

II PERSONAL INVENTORY

Age: 9 years

Sex: Male

Religion: Roman Catholic

The Child lived at Szekesfehervar., and spent most of his life also there.

He attended the public school there and has finished ~~three~~ grades just started before when AND the revolution broke out.

THE 3rdWAS

Respondents parents are living in the US. He also has an elder sister who is 14 years old. Grandparents of father are only living and are in Hungary. The maternal grandparents have died. Maternal grandmother deported and killed by the Germans as she was Jewess.

The family lives now in the Bronx and the young boy attends the 33d public school in the 4th grade.

~~the~~

III THE SCHOOL SITUATION

A. "Can you tell me something about your school in Hungary? For instance, what subjects did you take?"

"We had arithmetics then we had writing, there was also grammar, reading. We also ^{had} to learn a great deal of things by heart, and we had classes of just conversation. Besides the others, we ^{SUBJECTS} also had gymnastics, singing and drawing.

"What did you read in your reading class?"

"This was sort of mix: ^{ED} we had sometimes quite good things but sometimes also communist matters. You know, Miss how it is. We had stories by Petofi, we learn ^{ED} about him. Then we ^{had} also fairy-tales. We had ~~also~~ to learn once a poem on ^{ED} Russian soldier, how we have to be grateful to him and whenever we pass his grave, honour him, because he has died in saving our country. You know of course, ^{ED} this is just plain nonsense."

"What did you talk about during your conversation classes?"

"We mostly talked about animals and such things. There was not much about communism. However now and then communism was brought up by some kids in the ^{ED} school. The teachers were always wise and kept away from such discussions because they did not dare to commit themselves. We had children of every ^{SOCIAL CLASS} age in our class and believe me, Miss, we had most terrific fights with them. Not only did we have arguments, discussions, but actually we fought with them. The Hungarian kids were always against these communists kids."

"Which subjects were liked most by you?"

"My favourite subject was reading because we sometimes read very good stories, stories of which you could learn something. You know what I mean, they were kind of educational stories. There was always

a point to the thing."

I also loved the gymnastics, and last but not least, I also liked grammar."

"Why did you like grammar, for instance?"

"You see, it was like this. In the beginning I did not like grammar very much, but later on I always had good marks, and somehow this spurred me on, and I always was the best in the class in grammar in the end."

"Which subjects did you like least?"

"There was not such a subject, Miss, I liked them all, but as I said, I preferred reading and grammar mostly."

"I would like to ask you now a couple of questions about your teachers at school."

"We had only one teacher. She was a lady-teacher, in the 3rd grade, and altogether there was only one man-teacher in the whole school, but this one was a communist and so was the headmaster. The other teachers however, were awfully nice. They were no communists, even though sometimes they had to make believe if they were. After all, you know, Miss how it is. They must have been and they were fearing losing their jobs, but the one who taught Russian and the headmaster, these two were communists. Maybe they talked so much about communism that finally they believed it to be right and to be good."

"On the whole I can say that all the teachers were always very very good and nice with us and they really deserved that I loved them. I was a very lively and naughty child; after all I am still a kid but I was behaving well and always knew my lesson, so the teachers did not mind very much, even if I was naughty."

"Did the teachers treat all the children equally?"

"Yes, Miss, I can say it very honestly that ~~they~~ SHE

^{was}
~~were~~ very very decent with us and she always treated us quite equally. I have heard however, that in the higher grades where they were many kids of ;AVD families, ~~where~~ the teachers sometimes treated these kids better."

"I even heard how those awful AVD kids had tried to trap some of the teachers by putting weapons in ~~the~~ desk drawers, then the AVD came and found ; them and they arrested the teacher. Don't you think that this is a pretty awful thing to do on your teacher, don't you?"

✓ WEAPON

"Now lets see about your class mates, can you tell me smething about them?"

....." who were your friends and why?"

"I had two friends at school, one was the son of a very nice decent Hungarian ~~man~~ man, who in his free time, without accepting any money, has helped us to fix our blackboards in the class and ~~to~~ redecorate our classroom, because the school did not pay for such things. He was a turner by profession. Then ~~the son of~~ the father of another friend of mine was a musician. However he refused to make music for the communists and so the mother of the boy had to go out and work for the family. But I never was together with these boys except at school. I had other friends in the house where I lived, and with these we spent much time together."

"What did you do together, what did you talk or play together?"

"Our main occupation was to ~~make~~ war on the Russian kids."

"How come?"

