

II. PERSONAL INVENTORY

Code number: CH 5-M

Age 12

Sex: Male

Religion: R.C.

Longest residence in Hungary: Budapest, District V, near Parliament and the Ministry for Home Defense.

School: Attended the 6th grade of public school in Szemere Street, Budapest. Will attend the Hungarian school of the Piarist Fathers in Buffalo N.Y. next fall.

Family: Subject came to the US with his parents and 13 year old sister. Has a half brother from his mother's first marriage, age 21, now an electrician in Switerland. Maternal grandmother is living in Casablanca with an aunt.

Since their arrival to the United States, subject's family has been living in New York. The father has obtained a job as a building superintendent in a downtown office building where the family occupies a 3 room basement apartment. The mother is not working. The sister is attending the school of a Hungarian religious order in Pittsburgh, Pa.

III. EDUCATIONA. Subject's school in Hungary.

I attended the 6th grade of the public school in Szemere Street in Budapest. That was the school nearest to our home. There were 42 pupils in our class. Each grade had A,B,C, classes, the first two grades also had D classes. In all there were 26 classes for the 8 grades with an average of 40 pupils per class. This does not include the girls section. Their class was in the same building, had a separate entrance and their part of the school yard was walled off from ours. I don't know ~~how many~~ how many classes there were in the girl's section.

Instructions in our school were from 8 A.M. to 1P.M. one week, and 2P.M. to 7P.M. the next. It was better to attend school in the morning. There was less trouble getting up when we knew we had to be in school by 8.

We had four hours of arithmetic a week, two hours of geometry, three hours of geography, two hours of gymnastics two hours of drawing, two hours of singing, nine hours of Hungarian literature and grammar, three hours of Russian. We began to study Russian in the 5th grade, no one liked it and we did not learn much.

We had only one male teacher. He was an elderly man who taught geography. We liked him best of all. He was a very good teacher, very strict. I don't know whether or not he was a Communist. It was impossible to talk against the Communists in school, but only the Hungarian teacher praised

the Russians and the communists. Our geography teacher's hobby was painting. He painted portraits of Petofi and Kossuth for every class room in the school. He did not paint any pictures of Rakosi or Stalin. It is true that in the last years before the revolution, Stalin was not in fashion any more.

Our class supervisor was Mrs. Sipos. She taught mathematics and geometry. She was very strict and made us work hard. But we liked her. She was a young woman with a good sense of humor. I don't think that she was a party member.

Our gymnastics teacher was "Aunt Erzsi". She told us to call her like that. Otherwise we had to address every teacher formally. We greeted them with "Foreward" or just bade them "Good Morning or "Good Afternoon." It was impossible to greet any lady teacher with "kezit csokolom." (hte equivalent of German "Ich kusse die Hand; a child would greet a lady or the parents at home in thes way.) Aunt Erzsi was a member of the all-Hungarian basketball team. We liked her very much. She was married, her husband was a gymnastics instructor in some other school.

Our drawing teacher was an elderly woman. I liked neither her nor her subject.

Our music teacher was also an elderly woman. I did not like this subject because I had no ear for music. I obtained good marks only because I knew the theory of music. In our music classes we were obliged to learn Hungarian and Russian folksongs. On one occasion I went to her apartment. I did not see any crucifix or holy pictures on her walls at home. (Note: this was mentioned spontaneously by the boy when she was asked whether this teacher was a communist.)

Our Hungarian teacher was also a woman, Mrs. Kalasz. She was a Communist and we did not like her. She praised the Russians and the Communists constantly.

Our Russian teacher was Mrs. Hanzar. I disliked both her and her subject. I do not know where she learned Russian. I am not certain whether she was a communist or not.

The director of the school was a big communist. I do not know his name. He did not teach our class.

My favorite subjects were mathematics, geometry, and gymnastics. I hated singing and drawing. I have no talent for these.

The teachers treated everyone equally. There were only two exceptions: one boy became an eminent ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
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student although he did not deserve such grades. His parents were always bringing flowers and presents to the teachers, especially to the ~~gizsa~~ class supervisor. Our geography teacher was not impressed, however, and gave the boy only marks he deserved. The second boy's mother-he was also an exceptional case-was chairman of the Parents-teachers Assoc. He too received better marks than he deserved.

