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My family lived in Bielske, Poland. When the deportations commenced my father was sent to Mauthausen, and my mother, sister and grandmother were hidden in the Polish village of Oswiecim (Auschwitz). When my mother found her daughter and mother had been rounded up, she surrendered herself for deportation.

My mother survived Auschwitz, and was liberated when Count Bernadotte sent white Red Cross vans into Auschwitz to release Scandinavian prisoners of war, as she was smuggled into a van and sent to Sweden.

After liberation, my father learned that my mother had survived. As he was ill, it took a year for him to join her in Sweden where I was born.

My father's brother, having survived the war by working in Schindler's factory, immigrated to New Zealand and later Australia. He organised sponsorship for our family, who arrived in Australia by boat as displaced persons in the 1950s and made a new life here for which we are very grateful.