

- A.
1. 25 years old
 2. machinist apprentice
 3. an expert in vine culture
 4. in 1946 I went to B.A. machinist apprentice, in 1949 I became a tool-maker, for 3 months I went to a writer school for privates beginning in July, then in October I entered the Army.
 5. I entered the György Kilian Military Academy, was there for two years.
 6. Upon leaving the Academy, I came out with the rank of Second Lieutenant 1951 with the record bearing the mark "outstanding".
 7. Airforce.
 8. In 1952 I took part in the Memorial Day Flights and for good flying they made me a First Lieutenant. Two weeks later, because I did not follow orders and flew below 800 metres, - I went down to 400 - I lost a star. When Stalin died, I organized a mock funeral in secret. This became known and for three months I was under investigation as a political deviator. I was At the trial I got 18 months sentence, but then a Board of three suspended the indictment and sentence; ~~was~~ after that I was politically unreliable. My brother, who recently took his discharge from the Army, in 1940 wanted to leave the country. Now he cannot leave the house after 10 p.m.
- B.
1. At the induction they received us very well just as at

Officers' School. The school had a high level of training. The food for the students was not too good; we had to be in class for 12 hours a day, three and a half to four hours were about political matters, if we answered the question with a grade 3, we were kept in school. The political officers as instructors did not have very much respect for us. In the first year courses were given on the ground and after that by the fighter company. Flying went well for me, I wanted to be an instructor and my instructor was a good man. Everyone of us liked flying. We had a good spirit. However, when they commissioned us out of the 600 who started, only 49 were commissioned. The Kader sheets influenced them. After two years so many were kicked out. The whole discipline is terrible, very leisurely. When an instructor is lecturing, half the class is sleeping. This is in the infantry particular. The one who is a good Kader went ahead fast and moved to higher ranks. I helped one of these good Kaders get his Wings. He begged me to come ^{up} with him / on his solo flight. The ones who are politically right, such as he, had a house and three days after he was married. I had to wait three years.

Hungary had 300 or 500 fighter planes and also some bombers and there were some solo planes and MG 15 jet planes.

When we got over to flying, we received good food and they gave us more kinds of food. We received pocket money of 90 forints the first year and the second year we got 800 forints a month. We demanded this for family upkeep. During the third year we

received 1750 forints. When I was put into the 17th group as an instructor, I received 2150 forints with clothes and other items.

- (d) At first it looked good, but they squashed the wishes of the cadets, they didn't even let the cadet go home if his mother was sick, the studying and the material to cover was too much for 14 months. One after another there were nervous breakdowns, there were 4 suicides in my class, there was no relief or easing of the situation. The second year was worse because the political officer had control over us and examined us. When I became an instructor, I referred to the cadets in second person familiar when talking to them. This was not liked by the political officer. I had 6 cadets as an instructor; when they were commissioned, I was receiving my discharge and these boys were very sad.
2. In civilian life I had already been a pilot and I received an award for outstanding flying. Upon concluding my civilian flying school, we were asked who wanted to go to the Army or Airforce. I wanted to fly and I volunteered. I loved flying and I wanted to be a great flyer. It was my illusion of being a pilot. In fact, I still love flying and I want to get back to it if I can.
- (b) My expectations were not fulfilled, three infantry officers who had us in drill, were sadistic officers, they behaved terribly when our instructor was gone. Also when clothing was handed out, they threw everything at us and told us to

exchange/^{it}if it doesn't fit. In fact in 1952 we all had to have some girl friend or woman fix up our clothes which at that time, when issued, was very nice, but it didn't fit. It was the same with the shoes in 1952 also. There was no change from 1949, when I was inducted. Even if, taking a large number, 50,000 cadets would say something and agree upon it. The infantry officer would say that the cadets are lying, that they were not right. The superior offices believed in this dictatorial method. It was forbidden to give rights to the cadet, he was wrong. The Airforce political officers attended a quicky-school and finished their training in one year, were put out into the Airforce and they were the bases of the striccies. Upon them depended whether or not a cadet was commissioned.

3. As cadets we knew one another rather well. Some of the boys would run off to the political officers' house and look for favours. These were the poor flyers and it was these who became the DISZ officers. Then the uncertainty began as to who the informers were in the class of cadets; the boy who talked against the regime or against the political officer ~~Someone else~~ was reported to the political officer. A very small percentage of the commanding officers of the Airforce followed the politics. When I was an instructor, we told the boys to study a little of the politics so that the political officer won't talk so much and will not have too many complaints. We could find out who the Communists were in the Airforce and even among the cadets we could

discover the informers. Over at the Airforce, the convinced Communist did not succeed. He had to be a good flyer. Even being of worker or peasant origin did not help. A person had to study. Frequently the political officer would say to us "see how many peasant boys there are among you, this is what the Communists do for you, give you a chance to rise in the Airforce."

