

**MARIA MADI DIARIES, 1914-1967**  
**2013.264.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2126  
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**Descriptive summary**

Title: Maria Madi Diaries

Dates: 1914-1967

Accession number: 2013.264.1

Creator: Dr. Maria Kiss Madi

Extent: .5 linear feet (1 box)

Repository: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW, Washington, DC 20024-2126

Abstract: Consists of seventeen bound volumes containing diaries written by Dr. Maria Madi, a non-Jewish female physician living in Budapest, Hungary, between December 1941 and September 1945. In the diaries, which are handwritten in English, Dr. Madi describes what she is hearing about the war, about propaganda in Hungary, and about missing her daughter, who immigrated to the United States in 1939 and started a family. After the German invasion of Hungary in March 1944, Dr. Madi describes constant air raids, intense deprivation, and what she knows and sees of the ongoing persecutions against Jews. She also references a young boy and his aunt whom she hid in her home in the fall of 1944. The diaries include photographs, clippings, and correspondence, as well as pencil notations Dr. Madi made in the 1960s. Also includes one diary from Budapest during World War I.

Languages: English, Hungarian

**Administrative Information**

Access: Collection is open for use, but is stored offsite. Please contact the Reference Desk more than seven days prior to visit in order to request access.

Reproduction and use: Collection is available for use. Material may be protected by copyright. Please contact reference staff for further information.

Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Maria Madi Diaries (2013.264.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Stephen Walton donated his grandmother's diaries to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2013.

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see archives catalog at [collections.ushmm.org](http://collections.ushmm.org) for further information.

Processing history: Rebecca Erbelding, April 2013

### **Biographical note**

Maria Louise Kiss Madi (14 May 1898-4 December 1970) was born and raised in Budapest, Hungary. Around 1920, she married [Lajos Felsöbuki], who was an orthopedist. They had one daughter, HildeFelsobuky, born on November 26, 1920. Maria, who attended school in Leeds, England, and in Budapest, earned a medical degree in 1922, specializing as a radiologist. She and Felsöbuki divorced in 1924. Maria alternated her name as "Maria Madi Kiss" and "Maria Kiss Madi." In 1939, Hilda married George G. Walton, a geologist originally from Indiana, who was doing surveys in Romania. She immigrated to the United States in April 1941 and spent most of the war in Shreveport, Louisiana, giving birth to daughter Barbara in August 1941. Son Stephen was born in 1947. Maria, who had been planning to join her daughter in the United States, began her diaries when the United States entered the war, ending her immigration plans. She describes her life in Budapest, keeping her diary as a means of "communicating" with her daughter and sharing her experiences. She also describes the invasion and occupation of Budapest and what she saw and heard of the war. She also writes extensively about the persecution of the Jews, including her efforts to aid a seven-year-old boy, Alfred Lakos, in the fall of 1944. Maria was finally able to immigrate to the United States in December 1946. She lived first in Boston, becoming a naturalized American citizen in June 1952, later moving to Columbus, Ohio, and eventually to Houston, Texas. In the United States, Maria worked as a psychiatrist. She passed away in Houston, Texas, on December 4, 1970 at age 72. Maria Madi was named Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem in 2015.

### **Scope and content of collection**

Consists of seventeen bound volumes containing diaries written by Dr. Maria Madi, a non-Jewish female physician living in Budapest, Hungary, between December 1941 and September 1945. In the diaries, which are handwritten in English, Dr. Madi describes what she is hearing about the war, about propaganda in Hungary, and about missing her daughter, who immigrated to the United States in 1939 and started a family. After the German invasion of Hungary in March 1944, Dr. Madi describes constant air raids, intense deprivation, and what she knows and sees of the ongoing persecutions against Jews. She also references a young boy and his aunt whom she hid in her home in the fall of 1944. The diaries include photographs, clippings, and correspondence, as well as pencil notations Dr. Madi made in the 1960s. Also includes one diary from Budapest during World War I.

### **System of arrangement**

The Maria Madi Diaries are arranged as a series:

Series 1: Diaries, 1914-1967

**Indexing terms**

**Person:**

Madi, Maria Kiss, 1898-1970.  
Walton, Hilda Felsobuky.  
Lakos, Alfred.

**Topical Subject:**

World War, 1939-1945--Jews--Hungary--Budapest.  
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Hungary--Budapest.  
World War, 1939-1945--Hungary--Budapest--Personal narratives.

**Geography:**

Budapest (Hungary)

**Genre/Form:**

Diaries.

**CONTAINER LIST**

**Series 1: Diaries, 1914-1967**

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	Diary, 1941 December 23-1942 June 2 Diary 1942 June 2-1943 January 13 Loose material from diaries
1.2	Diary, 1943 January 14-1943 May 26 Diary, 1943 May 27- 1943 October 13, Loose material from diaries
1.3	Diary, 1943 October 14-1944 January 23 Diary, 1944 January 23-1944 March 31 Loose material from diaries
1.4	Diary, 1944 March 31-1944 May 25 Diary, 1944 May 25-1944 July 3 Loose material from diaries
1.5	Diary, 1944 July 3-1944 August 19 Diary, 1944 August 20-1944 September 13 Loose material from diaries
1.6	Diary, 1944 September 13-1944 October 8 Diary, 1944 October 9-1944 November 10 Loose material from diaries
1.7	Diary, 1944 November 11-1945 January 11 Diary, 1945 January 11-1945 March 11 Loose material from diaries
1.8	Diary, 1945 March 11-1945 June 20 Diary, 1945 June 25-1945 November 5 Loose material from diaries
1.9	Diary, ca. 1917

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