

Summary of Oral History: Allegra Alhadeff

RG#: RG-90.118.0003

This Summary was written by a USHMM Volunteer on [04/2022]

Allegra Alhadeff, born in 1932 in Brussels, Belgium, describes going to school and learning to read and write in French; having a strict governess; not knowing she was Jewish and not going to a synagogue as a child; having to leave her home when Germany invaded Belgium because her father was well known; her mother and father not being able to join her and her two brothers because her father had an Italian passport; she and her brothers going to an aunt's apartment in Paris, then living on farms, then going back to Paris; the Red Cross taking them back to Brussels to a family friend, who took the three children on a train through Germany to the Brenner Pass on the Austrian-Italian border to rejoin their parents; moving into an apartment in Rome and going to Hebrew school; moving into another apartment to hide, then moving into a Catholic convent with her mother; watching liberation troops march through Rome for several days; riding an American Army truck north to Genoa, Italy, then returning to Belgium by train; her father becoming extremely ill and dying of cancer; joining up with an uncle in New York.