

TOM S.

Tom was born in Budapest, Hungary, on May 19, 1935. All four of his grandparents were assimilated Jews. His mother had been raised as a Protestant, and his father converted to Christianity as a teenager in order to attend medical school. After Hungary was occupied in 1944, however, Tom's family was considered Jewish by the Nazi authorities, and were forced to wear the yellow star.

Tom's father was no longer allowed to practice medicine and was held in a detention centre. He was then deported by train, and forced to march to Mauthausen. Tom's father survived the gruelling march, but died from typhus just before liberation in April 1945. Tom's remaining family had been arrested and taken to an assembly area in an old school. The next day, a family friend who belonged to the Hungarian Nationalist Socialist party, the Arrow Cross, pretended to arrest them and took the family to the ghetto where they would be safer.

Tom was in the ghetto from October 1944 until liberation in February 1945. After liberation, the family went to live with surviving relatives in Transylvania, but Tom had a difficult time both emotionally and psychologically. In 1947, he moved to Switzerland to live with his aunt and uncle, who adopted him. He came to Canada in 1951 and was joined by his mother and younger brother in 1956. Tom studied engineering and geology and became a teacher before switching to civil service. He settled in Vancouver in 1974.

SEE THE TESTIMONY RECORDS OF [TOM S., 1984](#) AND [TOM S., 2013](#) IN THE VHEC'S COLLECTIONS FOR RELATED HOLDINGS AND FOR INTERVIEW DETAILS.