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Summary

Dora Appel Antonsson, born 1926 in Sighet, Romania, discusses in Yiddish and Swedish about her mother Sara and father Chaim Sisel; having six siblings; her maternal grandmother Rachel being learned and able to lead religious services; her grandmother having 16 children; her parents owning a brick factory and building Yeshivas; her mother being a high school teacher; her father being Orthodox; friends who had eaten at their house on Shabbat starting to call her a damned Jew; her father being murdered in their village on the way from the bath house, the Mikvah, to the synagogue; religious Jews being attacked by Romanian civilians; seeing her three brothers and many other Jewish men, women and children being stabbed and kicked into the gutter; her mother telling the sisters to hide their Jewish identity and not to speak Yiddish; the Germans taking over; taking the family's cattle to Christian families; her sister's children starving; not knowing what happened to her mother; her sisters not surviving; walking across the mountains to Timisoara without her family; hiding at a Christian family, looking after the cattle; it being hard not to observe Shabbat and Jewish holidays; surviving because she didn't look Jewish; having blurry memories of this time; being in Germany; not remembering if she were in a concentration camp; thinking she stayed with a family, herding their cattle; other people trying to marry her off to a Christian man; arriving at a synagogue and begging them not to return her to the gentiles; the lesson from the war being not to trust people and not telling them who she is; feeling bad about not remembering more clearly for the interview; not being glad she survived; feeling G-d does not listen, does not see her; still not feeling she got her humanity back; crying at night out of loneliness missing her siblings; her children asking why she can't discard her Jewishness if it's so painful but having a strong Jewish identity.