

## **RG-50.244.0039**

### **Summary**

Nahum Fishler was born on November 1, 1911, in the city of Elshevsha (sp?) in Transylvania (Romanian then, Hungarian during the war). Before the war, his parents, who were religious, had a store. His father was from Bistrița. His family had lived in Romania for a long time. His mother died before the war. His father and four of his eight siblings were killed in Auschwitz. In 1933 he was drafted into the Romanian army for two years and was stationed in Oradea in Transylvania. After the army, he stayed there and worked in his brother-in-law's store. Before the war, the towns where he and his parents lived were Hungarian. Depending on where they were from, some people, including his wife, were taken to Russia where she was in a camp for seven years.

From March 19, 1943, when the Germans entered Oradea, anti-Jewish edicts began and people were taken off the streets. In May, the ghetto was created in Oradea's Jewish area. He told his father, who had come to his town, that he wouldn't go into the ghetto, but that he would hide and see where the Jews were being taken. He hid for two months in the mikveh with the Klein family (the father worked at the mikveh) and the Alexander and Serena (sp) Goldreich (sp) family; they were seven people altogether. Guards watched over the empty ghetto to prevent thefts. Moishe Lancer (sp), one of the guards, brought food to them. On Tisha b'Av (August 10), when people were looking for things to steal, they were found. He turned to a man named Deitch (sp) to help him hide, but someone informed on him and he was caught and taken to the ghetto. The Klein parents were also caught and sent to Auschwitz. Their daughter hid with a Christian friend; she survived the war. Nahum tried to escape again, but was caught by the Germans. He and others from the ghetto were taken by the police by train to Budapest. They were held in the basement in preparation for a transport to Auschwitz. The Goldreichs were on a list that the police had, so they were taken off the transport. They found a non-Jew in Oradea to hide them.

Nahum was taken by train to a town near the Austrian border where he was put in a labor camp with other Jews. He was sent back to the central train station in Budapest and then to a work camp near Budapest. He escaped from there, but was caught by Hungarians who brought him to the Dohany Street Synagogue. A consul from Sweden, who turned out to be Wallenberg, came there. Those holding Swedish passports were released. Another Jewish man, had two passports, including a Swiss one. Nahum asked for one of them; it was for a man named Schweitzer. The next day, they were brought to a brick factory near Budapest. After one night, Wallenberg and another man arrived. Wallenberg wrote down people's names into a notebook. Nahum got onto the list and went to where people holding Swedish passports were. Their group of about 40 people were brought to a Swedish house. The Swedish houses where Jews received protection were at 21 and 31 Katona Jozsef Street, Budapest. Many of the Jews who lived there did not survive. He was in the building at number 31; all of the people were taken out of number 21.

After the war, he stayed in Budapest, eventually joining his brother, Yosef Fishler, who had been in Israel from before the war.