

Summary of Oral History: Veronica Molnar

RG#: RG-50.244.0094

This Summary was written by a USHMM Volunteer on [03/2022]

Veronica was born on August 5, 1933, in Budapest. Her parents had a bakery in the center of the city; they lived in the same building. When the Germans entered Budapest, she was away at school. The next day, March 20, 1944, her mother brought her home. At the train station in Budapest, they exited by a side entrance and were able to make it home, while another mother and her child who had traveled with them were caught. In June, Jews had to move to homes designated for Jews. The bakery was taken from her parents and their apartment was taken by the Hungarian Nazi party. They moved in with friends who lived nearby. Those friends escaped, but were caught and sent to Auschwitz.

The Jewish house they moved to was next to their home. For a few weeks, she hid at an acquaintance's house. For most of the time that they were in the Jewish house, they didn't go out. In July, a relative told her about the concentration camps in Germany with their gas chambers and crematoriums. Her mother brought food to people in the ghetto, so they knew what was happening there.

She had protective papers dated September 29, 1944. This document (issued in accordance with law number 3040) stated that the holder is free from laws that apply to Jews. They got their documents because her father had been an outstanding officer in the Hungarian Army in World War I. They also had documents from the Swedish Embassy.

A family they knew escaped to Denmark and then Sweden. Her parents helped their two older daughters who had to stay in Budapest. In return, the family helped by sending documents (protective papers) for them, including a Swedish passe document, from the Swedish Embassy that stated that they can travel to Sweden and that until their travel to Sweden, they would be under Swedish protection. They also received a document from the Swedish Red Cross. She says that she was saved because of this document. The document was valid for two weeks, but they used it for 10 months.

On October 15, when Szálasi became the Hungarian ruler, they understood that the document wouldn't work anymore. Her father got new protection documents for them. But this wasn't completely safe since an uncle who had it was killed. Protection under Szálasi meant that they could live as if they weren't Jewish. They rarely went out. In November, Jews needed to enter the ghetto, but because of their documents she and her family remained in the Jewish house.

From around Christmas 1944, they didn't leave the shelter because of the bombing, until Pest was liberated on January 27. On Liberation Day, a Russian officer entered their home. In Hungarian, he said to them that they are Jewish and so is he, and that they don't need to be afraid. He returned a few times, bringing food and chocolate. They got the bakery back, but needed to stay in the Jewish house until their apartment, which had been damaged in the bombing, was repaired. Many of her school friends and some relatives who didn't live in

Budapest were killed in the war. She says that everyone who had a connection with the Swedish Embassy had heard of Wallenberg.