

RG-50.493.0007 Erna Rubin

Erna Rubin, born in 1926 in Hungary, describes growing up in the town of Vác, north of Budapest, with two sisters and one brother; his father being a shoemaker; their next-door neighbors who were Christian and there was no discrimination or antisemitism; living close to the Danube river and swimming there in the summer; Jews in the town in late 1943 being forced to move to a ghetto, with a Synagogue in the center; Jews from ages 18 to 52 being sent to forced labor camps in April 1944, with he and his father being sent to separate forced labor camps in Hungary; the rest of his family staying in the ghetto, then everyone in the ghetto later being taken to Auschwitz, where his mother was killed; working at a factory, then working on an airport runway in Kecskemét, Hungary, then going to Szolnok to fix a railroad track, then going to Székesfehérvár by train, then eventually to Austria; people dying of typhus; digging a ditch 30 feet deep, 30 to 40 feet wide in Austria; the Russian army getting closer, so they were taken further into Austria; Germans shooting people in the snow and having to pick up dead people; a villager who had a big truck of potatoes letting them have all the potatoes; going to a Mauthausen concentration subcamp in Austria in 1944 then being transferred to the Gunskirchen subcamp in Upper Austria; being liberated by American soldiers in May 1945; contracting typhus soon after liberation and being placed in a portable hospital in Wels near Gunskirchen; returning to his family's home in Vác, Hungary, in 1945; the Hungarian Communist government in 1948 taking away their family's business; working in a factory until 1956 when the Hungarian revolution started; his brother moving to America, then Erna and his wife moving to California in 1957.