

## **RG-50.091.0087**

### **Summary**

Olga Lebovitz (nee Berkowitz) describes being raised as the middle of seven siblings in Bregasz (Berehove) which at the time was part of Czechoslovakia; working in a law office and hoping to become a lawyer; participating as a scout in Hashomer Kadima; losing her job in 1939 after the region was returned to Hungary and her employers were no longer allowed to practice law; working in the law office of a converted Jew from 1939-1941; her two older brothers evading forced labor by going to Israel; her sister and niece returning home in 1940 after her brother-in-law was killed; her two younger brothers being conscripted into the Hungarian army as forced labor; being accused by a neighbor of hiding 50 kg of flour and her father getting arrested when a radio was discovered during a search of their house; her employer convincing the Hungarian police to release him; Jews being moved to the ghetto when the Germans came in 1944; leaving her sister's daughter with a neighbor, Flora Lazlo [PH], who agreed to pretend the child was his wife's niece; leaving the ghetto to check on her niece and needing to hide on her way back after someone recognized her as a Jew; the neighbor sending her niece back into the ghetto when he learned the Jews were being transported; going through selection at Auschwitz where her parents, sister, and niece were sent to their deaths; being sent to a forced labor munitions factory in Nach Reichenbach, Germany; being badly beaten by an SS guard for talking to a friend; being saved by a Kapo who insisted she leave the sick room and return to work just before the remaining patients were sent to be killed; being liberated by the Russians who were considered a danger to the girls; finding a cousin and two friends from her father's hometown of Cop and deciding to go with them and a group of other girls back to Czechoslovakia; being helped by a Jewish Russian soldier who brought them food and found them housing with a converted Jew, Mrs. Farago [PH] in Bratislava until they were strong enough to continue their trip; finding her youngest brother when she arrived at her home; being reunited with the man who became her husband and deciding to get married and make their way to the United States; immigrating in 1949 after being sponsored by her aunt in Cleveland.