

ISAAC NIEDERMAN

KEY QUOTES

“I came up under anti-Semitic country, whether it was Romania or it was Hungary.”

“I remember when Passover came around, the priest with all his students came around to all the Jewish neighborhoods. ...they came around and threw rocks in Jewish synagogues.”

“They threw rocks. I remember we were sitting by the Sabbath meal, and they threw a rock, fell right on my father’s plate, even broke the plate, and the soup and everything go all over his lap.”

“I remember a lot of the old Jewish people who know Hungary before the war, they thought they were the same Hungarians, but they weren’t. They ran all out with the colors of the Hungarian flag and everything. And the anti-Semites start screaming, ‘What you happy about this? You don’t know what’s waiting for you.’”

“He said, ‘Look, if you have something to say about my son, say it. You just can’t come here and blackmail me all the time.’ ‘Okay, I’m gonna tell you about it,’ and he was drunk, and he said, ‘Your son’s both legs was frozen. He wasn’t used anymore for work. They was doing mine-picking, they pick mines, and maybe by now he’s probably already dead.’ And that’s what he told my father.”

“A lot of us died when they were bombing, because when they were bombing Budapest, we wasn’t in the bunkers, we were outside. A lot were hit from the bombs. Pieces of iron and stuff. They lose their legs, arms, there wasn’t anybody to heal us, you know, we were

Jews.”

“I didn’t met Wallenberg personally, to shake hands with him all, but I saw him. You just couldn’t go there and talk to him. He was very busy with trying to get more and more people passports and everything else.”

“He looked like an average, nice people - to us he looked very good! Because we know that he saved us, you know. He was a regular civilian, nicely dressed, nice hat. He wore like a, what do you call it, an ‘Eden hat.’ That’s what we call it in Hungarian, an ‘Eden hat.’ And it looked more like an old fashioned hat, you know. And he was very sweet, very nice.”

“They took them down to the Danube River and they shot a lot of them there.”

“I was so happy to see them that we went outside, hugging and kissing, you know. And they were screaming (in Russian), and that means, ‘Give me your watch.’ I took the watch off here and gave them my watch. ‘I’m glad to see you.’”

“But poor Wallenberg, when the Russians came in, he went to present himself, who he is, and right away they arrested him.”

“Because everything that happened to us. If there is a God, if God could see that, so I don’t know if I will still believe in God or not.”

“My family completely gone. I am the only one. We were five brothers, and two sisters, and my father, of course, my mother died before.”

“My message is to try to live together with all nationalities. We are all brothers really. We all the children of God.”

