

Margot Held

[Go to personal file](#)

She emigrated from Germany to Tuscany to get her degree in medicine, then she started practising in Siena and studied to become a dentist. She had to move with her sister to the United Kingdom, where she could continue her work.

[Link to other connected Lives on the move:](#)

Student in Italy

Margot was born in Wertheim (Baden-Württemberg) on 9 February 1912 to Max, a retailer, and Johanna Baer, both of Jewish origins¹.

She was awarded a degree by the University of Siena on 10 November 1936, with a mark of 92/110. Later, she went all the way to Sardinia, in Cagliari, to undergo the exam to get her license, and opened a private practice in Siena town centre, in Viale Pannilunghi 10².

In December 1937, she enrolled in a training course in odontology in Florence. After the racial laws, on 18 January 1939, she presented a formal request to abandon her studies and have her documentation back. Moreover, the Siena MD association disbarred her from the professional order³.

Escaping from the Continent

After these events, we lose track of Margot. However, she probably managed to emigrate to the United Kingdom in 1939, together with her sister, Gertrude

¹ ASUFI, AC, SS, f. «Held Margot», request to the rector to enroll in a training course in odontology, 30 December 1937; ivi, certified translation of her birth certificate, 20 January 1938.

² Ibid., letter on letterhead paper to the University administrative secretary asking to give her documents to her friend Magda Olga Jasvojn, 9 January 1939.

³ Ibid., request to the rector in which she declared to abandon her studies and asked a certificate to attest the fact she had attended the first year of the raining course, 18 January 1939.

(Gerti) Held (1915-1998), who, in September 1939, was a probationer in training at the Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford⁴. The documents at our disposal are scarce, but it makes sense to think that the two young doctors managed to find a provisory accommodation during the war. Their parents, who had remained in Germany, were eventually arrested and died in Auschwitz, probably in 1943⁵.

After the war, Margot continued her work as a doctor and married James Oliphant Andrew, from whom she had two daughters. She died in London on 6 May 1993⁶.

Archival sources

- ASUFI, AC, SS, f. «Held Margot».
- *The Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names, ad nomen* <<https://yvng.yadvashem.org>>

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⁴ *1939 Register of England & Wales*, available online at <<https://www.ancestry.com>> (access on registration on 26 April 2022).

⁵ *The Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names, ad nomen* <<https://yvng.yadvashem.org>> (accessed on 26 April 2022).

⁶ Cfr. her personal page at <<https://www.geni.com>> (access on registration on 26 April 2022).

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