

## **RG-50.219.0012**

### **Henny Porter**

#### **Language: English**

Henny was born in Stuttgart, Germany, (year not mentioned). Her father's family name was Katz. She had a brother, Julius, three-year younger than her. Her parents were born in Poland and had Polish nationality. They owned a shoe store in Stuttgart and used to travel to Switzerland for business. Her family lived in a middle class neighborhood where they owned a building. She attended public school until second grade, when she was expelled because she was Jewish. After that, she went to a Jewish school.

After 1933, her father started thinking of leaving for Brazil, but her mother wanted to go to Cleveland, where she had a sister. Her mother also had a brother in Youngstown, Ohio. Henny's aunt and uncle had left for Palestine in 1937, and had three children: Hanny [PH], Leo – who was Henny's age – and Luzy [PH]. Henny had a friend called Lili Friedrich (6:43), who was taken by the gestapo to a camp with her mother and father.

Her father was sent to a holding camp because he was Polish citizen. He was later deported into a camp in Poland, but managed to escape to Switzerland. During Kristallnacht, she was at home with her mother. Their store was destroyed. Mr. Davis, her history teacher at the Jewish school, committed suicide.

Her brother Julius went to England when he was nine with the Kindertransport. The ship that left for England before the ship that took her brother was sank by a torpedo. The son of the music director at her school, Dr. Edler [PH], was in the ship and died. Henny's mother had to leave Germany because she was Polish, and went to Italy. Henny stayed in Stuttgart with the Thalheimer [PH] family (among them, Tante Emma and Mr. Taha [PH], a gourmet cook who had gone to the Cordon Bleu in Paris). The Thalheimers left for the US after six months. After that, she stayed in the attic of two Jewish ladies, a mother and a daughter who was unmarried. Then, the Jewish community services moved her to another place, a nursing home. She was 14 or 15 years old at the time.

Her mother got her a visa to the US. Henny went to Munich to take a military plane to Rome. She thinks that the Marquise Ferrera de Cambiano, a friend of her mother in Rome, helped her to get into that plane. The plane emergency landed in Venice. A man helped her to take a train to Rome, where her father and mother were waiting for her. They were in Rome a few weeks, and then travelled to Portugal by train. In Lisbon, they stayed in a cheap pension until they took the Portuguese ship Lourenco Marques on December 24, 1940. They arrived in New York in January 1941.

They stayed in NY for some time, until her parents moved to Cleveland, Ohio, and opened a shoe store. She went to Glenville high school. Her brother Julius joined them in Cleveland when he was 14. Shortly after her brother's arrival, she went to Ohio State University, where she met her husband. They had three children. Her younger child, Marc, became the chairman of Christie's. Her other two children are physicians.