

The Albahari Sisters, Rahela, Flora And Judita



The picture was taken in 1928 in Sanski Most. Pictured from left to right are: my eldest sister Flora, I am in the middle, and next to me is my sister Judita. My sister Flora was born in 1920 and Judita in 1924. We all went to elementary school in Lusci Palanka. There were pleasant and unpleasant days during our schooling. Since the three of us were the only Jews in the entire school, sometimes the other children called us *civuti*, a pejorative for Jew. We complained to our parents and they always told us that we need to be modest, we were not allowed to stand out and we should try to act like the others. Unfortunately, our father's business did not go well and we had to move again this time to Drvar. In Drvar we were again the only Jewish family. Again father opened a mixed goods store. His inventory ranged from gas, coffee, flour, sugar, even fabric by the yard and ready made

clothing, in one word everything that was necessary for everyday home life. My parents were social and educated people, so that in this city they very quickly had a lot of clients and our store finally began to earn significant profit. Since there was no gymnasium in Drvar, my sisters and I moved into my uncle Jakob's house in Banja Luka so that we were able to continue our schooling. Uncle and aunt Rena moved from Sanski Most to Banja Luka. They supported themselves by renting out their rooms to students. My father helped them financially during that time. Our schooling in Banja Luka brought my sisters and I great happiness. Finally we were able to socialize with Jewish youth. In a space next to the Temple every day we met in the so-called Ken. There we learned Hebrew, history of the Jewish nation, Jewish songs and dances. We also arranged trips for ourselves. This was a peaceful and prosperous period.