There were 42 pupils in our class. I was on good terms with about 20 of them. I visited the homes of only 5. One or two of them came rarely to visit me at home. My best friend was not in our class (C) but in class A. His family lived in the same apartment building where we lived. We were born two weeks apart and were inseparable friends. I am sorry they were unable to come with us. His father had heart trouble and could not undertake the journey to Austria.

My friend's father was a mechanical engineer, a very smart man. What little I know about drawing I learned from him. I spent much time in their apartment and my friend was practically at home in our apartment. As children we had one and the same wet nurse.

My friend and I played football together, did our lessons together, with to school and home together. We talked about sports, what happened at home and even compared the Szabad Nep with the news of Radio Free Europe together. I did not dare to talk politics with any other friends. But we were not too interested in politics and noted only if something very sensational happened either in Hungary or abroad.

During the summer my friend and I did not see each other. He spent the summer with his grandparents near Szolnok. There were Russian troops stationed there and he told me about their conduct, how they behaved when they were drunk. He also watched them make practise jumps with parachutes.

Both of us collected stamps. I received many foreign stamps because we had relatives abroad with whom my parents and grandmother corresponded. We were very much interested in sports, especially in athletics. We knew the line-up of all major Hungarian soccer teams, and discussed the soccer players. I did not consider Puskas a good player in Hungary. He lost the international championship to the Germans.

There were two boys in our class whom I disliked very much. Both of them were boot-lickers.

There were two communists in the class. Their fathers were army officers, both fathers had at one time been in the Soviet Union. One of the boys was very stupid and was flunked. I don't think they received any special treatment because their parents were communists. Only the Hungarian teacher, a communist party member,

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urged the boys to study. She often said "How can a boy be stupid if his father is a colonel in the People's Army?"

The most popular boy in the class was the captain of our soccer team. About half of the class were ardent soccer players. Our class team was a very good one and we often beat the higher grades' team. We also looked up to the best athlete, the best student and the one who could draw the best.

Officially there was no religious instruction in school. But my sister and I attended private religion classes. My father's uncle was a professor in the school of the Piarist Fathers in Budapest. ~~xWw~~ We went to him for catechism classes twice a week. This went on for about 4-5 years. When we were observed going to my uncle, this had to stop. From then on a former nun came to our apartment to give us religious instruction. The neighbors thought she was teaching us German.

Our family went to church every Sunday.

B. Parent's knowledge of events in school.

I always told my parents what went on in school. I had good grades and my conduct was also good. Therefore I had no reason to conceal anything from my parents. It would not have been very wise to do so had I done something; they would have found out anyhow. In such cases the teacher would send a report home, we had to have our parents sign it and bring it back to school.

We did not talk much about politics at home. Dad was not a politician and was not interested in politics.

Dad was very kind to us and liked to joke, but he can be very strict if he wants to be.

I think few children have such good parents as ours are.

My sister and I went often swimming with our mother. Sometimes, dad would also come along.

I was fortunate in having teachers who did not talk much about politics. But dad always explained things to me if they taught us wrong in school. I also had a large encyclopedia and could look up things in it. We listened frequently when mother and dad talked about old times.

From dad and the encyclopedia I found out what Hungarian history was really like. For example, Kossuth and Petofi wanted something different from what the communists

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are teaching about them.. But dad warned me that I must keep quiet about such things.

I always had to tell mother and dad everything that happened in school. I did not conceal anything from them.

C. Telling schoolmates about things that happened at home.

I told my best friend everything that happened at home. He lived next door to us and we were constantly in and out of each other's house. I had not secrets from him. He also told me what his father warned him about.

In school I kept quiet about such things that happened at home. My other school mates could not be trusted entirely. They visited our home very rarely and did not know our family.

I always believed my parents and never doubted what they told me. Our teachers never told us to believe them and not our parents. They did not tell us that a child does not have to obey his parents if they are not communists.

My parents always supervised my choice of friends. They always inquired about the boys with whom I associated. Sometimes they told me not to play with this or that boy, or to be extremely careful and not talk in front of some classmate.

They made us realize that if we tell others what we are talking about at home, the the AVH will come and arrest dad.

D. Activities after school

We usually ate lunch immediately after school. Then I had to do about two hours of homework every day. In winter, my mother would allow me to go and play when I was half through with homework if I did the homework first.

My parents did not assist me with my homework. On one or two occasions my father explained something I did not understand about mathematics, but that was all.

I read very much. My favorite authors were Gardonyi, Jokai. I also liked adventure stories, especially from Karl May (note: Indian and wild west stories, now on the "index") and Jules Verne.

