

## 1956 Hungarian Uprising

Steve Samyed in 1952 was a small businessman in Hungary. He sold men's suits and handbags. Most were made locally. His wife had several sewing machines in a back room.

Sara, his wife, was from a Stavrosian family. She was born in Poland. Her family bloodline still lives in Poland. Sara came to Hungary to study clothing design. Her specialty was men's suits. She was in her own right a designer and tailor. Steve Samyed was a successful shopkeeper. He had no real political views. He had gotten used to the Soviet occupation in Budapest. In July of 1956 his shop was visited by six Soviet Officers. They wanted to have tailored uniforms. Sara saw nothing wrong in making a little extra money, so she agreed to do the work. It had taken two weeks with many hours to complete the uniforms.

The Officers returned to pick up their order. She took time to help fit each man. Her work was the best in Budapest. When Sara told the Officers what the total bill would be, they only laughed, all six Soviet Officers went to leave the shop without paying. Sara stepped in front of them to insist on being paid. The oldest looking one told her that her work was to glorify the Soviet Occupation and that she should be happy to serve the Soviets.

Sara grabbed that Officer's arm, she wanted paid. What she got was a riflebutt to her face leaving her on the floor in the shop with a black eye, bloody lip and a scar on her cheek. Steve tried to come to her aid and he too was struck down. One of the men cleaned out the cash register. The two of them lay there for a while, hurt in disbelief.

Several days passed before Steve reopened the shop. An older man came into the shop. As he did, he closed the door and pulled the shade. Looking nervously, he approached. He told Steve about the underground movement to rise up against the Soviet Occupation. It didn't take much convincing for Steve and his wife Sara to quickly volunteer. Now they were rebels ready to face off with their occupiers.

Sara wrote home to tell them what was going on. Her Mother tried to contact the S.G.L. to go in and get both of them out. It was of no use. By September, the Samyed shop was closed. On the morning of October 23, 1956, Hungarian students along with workers staged a peaceful demonstration in Budapest. Standing against the evil Soviet Communist that took control of the government.

The peace was shattered with the sounds of Soviet Tanks in the streets. Budapest had become ground zero for the Hungarian rebel battle. Many of the people were organized militias. Steve and Sara had gone into the streets to fight the Soviets.

As the battle went on, the militias freed political prisoners, some Soviet sympathizers were hung and emotions were at a fevered pitch. Steve had gotten separated from Sara in all the confusion.

By November, the fighting had stopped. Then on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1956 a ceasefire was called by both sides. The fighting was over and no one was the winner. Sara looked for Steve for weeks, she checked the police stations for any information. Two months had passed since the fighting stopped. She was home over the shop they used to run. A friend came to see her. The man had been among prisoners the Soviets had taken to a holding area in the town of Dunakeszi. He had been held for weeks before being released as a warning to the people of what happens to those that resist. She was told her husband had been executed along with many others.

Sara Samyed closed up the shop for good on January 11<sup>th</sup>. 1957. She moved back home to Poland to be with her mother.

Sara stayed in Poland until she died in 2001 at 85 years old. She never had children to carry on the family name. There are relatives that do carry on their First Life celebration quietly to this day on lake Balaton.

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