FRED LEVIS
RG-50.005.0038. (rec 1984)

Fred Levis (birth name Ephraim) was born in Salonika, Greece, in 1914. His grandfather had been a chief rabbi in Iran and had moved to Greece before Fred was born. Fred married in 1938 and worked as a tailor. The family had been very wealthy. Trouble started when Italy took over Greece in 1938 but things really got bad in 1942 when the Germans came in, especially in Macedonia and Thessaly. The family lost all their merchandise and homes. He said the Italians weren't so bad, but the Germans were cruel. Everyone was afraid

Fred went into hiding and his father was taken as a hostage until the end of the war. The police gave the family Greek names and they went to another city, Cardiza, which was safer After the war he went back to Athens but nothing was the same. He talks about his cousins going to a concentration camp, and one of his young beautiful cousins was killed by German soldiers and her father was eventually put in a mental hospital in Israel. He discusses how sad it was to lose so many friends and relatives. Many young children were lost, especially from Salonika. Out of 70 thousand Jews there only 10 thousand remained after the war ended.

After the war Fred went to the United States, first Seattle, then Denver where his mother, sister and her children lived Now he has a successful life in Los Angeles, but he says his experience forever changed him.