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Summary

Ruth Elias arrived at the Theresienstadt ghetto with her parents and her sister. A week after they arrived, they were told that they would be sent on a transport to the east. She had a fever, so the doctor said that since she wasn't even 19, the family could stay in the ghetto. Her father wanted the family to leave together, but her boyfriend wanted them to stay since she was sick. She and her boyfriend decided to get married, so they could stay in Theresienstadt. Her family left the next day; that was the last time she saw her father.

In December 1943, she and her husband were sent to Auschwitz. She was very afraid because she was visibly pregnant when she was there. They were taken to the family camp at Auschwitz. The women and men were in separate barracks, but the husbands and wives could meet each day for between a half-hour and an hour.

One day, the SS locked in those who had arrived in December into their barracks and took the people who had arrived in September to a different camp. At around midnight, they heard cars and people singing Hatikvah as they were sent to the gas chambers. None of them survived, including Fredy Hirsch.

In June 1944, there was a selection done by Mengele and two other doctors. She was in her 8th month at this time, but angled herself so that he wouldn't see that. The women were then sent to Hamburg where they were supposed to do cleaning. The third day she was in Hamburg, she and another pregnant woman were sent back Auschwitz. Mengele came to see her the next day because he tried to understand how he didn't catch pregnant women in the selection line.

On August 4th, she gave birth to a daughter. Mengele came to see her every day after the birth. He ordered that her breasts be tied/wrapped because he wanted see how long the baby could live without being fed. She tried to feed the baby some of the soup and bread that she received. Every morning Mengele would check the baby to see how she was doing and to weigh her. The baby lived for seven days. A Jewish doctor gave the baby morphine, so she wouldn't suffer anymore and put her with the other bodies of people who had died in the night. Mengele came to get the mother and child the next day. She was sent to another labor camp.

After about 3.5 years in concentration camps, she talks about how difficult it was to transition back to normal life.