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Summary

Sol Einhorn, born in Gorlice, about 50 yards from Czech border, in 1922, describes his family and childhood; his family was Orthodox, his grandparents had a farm with two cows and a general store, his father rented a sawmill to provide lumber to farmers, his mother was a housewife, Sol went to school, *cheder*, learned English through self-study with Berlitz books, and worked as a clerk, his brother who was two years older, his sister who was two years younger than him; his mother had a sister Sara and other relatives in the United States; in 1932 his grandparents' farm was burnt down; hearing Germans were arriving and Sol running away with a group of seven or eight boys toward Russia for about two weeks and then returning home; not recognizing his Orthodox grandfather who no longer had his long beard; He describes the ghetto in Gorlice until it was liquidated in July 1942, his family staying in their home but making room for people to move in with them in the ghetto, the forced labor working in a brick factory making bricks and working in a field and picking potatoes or weeds, bringing his tefillin to pray on the train in the early morning each day; his experiences in forced labor camps Plaszów and Skarżysko-Kamienna, German concentration camps Buchenwald and Allach, subcamp of Dachau, during the end of the war. In Plaszów, working for Siemens doing construction work building a railroad bridge; in 1943, being one of the first ill during typhus epidemic, recovering and being deaf for three months, volunteering to work as male nurse temporarily, moving corpses behind the barracks after executions; in Skarżysko-Kamienna from late 1943 to early 1944, working in an ammunition factory, during Pesach a group of observant Jews would not eat bread so others in the group would help pick up work for them; arriving in Buchenwald on December 31, 1944, and accidentally given a five digit number of a dead person instead of a six digit number like the rest of his group on their transport, cleaning rubble at Weimar airport and nearby houses after bombing, then toward the end of the war being transported to Allach, subcamp of Dachau, walking from Allach Dachau to Munich bahnhof and put in open cattle car with barbed wire on top to be transported to Mauthausen, being liberated before arriving at Mauthausen, a day prior to liberation receiving Red Cross packages with canned butter and powder milk in cattle cars, liberated on April 30, 1945 by the US Seventh Army; after liberation, his experiences in Feldafing DP camp, volunteering to work for UNRRA with his ability to speak English and working from April 30- December 1945, in December a lieutenant named Lazarus attached to 58th field hospital for American GIs arriving at the DP camp looking for men to come and help with tailoring, barber, etc., he started temporarily working as an interpreter in the PX with American GIs with his knowledge of Polish, German, and English; meeting his future wife and marrying in February 1946, remembering his aunt's address from a New Year's card that he received prior to the war, with the help of an army chaplain and the New York Daily Forward, locating his aunt in the Bronx, NY; arriving with his wife in the United States on May 7, 1947, on the SS Marine Marlin, living with his aunt in the Bronx, working as an attendant at a laundromat in Brooklyn.