HASAG, to Berger(?) to work on airplane parts; being moved to Landsberg after American bombers made it impossible to work at the factory; being taken to Allach on April 29, 1945 and being told by Rabbi Smith of the U.S. Army that they were liberated; being taken to a field hospital to recover from malnutrition while her niece was taken to a hospital in Munich where she died two weeks later; working as a tailor to make clothes for other survivors; being reunited with her brother, who in addition to her oldest niece, were the only members of her family who survived; living in a DP camp at Allach where she met her husband while both worked as tailors; moving to Feldafing and marrying her husband in 1945; her husband and cousin going back to Poland in 1946 to search for surviving family members and witnessing a pogrom that killed many people; the birth of her daughter in 1946; moving to Cleveland in 1949 under the sponsorship of her uncle; the birth of her son two years later; receiving some initial assistance from Jewish organizations; her husband finding a job as a tailor and continuing in that career for many years.