

RG-50.407.0220

Summary

Magda (Korkes) Geiger – Born in 1923 in Budapest, Hungary.

Parents – Father - Yaacov (Jeno) Korkes born in Budapest; Mother – Jolan (Halpert) Korkes – born Uzhhorod. Magda was an only child. Married Julius Geiger – born 1913 in Subotica, Yugoslavia – in 1943.

Before the War – Religious family; father owned a leather shop and mother worked in it. Magda had a difficult time in school due to antisemitism; finally went to a Jewish school. Lived in Jewish area.

During the War – Germans invaded Budapest in late March – early April, 1944. Father tried to keep store open, but closed in April. In late April, he was taken to Dachau and died there by December of 1944. Mother and she forced to leave flat and moved in with two other families. Had 4 jobs – ammunition factory, cement factory, a third factory, then a brick factory (from which she escaped when Germans did a round up). Magda and mother obtained documents from Angel Sanz Briz from the Spanish Consulate and lived in “Spanish House”. Magda given Spanish surname – Desi. Magda’s husband obtained papers (postcards from “relatives” and photos of “Spanish cousins”) by trading cigarettes for them. Two hundred lived in the Spanish House where Magda and her mother lived. Very difficult conditions as 30 people in one flat, but she was saved by Sanz Briz.

After the War – Left Budapest in late 1946. Had a six-month old baby. Stayed 6 months in Vienna, then traveled to Australia – journey took a total of a year. Had 5 children.

Magda’s message – Keep the Jewish religion for it is more important than money, prayer is important, trust God, and go to Israel (which she did).