

Tibor was born in [Budapest, Hungary](#) in the summer of 1934. Tibor's father, Mor, came from an Orthodox family and had three other brothers. Tibor's mother was not very religious on her own. Tibor's mother, Ilona, was born and raised in the countryside of Hungary, and travelled back and forth to Vienna. Before Tibor's parents got married, Mor had been considered Polish living in Hungary. Before he proposed, Ilona made one contingency... that Mor and his brother's would become Hungarian citizens. By doing this, it had saved his parents and ultimately, Tibor's life. Ilona had heard from relatives in Vienna and London to flee Hungary during the war, however, Tibor's father didn't want to leave his mother. [On March 19th, 1944, the German troops began to occupy Hungary](#). Tibor was just ten years old and remembers seeing German motorcycles and cars when he was in a coffee shop with his father and uncles. Tibor's grandmother had lived in an apartment that was apart of the [designated Jewish housing and Tibor and his parents moved in with her](#). Tibor lived in a fifth floor apartment and didn't have a bathroom in his apartment. There was a shared toilet for the floor of the apartment building. At this time, Tibor's father had been taken away multiple times by officials and was sent to different labor camps. One day, there was an attack on one of the buildings apart of the Jewish sector. The building, which had a synagogue in it, was being shot at. After this incident, Ilona had said to Tibor that they were getting out of here (Hungary). After the attack on the building, Tibor, his mother, and grandmother had left their apartment and headed to Tibor's old violin teacher. Everybody knew everybody where Tibor lived and word had gotten out that there were two Jewish citizens trying to leave because they lived across the street from an Aryan building. Ilona wasn't the meek type and stood up for her and her son. Tibor and his mother were on their way to the violin teacher when they were stopped in the park by two Hungarian soldiers for having false papers on October 15th, 1944. Tibor's grandmother was following Tibor and his mother and was ten-fifteen paces behind them. She wasn't stopped by the Hungarian soldiers. Tibor has said that he was lucky before he was born and was lucky that him and his mother weren't stopped by the Hungarian Arrow Cross. He presumes that when his mother was speaking with the soldiers, she had told them that they were Jewish and they were stunned by how honest she was. After Ilona and the soldiers spoke, they had saluted and walked away from Tibor and his mom. After this incident, Tibor and his mother slept in a store for a few days and eventually went into hiding.

When they were in hiding, Tibor and Ilona were about thirty minutes away from their home and were in a small room from the beginning of November until liberation. The room was blocked by credenzas and they were given food through the chimneys and holes of the room. After liberation, Tibor went to high school and his grandmother, unfortunately, passed away in 1951. Tibor and his parents had lived in the same apartment they were in during the war (with his grandmother). Eventually, Tibor was drafted into the Hungarian army in 1954, when he was twenty years old. He eventually was released from the army in October of 1956 about ten days before the [Hungarian revolution began](#) (October 23rd, 1956). After the war, Tibor's father was very ill and had lung cancer due to his heavy smoking. Right before the revolution, Mor had an operation and was in the hospital in October of 1956. When they were all in the hospital, Tibor's father told them that they had to get Tibor out of the country. Tibor and Ilona left Hungary on October 24th and rented a bus to drive to Andau on October 25th, a town near the border of Hungary. The next day, Tibor and his mother were put on a train to Italy and then they eventually went to meet family in Vienna. Tibor's family discussed him moving to Montreal with his family and they

eventually settled on him not going for another six months because his English wasn't very good. After the family discussion, Tibor stayed in Vienna for a little bit of time and eventually moved to the United States. Tibor was granted refuge to the United States because he left Hungary on a certain date and the United States lifted their quota on refugees. Unfortunately, Ilona was unable to join him because her husband was still in Hungary and the authorities wouldn't allow her to leave. Tibor arrived in the United States at McGuire Air Force Base and stayed at Camp Kilmer (which was where most Hungarian refugees went) for some time through the work of the agency, Hias. Tibor's father, Mor, passed away on May 10th, 1957 and eventually, his mother came to the United States in June of 1957. Tibor had moved with the International Rescue Committee to Washington DC and eventually went to Minnesota. He then served in the United States military and moved to New York, where he has lived for over sixty years.