

RG-50.407.0282

Summary

Magda Kraus, born May 26, 1921 in Shteynev [PH] which was about 75 km from Munkács (now Mukacheve, Ukraine), discusses being the fifth of seven children (three girls, four boys) to Mordechai and Shoshana [LNU]; being in a large extended family; living on a farm; speaking Yiddish at home; a small Jewish community; a friendly relationship with Jews and gentiles; at 18, in 1939, leaving home for Budapest to live with her brother; a religiously observant family; experiencing anti-Semitism in Budapest; her brother leaving to do forced labor; working in a factory; losing contact with her parents and assuming they were dead; living in the Budapest ghetto for a few weeks (date not given); she and her brother obtaining false papers; removing the Juden star and leaving the ghetto; renting a room and changing her hair color; observing capture of Jews by the Gestapo and some summary executions; being arrested by Arrow Cross and Gestapo for a curfew violation; being held in a Jewish section and denying she was Jewish; taking an opportunity to escape; finding a new room to live in; being helped by another Jewish woman; being sheltered by a Romanian gentile family; using false papers obtained previously from the Swiss consul; being caught again by the Gestapo and being jailed in a brick factory for a few weeks until she bribed a policeman who set her free, and thus barely avoiding being sent on a train to Auschwitz (this in approximately 1944); being liberated by the Russians; reuniting with her younger brother; meeting and marrying her husband in Budapest; moving to Czechoslovakia; giving birth to a son; moving to Vienna for a few years until receiving permits to immigrate to Australia; giving birth to a girl; siblings moving to Israel; arriving in Australia (no date given); her husband dying in 1991; her life in Australia; still believing in God and raising her children in Judaism; having no desire to visit her European birthplace; answering her children's questions about her experiences. Shows photos.