"You see, Miss it was like this. Our apartment-house was just around the corner, from the Russian military barracks and the houses where the Russians families lived, so we played down in the courtyard and these kids were also there, so we always declared war on them and ~~hated together~~. It was really a serious

FOUGHT THEM

fight. Once they even broke my skull with a stone using a catapult."

"On another occasion I was taken to the police. You know it was like this: I found an old rusty sword in the ground and ~~dug~~^{ed} it up and so I was fighting the Russian kids with this and I nearly cut off the ear of one of those Russian boys. So I was taken to the police and they took away my sword but nothing else happened to me.

We also ~~went~~^{ed} to play BALL with my friends and played soccer too.

There were two kids, a boy and a girl living in the same house where we did. The parents of these were Communists. ~~While then~~ With those we had all the time arguments going on, I really cannot understand that nothing serious happened to me because I was never afraid of saying of what was on my mind, very freely and openly. I always said so. Once I remember one of those kids said that the jeeps the Russian used were Russian made. Of course I had seen the white star which is after a all not a red star and I knew that this means that it has belonged to the American army. Of course it was an American jeep and not Russian made. I was right in the end!

"Were there any Communists among your classmates?"

"Of course there were. It was very easy to find out because these kids always wore a red neckties or blue ones if even if they didn't have to, outside school and playing on the ground. I never wore mine. In fact, I never was initiated, because when it came to it that we had to be sworn in, for the ~~pages~~ movement, you know that is for the younger children who cannot be Pioneers, I attended the meeting but before it came to ~~this very end~~, I escaped through the window. BE SWORN IN.

"PAJITAS"

"Were there any children at school who were looked up by you or other children?"

"There were a couple of kids who were very decent but these were not looked up by everybody, only by myself and a couple of my friends. One of them was the son of that musician I was talking about already, he was a small and frail little boy but he studied well and he was always decent, always defended us and myself for instance also against the Communist kids. He was very brave in standing up against them, and that's why we liked him."

the question

I probed the boy regarding number 5 regarding ~~that~~ which child he would make rather friends ~~with~~ ^{WITH} ~~of~~ ^{with} the child of a man who once was a lawyer but is now a common leader or the child of a man who was a common ~~leader~~ ^{WORKER} ten years ago but now ^{WORKER} is the manager of the factory.

"The young boy did not hesitate and said immediately:
"I would like to have the son of the lawyer as a friend because it is quite evident that the father had to become a common leader because he did not wish to act and work for the Communists, and he made great sacrifices, so as to remain a true Hungarian."

I specified now that neither of the two fathers is a Communist. The child ~~is~~ still preferred the son of the former lawyer, by saying ~~that~~: "I ~~will~~ even then prefer this boy because the father did not wish to work for the Communists and the worker who became factory manager did not deserve this job because he did not have the qualification for it after all and so he must have received the job as a premium from the Communists."

"Was there any religious instruction at school?"

"Yes for those who wanted. I also attended ~~the~~ special religious classes, but of course, this was taken down and recorded against us. You know, that we had a friend at the police who told us that it was a law that the kids who attended religious instruction should be always ~~sent out~~. ~~You really~~ ^{DOWN GRADED} I really was entitled to have what we call an excellent grade but I have never received more than a general 'five'."

The priest came ~~to us~~ three times a week to give us religious instruction at the school.2

B. "Did you tell your parents always what happened in school."

^{LIE}
"Of course, I did, I never ~~wrote~~ ^{write} to my parents and besides that ~~he~~ came pretty often to the school to talk with the teacher, so he was always informed about everything. So why shouldn't I tell him everything also? After all, I see and had always ~~an~~ ^{THE} experience that my parents want only the best for me. Therefore what my parents did or ~~said~~ ^{which} is very important to me and this is according to ~~the way~~ ^{which} I want to live."

^{DIVID}
"After all, ~~like I~~ ^{say}, I had a little dog and there are two saucers of milk there. One has gone ~~out~~ already bad and the other is still fresh. So I won't give the bad milk to my little dog either, only the good one. So my parents want to shield me also ~~on~~ ^{FROM} what is ~~good~~ ^{BAD}. Isn't that so?"

C. "Did you ever talk about what happened at home when you were at school?"

"I only talked to those I could trust otherwise I never talked about anything."

"You see, it would have been silly to tell people at school what we were doing at home since we did a lot of things which nobody should have known."

