

Summary of Oral History: Inge Auerbacher, 9 May 2021

RG#: RG-90.141.0042

This Summary was written by a USHMM Volunteer on 03/2022

Oral History Summary:

Inge Auerbacher, born December 31, 1934 in Kippenheim, a village of about 2,000 people and 60 Jewish families in southwestern Germany, describes: an Orthodox Jewish upbringing; not feeling “different” or unwelcome; their doctor a Nazi Party member and “good person” who later chose the path of killing; Kristallnacht being a first memory of anti-Semitism; her grandfather and father, being arrested and sent to Dachau; her family never wanting to leave Germany; a comfortable life; the synagogue being desecrated; her father returning from Dachau after a few weeks; selling their house and hoping to leave Germany; only briefly being allowed to attend a Jewish school; her family and grandmother being transported to Riga; her parents doing forced labor; the family wearing the Juden star; a kind act by a strange woman; a loved doll being donated to the USHMM for *Daniel’s Story*; being transported to Theresienstadt; of 1,200 people being transported, few surviving the war; primitive living in a tiny room; being separated from her family; the daily routine where obtaining food was the main concern; her mother being beaten by an SS guard; conditions being improved—“a farce”—for the International Red Cross (IRC) inspection; almost the entire camp, including a close friend, being sent to Auschwitz after the IRC delegation left; the camp being liberated on 8 May 1945; the Germans attempting to burn records; only finding out what “being sent East” meant from people who had been “death marched” into her camp as others were vacated; being given bread by a Soviet soldier; learning her grandmother had likely been shot; being sent to a DP camp (unspecified); her parents surviving; immigrating to New York; being hospitalized for two years with TB; writing books about her experiences.