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Summary

Ester Dzialoszynski, born in Pabianice, Poland. Father Jacob. Grandfather Moshe Yosef Levine, grandmother Sarah Rachel...Brother born 1925 and also a younger sister. Parents not very religious although she went to a Jewish grammar school. She was a "wild child" who was sent to live with her grandmother for a while. Did not feel any antisemitism, possibly because she did not look Jewish. She knew about events in Germany because Polish Jews who lived in German areas were expelled in 1938. Also, American relatives sent copies of the Forward which told of events in Germany. At some point after the war began, parents were assembled in front of their home to prepare for deportation and then walked to the train station for selection. There, the old, sick and children were taken elsewhere and the rest were put in the Lodz Ghetto. Her husband (?), Leo, was "dragged away" and taken to the ghetto. Somehow, he left the ghetto and escaped to Siberia. He died in 1994. In the ghetto, they wore yellow arm bands and a star. Coupons were used to buy food in the ghetto, although there was a black market as well. Germans took children, including her sister, Anusha (PH), and cousin taken. When people rounded up, Ester and family hid in an attic. Father protected somewhat because of his work as a street sweeper, which also gave him an extra ration of potatoes. When people died they were kept at home so that their ration coupons would continue. She went to Dombrowa, a labor camp, where she made eiderdown garments. While there she saw good, luggage etc. taken from Jews piled up after they were deported to Auschwitz. Supervisor and co-workers were all Jewish and supervisor Glazer was "worse than the Germans." Apparently, Glazer assisted in the deportation of her own sister. Glazer had the women stand and be searched for scrap material which they were hiding. The workers had production quotas so they could get more food if met. The leader of the ghetto had to give the Germans lists of people to be taken to Auschwitz, although they were told they were going to another labor camp. Her father served as an arbitrator in the camp although one day he "vanished." She was taken with her mother and sister to Auschwitz where their clothes were taken and heads shaved. Ester went to Birkenau to work at a Krupps factory. Three barracks contained 500 prisoners. She says the barracks were bombed at some point. Not heavily supervised at work until a "sadistic" woman came to supervise. After hitting a woman on the way to the bathroom, she was replaced. Ester was praised as a good worker, although she had no idea what she was making. As Allies approached, SS women were scared and the camp emptied. Near liberation, prisoners got Red Cross packages. Some ate the contents and got diarrhea as the food was too rich. After liberation, someone told the prisoners they were going to the US and Ester was first in line to register for this. Buses came with medical equipment. Eventually taken to Copenhagen where she and others lived in a school. Sabbath was celebrated and people cried. Then she went to Sweden to a convalescent camp.