

Dear Zoly,

6/11/06

It will be easier for me to tell you in my own words what I experienced during the Holocaust than to correct your account of it.

Of course this is sixty two years later.

I was born in 1929. At that time it was Romania and as young as I was, I was aware of the antisemitism. The Hungarians occupied that part of Europe in 1940 or 1941. The antisemitism was as bad if not worse.

I think Jan. or Feb. the Germans occupied Sighet in 1944. First we were not permitted to be in the streets at certain hours, then we had to wear the yellow Jewish star of David.

That year the last day of Passover they announced the Jews will not be permitted to leave their houses.

A few days later we were ordered into the ghetto. There was four ghettos in Sighet.

We had to leave our house because it was not included in the ghetto. We moved into your father's house across the street. We were five families in a two room house, 22 people.

Since it was April and May the boys

## II

slept in the wood shed; Benczy, Srvel Ido, Bumi and the other two boys that were with us in the ghetto.

After being in the ghetto for about five weeks, early one morning we all were ordered to line up in the street without any previous notice.

We were in the burning Sun from day break to dusk when they finally started marching us into one of the temples in Sighet, that was after searching us for valuables.

In the Temple we were packed in like sardines, most of us did not even have room to sit. Of course with so many people and babies crying nobody was even able to close it.

After that long night, again at day break they marched ~~we~~ us to the train station and crowded us into cattle cars from 60 to 90 people in one cattle car. That was May 19/1944 in a Friday. We arrived at day break to Auschwitz May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Zoly Auschwitz was not a labor camp it was an extermination camp.

When we arrived at Auschwitz, they chased

### III

us off the train and separated the woman from the man without giving us a chance to say goodbye to our loved ones.

We were ordered to form a line and Mengele pointed who should go to the left and who to the right. My mother was sent to left. All those that went to the left were gased that same day. Your grandmother, your aunt with her three little boys also went to the left.

We did not know at the time about gas chambers or crematoriums. We were told that all the families will visit together every Sunday.

They marched us to the baths, where we had to get undressed completely and whatever we had, had to be dumped on a pile even the clothing that we took off. They cut our hair and when we came out of the showers they gave us junky uniforms. We were marched to Auschwitz-Birkenau and that was the beginning of our hell on earth. After being there three months one day we had to line up, out of 1500 woman they selected two hundred Fifty to send to a labor

IV

camp. Your two aunts Chaney, I and your mother were counted into the 250~~0~~.

They sent us to Mildorf Dachau.

Zoly dear, I would have to write a book to you, which I don't have the time to do nor the ability. I did make a tape of the Shoah in 1996 which your father saw in my house.

All I can tell is that whole families were whiped out, if not from the very beginning than during the years of the Holocaust.

Both from my fathers side and my mothers side five families were whiped out completely. I don't even remember their last names.

I lost atleast 150 relatives and friends. We were liberated in the dead march in the train by the Americans in April 1945

I hope this will be helpfull to Brian and to you.

Give my love to the entire family

Love Etti