

## **RG-50.376.0003**

### **Summary**

Ban Eva, born 1938

Mother, Gonda Erzsebet came from a typical assimilated Jewish upper middle class family, uncle was a deputy in the Hungarian Parliament.

Father was a middle class merchant without a college education.

Ms. Ban has very few memories of her time during the Holocaust. She remembers moving with her mother to one of the so called "Yellow Star" houses (address: Hollan Jenó utca 3), where the Jews of Budapest were forced to live in 1944 after the German occupation. They shared an apartment with her aunt, her grandmother, and her aunt's daughter. Her father was taken to the Forced Labor Battalion by this time. Her cousin was left behind the apartment when everyone else was arrested by the Arrow Cross and later killed. This cousin also died later.

Ms. Ban remembers of the Allied bombing of Budapest and her time in the basement of the building. She is very critical of the Regent of Hungary, Horthy Miklos, who was complicit in the demise of 600,000 Hungarian Jews during the Holocaust. She mentions Eichmann's testimony during his trial and quotes from his letter to Hitler declining help from Berlin, because he got all the help from the Hungarian government.

Her mom a few days before her arrest took Ms. Ban to one of the so called Sztehló homes. At one point she was converted to Christianity (Evangélikus Egyház) which is the Hungarian version of Lutheran Church

Ms. Ban talks at length about the deportation of the Hungarian Jews, their "death march" from the Obuda Brickyard. Her father died during this death march and her aunt was taken to Mauthausen. Her aunt survived and wrote a detailed diary about her life but the dates in the diary are incorrect many times.

Ms. Ban remembers the furniture in the Sztehló home as beautiful, antiques, rich velvet curtains and how she practiced her false name and fabricated family information. She had to pretend that she was a refugee from Transylvania and her father was a barber. She was not allowed to go outside the house and she remembers a caretaker couple Iren and Gabor Krejzics (?) and the Christmas tree.

She stayed in the Sztehló house for a short time. After the war was over a woman from her mother's family (an aunt?) took her from the home to somewhere in the countryside and she lived with her until the age of 10. She was very uncomfortable there. Later she moved to a relative of her father in Budapest. Ms. Ban was 16 when this relative died and she lived by herself for a long time. She worked and got some financial help from the family.

She graduated from the Semmelweis Medical School in Budapest and worked as a research doctor. She got married to Rona Peter(?), they never had children, and he died at the young age of 58.

Ms. Ban mentioned a childhood friend (Csoke Gyorgy), who got to Gaudiopolis after the war who told a story about Mr. Sztehlo. Mr. Csoke was asked to say a christian prayer one evening and when he told Mr. Sztehlo that he cannot do it because he was Jewish, Mr. Sztehlo responded that it's OK, just say a silent prayer.

Ms. Ban talked very briefly about the Good Pastors (Jo Pasztorok) organization of protestant priests. Mr. Sztehlo was part of of this group that saved many Jewish orphans but left it when the organization decided that they are going to help only those who converted to Christianity.