

RG-50.091.0099

Summary

Tibor Messinger, born in 1918 in Budapest, Hungary, describes being sent to Sátoraljaújhely for three months in 1940 to build railroad tracks and then returning home; reporting to Nagykata in May 1942 when he was drafted for labor duty; being sent to the front in Ukraine where he served under the command of LtCol Murray and later under Lt Toronyi; Toronyi killing his brother by having buckets of water thrown on him and then leaving him outside to freeze; his battalion being attacked by Russian partisans who spared the laborers; working on the riverfront in Gora-Calvary in May 1944; being sent back to the front in November before being transported to Flossenbürg where he received a red triangle for political prisoners because he entered wearing a German uniform; being sent to Niedrowitz in January 1945; being transferred after three months to Lietneritz where the Germans were building airplanes; being sent to Theresienstadt in late April; Russian troops entering on May 8, 1945 followed by the declaration of peace on May 9th; being hospitalized for a month before going to Prague; continuing on to Bratislava to find his aunt, but being refused entry after he told her that he had had typhus; arriving in Budapest with in mid June and learning that his father had died in the Budapest ghetto; finding his aunt, uncle, cousin, and surviving brother; meeting and marrying his wife; deciding that he did not want to remain in Hungary and going to an Austrian DP camp; working as a driver for UNRRA's chief doctor, then working as a driver for the JOINT; moving to the American zone in Salzburg where he again worked as a driver for the JOINT; applying to come to the U.S. under Truman's Refugee Directive; being sent to Lorain, Ohio where he found a factory job within a few weeks; moving to Cleveland after he was promoted.