

## **RG-50.156.0013**

### **Summary**

Robert O. Fisch, M.D., born Moshe Bear ben Shlomo Fisch in Budapest, Hungary on June 12, 1925. Father, Zoltan, of Polish origin. Mother, born Irene Mannheim. Grandfather was a poultry wholesaler and the builder/founder of a synagogue. Observant, but did not keep kosher. Fisch had Jewish and non-Jewish friends. Important person in his life was nanny, Anna, who hid his mother during the war. Brother studying in Switzerland during the war and was spared while many other relatives perished during the war. Hungary invaded/taken over by Germany in early 1944. At some point there after Eichmann allowed 200 Hungarian Jews to go to Switzerland. Fisch wore a yellow star and knew that Jews from the countryside were being deported. On 6/5/44 Fisch was sent to a work camp while parents and other Jews put in a ghetto in Budapest as Nazis took over government on 10/15/44. In January, 1945, Fisch taken to another camp on the Austrian border, where he dug ditches until a typhoid epidemic struck. Twenty sick people were taken from the hospital and were shot. Fisch then marched to Graz with other inmate, some of whom were shot along the way. Peasants who tried to give them food also were shot. Went to Mauthausen where he lived in a tent. Moved again to Gunskirchen and many shot along the way. Crammed into barracks where many died of suffocation. Stood in formation 6 hours a day. Thirty thousand people in the camp. Inmates still being killed as late as May, 1945. US Army liberated the camp on 5/5/45. Fisch very weak and was taken to US Army hospital. Eventually returned to Budapest and reunited with mother. Father had been deported and starved to death and was buried on own and later found and reinterred in Budapest.

Postwar, Fisch went to medical school in Communist Hungary while mother and brother emigrated to Israel. Fisch finally left after the 1956 revolution during which time treated both injured students and Russian soldiers. Ten to 12,000 students killed during the revolution. Went to NYC with help of HIAS in Austria and made his way to Minneapolis.