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Summary

Tibor Farkas, born in 1934 in Budapest, Hungary, discusses a Jewish family; his experiences immediately before World War II and during; the anti-Jewish laws established in 1938-1939; his two sisters who were involved with social democratic youth as well as the communist party; his own father, Herman, preemptively gathering birth, marriage, and other documents of family dating to mid-19th century in 1938; working alongside criminals doing forced labor when the war broke out; food being plentiful until mid-1944; listening to what was going on via radio, even though Jewish people had to declare radio sets; the unhealthy optimism among Hungarian Jewish communities; giving away valuables to be held by Christians, and receiving them all back after the war; Germany invading in 1944; the establishment of ghettos; anti-Jewish measures intensifying; not seeing direct participation of Germans in the atrocities; the frequent personal attacks; obtaining ineffective Christian baptism records; losing 30 members of his family during this time; Ferenc Szalasi and the Arrow Cross Party; hiding in a button factory; his sisters avoiding deportation through help at the Norwegian consulate; his sisters, father, and a hundred others avoiding deportation with help from the Swedish Embassy; hearing of Raoul Wallenberg; the conditions in the ghettos; the yellow star houses; being liberated by the Russians; antisemitism after liberation; being unable to emigrate for years; beginning a career in journalism and moving to Geneva, Switzerland; graveyard vandalism; losing his Jewish faith; and his reflections and advice.