

-TITLE- MALVINA (MALKA) CSIZMADIA
-I_DATE- JUNE 26, 1987
-SOURCE- CHRISTIAN RESCUERS PROJECT
-RESTRICTIONS-
-SOUND_QUALITY- FAIR
-IMAGE_QUALITY- GOOD
-DURATION-
-LANGUAGES- ENGLISH
-KEY_SEGMENT-
-GEOGRAPHIC_NAME-
-PERSONAL_NAME-
-CORPORATE_NAME-
-KEY_WORDS-
-NOTES-
-CONTENTS-

01:00 She was born in Czechoslovakia on May 16, 1927.

02:00 La Carbara (sp) was the name of the town that she was born in. It was under both Hungarian and Czechoslovakian rule at different times. Czechoslovakia was under Hungarian rule during the Holocaust. She moved from small town to a big town in Hungary.

03:00 She grew up with two sisters.

04:00 Her religion was Protestant. Her father left the family.

05:00 All her life her and her mother had Jewish friends.

06:00 Her Mother was very giving and always tried to help people when she could especially old people. She tried to raise her daughters in a very giving way.

07:00 She married and had one son. Malka and her husband divorced. Her son is now a vice-president to a bank in Israel and married with three children.

08:00 Her son lives his life as a Jew. Malka married a Jewish man from Morocco.

09:00 She came as a Jew to Israel.

10:00 She raised her son as a very giving person just like her mother raised her. Her son married a Moroccan woman, who teaches English.

11:00 In 1944, schools were being closed so she was unable to finish.

12:00 Then the Jewish stores closed down too.

13:00 During that one year Jews were being taken to the Ghettos very slowly. Everything was done bit by bit. They tried to get some answers to their questions that they had. Nobody would answer them. At the time she was 17 and her sister was 21.

14:00 She cannot remember the spelling of the town where she lived during this time.

15:00 She lived in an apartment building with eight other families in 1944.

16:00 In May, she saw a barb wire fence around the apartment building.

17:00 She then saw a fence around the garden.

18:00 On day she was looking in an abandon house and saw things on the floor like dough that was green that was still in the pan.

19:00 The house was in the Ghetto.

20:00 She was upset by the house being abandon and the people were not able to take all of their belongings with them. Till this day, when she thinks of this she will cry.

21:00 She was curious to see what was on the other side of the fence in the garden. One day she saw a soldier on the other side cooking something in a big pot. She asked him who he was?

22:00 He told her that he was a Jew and that it was very dangerous for her to talk to him. She was not afraid of the situation and continued to ask more questions. He wore a hat of a Hungarian soldier but in civilian clothes.

23:00 She looked very young even though she was 17 years old. They thought she was 13 years old because she was very small. She climbed a tree in order to talk to the Jewish man and a guard inside the Ghetto.

24:00 The guard wanted to know what she wanted. She told him that she was curious. He told her to leave. When the guard was gone she came back to talk to the Jew.

25:00 The man asked if she would help him by mailing letters for him.

26:00 She passed newspapers to him under the fence and put her return address on his letters for him. She kept him informed about the outside world and the war. There were 300 Jewish men in the Ghetto.

27:00 She does not know where the women and the children went.

28:00 The men were from all over Hungary. One day her mother asked her why she spends so much time in the garden?

29:00 It was very dangerous what she did. She knew stories about people who helped the Jews were shot and jailed. She still

continued to help the men knowing the consequences.

30:00 The man's name that she talked to was Shrami Abestro. Today that man is her brother-in-law.

31:00 She would to come and visit when the guards change. She even paid them not to say anything about her visits.

32:00 Finally her mother agreed to help some of the men. She said that we must do what we can to help right now. Even the youngest sister, who was 14 helped too.

33:00 They all did the best they could to help.

34:00 Many of the men corresponded to relatives in Budapest. The families of these men would come and stay with Malka's family in order to talk to their relatives in the Ghetto. She even received packages for the men. It was getting too dangerous because the postal service started to ask questions.

