

ADAM P.

Adam was born on November 11, 1938, the day after *Kristallnacht*, in Miskolc, Hungary. His parents converted to Lutheranism after their marriage, as they felt that life would be easier for them. His family, however, remained open about being Jewish.

Despite converting to Christianity, and being an engineer, Adam's father found it difficult to live and work as a Jewish person in Hungary. There were few jobs and the family was struggling financially. He wanted to immigrate to America, but his wife's family was against the move. In 1939, however, Adam's father moved to Chile, expecting his family to follow once he was established. Instead, the war broke out and the family was separated. Adam and his mother moved in with an aunt and uncle. There, Adam remembers mostly happy occasions and family festivities.

When Germany occupied Hungary in March 1944, Adam was taken across the street to live with a gentile family, Mr. and Mrs. Balaz. Adam assumed the role of their Christian nephew and the Balaz family treated him lovingly. He only saw his mother twice after the occupation, once before she entered the ghetto and once when he was taken to visit her inside the ghetto. Adam would later learn that his mother died in a forced labour camp. Ultimately, only one uncle and aunt in his family would survive the war.

During the war, Adam was denounced to the Germans on three separate occasions. On the first two occasions, the Balazs somehow managed to convince the Germans that he truly was their nephew. On the third time, however, the Gestapo summoned Adam, but he hid in the attic when they came for him. Adam was moved to the home of relatives of the Balazs' in a nearby village, where he was in "real hiding." In November 1944, when the war was coming to a close, Mr. Balaz returned for Adam. On December 4, Russian troops occupied the town.

By September of 1945, after the war had ended, Adam began attending first grade. Once contact was reestablished with his father, Adam travelled to Chile to be reunited. The journey took almost six months, and a woman who was traveling to Chile accompanied him.

As an adult, Adam lived in Chile with his wife and three children. In the mid-1970s, he was imprisoned by the military regime for 18 months. In 1975, he came to Canada as a refugee and his family followed.

SEE THE TESTIMONY RECORD OF [ADAM P., 1990](#) IN THE VHEC'S COLLECTIONS FOR RELATED HOLDINGS AND FOR INTERVIEW DETAILS.