

RG-50.002.0082 Enock Trencher

Summary

Enock Trencher, born on 10 March 1926 in Krakow, Poland, describes his family and childhood; moving to Krosno, Poland; his father who was a butcher; he was one of eight children being raised with his father's parents before the war; he finished 6th grade; One brother active in the Polish Army, one recalled; remained in own home in Krosno (which was established as a ghetto for a year after Germans occupied Poland; his family took in four other families at this time; his sister made dresses for the German aristocracy in 1941-thought this would save them so they reported to the marketplace 1 week after the first request to do so; he stepped out when the request came for men between the ages of 18-35, he was 14 at the time; assigned to work in Grabownica oil fields, was provided a home and lived there with Brother-in-law and five year old nephew he had retrieved from a Gentile family, he remained there for 6 months until they liquidated the village of Grabownica at the end of 1942; he took a train to larger camp in Reichshof (Rzeszów) he lived for 1 year-during this time he contracted Typhus; he worked outside of ghetto in the woods cutting forest for three months before the forest cutting camp (the name he has forgotten) and the Reichshof (Rzeszów) ghetto were liquidated; he was next sent to a large camp in Pustkow where he made brushes for the SS-he remained here for 1 year until 1943; he was next sent to Birkenau where he remained for 3 weeks until moving on to Ostoberschlesien where he worked in a factory for the German Defense (now 16 years old) (end of video 1); he was evacuated from this camp in November of 1944 and was sent to Mauthausen for 3 weeks; he was next sent on a train to another camp/factory near Dresden - now Jan 1945; he was next sent on a death march, which lasted 1 week, to a holding camp 5 km from Theresienstadt where he was fed, Jews were separated from the group and marched the remaining 5 km to Theresienstadt where he spent a few weeks amongst 30,000 crippled/elderly Jews before being liberated by the Russians at 65lbs (normal healthy weight of 125-130lbs); he registered as a displaced person in Landsberg and then went on to the English zone of Bergen-Belsen where he spent 6 months-while there they were visited by Ben-Gurion; he next registered as a legal alien and returned to his hometown of Krosno, Poland and was able to gather family belongings from the neighbors; his older brothers were on the Russian side at the end of the war and were sent to Siberia; one brother was in Belgium at the start of the war and did not survive (Enock learned he was taken on a transport after the war); Enock spent a few months near Katowice; he moved to a city in Regensburg and was able to get a place using a German ID and after 6-7 months, his brothers joined him; Enock took his brothers out of a Displaced Persons camp at night using false papers obtained from France; Enock emigrated to the US in 1949 after receiving a Displaced Person visa from two Uncles and an aunt and joined the Uncle and Aunt in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Enock's Uncle in Miami, Florida died the week after he arrived; Enock's brothers (Bernard and Sol) went to Israel initially but after 2-3 weeks the war broke out and six months later they joined Enock in the United States (one passed away in 1983 and one as of the time of the interview also lived in the same town-Union, NJ); Aunt's family surname is Penner, an affluent group who had been in the United States since before WWI but would not help Enock get a job; his first job was 6 days per week/12 hours per day for \$25/week; he was fired when he came due for a mandatory \$5 raise; he next spent one year in

Portland, Maine with his brother Sol; Sol moved first to New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts; Enock went to NY and spent a year working as a bus boy, package handler, courier, and paper cutter; Enock offered \$1000 to a meat handler named, Sam Breitowitz, to learn the trade; he spent three years in Monticello, NY and moved to NYC, joined the union and went into business with a partner in Grocery/Meats; he got married; opened another business in Newark, NJ; had three kids; at the time of the interview (1984) his oldest daughter was married with a two year old and his twins were 21 years old and in college; he sold his business last year (1983) in East Orange, NJ due to difficult times and concerns for his safety and at the time of the interview, he was running a summer business (an ice cream shop) and receiving a German government pension for 40% disability.