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Summary

Ester Rytz (née Grünwald) born 1927 in Zarnow, Poland, discusses her mother Leah (born Sedder?) and father Fishel Grünwald; being the second youngest of six children; her ten year older sister Helen, older brothers Eliezer, Mordechai, a sister who passed, Nathan and younger brother Abraham; living in Lodz; her family manufacturing the lining for winter coats; her family being observant; making music and singing on the Shabbat; one brother being a Communist; her other brothers being religious; moving from a small apartment to a bigger apartment; going to a Jewish school, learning to write Yiddish; antisemitic tensions increasing; fear of antisemitic attacks; her family being forced to move to the ghetto; living with her father's sister; seeing the dead being picked up on carts; starving; Eliezer and Nathan passing; Nathan hallucinating about food being hidden under the bed before dying; Eliezer's stomach swelling from hunger before he died; Eliezer having been married to Genya; the Germans gathering Jews in the ghetto and taking away her parents and youngest brother Abraham; Abraham returning but never seeing her parents again; getting a bread and having to walk to the train station and board cattle cars to Auschwitz; Helen, Abraham and her brother-in-law being in the same train car; the guards on arrival calling the German Shephards humans and the Jews dogs; her sister Helen staying with her; her brother-in-law and Abraham being sent the other way; her sister telling her to look tall and older; staying in Block 10; sleeping on the floor; being transferred to another camp; making uniforms; going on a six week death march, sleeping outside or in barns with cows; Irka and Masha walking with her and Helen; ending up in a camp in Christianstadt; being allowed to shower there; digging deep holes; a mother being shot for trying to steal potatoes; going to Bergen-Belsen; the British arriving; getting an x written on her forehead marking that she had a chance to survive; her sister being very ill; staying in a hospital; her brother Mordechai returning from the Soviet Union where he probably had a family; Mordechai starting a new family in Sweden; having her first child when she was 20, feeling it kept her from going insane; feeling she remembers too much, her chest hurting when she talks about it; after retiring, dreaming every night about the house she grew up in and about her parents and siblings.