

Riane Gruss

RG-50.106*0113

Born Riane Wohl on August 18, 1932 in Vienna, Austria.

Father banker in Cracow and industrialist in Vienna. Parents lived half a year in each place. Children raised by governess in Vienna

September 1, 1939 - children in Cracow, family went east by car stopping at Jaroslav where there was bombing, then to Zloczow and to Kolomyja

November 1939 - Father and brother captured at border. Russians released brother only. Family went back to Zloczow.

July 1940 - Russians put them on trucks to train station. 6 week journey to Siberia in cattle car - never permitted to get out. Younger brother Stefan got scarlet fever.

August 1940 - Arrived near Yakutsk and Aldan to labor camp -14 family members in a hut Slept on one bunk, very cold, no fruits or vegetables, hard physical labor for adults

April 1941 - NKVD said mother and children could leave, New York relatives had gotten them Bolivian passports. Left in May, train to Moscow and Kiev. Father, who had been in 11 prisons in 18 months, met them in Lvov.

June 22, 1941 - German invasion. After 2 months sent to farm in country for 4 months

Family followed uncle Joseph Stieglitz to Hungary - Munkacs , got Polish Christian papers, then to Budapest. Family arrested there and in detention camp for 10 days. Went to East Leanyfalu, lived as a Christian. After German invasion, came back to Budapest. Went to Szeged, father hospitalized.

Fall 1944 - Children hidden by uncle in a caretaker's house in Buda. When shooting started, uncle came to children and everyone hid in cellar. When Russians came, the three of them left jumping over dead bodies in the snow, crossed over the Danube, reunited with parents

Family went to Mako in south of Hungary for 4 weeks, then to Vienna. Parents returned to Cracow where Stefan joined them

Riane went with smuggler to Brno, Czechoslovakia and then to Cracow

Family went to Stockholm

October 1946 - arrived in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

February 1951 - went to New York

December 1952 - married, has 2 children

