

RG-50.407.0114

Regina (née Riggman) Lipshut was born in March 1941 in Paris, France. Her mother was Torva (née Berta?) Riggman, who was from the town of Sokołów Podlaski, Poland. Her father was Moesha Riggman and was from (uncertain town name) and likely a cobbler. Her parents moved to Paris in the early 1930s. She has an older sister named Vivian Spiegel (b. 1934) and an older brother named Albert Fink (b. 1936).

Her father was taken to Pithiviers and then to Auschwitz on 17 July 1942. Her mother was taken in 1943 to Auschwitz. Regina has little memory of her parents due to her young age. Her mother was involved with Œuvre de Secours aux Enfants (OSE) and American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (Joint) who helped her care for Regina and her siblings. Just before her mother was taken, she and her siblings were sent by OSE to a rural family called Butneauf (uncertain transcription) outside of Le Mans.

Shortly before Liberation, OSE took Regina and her siblings into Le Mans to a childrens' home called Chateau de Maillon Coulle (?) After liberation, OSE and Australian Minister of Immigration Arthur Calwell arranged for visas for many orphaned children in Europe, including Regina and her siblings. She still had cousins alive in Paris. In 1948, OSE placed them on a train from Paris to Marseilles where they took an Italian ship called *Napoli* to Australia.

She lived in the Frances Barkman Home in Balwyn, Australia which was run by the Australian Jewish Welfare Society (AJWS). She was adopted with her siblings in 1948/49 (she is uncertain of how old she was).