

Blanka Gallo's Brother Zoltan Leimseder



This is my brother Zoltan Leimseder. The photo was taken in front of our house in Nyiregyhaza, sometime in the 1930s, I think.

Zoltan was born in 1916. He attended yeshiva, but I can't remember where. But he didn't go for long. The boys continued to study on Saturday even later. Zoltan helped in father's business.

My father was a tropical fruit dealer in Nyiregyhaza. Until the outbreak of the war in 1939 my father brought the fruit from Italy. There (were) oranges, mandarins, chestnuts, dates, grapes, figs.

It was a big business. My father rented huge orchards - including Prime Minister Kallai's, for 100 thousand forints a year in pengo (pre-WWII Hungarian currency).

It was an orchard of around 100 acres and in August there was a great harvest and then Kallai called my father over to Kallosemlyen to tell him how good the harvest was and how cheap he had rented it for.

Then my father asked 'Sir, do you want to use force? Because if so, I'll rip up the contract.' In the end they agreed that he would give back 50 thousand pengos and half of the fruit would be his.

But he promised to bring my two brothers, Zoltan and Hugo, who were forced laborers in the Soviet Union, back home. It wasn't his fault that he could not do so.

He was attacked so severely he couldn't do it. My brothers did not come back (from forced labor).