



Two-fold invasion

Never to be the same

Impact of WWII on my family

By

Geza Ginzery

Good Days in Transylvania – 1941-1945



Margit András
József Vilma Sándor Elizabeth Sándor



My grandfather, Sándor



My father, Lieutenant Colonel József Ginzery, was a career soldier in the Hungarian Army

Good Days in Transylvania – 1941-1945



After the war starts - 1941



MY FATHER GOES TO THE FRONT

During the War



TRENCH ART



The Hungarian crest and "Galicia 1944" under it.



The inscription reads: "Emlékül Mucikámnak" or "Souvenir for my Muci".



The back of the vase has a tulip on it.



A soldier is depicted in the back of the vase.



It's the Hungarian crest on top. The year is 1944 with Galicia under it.

Drawings



The war reaches us



Fertőszentmiklós age 6, guarding my baby brother Péter. I still have the hat.

RUSSIAN INVASION 1944 - 1945

My Father is a POW

TIÉD AZ ORSZÁG,
MAGADNAK ÉPITED!

Máramarosziget, 1948. 18. / 11.

Édeseim! Egészívesen megérkeztem. Kb. szerda -
csütörtök érkezhetek Debrecenbe. Sanyiekat értesítet.
Végtelen szeretettel gondol feleik és a várva-várt viszontlátást
mindnyájukat igaz szeretettel csókol a le

Jimíd

Eljen békénk biztosítéka, a Szovjet-Unió és Magyarország örök szövetsége.

Ajka, 1945, VII, 18.

Kedves nagyságosasszony.

Értesitem, hogy kedves férjét 1945 VII. 18-án
vitték fogolyvonattal Ajkanevű állomáson keresztül
valószínűleg Pestre vihették őket kivizsgálásvéget
Nettessék aggógni érte majd csak haza vezéréli őket
egyszer a jó Isten. Ezt a táborilapot dobta ki,
hogy adjam fel.

Maradok üdvözlettel és kézcsókkal

Öcsi József,

DURING IMPRISONMENT



Each of the pedestal's three levels slides back to come apart.



This crucifix is only about five inches tall.

MY FATHER'S CARVINGS

Money is worthless



This one-million note had an expiration date of 07/31/1945 and was issued in May of the same year, a useful life of three months.



Less than six months later it was necessary to issue this one hundred million note.



Another million note issued in November 15th in 1945. It's interesting that they included the issue month and day.



This is the largest denomination note I have: A one BILLION note!

Destruction of Budapest

Buda Castle, Budapest, Hungary



Historical Buda castle and palace complex of the Hungarian Kings in Budapest. It was first completed in 1265, although the massive Baroque palace today occupying most of the site was built between 1749 and 1769. The complex in the past was referred to as The Royal Palace.



Buda Castle was the last major stronghold of the Nazi and Hungarian troops. The main entrance to the castle was destroyed - and never rebuilt.



The siege of Budapest was one of the most brutal battles of World War II, with the Castle District suffering the greatest damage. Only 1,400 of the approximately 6,500 flats standing in the vicinity of Castle Hill remained intact.



And the devastation continued after the war: the communist dictatorship destroyed many buildings for ideological reasons, even though they could have been saved or rebuilt. Many iconic buildings, including several churches and the Castle Garden, fell victim to communist "restoration".



Clearing of the ruins began almost immediately after World War II, but the restoration of the palace was not undertaken.

After the defeat of the 1956 revolution, the solidified Kádár regime intended a more cultural function for the palace after its restoration. The castle now houses the Hungarian National Gallery and the Budapest Historical Museum.

Destruction of Budapest

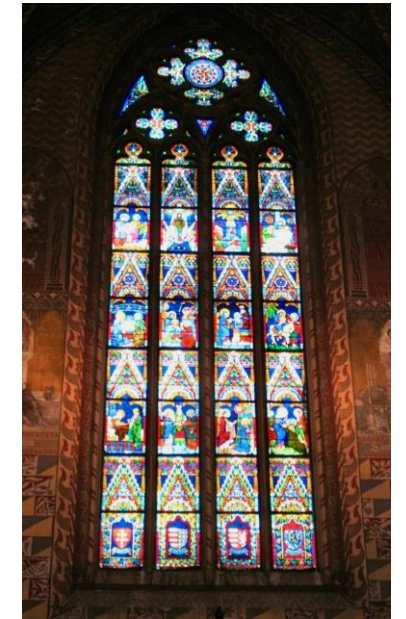
Matthias Church, Budapest, Hungary



Matthias Church was built in the 13th century, and since then it has been extended and rebuilt so many times: each era, style, ruler and Castle siege has left its mark on the building.



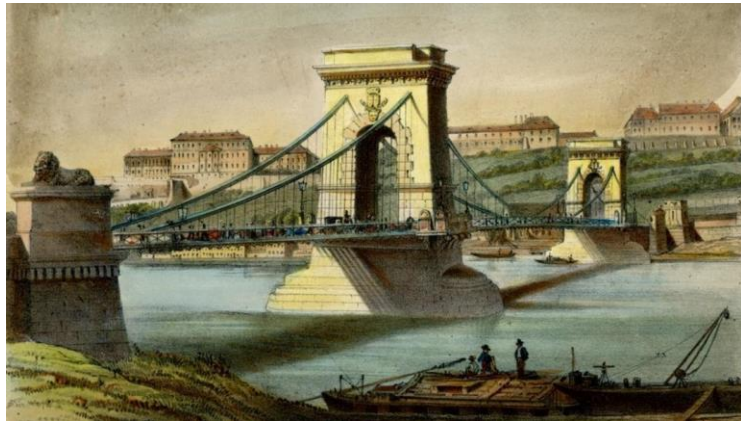
During World War II the church was badly damaged. Matthias Church was used as a camp by the Germans and Soviets in 1944-1945 during the Soviet occupation of Hungary.