I did not read any Hungarian translations of Soviet books. On one occasion a communist classmate gave me the "Young Guard" but I returned it to him unread. I did not borrow any books from the school library. I looked those books over and did not find a single one that seemed interesting. I was able to trade books with my classmates and with the families who lived in our apartment building.

I did not go very often to the cinema. My parents

or some adult friend of the family first had to see the film and give an opinion on it before we were allowed to go. I did not see one single Soviet film in Hungary. My parents did not let me see such films.

I played soccer on the class team and also on the play lot near our home. I also liked to swim and was very much interested in athletics. We had gymnastics in school but I also went regularly three or four times a week to a private gymnasium for exercise.

In his youth my father was a sportsman on the university athletic team. He took me to athletic races and to water polo games. I am at home in all sports with the exception of baseball. My father did not like football. I went to football games with my father's friend who was an ardent football (soccer) fan.

We went to hikes and outings with my friend and his father. The father used to be a scout master before the boy scouts were abolished in Hungary. I did not go to any of the school outings.

In the summer vacations I went to the tennis courts to pick balls for the players. In this way I earned spending money for the summer. In the forenoon there were usually very few players on the tennis court and I was able to play with the other boys. I liked tennis very much.

It was compulsory to be a member of the Pioneer Organization. I never went to any of the Pioneer meetings. I wore the red necktie only when it was necessary, for example on commencement day and at the celebration held to mark the end of the school year.

IV. Family

My father was an attorney, my paternal grandfather was a civil engineer. He built the Budapest-Balaton highway.

My mother became a widow shortly after her first marriage. She worked as a stenographer in a law office where she met my father. My maternal grandfather was a general, he died in 1928. Of my four grandparents, only my maternal grand-mother is living. She is now in Casablanca visiting my mother's sister.

We lived on the fourth floor of an apartment building in Falk Miksa Street in the fifth district of Budapest. Our apartment consisted of three rooms, a maid's room, bathroom, kitchen and hall. My half brother occupied the maid's room. One of the three rooms had to be sub-leased to another family. Only two persons were allowed one room in Hungary. I slept with my father in one room. My mother and sister slept in the other room. My grandmother did not live with us.

When my half brother was transferred to work in the country, I wanted very much to get his room. It was small but nice and quiet. He had all the privacy he wanted. He did not let me occupy the room because he always came home for weekends.

Mother did all the housework. ~~My sister~~ My sister and I always made our own beds, set the table, swept the floor and dusted the rooms. They did not tell us to do this, but we liked to do things for mother. I did not wash or dry dishes, this was girl's work, my sister helped my mother in the kitchen.

Up to 1948 we had a German nurse maid at home who taught us children German. I learned German before I learned Hungarian. But since then I have completely forgotten to speak German. When my father was dismissed from his job in the Ministry for Home Defense, (he worked in the Ministry's legal department until 1948) we were forced to dismiss the nursemaid. My parents speak German very well. If they want to say something which they do not want us to understand, they speak German at home.

V. Rewarding and Methods of Punishment

A. Rewards in school.

We did not get any rewards in school. On one occasion the music teacher in school won 50,000 forints on the state lottery. She treated the entire class to 0.5 kg, of lemon drops. Each pupils received a few peices.

But I received rewards for good report cards from my parents. I was promised five forints for every "5" mark (Note: this is the equivalent of A or 100/percent in athe American schools.) They always handed me the money. I kept it in the drawer of a small desk which I shared with my sister. I always received money for my birthday and made some money running after tennis balls on the courts and by collecting and selling old newspapers. I always had enough spending money, in this way. I also saved money to buy Christmas presents for teh the family.

B. Punishment in school.

I was never punished in school. If someone misbehaved, he was sent to the director for sfolding. If a pupil was impertinent he was slapped. Every teacher resorted to this form of punishment, even Mr. Majoros, our geography teacher. All this happened very rarely. If the children were bad, the teachers were allowed to slap or beat them. There was one boy who was slapped almost every day because he was too impertinent and sassy.

C. Punishment by parents

My parents never beat us. They did not let us do something which we would have liked to, for a week or so. For example, they forbade me to go and see my for a week; the one who lived in the same building. I came home once very late from the tennis court and was told that I could not go there for a weel. That was worsenthan getting a beating.

Dad was the "tribunal" in the family. He was very strict. Mother probably told him what punishment to admiaister.

VI. THE REVOLUTION

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A. The ~~causes~~ of the revolution.

