

From the Testimony of Olga Albogen about Antisemitism in Pre-war Hungary

Q: You went, of course, to a Hungarian school there.

A: Yes.

Q: Did you feel a sort of antisemitism?

A: Definitely. We had a Jewish school. There was a Jewish school, a Jewish teacher. We had a very nice teacher - I loved him.

Q: Were there many Jewish schools in this part?

A: No, that was the only one.

Q: So you did not go to a non-Jewish school. Only the Jewish school.

A: No, no. This Jewish school.

Q: And you mentioned, I asked you if you have experienced any sort of antisemitism.

A: Of course. Wherever we went on the street, the street, they were yelling after you, "Jew".

Q: Before the war.

A: Before the war. They were yelling, "Jew, go to Palestine. Jew, you don't belong here." And my father had a small beard and whenever they saw somebody with a beard they were trying to pull it and they did.

Q: Before the war.

A: Before the war. Definitely.

Q: Was it a Zionist home?

A: My grandfather was very religious and he didn't believe, not that he didn't believe, just that Zionist didn't go with him. But my father was very modern and he talked about it a lot. There were no meetings or anything in that small town to go to. We only, what we had a Jewish paper and a Hungarian paper delivered every day from Budapest by mail, so we knew what's going on more or less, whatever we could. And in the 30's I was really a young teenager when Hitler...didn't occupy Hungary because Hungary made a deal with Hitler to give him all the...whatever they grew - wheat and whatever, stuff - so he didn't come, he didn't occupy Hungary. But on the other hand, Hungary had to make laws against the Jews. The first thing was, they took away permits. My grandfather's liquor store, whatever they called it wine cellar - he had a big

wine cellar - they took away the permits from that, and who sold tobacco, that was the second one they took away from Jews.

Q: What year was that already?

A: I don't really.... '36, '37, something like it.

Q: Even already then?

A: Of course, of course. It was really.... And then Jews were not allowed to keep a maid in the house, non-Jewish. Not allowed to. We had somebody to help in the house - we're not allowed to have her anymore. Who were neighbours and friends we grew up with, they didn't even greet us anymore, they wouldn't say "hello" on the street.

Q: That was much later now.

A: In the 30's.

Q: Already?

A: Already then, yes.

Q: What was the change?

A: Hitler changed it. Order the radio - there was no television, but on the radio it was constantly....

Q: Ah, you mean already the end of the '30's.

A: The end of the '30's.

Q: That's something else of course. When Hitler came to power.

A: '36, '37, and he constantly against the Jews to kill them off and whoever goes into a Jewish store is going to be hanged and punishable by death. And those goyim took it so...word by word and they made more of it.

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