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HUNGARY

REFILE (1200)

Life Of Story

SOURCE TRIESTE

: R. F. E.

DATE OF OBSERVATION

: Until March 1952.

EVALUATION COMMENT

: None, since source speaks for himself.

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I was born in BUDAPEST in 1921, of an Italian father and a Hungarian mother. My father - a mechanic by profession - emigrated from Italy right after the first world war. After graduating from secondary school I specialised as a technical worker and worked as such in various factories in BUDAPEST, e.g. the GANZ and MAVAG factories, until the second world war broke out.

Being an Italian citizen I was called to serve in the Italian Army in Italy in 1941. During one of my furloughs I went to Hungary where I married a Hungarian girl. Then I returned to fight at the African front. In 1942 I was taken prisoner by the British troops and after the armistice of 1943 I enlisted in the British Army with which I fought on the Italian front until the retreat of the Germans. In the fall of 1944 I was in BELFONO. I had already received news of the birth of my son and I wanted to go to Hungary to see my wife and my new-born child. But my leave of absence had already expired and to have it extended I had to reach my military unit which was stationed in Africa at that time. Since I doubted that I would be able to get an extension of my furlough and also because I would have had to go too far away from my goal I decided to desert the Army and go to Hungary clandestinely via Austria. I managed to do so and reached my family in

(Over)

Budapest. My father had died meanwhile during the siege of the town.

For the whole time until 1947 I was employed as a specialised worker in the MAVAG Factory. Then I was engaged at the refrigerator factory in BUDAPEST on the Lóporatár Street No. 9/11, precisely in the planning office (Qyartastervazo).

Although the situation had grown much worse during the last year I still managed to live fairly well with my family, earning 1700 Forint the month, including family allowances. We lived in RAKOSPALOTÁ, and my wife only occupied herself with the household. At home we always spoke Hungarian and therefore I still find it rather difficult to express myself in Italian.

In order to keep my job was obliged to join the Communist Party in 1949, as for the rest, also the majority of my work companions had to do. By regularly attending the party meetings, I managed to avoid being troubled. I only talked confidentially and openly with my most intimate friends who were also party members for necessity's sake.

In July 1950 I registered for evening courses for mechanical engineering at the BUDAPEST University. Every day I worked in the factory until 14,00 hours and then from 15,00 until 20,00 hours I attended the evening school. The later evening hours were spent at home with my family and we used to listen to the Western radio broadcasts.

At the beginning of 1952 my wife and I decided to repatriate to Italy because life was becoming more difficult from day to day and also because there were rumors that all foreigners would soon be dismissed from their jobs. We received our exit visa at the beginning of March 1952 and a few days later we left for Italy leaving all our belongings with my mother-in-law.

Before my departure all my work companions in the factory and all my friends congratulated me for the great luck I had in being able to leave Hungary. Many of them asked me to tell people in Italy about the difficult living conditions in Hungary. But when I arrived in Italy nobody asked me about anything. I was astonished about so much indifference and I did know where to turn to give vent to my bitter feelings which had accumulated during so many years of a difficult life under the Communist regime. In hope to be able to return to Hungary some day, since she is my second country and I very fond of her.