AND ME

For instance , I was learning a poems by authors who were proseribed and sometimes two of my friends ~~who were free went and~~ visited each other and learned these poems by heart.

(I asked a boy that when ^{HE} he could not recite me one of those poems and he immediately ~~he~~ cooperated by reciting a very long difficult and complicated page of the poem by one of the contemporary Hungarian poets. Yet the subject was on "the hardship to be Hungarian.")

"You know Miss ~~xxx~~ we have many books with poems at home. We have one with all Hungarian poems by the famous poet Petofi and the rest. I had one book still and this is my only souvenir from Hungary. It is a volume of Hungarian poems which the parish priest in Hungary gave to us to learn poems out of it, and when we came over I just took it with me. Do you think it was wrong to do so?"

"Were you warned not to talk about something at school?"

"Of course, what do you think? It was my ~~mommy~~ and daddy when I was quite a small kid and started to attend school and I was a first grade~~2~~ only , they always told me : Please don't talk about anything at school as ~~we~~ will be taken and put into prison."

"Besides I have my own ideas and I know perfectly well with whom I can talk and about what."

D. "What did you do after the school was out?"

" why, first when I came home I had my lunch . This was about one o'clock. After lunch, ~~immediately~~ I started doing my home work and to study ~~but~~ what I had to. We had very much to study. Sometimes we had to write four five pages ~~or~~ we had to read four, five pages then we had to memorize and so on. It was always around four o'clock by the time I was ready with my home-work, and out to play with my friends

(COULD GO)

or fight the Russian kids, as I said before.

"Did you ^{Read} ~~have~~ any books, did you read ^{OTHER BOOKS} ~~something~~ besides your schoolbooks?"

OF GRIMM'S
TALES

"Of course. I had great many books. I had fairy tales, "Around the World" for instance, this is ^{ABOUT} ~~with~~ a little angel who goes ~~wixx~~ around the world, then I had the ~~green-gate~~, the complete ^{BOOK} ~~case of Green~~, then I had the seventy-seven Hungarian folk tales too. I also ~~horoughed~~ ^{very} ~~often~~ books from my friends. ^{BORROWED}

^{BUT} "Sometimes I also attended movies with my parents ~~about~~ only Hungarian pictures. We never went to see any Russian films. By the way I must tell you something maybe you don't know. Did you know that all the Russians in Hungary had their own stores and they paid for instance, ~~whax~~ one forinth 50 for two pounds of meat, whereas we ~~ahad~~ had to pay forty. Then they paid ten for. inths for two pounds of lard, we had to pay fifty and so on 2 Now what you say to all this?"

"Did you ~~do~~ do any sports?"

" Yes. we played soccer, we went swimming and we also played handball. There is no ~~baseball~~, in Hungary. I expect, you know that."

"~~What~~ ^{Why} you told me that you did not participate in the pioneer movement or PAJTAS why?"

THROUGH

"For the reason because it was a Communist institution and they talked always about communism there. They had to sing communist songs. Even ~~as~~ ^{though} they ^{THOUGH} went out in lovely camps I never wanted to become a PAJTAS or pioneer. Also had I continued schools in Hungary in my fifth grade I would have been forced to join the pioneer movement. 2 I told you I took ~~the~~ ^{A SUM} ~~highest steps with~~ the window when I was to take the oath, but it was my decision and I really would ~~have~~ ^{NOT} wanted ~~on that~~ and that I would have gone to the ^{TO JOIN}

headmaster and told him that I rather quite the school, but I certainly do not want to become a pioneer. Maybe they would have expelled me from school but I wouldn't have cared. I do not want to have anything to do with communism!

IV. FAMILY LIFE

"Tell me now something about your family. What did your father do for a living or your mother?"

"My daddy was and is still at ginsmith, I told you ~~Mummy~~ did not work. In Hungary sometimes she went out to houses to sew. She often did it at home if she received some work but she only looked after us children and the household."

"Who were your granparents?"

The father of my daddy was a farmer., I knew that , but I do not know what the father of my mother was. He does not live any more.

We lived at Szekesfehervar as I told you, and in middle of ~~THE TOWN~~ where we had a very small apartment in a big apartment house. The ~~large~~ apartments were always ^{BETTER} allotted to the party big shots or the party members. The four of us, mother father, my sister and I, we had one room and that was all. In this room we lived; here we cooked and we slept, ~~yet~~. I slept ~~with~~ with daddy and my sister with mother. There was a "john" outside in the corridor, that was all. "

"Who did the household ^{WORK}?"

