

-TITLE- ELIAS TOTH HELEN & BENJAMIN

-I_DATE-

-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-

1:00 She lived in many places during the war. Didn't just stay in one post.

2:00 Ben is speaking and pointing to pictures on the wall.

3:00 " "

4:00 " " none of this is translated yet

5:00 " "

6:00 Helen received a medal in 1976. She is still helping people in Israel today. She helps those without money and others.

8:00 She said that she wants her husband to tell the story at times because the Nazis injured her lungs by cutting her and she therefore gets tired and cannot speak.

9:00 She was born in a very small town near Budapest. Bicho

10:00 She moved with her mom very soon after that.

12:00 When she was born, her father was an aristocrat and could not marry her mother due to class restrictions. Her mother was sent to the country to live with relatives. She met a man there and married him.

13:00 Helen had four half-sisters two of whom are married to Jews. She was born in 1913 and is the oldest.

14:00 She grew up around Jews, very religious Jews at that.

15:00 Anti-semitism was apparent in her neighborhood. Street fights, etc. She and Jews went to the same school.

16:00 She couldn't understand why this was happening between the Jews and the non Jews so she started to ask questions.

17:00 Her mom told her that she was too young to understand, she'll explain when she's older.

20:00 Helen helps because she was born with that kind of nature. She's a helpful person, no one taught her it. It's natural.

21:00 She always had good and would share it with the kids who didn't have any.

22:00 She spent years with different parents. Her real father eventually recognized her after a couple of years.

23:00 There was a fight between her parents, both wanted her. But she went home to her mom.

24:00 She wanted to be with her mom because she knew her mom needed her more than her dad.

25:00 Both her parents were Catholic. She does not remember how to even cross herself. She is currently mad at the Pope.

26:00 She's not afraid of anyone, not even the Pope.

27:00 When they moved to Israel Ben was the richest Hungarian because he had some money.

28:00 As Helen gets older she understand more. She starts to think about the relationship between Jews and Gentiles.

29:00 She thinks that Gentiles are jealous of Jews ability to make money.

30:00 She says if Gentiles had money they would put it under their bed, but the Jews would use it to make more money

31:00 She felt that anti-semitism was also directed at her.

33:00 She doesn't know why she loves Jews. Maybe because she saw them being beaten or because they were poor.

36:00 She also helped the army in Israel a lot during the early years. They owned a coffee shop and she would feed the soldiers for free.

37:00 She gave them food and money.

38:00 They were married in 1937. They were the richest family in town. Ben is Jewish. They heard that the Germans had taken over Austria.

39:00 Jews in Austria heard that Hitler was coming and began to flee the country. They escaped to Hungary and Yugoslavia. Ben and Helen were living in Yugoslavia at the time.

40:00 They owned three windmills. One was close to the Austrian border. Near this windmill was a Jewish organization.

41:00 Their home was large (7 rooms)

42:00 The Jewish organization sent escapees to them because they believed Helen would help them.

43:00 People came to the house and they put them up. As many as 10-15 people in each of the 7 rooms.

44:00 They left the minute they were able to do so.

45:00 This went on until 1941 when the Hungarians took over the country.

46:00 She had Christian friends sent to the camps in 1941.

47:00 Ben says they were both active, but he was Jewish. She took money from his business to use in the effort.

48:00 She was saving money at the time to buy a house and used these savings to help when the war broke out.

50:00 She went to a friend's house, and noticed that they were nervous. They said that the Hungarians were coming. Not everyone was happy about this. She herself was Hungarian.

51:00 Although she didn't mind the Hungarian invasion people said she and Ben should leave for a few days since Ben was Jewish.

52:00 They did not know if the Hungarians would be better or worse for the Jews.

53:00 The Hungarians were fair to the Jews but they did ask Ben and Helen to move out of their large house, so that it could be used as the Hungarian's headquarters.

54:00 -

55:00 Ben and Helen are speaking and seem to be arguing about something.

56:00 They don't remember the same thing. He thinks that the Germans invaded at the same time as the Hungarians and took the younger Jews to another town.

57:00 She says that the Germans arrived after the Hungarians.

58:00 He says they had a close friend who was a priest. When he was taken away by the authorities (?) this priest sent him false papers identifying him as a chaplain and he was released in 4 or 5 days.

59:00 The priest wanted to work with Helen to help save the Jews

62:00 The priest and Helen worked together and made false papers for hundreds of people.

64:00 The money Helen had been saving she used to help other in any way that they asked or any way she could.

65:00 She had saved quite a lot of money by this time.

69:00 In February 1942, all the Jews were taken to a frozen river and thrown in. Helen managed to save a couple of them.

72:00 One day a woman came from the country looking for Helen.

73:00 She had a note for Helen.

77:00 The note said that a couple of people were coming across the border. She was to transfer them from one train to another and she did it.

82:00 They came to Israel in 1948. She emigrated because she couldn't stand to see the anti-semitism anymore. She says that there was still a lot of anti-semitism in Europe even after the war.

83:00 It was present even in Yugoslavia.

84:00 She was never afraid, not even when she was arrested by the Nazis and tortured. She doesn't know why but she wasn't.

86:00 In 1944 the Germans came and caught the Jews. They gathered them about 2 km from his house.

88:00 Ben was taken on a train. Someone told Helen and she came. He saw her from a distance.

90:00 She was trying to bring him water and the Germans stopped her.

91:00 She told the Germans that she wanted to bring water to the Jews and a German threw her to the ground and stomped on her.

92:00 Ben couldn't do anything. (He is crying when he says this)

93:00 He thinks he killed his wife because she was coming to help him. But she lives.

95:00 In 1987 they were invited to a ceremony where Helen was honored not as a righteous Christian but as a citizen

96:00 Helen is asked if she feels that she has received sufficient gratitude from the Jewish people.

97:00 She says that she loves the Jewish nation. She has never complained or regretted coming here.

98:00 She worked hard because Ben is old.

99:00 They don't have children because she had a hysterectomy.

101:00 Ben tells of what happens after the Germans got Helen. She began to look for his group as soon as she could.

104:00 She and another woman found a person who could help them locate their husbands. They went to his house and found a note on his door "we don't take care of Jews"

110:00 She later finds the officer in charge and talks to him.

112:00 She brings food to Ben and others. The guards let her in because they know her.

115:00 They still see some of the people she helped to escape.
.END.