

September 5, 1991

State # 1349-012

Interviewer: Lewis Rossinger

Interviewer: Rosey Shames
Lewis Rossinger Interview

Notetaker: Beverly Stahl

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TIME Family Background

Born Szahkoly, Hungary; August 31, 1928

Hometown like the "country".

Parochial schools only - Started first grade in a
Protestant school - much anti-semitism - ie: gang bullies
"dirty Jew", beatings. Second grade to Catholic school -
intolerant towards anti-semitism

Father: Miklos - Stock/Horsebreeder

Butcher

Died in Mathausen

Mother: Esther - "a beautiful women"

fashion designer

gourmet cook - pastry-maker

Siblings:

Joseph

Ava

Lily

How did beginning of war affect his life?

Age 13 sent to Budapest for school

left by train - unnoticed as a Jew

all religion taken away

business confiscated; no food hard times

never saw family again

30 Min

life in Budapest - lived with an aunt

persecutions increased - henchman of Gestapo "the worst"

worked and went to school

1943 - received post card from Father in Yomwaldzy(ph)

Germany - made to write - "being treated royally" - a
cover-up.

Deportations - 1943 alone didn't know where family went

What was your day like in Budapest?

became a street kid

fathers friend helped him to find room and food

Hungarian Jewish Relief Agency helped

caught at railroad station by Hungarian Gestapo

escaped went back to friend - Laslo Kakcock(ph)

repaid him by helping his sister to US (Winston-Salem)

45 MIN

Saw Rauol Wallenberg - "an angel in disguise"

marked train filled with Jewish children with a red
cross and saved them

assigned to work at Hotel Royale - KP work - Eichmann

may have been there
life for non-Jews reasonably normal - had to adjust
to rationing
Hungarian Nazis were "disgustingly bad"
understood German - "To Aushwitz"

Late Fall - Russians began to surround Budapest
great desire to survive and have revenge
age 15: with friend 19, went to work in satellite hotel
saved the women

60 MIN

Escaped - convoy caught in crossfire by Russians
ran to barn - SS there too
got warm from dead soldiers boots and clothes - "branded
me a German soldier"
Russians came - friend yelled "I am a Jew"
Russian Jewish officer there - "proved we were Jewish by
reciting the Borucha"

Night of horror - walked 10 miles around capital - a
woman gave him soup - passed out - Russians came - let
go because he was young

tried to go home - 200 miles - no ID, caught by Germans
sent to Mathausen - escaped after 3 months

70 MIN

Description of Mathausen:
Father died there two days before liberation
assigned to clean up dead bodies
escaped by overtaking a guard
gate was opened because they (Nazis) were leaving

42nd Armored Division liberated the camp
befriended by a major who helped him to US

returned home - "it was like Gone With The Wind"
saw other people wearing his family's things
stayed with cousin 5 miles away

to Austria - 1 year in deportation camp
to US - West Virginia - July 15, 1946

80 MIN

"G-d sent Guardian Angels"
"I don't trust others easily"
"I can't forgive"
went to school in Kentucky

NEW TAPE

reflects on anti-semitism as a disease
wife from South Carolina
lives in Columbia, SC
two sons - one lives in Israel
wants to write a book
angry with G-d