"How can you ask such a question, Miss, certainly ~~ALL OF US~~ did. Everything I could, or my sisters, ~~the others~~ ^{WE ALL} ~~had my parents~~. Sometimes I scrubbed the floor. My sister did the washing up. I dried the dishes, then I run errands for my mother and went out shopping or queuing up for food."

"Who took care of you after school?"

"There was no need to take care of us, Miss, after all we could take care of ourselves. We were good children and obeyed our parents and stayed at home. but usually mother was at home with us. However, if seldom it happened that she had to go away from

HELPED OUR
PARENTS

home then I ~~went~~ ^{STAYED IN} to the school after ~~hour~~ ^{CLASS} and
there I did my lessons but immediately after I
went home again.

V. REWARDS AND PUNISHMENTS

A. Have you been rewarded at school for good work, and how, if so?"

V.F. " Yes, ~~we~~ we got small little slips of paper asyng: for good conduct, for good reading, for good arithmetic etc., and we collected enough at the end of the school year, we received a book. This was usually ~~hi~~ a story book, but of course some of them were communist. However, we were ~~at large~~ ^{ALLOWED} to make our own choice of which book we wanted to have.

B. "Were you ever punished at school?"

"Of course, we were punished, if we behaved badly or we haven't learned our lesson well and couldn't recite it. We were put into the corner, sometimes we got a ~~lap~~ ^{lap} on our arms nails, or sometimes we had to stay after hours. Then of course, were the report cards too.

C. "Were you ever punished by your parents?"

"Of course, if I was naughty I got a good beating, but also I was deprived for instance of going out to play with my friends. For instance, if I got a bad note and bad marks at school, I was not allowed to play with my friends until I received a better mark.

"Who is usually punishing you?"

"Both, daddy and mummy"

VI. "Now tell me something about the revolution. Why did it break out?"

A. "You know, Miss, the whole revolution started like this: the Hungarians wanted to demonstrate in front of THE Bem statue in Budapest, in order to show their sympathy to the Polish people and asked for permission but the Red did not give the permission and so they decided to march whether they received it or not. So, after the demonstration at the statue, the Hungarians marched back to the radio, because ~~they~~ ^{THEY} wanted to read what the students had drafted, the demands of the Hungarian mission. Here it was not allowed to enter the building and they were shot at. This is how the revolution started."

"Can you tell me why the Hungarians started the revolution?"

"The reason why the Hungarians started the revolution was because everybody in Hungary ~~wanted to~~ ^{was} convinced [✓] ^{WAS} even the communists, that the communist regime in Hungary can no longer be maintained."

B. "What impressed you most during the revolution?"

"It impressed me terribly to see how beautiful the revolution was and how the Hungarian People stuck together. There was no difference in religion, or even if somebody was formerly communist but said that he is no more so and is on our side, we received him and everybody was together in one big happy family feeling. There was no difference anywhere. The Hungarians wanted that ~~the~~ communism ~~should~~ be ended in Hungary and the Russians should go home. I myself, was terribly happy because I thought that at last freedom has come to Hungary." When asked whether any members of the family or friends have been imprisoned, ill-treated by the communists, respondent said: Yes, daddy was three times arrested, but I do not know. I only know ^{FOR WHAT} he was the president of the Hungarian peasant party in our city. Later on, my parents were scared and thought that something might happen to me when the fighting was going on in the town, and I was not allowed to go out any more."

In the beginning, when the revolution started at Szekesfehervar, You know I was out there in the street."

"May I tell you now Miss, something about the revolution how it happened in Szekesfehervar? You know what I am going to tell you ~~now~~ I have seen with WHAT my own eyes. I was there, together with daddy."

"Of course, you may tell me what you know about the revolution as it happened in your home town."

"As I said before, all I have witnessed myself, Miss. On October the 23d 1956 the news ~~was~~ spread all around the city that the revolution has started in Budapest. On the 24th of October all factory workers who have ~~now~~ worked in the factories marched in close ranks toward the middle of the city. On their way where ever they saw a red star or any red insigna, a couple of them climbed up and tore it down. Finally the crowd which grew and grew and became quite big, arrived to the Town Hall. There, a student started to recite patriotic poems, when he was reciting the 'Forward, Rise Hungarians' and came to the rhyme that 'we no more WINE want to be slaves!' the crowd shouted with them repeating the lines."

