

## FANNY KRIEGER

Fanny hid in a boarding school in France during the war after her parents and sister were taken from their home by the Nazis.

*"I still have our photo album which I found in the apartment on the floor after the Germans came. All those pictures are so happy."*

Fanny (née Bienstock) Krieger was born in Paris in 1929. Her father, born in Poland, and her mother born in Romania had met in Paris. Fanny's parents worked selling sweaters in markets in the surrounding towns. They left every morning as early as 5:00 am going to different towns each day of the week. Fanny and her younger sister Helene were sent to board with other families and saw their parents only a few hours each week.

When the war started, Fanny's parents cut their working hours, stopped traveling, and the family was reunited. For the health her mother who needed to live in the mountains, the family moved to Aix-les-Bains town near the Swiss border which was famous for its therapeutic baths. This town to which many Jews had fled was occupied first by the Italians then by the Germans in 1943. At first the German troops maintained a very low profile, but soon a brutal reality set in. On the night of November 14, 1943, there was a roundup of Jews in the town. Nazi soldiers came to the house they had rented and took Fanny's parents and sister. They had been betrayed by a paid collaborator. Fanny's mother's cousin visiting from Paris was sleeping in Fanny's bed and was arrested with the other members of the family. Thirteen-year-old Fanny was spared because she had gone to spend the night at an aunt's.

Fanny spent the rest of the war hiding in the boarding school in Aix, waiting for the end of the war and hoping for the return of her family. But her mother and sister had been killed in Auschwitz, and her father had died during a death march from Auschwitz just days before the liberation by the Americans.

Cousins of Fanny's father obtained papers for her and in 1947 she landed in New York, 17 years old and alone. Five years later, she moved to Texas, where she met her husband. They created a fly-fishing business and Fanny founded Golden West Women Fly Fishers.