35:00 She had to pay off a lot of the guards so that the prisoners would be able to come to her house and listen to the radio. There was a hole under the fence which enabled them to go to Malka's house.

36:00 The men would come over and then go back later.

37:00 She even gave them ice cream and cake.

38:00 No one ever suspected her because she looked very young

39:00 Toward the end of the summer it was getting harder and harder to help Shrami.

40:00 They tried to hide as many men as they could.

41:00 Inside the fence was a work camp.

42:00 She tried to help and plan an escape.

43:00 At the beginning of November, the soldiers cleared the camp and were sent to Germany along with the Jews. The Russians were advancing at a great pace.

44:00 Shrami came to her mother and told her that the men would have to line up for roll call at 10:00pm.

45:00 The plan of escape had to start immediately.

46:00 They disguised one of the men as a woman because the man had strong Jewish features. They put a mask on his face so that only his eyes could be seen.

47:00 The man, who was dressed as a woman had the bandage on

because he had a beard. Him and Shrami both were taken out by Malka's family.

48:00 The man and Shrami walked out with Malka and her mother into the village.

49:00 Shrami had a cigarette which at the time was worth more than money.

50:00 The plan went as followed, the mother would walk out first with the man dressed as the woman. Malka and Shrami were to follow after five minutes. The only problem was that when Malka and Shrami walked out, they did not know the direction that Malka's Mother went in.

51:00 Malka was still very young and did not know what to expect.

52:00 Shrami was older and had more control of the situation. They passed a group of soldiers and Shrami got scared. Malka distracted them.

53:00 They were able to walk five kilometers by giving and receiving cigarettes. Then they were stopped and asked where they were going? Malka told them to get bread.

54:00 They came to a set of railroad tracks where there was a Hungarian soldier with a dog was there.

55:00 Shrami was too afraid to move.

56:00 Malka told Shrami to go and wait for her some where else.

57:00 She then pushed him away to make sure he would go. After that she distracted the guard.

58:00 She gave the soldier a cigarette. Shrami and Malka then escaped through a building near the railroad tracks.

59:00 Shrami was so scared, almost in shock, so Malka took him into a field with grass and trees.

60:00 Shrami broke down and started to cry and fell to the ground. Malka tried to do everything she could to comfort him.

61:00 She told him that they will make it and not to worry. He asked her if she knew what she was getting herself into?

62:00 After that scene, they left the field and went to a river. They were able to find a row boat with a man in it. They paid the man to take them down the river.

63:00 Before all this happened, her and her mother met a couple that hid people on a farm that was surrounded by wheat. So, Malka knew where she was going.

64:00 An half an hour after Shrami and Malka arrived at the house, her Mother showed up with the other man.

65:00 She left Shrami and the man there for five weeks.

66:00 December 16th or 17th Hungry was freed. During that time the men kept moving place to place.

67:00 The city was under an attack and they had to go into a shelter. The men were brought too. The guards suspected one of the men a Jew, so he kicked him out.

68:00 The German officer spoke Hungarian and understood the conversation going on between the man and Malka. The mother decided that it was becoming to dangerous to help as much as they did.

69:00 The mother told the man to leave because of the danger involved.

70:00 The family was scared for a while.

71:00 The German officer called her family to talk to Malka. He told her that she should still help these people.

72:00 He gave the family a cake and a bottle of perfume. They were able to rest a little easier knowing that the guard was on their side.

73:00 Now when she sees people that survived she has to cry.

74:00 There were too many painful feelings but it was worth doing it.

75:00 Israel is now home for her.

76:00 She is going back to Hungary to visit.

77:00 She was divorced after 16 years of marriage when her son was nine.

78:00 She has heart problems and has been receiving disability money since 1974.

79:00 After the liberation, January 7, 1945, her sister married Shrami.

80:00 The men that they helped came back to see Malka and her mother.

81:00 Six months later the other sister married one of the men in the camp.

82:00 Her sister stayed in Hungry.

83:00 June 1949, Shrami came to Israel and the rest of the family followed.
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