4. (a) We cadets discovered who the pro-Communists were in our room. They in the first year and the early part of the year would say to us "just think how much the Government is spending on us in training us". These boys had inherited this Communist sickness from their parents, they didn't get it in school. Their parents were those who were of very low origin and became Communists because it offered some financial improvement in their lot. They cattered this kind of a story, we knew them well.
- (b) One officer, who as a young boy, had very little education, his vocabulary was poor and he came in with certain hysteria-type Communist ideas. He always wanted to agitate among us. His parents were keepers of the forest and since 1945 they have received some land and cultivated it in a great forest. He held the Communist ideas good and pointed out in particular that the Communists have been building up Hungary in industrial production; but when the cadets began to speak against the Communists, he and other pro-Communists tried to tell us not to speak that way or to do things which would get the political

officer into trouble. These pro-Communists were Communists, at least 90% of them, because of self-interest.

- (c) Take my case and others who thought the same as I did. We all looked at our fathers and mothers and their position. My father worked from morning to night in order to eke out an existence and on top of it, they had to help me and others. In 1950 the buying power was such that 106 forints for a pair of shoes and 1954 426 forints for a pair of shoes. The Communist regime and Communist ideas by 1954 had had an opportunity to try their hand at the things in order to bring to reality the great promises, but everything was getting worse and not better. We knew what was happening at home, our mothers had to stand in line, but in spite of this, in school, at the Academy they said how well the workers live and how they are supplied with everything. We also knew the difficulty that young married couples had. They had a hard time too.
- (d) No, this did not happen. Officers hated the political officers, in fact we did not sit at the same table with the political officers at meals. The boys whom I instructed told me how the political officers took privileges away from them for an entire month. The political officers were more powerful than the regular officer of the same rank. The Government spent millions for political propaganda and this we disliked.

6. Yes, we discussed politics rather freely, the officers too had political classes which they had to attend every week. However, in the class the officers would say quite openly that under the previous regime or before, in comparison, my father able to buy many things, why is he not able to do this now. The political officer did not want to answer these questions. Party days were organized also for the Airforce officers at the Academy. Party membership was not required but if an officer wanted to advance, he had to join the Party. In fact they would ask you to step into the Party.

(b) Yes, but I knew who these were.

(c) Yes, we feared them, especially the cadets feared the informers because the cadets could be kicked out of school on the information such an informer gave to the political officer. Even the Academy officers feared informers.

(d) Yes, people were punished. The simplest way was to kick them out of the Airforce. If a political officer reported a cadet for not being prepared for political class, he was given four days disciplinary punishment. Even if the cadet flew very well, he was given four days for not flying well. This was the excuse.

(e) Many were discharged. 50% of the cadets were kicked out of the Academy, that is discharged, because of political reasons. Perhaps a relative had been a Party member who was put out of the Party or because the father of the cadet had been in the West in his youth, thus the future of the

boy for being discharged was very limited.

7. We hated them, the Russians that is, in fact we spit at the Russian soldiers. For a time the Communists tried to build up good relations between us and the Russians by bringing the Russian teams to Hungary and hoped that good relations would be built up through football-soccer matches, but these always ended in a fight between the Russians and Hungarians. At the Tisza Hotel, the Russians were afraid of us. If we came into the hotel, they would leave the table. We hated the Russian ~~uniforms~~ uniforms that we had to wear, it was almost ^{canvas} ~~canvas~~ and no air could get to the body. The boots were of a Russian type. The Hungarian soldier cursed at this clothing. The soldiers wearing ~~in~~ the canvas-leg boots froze in the winter and after walking 5 km their feet hurt. We also had to learn the Russian step, marching the Russian way of holding the gun, and the guns we have are long guns which almost reach to the ground, when holding them on our shoulder. In the Airforce we ^{had} ~~had~~ no contact with the Russians although there was a Soviet advisor there. He interfered in everything and his word was final.
8. The commander of the Airforce Academy had been in Russia but his own political attitude did not agree with the Communists. He did not want to say anything about the Soviets, he said I am a pilot, that is my job.
9. We hated it and it took us away from the real work that we

were supposed to do at the Academy.

(see above the clothes of question).

11. There was very good friendship among the Airforce men, except the handlicking officers were avoided. The higher superior officer, fearing their jobs, pushed the political waggon. They were not convinced Communists and only material interest and family considerations made them Party members or pushed the waggon of the Communists. The lower officers belonged to our group.
- (b) We instructors did not aid the Communists. Some officers were like me, when I did certain things; in fact I showed my record of offences to the cadets, it was a long one and I told them not to do the things that I did, because then ~~that~~ they will get along much better. The cadets liked the officers, the officers took the cadets to the city for entertainment. In cases of discipline it was always the political officer who handled these problems concerning disciplining officers.
- (c) Yes, from a civilian point of view, the Airforce had high prestige and the other units of the Army felt somewhat inferior before the Airforce. The young people were attracted more to the Airforce than to other branches.
- 12.(b) The boys were disciplined for small offences, they couldn't leave the Academy and if they did, they got one week, perhaps loss of rank. There were two kinds of jail, the regular jailing and the strict more severe punishment. The cadet was discharged from the Academy if he committed frequent

flying infractions, also if upon returning to the Academy, the train of a cadet was late and he arrived late at the Academy, he was thrown into jail for eight days. If a student offended an officer, he was immediately taken before the Military Court.

