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2017, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Summary

Elisabeta Steier, born Hegedüs in 1924 [or 1934 ?] in Romania in an orthodox Jewish family, which kept a kosher household. They spoke Hungarian at home. Her grandparents, who lived in a village on the Romanian side of the Hungarian-Romanian border, raised her. She was born with an illness [not specified] and was a weak and sickly child. Her father worked in France in a mine and contracted tuberculosis. He was isolated from the family when he returned. Her mother worked.

She was a "little girl" when the Hungarian army reoccupied the area [September 1940], but their village remained on the Romanian side.

She was "about age 14" [?] when the Jews, among them her family, had to leave the village. They did not wear the Yellow Star. They had to pack some belongings and Romanian gendarmes took them by train or cart to different towns where they were billeted with local families. She was with her mother and grandparents. Some families treated them well, others not, but they were not mistreated and always had something to eat. Her mother made some money by baking bread, and she was sewing and selling men's underpants. It was illegal to sell them at markets, but they did that to earn some money. Once, when they were caught, a young gendarme did not arrest them. She remembered the following towns where they stayed for a couple of months or weeks: Belényes (Beiuș), [the next one I did not understand], Szalonta [Salonta], and Gyanta [Ginta]. Gyanta was their last station where they stayed in a big collection camp. They were liberated there.

She never returned to her village. She and her mother moved to [Nagyvárad (Oradea)?]. She did not continue her education. She came down with a severe liver disease and had to keep a diet all her life. She became a seamstress. Married a Jewish man who survived a concentration camp and typhoid.

Her mother lived with them until her death.