

RG-50.244.0028

Summary

Jehuda Egri was born in Budapest on April 4, 1932. His father, Tuvia, was an accountant in a small factory. In 1940, he opened his own small chemical factory. His mother worked as a clerk at a bank and a bookkeeper. He went to a Jewish school, mainly to protect him from antisemitism. For a few years starting from 1938, a Jewish family who escaped from Austria lived with them. The father was Hungarian. For a short time in 1942, they hid a family that escaped from Slovakia.

Because of antisemitic laws, his father took on a gentile in whose name the factory was registered, making him a partner (a strawman). This man eventually kicked his father out. His father then found a job as a worker in a factory. On his first day there, while operating a machine, a few of his fingers were crushed. In 1944, his father (aged 48) was taken by the authorities to a work camp. He came home every few weeks. When the Hungarian Government of National Unity was in power, he was marched to the Austrian border on the way to Auschwitz. On the Hungarian side of the border, a Jew was distributing letters of protection, *shutzpass*. He later found out that they were counterfeit. The entire squad received them. He managed to escape from there. This was towards the end of the war, around November. After he came home, the family decided that he wouldn't return to the camp since they expected the Russians to arrive soon.

Jehuda was in school until the German's entered Hungary on March 19, 1944. From April 5, they had to wear the yellow patch. Then came the other Nazi restrictions on Jews. They were forced to quickly move from their apartment on Wahrman (sp?) Street to an apartment in a building marked yellow for Jews; this apartment was at 7 Pozhaneh (sp?) Street.

On October 15, the Nazis took over the government and the persecutions increased. The Arrow Cross brought them to a building for about ten-twelve days where they were crowded in and not allowed to leave. At this time, his family had papers that his mother had managed to obtain. Because of them, they were brought to a different building that was for Jews who had those papers. By November, they were sent to the ghetto. He was supposed to join a group of young people that was being sent to Austria to work in a satellite factory. When a soldier turned around, he managed to ran back to his parents' group.

They were in the ghetto for three months. They were liberated from there by some Russian soldiers. A Russian officer spoke to them in Yiddish and encouraged them telling them that things will be better.

He doesn't know anything about how they got their documents. He only heard of Wallenberg from the news after the war. He said that there were many kinds of papers and people considered which they thought would be best.

On his thirteenth birthday, he was sent to Segev (sp) with a Zionist group for a few months in 1945. Rut Siegfried (sp), a Jew from England, told them about Eretz Yisrael. In 1948 his family wanted to make aliyah to Israel but the government changed, which resulted in cancelled plans. In June 1949, he arrived in Israel and his mother a few months later, while his father stayed in Hungary.