Magda Curtis (-Fried)
RG-50.407*0015
Interview of 11/14/1995 at the Melbourne Holocaust Centre.

Synopsis:

Magda was born in Kismarok(ph), Czechoslovakia in 1921.
Magda lost her father while she was an infant. Her family consisted of her mother and two older brothers.
In 1929 Magda and her mother moved to Budapest, while her brothers stayed in Czechoslovakia.
In 1939 anti-Jewish laws were promulgated in Hungary, preventing Magda from receiving a higher education. Magda found a job as a secretary in a non-Jewish cosmetics company, where she managed the business. In 1938, She met her husband Steven (whose interview is also available in the Melbourne collection). After the outbreak of war with the Soviet Union Steven was periodically in Hungarian military labor camps. Magda and Steven married at the time that the Germans occupied Hungary.
Magda describes the severe conditions in Budapest when they were moved to "Jewish Houses."
In October 1944 Magda and her mother were among 2,000, mostly Jewish women, that were taken to Deutschkreis in Burgeland just across the German border and placed in a camp. Most of the prisoners were taken eventually to Bergen-Belsen, but Magda and her mother were among approximately 30 women left behind by the Germans to clean up. Eventually they managed to get back across the Hungarian border and were liberated by the Russian army. Miraculously her husband Steven came back to the same place from labor camp in Poland.
Eventually they made their way back to Budapest where only her father-in-law had survived. In 1948 Magda and Steven immigrated to Israel and the to Australia in 1957.
She ascribes her survival to luck and a positive mental attitude.