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Summary

Eddie Harvit, born June 1929 in Stanisławów, Poland (now Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine), describes his family and schooling; life under the Russian occupation of Stanisławów from 1939 to 1941; his father's drafting into the local fire department; German occupation of Stanisławów in 1941; the murder of Jewish professionals in the Jewish cemetery; formation of the Stanisławów Ghetto; moving into an apartment in the ghetto with his parents and grandparents; his father leading the ghetto's fire brigade; Hungarian Jews being held in a former textile mill within the ghetto until they were murdered; working outside of the ghetto in a trades building; staying overnight at their place of work as the ghetto was searched for a Jewish man; returning to the ghetto the next morning to see Jewish police officers hanging from streetlamps and a mass grave in the street; escaping the murder of other Jewish laborers of their trades building; hiding in a fur warehouse in October 1942 to escape transport to concentration camps; the murder of his father and transport of his grandparents; the Hungarian underground aiding him and his mother because his father had helped several Hungarian Jews escape; paying a Gentile family for false documents; taking a train to Lwów (now Lviv, Ukraine) and sharing an apartment with a Catholic family; his mother working in a German army restaurant in Lwów; receiving documents from Metropolitan Archbishop Andrey Sheptytsky of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Lwów stating they were Greek Catholics; moving to Chortkiv to hide with a Ukrainian man; moving to Vyhanka to hide with a Ukrainian school teacher; liberation by the Russian Army in March 1944; befriending Russian soldiers; being caught selling on the black market on behalf of the Russian soldiers; moving the summer of 1944 to Liegnitz (Legnica, Poland); moving to Munich after the war ended; attending mechanical engineering school; graduating in 1951 and immigrating to the United States; his mother attempting to stay in contact with the Ukrainian school teacher over the years; the effect of the Holocaust on his spirituality; the importance of telling his story.