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Erna Fishman recounts her life being born and raised in a small village (Jeleśnia, Poland), 1 of 12 children; her father running several businesses including butcher shop and shopping complex; being only one of two Jewish families in the village; her family being well-respected and the majority of the people in the village working for her family's businesses; her sister being invited to immigrate to Australia in 1938 and asking her parents to go; her father turning down the opportunity because of his success in Poland; Gestapo soldiers throwing her family out of their home in 1939 and being forced into one area with other Jewish families from nearby villages; working hard labor daily and living with three siblings and parents in one room in the barracks; no longer being able to see her extended family (5 maternal aunts in nearby villages in Poland, 2 maternal uncles in Czechoslovakia); her brothers Herman and Pauldik being taken by the Germans to work in the camps and one other brother fleeing to Russia; Herman getting paid to help other Jews escape across the borders and trade things in the black market to provide food for his family; Herman working as a hairdresser for the Nazi's and overhearing their plans then hiding his parents until they could smuggle them back into the ghetto to be with the family; her younger sister being separated and taken to Auschwitz on the day the Nazi's segregated everyone in the city square; being taken to a ghetto in 1942; getting separated from her remaining family when leaving the ghetto in May 1943; watching her family be taken along with the sick to be killed; being shuffled around various concentration camps with other girls; being sent to Friedeburg, Germany by train then traveling to other camps by walking for days barefoot or with wooden shoes in the cold; working as a seamstress and in an ammunition factory; being given a small piece of bread and coffee for breakfast and either a cup or soup or dirty potato peels with water as their only food for the day; collapsing one day from falling walking to another camp and two girls pulling her up just before a soldier shot her; being taken to Kratzau concentration camp where there was less food, three girls to one bed; the day starting at 4am and working until dark without any food or water at night; a soldier burning her hair when she wouldn't beat another girl with a shovel; picking lice from their bodies at night; German, French, and girls of other nationalities being brought to Kratzau from Auschwitz and telling her the conditions in Kratzau were worse; being liberated May 8; fearing to leave the camp initially, not knowing where to go until the Russian soldiers arrive; returning to Poland to find her three brothers and two sisters that had survived; immigrating to Germany and then Australia to escape anti-semitism in Europe; learning English from Australians while working as a seamstress until starting business later on; having 2 children and 6 grandchildren.