

Holocaust Survivor Biography: Dr. George Frank



Dr. George A. Frank was born in Budapest, Hungary in April 1938. In late 1943, certain apartment houses were designated by the Hungarians to be “yellow-star” buildings where all Jews were supposed to live. His widowed Grandmother lived in such a building and they moved there.

In March 1944, the German army invaded Hungary and soon after ordered all the Jewish people in Budapest to wear the yellow Star of David. His father was sent to a labor camp and only returned on the weekends. Towards the summer he never returned at all.

Under Adolph Eichmann’s command, the Nazis murdered more than 450,000 Hungarian Jews between March 1944 and April 1945, about half the prewar population. Dr. Frank survived the Holocaust by hiding with a Catholic woman. Her Jewish husband and George’s father served in the same labor camp and arranged, in advance, for George to be picked up by the Catholic wife in case the need arose. In late summer 1944, members of the Hungarian Nazi Arrow Cross Party came to deport the Jews from the building. Someone warned George’s mother who took him to a woman friend’s apartment who, in turn, notified the Catholic woman of the need for her to come to take George with her.

George’s mother and grandmother died in the Holocaust but his father returned to Budapest months after the war ended. George finished high school in 1956 and escaped to Vienna after the Hungarian Revolution in October 1956. His father and stepmother joined him a few weeks later. His family immigrated to the United States in February 1957. He is married and has two children and two grandchildren.

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Witness to History Project:

The Witness To History Project is designed to further the message and lessons of the Holocaust by direct interaction between students or interested adults and Holocaust survivors. Participants "adopt" a survivor by learning his or her unique account of via listening to the survivor tell his/her story, asking questions, writing a biography, reviewing a videotape, and memorizing and re-telling the story to others. Ultimately, the participant will have the lifelong job of educating others about the Holocaust by sharing this personal narrative. Contact the Holocaust Awareness Museum to participate.

Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center

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