



## **Ibi's Story, Chapter 1**

My name is Ibi Ginsburg and I was born in Hungary. My parents were strictly orthodox Jews so I was brought up in a religious family. When you are orthodox you cannot eat just anything. You cannot mix meat and butter and milk. An egg you can eat with any meat but butter and milk you can't, you can't have meat, soup and meat and three veg and afterwards a cup of tea or coffee with milk so you have to drink black coffee and you had to be careful in your kitchen, you didn't mix your plates and pans, it was all separate, it was like two kitchens. And you observed the Sabbath, you couldn't work, you didn't work, if you had people working, like we have had a help in the house she wasn't allowed to work. All the work was done Thursday Friday, meals were prepared and everything. You could warm things up but that's about it. So you weren't supposed to marry out and it was pretty restrictive.

### **Did you go to a Jewish school?**

Yes I did. In fact the town where I lived there wasn't a council school because Hungary is mainly a Catholic country so there was a big Catholic school, there was a Protestant school and there was even a Greek Orthodox school, there was a small community and then there was a Jewish school. There were probably a couple of hundred Jews, it was quite a big circle. And you only mixed in your own circle. You had non-Jewish neighbours and you were neighbourly and you would help one another and when I was little I played out with the non-Jewish children.

Until 1944 Spring, we lived nicely comfortable in Hungary hoping that the war would pass us by. But unfortunately early in 1944 in March the Germans occupied Hungary.

We had to wear a yellow star when the Germans came in but not before. They came in on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March and they didn't take us in the camp until about 3 or 4 weeks and we had to wear the yellow stars. We did hear things that happened in Europe but nobody was prepared to what they were doing, genocide. It didn't happen like that before.

Within a couple of weeks they took us into the ghetto. The ghetto was in a town, the capital of the county, and we were there three weeks. Even though we only had one year of the troubles instead of 3 and 4 like other people in Poland and Czechoslovakia and so on but the end product was devastating. They did everything very fast and very efficiently.