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Summary

Dorothy Kawecki – Born 1920 in Dabrowa Gornicza, Poland. Second of five children – Henry (lived in Switz. during war; came back when Dorothy emigrated), Dorothy, Leon (died at Auschwitz), Jacob (died of TB), and Goocha (died at Auschwitz).

Before the War - Attended Polish school until 1934, then went to Jewish school because of antisemitism. Graduated 1938. Wanted to go to college, but older brother Henry (born 1916) was in college in France (because of antisemitism in Poland) Father owned two shops – shoe and gift. Mother worked in shops. Family not religious, just Jewish customs. Worked in parents' shops; had boyfriend, married him 1941).

During the War – Germans took over, took keys to shops, made father do inventory, then work there. Curfew in effect for Jews and must wear armbands. Not ghettoized at first, though forced to move to smaller apartment. 1943 – Sent to Sosnowitz (then to a sub camp; was there for 8 months, textile factory) In 1944, SS sent to Grunberg, sick girls sent to Gross-Rosen, rest stayed at Grunberg textile factory Harsh conditions – worked 12-hour days - little food; By end of 1944, knew about Auschwitz and aware Germans were losing war. January 12, 1945, as Russians approached, girls forced on march. Stayed at barn, she and another girl ran away into forest. Girl knew man who worked in factory – Mr. Blumer – told her that if evacuated, try to run away. Took off stars, got ride in truck to Grunberg. Called Blumer; hid them 2 weeks. Liberated in mid-February. Went back to Dabrowa end of war

After the War – Found husband when returned; Parents had been in labor and concentration camps. Found them in 1945. Stayed in Poland after war. Had a son in 1946. After antisemitic incident in 1954, they decided to leave Poland. Husband had cousin in Australia, decided to go there. Took till 1960 to leave Poland.

Mrs. Kawecki's Observations – Wanted to put the war behind them and move forward. She wanted revenge in the form of justice. Lived life one day at a time and fought her feelings of guilt for surviving.