

Ruzena Deutschova And Her Sister, Hana



In this picture, taken in Galanta in 1942, are me and Hana.

I spent the most time with my little sister, Hana. In Felsoszeli, the Dudvag flowed behind our house. In the winter, we skated on the frozen water, and sledded. Father made the skates out of wood. In the summertime, we picked corn ears, because our mother raised chickens. We worked the whole summer vacation.

I was together with Hanna in the Allendorf labor camp [a sub-camp of Buchenwald]. When we were liberated, we went home together. Hana stayed a while in Galanta, but in spring of 1946, she went to Kassa, and left from there with her later husband for Palestine. They captured the boat, the passengers were forced to debark in Cyprus. I wrote letters to her, and she sent pictures from there. They went by boat from Cyprus on to Israel. There she was conscripted as a soldier.

Hana's husband fell during some kind of construction very young, and died. He was a Kassa boy. They had three families[children - sic]. I can't speak with them. If I go visit them, they say, 'Dada neni, shalom', give me a kiss, then leave again, when I go home, they say shalom again and another kiss and that's all. One of Hana's daughter's is a teacher, her name is Malke. My daughter also has this Jewish name, we named them then after our mother. Malke's husband's parents come from Morocco. My other niece, Sara was a bank official, but since she married, she doesn't work anymore. She lives with her two daughters in Tel Aviv. Hanna's son is with Markus Eli wholesale hardware, and meanwhile is finishing his law studies. His wife's parents went to Israel from Poland. Hana and her son's family live today in Netanya. They keep Jewish traditions, and both keep a kosher household.