

# DANIEL W.

Daniel was born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1927. His father had a license for a salt business with a business partner who went on to join the Nazi party. Daniel was the only Jewish student in his school. As a result, he was singled out by his teacher and excluded from certain school activities. In order to protect Daniel, a family friend took him in as one of their workers.

When Daniel was 16, his father was denounced to the Nazis and sent to a labour camp and then to Auschwitz. The rest of Daniel's family was ordered into the ghetto and then deported to a brick factory and, ultimately, to Birkenau. Upon arrival, Daniel was separated from the rest of his family and never saw them again.

To escape the conditions at Birkenau, Daniel and a friend arranged to be sent to a work camp. In early January, the 20,000 prisoners at the work camp were forced to march to Gross-Rosen camp. Daniel was then transported in a cattle car to Germany, where he was forced to clean the streets of Hannover before being transported to Dachau. He remained in Dachau for three months, waiting for the war to end. The prisoners eventually got word that Hitler had committed suicide.

One night, after the SS had the prisoners of Dachau transported from Dachau to Mittenwald, Daniel and a friend escaped into the mountains. Daniel was shot twice in the leg. On May 1, 1945, Daniel saw the liberating army advancing. He was sent to the hospital by a Jewish American soldier to have his leg treated. After his recovery, he returned to Dachau, which had been turned into a displaced persons camp. Then 17 years old, Daniel decided to go to Italy and then Vienna, where he learned that his father had died in Auschwitz.

Daniel stayed in Hungary from 1945 to 1956. In 1949, he tried to escape to Israel but failed, which resulted in his having to spend three years in the Hungarian army. He married in 1954, and his son was born in 1955. When the revolution started in 1956, the rise of antisemitism led his family to flee to Austria. Daniel's family ultimately immigrated to Canada and settled in Vancouver. Daniel's daughter was born in Canada. He operated his own bakery business from 1957 to 1972, and then opened a picture framing company.

SEE THE TESTIMONY RECORD OF [DANIEL W., 1984](#) IN THE VHEC'S COLLECTIONS FOR RELATED HOLDINGS AND FOR INTERVIEW DETAILS.