"You have no idea how beautiful this was. Everybody cried, even myself. You know the whole city was there. The crowd was always growing more and more. Finally part of the people went to the Law Court building. Here and the other part went to the AVH headquarters. I was with the first part, daddy went with those who went to the AVH. Here at the Law-Court young minor boys went into the building ~~and~~ with the ultimatum that within five minutes all political prisoners should be released or else the crowd WILL TEAR the building. Very shortly after this the political prisoners came out one by one through the big door, crying, sobbing with happiness. They all said how wonderful it is that we have been THEY freed by real true Hungarians. The poor prisoners were kissed and embraced by everybody and people gave them their last pennies, so as to enable them to return to their families."

Everybody was very happy. Later on we heard that the crowd attacking the AVH headquarters was shot at by two tanks. There were two fatal casualties and sixteen wounded."

By the 25th of October 1956 the revolution had got hold already of weapons ~~and~~ my daddy ~~was~~ went to ask for the resignation of the communist party chiefs and big shots. I do not know what happened there because it was my daddy who went and joined the crowd. But he got his weapons from an officer. I would not like to mention his name because ~~it~~ might get into trouble. I think I am right, am I? Anyway father had his rifle and he went with the people to the AVH headquarters. "OK"

"Can you tell me now what do you think is a good father like."?

A good father who saves thus his country gives also his child a proper good education and teaches his child to be decent and honest."

"What is an ideal teacher like?"

I imagine that an ideal teacher must be one who teaches the kids ~~that the~~ ~~that is~~ strictly, and keeps the discipline but is a good teacher."

"What is a good mother like?"

I think a good mother keeps the kids in order, keeps them clean, cares for them, she goes to market, cooks and she educates the kids."

"What do you think are the three worst things a kid can do?"

(the little boy gave the answers without hesitation) "To steal, to lie and to kill."

are
"What/the three most important things you think a child ought to know?" or should be taught rather?

"Well, a child must be taught not to steal, not to lie and not to kill."

"What are the three worst things you could say about someone?"

I believe the three worst things would be either ~~and~~ atheist, and he is a dirty cad and a liar.

VIII THE SPECIAL SECTION

A. "What do you think who are the three greatest people in the world?"

Well, ~~that is~~ Petofi, Kossuth and Mindszenty.

"Who do you think is the greatest living HUNGARIAN?"

The little boy answered ~~it was~~ ^{HE IS} Mindszenty. He said it with a broad smile.

B. And now I am going to give you a few names of famous Hungarians. Can you tell me something about each of them. Just one short sentence that's all.

"Who was St. Stephen?"

"He was a Hungarian King who taught religion to the Hungarian nation."

"Who was Matyas?"

"King Matyas was a very good Hungarian King because he looked after the needs of his people. He very often went in a disguise among them to find out what the trouble is."

"What do you know about Francis Rakoczy?"

"He was the leader of the KURUC people and fought against the Labanc for the Hungarian freedom."

"Who was Petofi?"

"He was a very great Hungarian poet, and he fought in the freedom fight of 1848."

"What do you know about Kossuth?"

"He was the greatest orator of Hungary."

"What about Istvan Szethenyi?"

"He was the one who ~~made those~~ ^{built} big bridges, the Chain Bridge in Budapest."

The little boy did not know anything about Francis Deak, about Maria Theresa, and about Gabor Bethlen, neither about Tancsics or Dozsa.

"Who was Nicholas Horthy?"

"He was a very good and a very known Hungarian leader!"

"What do you know about Cardinal Mindszenty?"

Cardinal Mindszenty is the greatest Hungarian, because he, as he himself said, "first of all, and primarily I am an Hungarian and then I am a Priest." I think this was very brave of him. He choose his religion and his convictions and was put in prison for this."

"What do you know about Imre Nagy?"

"He was a very decent Hungarian because he stood up for the Hungarian revolution."

IX "Now can you tell me what strikes you as being completely different in the US from things in Hungary?"

(The little boy answered immediately and without hesitation)

"The system how ~~they~~^{we} are taught at schools here. I think that the whole system is wrong here in the US. You must be strict with the kids and you must enforce/discipline. Here it is just the contrary. It is much too easy for me here, I don't have to study that much as at home. Also here we never have to memorize anything which we did a great deal at home."

"What are the things you like most about the US?"

"The fact that there is complete freedom here."

"What are the things you disapprove here in the US?"

"I strongly disapprove to see how the children do not respect their parents. This is one thing, and second, I really dislike the dirt in the streets and in the cities, you can see here in New York."

Fin