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Summary

Celia Rosenfeld, born in Hungary but raised in Chojnów, Poland, describes being raised as the fifth child in her family; Germans entering the town in October, 1939 and confiscating valuables and burning synagogues; her father, a tailor, dying as a result of being beaten when he was praying in a private home; moving into the ghetto with her mother and brother while her two older brother went to Russia and her married sister was already living in another city; being forced to watch a family being hanged after Poles reported that they were illegally baking bread; sewing German uniforms in a synagogue the Germans had set up as a factory; returning from a night shift to discover that her mother and brother had been sent to Auschwitz; moving in with a girlfriend and her family until she and girlfriend were taken by train to a work camp in Markstadt; identifying themselves as tailors and taken to Klettendorf where she patched clothes from the men's camp for 6 months before being taken to another camp in Reichembach where she worked in a factory manufacturing fabric; being moved to Lanenbielau where she worked making textiles and where she remained until being told by a Yiddish speaking Russian soldier that they were free; meeting her husband when men from the men's camp stayed with the women to protect them from the Russian soldiers; returning home in the hope of finding her brother, but learning that nobody in her family had survived; going back to Reichembach and marrying her husband; moving to Israel in 1948; returning to Europe in an attempt to get a VISA from the Canadian consul in France, but being refused because she had Tuberculosis; remaining in Germany for 7 years while waiting for visas to the United States; arriving in the U.S. shortly before her son's Bar Mitzvah.