During World War II, the city suffered serious damages, but fortunately, there were treasures that they managed to save. Such was the case with the stained-glass windows made by Bertalan Székely and Károly Lotz, which were hidden from the church during the war, so the originals can still be seen on the southern side of the church.

Destruction of Budapest

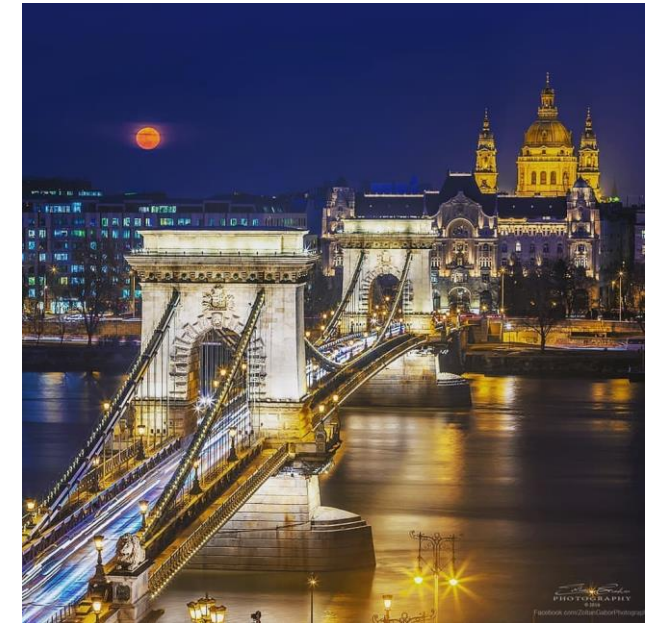
Széchenyi Chain Bridge Budapest, Hungary



The foundation stone of the Chain Bridge is located under the bridgehead in Pest. It was laid down 180 years ago, on the afternoon of 24 August 1842,



The Széchenyi Chain Bridge and Buda Castle in ruins after World War II (1946). In World War II, the bridge was blown up on 18 January 1945 by the retreating Germans during the Siege of Budapest, with only the towers remaining.



It was rebuilt and reopened in 1949.

1948

God brings my father home



LIFE UNDER COMMUNISM



LIFE UNDER COMMUNISM



Árpi relaxing in the Canary Islands



REVOLUTION - 1956

MAKING PLANS FOR A NEW LIFE



TIME IN AUSTRIA



Altkettenhof Schloss



TIME IN AUSTRIA



This tag was on a package we received in one of the refugee camps. It reads: "A gift from the PEOPLE of the UNITED STATES through the ESCAPEE PROGRAM." I don't remember everything that was in the package but it certainly endeared me to this country and its people.

TIME IN KAMMER/ATTERSEE



Hungarian Middle School

TIME IN KAMMER/ATTERSEE



Ungarische Mittelschule Kammer/Attersee

Hungarian Middle School, Kammer/Attersee





MY PATH TO THE USA

Hungary as a country before & After WWI & WWII





This is my favorite family picture taken in 1943, when I was three years old.

Standing left to right are Babi and her husband, my mother's brother Saly István, my mother's sister Kató, her brother Jóska's wife Magdolna, my grandmother Erzsébet, my mother's brother Jóska, my mother Mária, her sister, Manci and her daughter Katinka,

Sitting from left to right are: my cousins Őcsi and his sister Éva, Kató's husband Gyurka, my grandfather Saly István with my sister Annamária sitting in his lap, yours truly sitting on my father's lap, Dóda (Joseph) by his father Lehel Victor and János, his other son.

The Ginzery Family

To infinity and beyond!



Kálmán and my father with a mutual friend on the poor AJS.
This picture was originally on a glass negative for over fifty years
before being transferred to paper.



Recommended viewing

<http://maryandgeza.com> website

[Moscow on the Hudson](#) with Robin Williams – available thru SALs

[The Pianist](#) with Adrian Brody – available thru SALs

Hungarian Alphabet

A half	Á sun (but longer)	B big	C tsunami	Cs child	D done
Dz kids	Dzs jam	E get	É café	F fun	G go
Gy during	H hand	I lip	Í egg	J yes	K key
L law	Ly yes	M mum	N no	Ny canyon	O old
Ó coat (longer O)	Ö hgr	Ő (longer Ö)	P pen	Q ★	R radio
S she	Sz soft	T ten	Ty tube	U put	Ú noon (longer U)
Ü tu (French)	Ű (longer Ú)	V very	W ★	X ★	Y ★
Z zebra	Zs pleasure	<p>★ J and LY are pronounced exactly the same.</p> <p>★ The letter Q, W and X are only used in the spellings of foreign words, Y is found only in old name spellings (pronounced as "I") and in digraphs.</p>			