

Vilma Havas With Her Relatives



This is a group photo which was probably taken in Budapest in the summer of 1942. The first from left is my cousin Edit Rosenberg, next to her are my mother, Vilma Havas (nee Neudorfer), and my mother's sister Elvira. I don't know the other two ladies in this photo; they are not part of the family. They might be some relatives or friends of Elvira's husband's. My aunt Elvira lived in Budapest, and her husband probably took the photo, but I'm not sure. Elvira, my mother's eldest sister, moved to Budapest with her husband in the 1920s. They had a son Denes, but he killed himself. Elvira and her husband were deported to Auschwitz, and neither of them returned. My cousin Edit was the daughter of my mother's sister Sari, who got married to a Yugoslav man, from a place that was then Southern Hungary. I only know that they were amongst those shot into the Danube by the Hungarians [during the Novi Sad massacre]. Edit was deported to Auschwitz, but she came home. She married a Yugoslav Jew called Rosenberg and emigrated to South Africa at the end of the 1940s. Then they moved to Israel, then to Holland. Edit's husband was a construction engineer, and specialized in building sugar factories. Edit's younger sister, Lili, got married and moved to Italy, before World War II, and that's how she escaped deportation. My mother worked as a stocking ladder-repairer at the beginning of World War II. There was a Jewish store with a workshop. My mother rented a small place there; she installed her machine there and worked on her own account. The owner had a very nice employee, and the owner transferred the store and the workshop to him by deed - I think it was in 1944 - after the Jews weren't allowed to have stores anymore. Since my mother wasn't employed there, but only rented the place, she wasn't thrown out and could work there until her deportation. She died in Auschwitz in 1944.