- (c) We did not have a free hand in our flying. We were not allowed to solve our problems alone; even if the situation was critical, they told us from the ground what to do and controlled us in that way. When we would fly under, ^{certain altitude} they would tell us "don't you know that you could have ruined the plane?". If in carrying out an order the execution of it was difficult, they were not worried about us as human beings, but kept telling us how much each plane costs the Communist Government in money.
13. See above.
14. The quality was good, but it was out-moded. The arms were old, fighter planes were tired out. Flying in Hungary was good, because there were two Radar Airports, aerometric equipment, radio compasses, radio receivers and broadcasting equipment in planes was good.
- 15.(a) Never, this had ended in Hungary. Now there is no Airforce in Hungary, the planes have been grounded, they cannot fly.
- (b) One has to examine this, Hungary will not be given a free hand, Hungary will be used as a servant and not as a trusted group. In the Airforce we always talked about turning against the Russians.

(c) The Yugoslav relation looked good; previously the Yugoslavs came over and talked to the Hungarian soldiers at the border. Rakosi tried to make trouble between us and the Yugoslavs, when Yugoslavia turned to the West.

(d) The Hungarians, since the Revolution, have great sympathy for the Poles.

C. When I was discharged from the Airforce, I returned to Stalinvaros and there became production planner. When I went home from the Airforce, I told my father that somethings was going to happen in the country. In Stalinvaros everyone knew that I had been an officer in the Airforce, they wanted me to be a DISZ member and a member of the Communist Party. However, I said 'no' I would not. When October the 23rd came, at the plant we decided to call all the men together in order to agree upon what we wanted to do. On October 24th we made a great demonstration in the city and pulled down all the Stars of the buildings, also the Russian Memorial came down. As the reports of fighting came from Budapest, the crowds said that we should go to Pest to help them. Then about 15.000 men began to march in the direction of the barracks. Before the crowd got there, I arrived just in time to talk to one of the officers. I told him that there will be trouble. We averted a slaughter at that point and going back to the crowd, they elected us as their leaders. I became the Revolutionary Council secretary. However, at night the crowd rushed the barracks, they were enraged, eighteen were killed. In order to stop this, we telephoned to the Central Points to shut

of all the water and electricity so that this kind of fighting would not go on - bare hands against modern weapons. Later we got all the arms from the barracks that we were able to secure and we were informed that the Russians were coming on November 4th. The Russians came and they said that if we do not give up the city by 5 o'clock, they would start to attack. Then all the boys were with us and said that they will fight to the end of the battle. In the meantime we got everybody to get into the cellars, we evacuated the hospital, which later was hit quite on purpose by the Russians with artillery. When the Russians sent jets over the city to strafe the resistance points, our defence was ineffective and finally some of the men even took revolvers to try to shoot the jets down. This indicates the feeble and ineffective arms we had. Then the Russians came in with ground forces and after some fighting everyone put down their arms. The Russians took over the city and began to look for armed men. We had previously captured the AVH, but we did not execute them. I went home after three days of staying in hiding. On December 2d I was called into the prosecutor's office. On January 7th I received a summons again; I went to work and at work my wife called me and she said that a friend of hers called from the prosecutor's office saying that she was now typing the arrest papers for me. I left the plant immediately and with three false papers I was able to get out of the country on January 10th.

- 3.(a) We had a definite hope and we certainly thought that some kind of help would be coming from the West. The Boosky Station, which we established, stayed on the air until November 6th.

It was a mobile unit and therefore the Russians could not locate it as it kept on moving. After the Russians captured the city of Stalinvaros, it went out of the city, well parked in a tunnel where it continued to broadcast until the 6th. This station kept telling the Hungarian people to wait for help and it spoke toward Radio Free Europe and the UN. Everybody had been so happy when the Revolution was successful, we all went to work together.

Interviewer's Comments.

Here is an interview which speaks for itself. A young man who loves flying with the Airforce, being discharged regularly, because of the political interference and the political indoctrination that the Airforce officers had to contend with. The fact that he became the Secretary of the Revolutionary Council in Stalinvaros indicates the fact that the community trusted his judgment. During the Revolution he showed wise judgment frequently on military points of view and in attempting to save the lives of the citizens from needless slaughter. He is in the West alone, his wife and child are still in Hungary.