The revolution broke out because of the Communist. The people had enough of communism during the past 12 years they wanted to abolish it. The whole thing started in Poland. The Poles staged an uprising in Poznan, and when everyone saw that they got away with it, this encouraged the people in Hungary to follow suit. Many communists sided with the freedom fighters. Originally, Maleter was sent out to subdue the revolution. Most of the demonstrators and fighters were young people of 18 or 19. They were too young to know what life was like before the war.

(Note: All this was obtained from subject without probing)/

B. and C. Deepest ~~em~~ impressions in connection with the revolution.
Participation

We were in school when the demonstration started. We saw ~~the~~ the students and workers march by from the window. The director of the school announced over the public address system that this was a silent demonstration marching to Bem square and that it was all over. Shortly after that the demonstrators were returning to Parliament square and shouting: "Hang the murderers." School was dismissed and we were told to go home.

My sister, my best friend and I went first to Parliament square. We looked on for some time and then went to the studio building. When I saw the first person killed by AVH bullets (she was a woman) and the Russian tanks approaching, I became very frightened and all three of us went home. I think my sister and my friend felt the same way as I did.

We were scolded at home for staying out so late, our parents were worried about us. It was well after 11 when we got home. There were no streetcars and the studio is far from where we live. My father told me we should have telephoned them from a pay station. I did not have any money in my possession, but my sister had enough to make a call from a pay station.

The apartment building where we lived was very near to the ministry for Home Defense. It was surrounded by Russian tanks and the Russians did not let us go out of the apartment building during the first round of the revolution.

From the windows of our apartment, by leaning out ^T far, we saw a part of the crowd which was demonstrating in front of the Parliament building of 25 October. When the shooting started we did not dare remain in the window. It lasted a long time. When it did die down, we ~~id~~ did not dare look out immediately. From the window we could see blood spots sprinkled in the sand. The corpses were already cleared away.

I was very much impressed when on the first evening of the

revolution the crowd was not afraid in front of the radio studio and stayed there although the AVH was shooting at it from the windows. Without arms, with bare hands they fought against the AVH and the Russians. And they kept on fighting even when it was clear that everything was lost.

In the second stage of the revolution, that is after 4 November, there was not much fighting in our neighborhood. The vicinity of the Ministry for Home Defense and the Parliament were captured without any resistance.

We took no part in the fighting during the first stage, not the second.

VII. FUTURE PLANS

After finishing high school, I would like to go to college and then to a university. I think I'll probably become an engineer or doctor. But I would not like to be a doctor who performs autopsies. It would not be bad to become a gymnastics instructor. That is more fun than work.

VIII. HISTORICAL PERSONALITIES

1. St. Stephan was the first king of Hungary. He introduced Christianity.
2. King Mathias was the son of Janos Hunyadi who fought against the Turks. Mathias was a just king and a good leader. Under his reign Hungary was at the height of its greatness.
3. Ferenc Rakoczi II was a Hungarian nobleman who staged a revolution against the Hapsburgs and fought against the Russians.
4. and 5. Sandor Petofi and Lajos Kossuth were revolutionary leaders of the 1848 revolution. Petofi was perhaps the greatest Hungarian poet that ever lived. What the communists write and say about them is not quite true. I know from what my father told me and from what I read in my encyclopedia, they did not want Communism at all.
6. Szechenyi created the National Museum and the Hungarian Academy of Science. (Note: Subject did not know of Szechenyi as the political opponent of Kossuth. Museum is false.)
7. Ferenc Deak was a writer I think. (Note: false).
8. I do not know exactly who Maria Theresa was. She was either the wife of the emperor Franz Josef, or ruled before him.
9. Gabor Bethlen was the ruler of Transylvania.
10. Mihaly Tancsics was a writer who was imprisoned before the 1848 revolution and freed by the revolution.
11. Gyorgy Dozsa. A peasant leader who staged an uprising which was crushed. He was executed by being roasted on an iron throne.
12. Jozsef Mindszenty is the Prince Primate of Hungary. (Note: not Cardinal.) He was imprisoned for eight years by the Communists. Now he is living in the U.S. Legation Building in Budapest.
13. Imre Nagy became prime minister in 1953. It was much better under his cabinet than under the Rakosi government. He wanted to improve the conditions in Hungarian agriculture and to stop giving preference

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to industry. He is now in Roumania as a prisoner of the Russians.

14. Miklos Horthy was the governor of Hungary until the end of World War II. It was good under his regime.

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