

## **RG-50.493.0006**

### **Summary**

Stephen Nasser went by the name Nasser Estwhen in Hungary. Born in Budapest on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 1931. Lived in outskirts of Budapest. Parents ran a jewellery store. Lived in an apartment on second floor. Younger brother named Andrew. Problems began in the 1940s. Jew students educational opportunities limited by the pro-Nazi government. Had to wear yellow stars. Remembers threatening experiences in the street. Was a part of Boys Scouts. An anti-semitic organization called Leventec stopped the Boys Scouts. Jews were not allowed to keep radios. They went to their neighbours to listen to the radio at night. Two SS came to the neighbour's house to ask about the Nasser family. They held Stephen and his brother at gunpoint and took them to their house. The soldiers took grabbed a box of stamps belonging to Stephen and left. Father died before moving into the ghetto. Family moved into a ghetto. Some factory owner got papers for Stephen and his brother to leave the ghetto. Mother was left behind in the ghetto. Factory owner treated them well. Through the factory gates they saw their mother in black. She assumed that they were dead. That was the last time they saw her. She was on the way to Auschwitz. The factory owner had to surrender Stephen and his brother as people came to know that they were Jews. They were sent to a brick factory outside Budapest in a truck. From there sent to a box cart to Auschwitz. There his aunt had her baby in her hand. There was struggle between her and the SS. The SS killed her baby in front of her. Stephen and brother sent for bathe, housed in cramped barracks in Auschwitz. For two weeks. Taken to another camp- hard labour camp called Nuldorf. Living conditions better than Auschwitz. Scuffle with SS but no punishment for them. SS gave them extra food. His brother was ill and they were separated. Brother died. Stephen was put in the death room, he was weak had pneumonia and typhoid. However, he recovered in a few weeks. Later taken in a train. At the end of Holocaust. SS were shooting and people ran free. A bullet grazed his knee. He fell unconscious. He woke up in hospital. The Americans encouraged him to go to United States. Stephen wanted to find his mother. He crossed borders without papers, went to Czech Republic, Germany, France, Russia. He went to Budapest. He found his aunt in his house. He lived with this aunt till the end of the war. After that Jewish Association took him to Canada. Was on train to Paris. Stayed in Paris for 2.5 months, lived in a hotel. The went to a place outside Versailles. Then came to Halifax, Nova Scotia. Went to Toronto. Lived on Harbour Street in home run by Jewish Congress. Placed with a family, family was given allowance to take care of them. Stephen was sent to stay with a Russian Jewish family. Worked in a toy factory, then as a blacksmith, had an accident. Then he apprenticed to be a jeweller. Worked as a diamond cutter. Got married. Bought a house. Got 280 dollars as reparation for Holocaust. Moved to United States in 1958. Could not work as a diamond cutter. Opened a restaurant. Ran it for 10 years. Then took a job as an insurance agent. Then moved into financial security. Author of the book, 'I refuse to die'. Shows old pictures of house in Hungary, family and relatives.