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Summary

Ita (Nadja?) Steinitz was born on July 10, 1924 in Olkusz, Poland. She had six brothers and sisters. Father had a printing business, mother worked in a chocolate factory. Her family's move to Bedzin, Poland. In September 1939 when war began, she saw people being shot and a synagogue burned and the building next door was demolished. Curfew at 6PM. Younger sister Ruschka taken by Germans to a camp where she became ill. An uncle was able to secure her release and she was hospitalized for surgery. Her father died in 1940. Steinitz was taken with 300 other girls to a camp, Sosnowiec. Mother and Ruschka taken to Auschwitz 1942. Another married sister and her child were taken to Birkenau and were killed. Steinitz taken to Żagań, another camp where she was put to work in a factory. She was guarded by Jewish women who treated the workers well. She lived in a barracks with other girls, many from her home town. (Possibly) in August 1940 she was transferred to another camp, Gruenberg. There she was greeted by a Jewish guard using a whip. She worked in a factory knitting uniforms. A co-worker with vision difficulty was shipped to Birkenau because she could not work fast enough. Steinitz caught pneumonia and was taken off work for 6 days. While off, she was blamed for breaking her machine. During her time there, 2 girls escaped, both of whom were helped by German civilians and survived the war. At one point 57 girls disappeared from her camp in a roundup. She was well aware of Auschwitz as several relatives had been taken and died there. Eventually, she was taken in a cattle car to Auschwitz where she was shaved and tattooed (R2499). Others were selected for extermination. She learned that a sister and a brother were in the camp. Four friends were gassed, and eventually her brother David was also killed. While she worked, her teeth interfered with her eating and she weighed 64 pounds. All of the teeth were pulled, one at a time. She slept in an upper bunk with 4 others. She saw several girls shot during an 8 hour rollcall. The Kapos beat the prisoners. As an aside, she mentions that one of the Kapos from Gruenberg lives in Melbourne and she saw her in the mikvah. She says she lost her belief in God after her experience in Auschwitz/Birkenau. She says she saw Dr. Mengele make selections. She says she spent a year in Birkenau and in December 1944 she was marched "night and day" to Ravensbrück. Several girls were shot along the way. They were put on open trains after the march and many more girls died. The SS put her to work in their kitchen. Eventually they were marched to Schwerin, Germany.

THE TAPE ENDS ABRUPTLY.