

LILY FUCHS  
RG-50.154.0012 (recorded 1987 Sarasota)

Lily was born in 1929 in a medium sized city in Rumania with a good size Jewish population She lived with her parents, grandmother and 4 sisters. Her father taught Hebrew and Jewish studies. She was somewhat aware of antisemitism; once her father got beaten when he went to the water well to get water for the family.

Lily was 15 when she and her family were sent to Auschwitz. She describes the separation of her family by Mengele. Her mother and younger sister were sent to what she later realized was the gas chamber; her other sisters went to the other side. Lily wanted to go with her mother but she was made to go on the other line. She describes the process of being shaved, disinfected and given striped uniforms. She was in a bunker with 5 people on each plank in the bunker. She describes a time when she crawled under a fence to the family part of the camp to try to get sugar for a sick sister, but she was caught by the SS. For some reason, she was not shot, but only slapped.

After about 8 months in Auschwitz the camp was made to walk 10 days to Bergen Belsen. There most of the inmates were sick and weak and didn't work, but Lily was working carrying bricks. They had to stand for the roll call for hours. One of her sisters was supposed to go to the gas chamber, but they managed to save her. One sister died in the camp but two other survived. After 3 months, the camp was liberated by the English. Lily's two sisters went back to Rumania, but she had met her husband and stayed in Germany. They were able to get affidavits from relatives in the US and got married and emigrated in 1949. The Jewish Federation helped them get settled in the US.