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Summary

Anna Róza Hauser was born on September 12, 1935 in Nemesmilitics (Svetozar Miletić), in the Bácska (Bačka) region of Yugoslavia. Her father, Ernő Hauser (1905) was a district veterinarian, trained in Vienna, Austria. Her grandfather, Adolf Hauser traded and owned horses. The Hauser family was Jewish. Her father and his sister Hilda (1904) were raised by a nanny, Máríka, who also helped to raise Anna and her cousins Imre (1933) and Pál (1936). The families were so close that Anna talked about her cousins as brothers. Her aunt Hilda was a physician.

Her mother, Ottilia Litvai came from the Hungarian lesser nobility and was Roman Catholic.

Anna was not baptized.

The family celebrated the major Jewish holidays, but was not observant in their daily lives.

They owned a big house in Militics, where her maternal grandparents also had a house. Her maternal grandparents had a summerhouse in Palics (Palić), where Anna and her cousins spent the summers with their nanny.

In 1940 [more likely in 1941], her father was in Pristina [Kosovo, but part of Yugoslavia], serving as an officer in the Yugoslav army, and was captured by the Germans at Skopje. When the German discovered that he was Jewish they separated him from the Yugoslav POWs and sent him to a labor camp in Osnabruck (Germany), and later on a 380km foot march to one or more concentration camps, whose locations she did not remember.

In 1941, after Hungary reoccupied the Bácska region, her mother sent Anna as a boarding student to the Catholic girl school, in a convent of French nuns, in Szabadka. She was told that she would get the best education there. She learned much later that her mother hid her in the convent because she was half-Jewish. There was another Jewish girl there, Vera (caught in 1944, and perished).

Under Hungarian occupation, her parents' home was taken away. Her mother left for Budapest, where her mother's aunt lived. Before her mother left, she hid the family values by digging a hole in her grandmother's washroom. She was visiting, and remembered the big hole in the ground, but did not see what was hidden there.

In 1944, her maternal uncle, Károly appeared in the convent and took her to his family in Esztergom. For a while, she also lived with her mother in Budapest. Later in 1944, when Jews were deported in Hungary, her uncle took her back to a farm close to Militics, where the family of Olga Janek took her in. She spent the rest of the war there. She had no idea that she was moved around because she was Jewish and did not understand that Jews were being persecuted. Her family shielded her from everything. Meanwhile, her aunt Hilda and her family were ghettoized in Szabadka. János Deneberg (sp?), an uncle in Hungarian officer's uniform smuggled Hilda's sons out from the ghetto and hid them with a widow, Klára Paics (sp?) in Szabadka, paying large amounts of money. A banker in Zombor (Sombor), Béla Gombos handled the family's finances while the family was absent and helped in many ways.

Hilda was in Auschwitz, but worked as a doctor there too, and helped many people. She returned and practiced in Szabadka, but after retirement, she spent the later years of her life in the United States and Sweden, where her sons lived.

Anna said that most of what she knows about the wartime years and her family was told her by Hilda.

Her father also returned, in English military uniform; he had been liberated by the British army. He also resumed his veterinary practice after the war.

Anna married at age 18, had a son at age 20, and lived in Bosnia with her family. Her husband did not allow her to study or work outside of her home.

Anna refused to talk to the camera about her private life.

All what we learn is that she returned to Serbia, lived in Belgrade, and supported her parents in their old age. She was active in the Jewish community in Szabadka.

She said she did not experience anti-Semitism in Yugoslavia after the war.