

Helen Grunstein And Her Little Son, Erno



You can see on this photo Helen Grunstein, the first wife of my husband with her little boy, and it is written on the photo's back: 'To Daddy, Mom and little Erno'. It was taken in 1942 on the street in Marosvasarhely. It seems they are standing in front of a grocery. You can see it is written: 'Sugar, flour'. My husband was doing work service in Nagybanya, so they sent him this photo there. My husband preserved and took a good care of these pictures with his former family.

My husband went to school in Bethlen; he was studying a lot using electric light, until he went blind. All this happened when he was some fifteen-sixteen years old; so they took him to Kolozsvár, and he was operated. They told him he must stop learning. Thus he learnt to work in leather, but I don't know where. Before the war he worked already in leather in Bethlen, then he moved to Marosvasarhely. Here he was selling broadcloth in a private shop; he met his first wife, Helen Grunstein there. She was from Beszterce. In Kolozsvár she stayed at an uncle, who raised her, then she came to Marosvasarhely to work, she was a clerk in a hardware shop. In the meantime, in 1935 my husband was enrolled in the army. He was in the Romanian army in Szatmarnemeti; he was twenty-one at that time. He was allowed to leave for one day, when they got married. After he demobilized - this was around 1937 -, they lived in Marosvasarhely in the Cuza Voda street, in his wife's house until deportation. He had a son, he was called Erno, and was born in 1940. [Editor's note: According to photo number Erno Grunstein was born approximately in March 1941.] They were deported together with the wife and daughter of Marci. My husband and my brother-in-law, Marci were taken to work service; the two of them came back, but their wives and children perished in Auschwitz.