

**RG-50.407.0078**

**Summary**

Susan Reichman

Family: born 1924, 1926 birth of sister, Hungary, Catholic elementary school; Feminist high school, happy family life, piano lessons at Franz Liszt conservatory, studied French and English, although anti-Semitism she did not experience it personally; when Germans came to Hungary things changed; father and mother owned an optical/photo shop; Reform Jewish family; March 19, 1944 Germans marched into Hungary; soldiers marched in all day; father taken away by Gestapo but came back after three days, early April 1944 all Jews must wear yellow star: Budapest one million citizens including 250,000 Jews; all Jews had to leave apartments and move to a Jewish house with cousins; husband refugee from Slovakia, had Christian papers, and was in hiding in Buda; she was in Pest; father's shop was open; many German Wehrmacht soldiers customers and Christian employees; order Jews cannot be in street from 9:30 to 4:30 so closed shop; German Wehrmacht soldier came to house looking for Leica camera at the shop, went to air raid shelter in the Hotel Astoria with Wehrmacht soldiers, Hungarian policeman and recognized her father, taken to police station and put in jail, official instrumental in release was Bartis Fellomy, top Hungarian official for watching foreigners, in prison for about three weeks, October 1944; things were really bad after release from jail; participated in Goldmark intellectual organization; social contact was Jewish; November – December chaos and terror became; then went to Swedish house; in 5<sup>th</sup> district of Budapest; Hungarian Nazis were worse than the German Nazis

Became a nurse in the Swedish hospital, no supplies, no light, during the siege of Budapest; then Russian occupation; aunt rescued her and took her to a servant's room; May 1, 1945 dead people in the streets; rebuilt fathers' shop; came to Australia

married in 1946; arrived in Australia May 3, 1949

family photos