

-TITLE- FRED LEVIS  
-I\_DATE- MAY 19, 1984  
-SOURCE- UCLA HOLOCAUST DOCUMENTATION ARCHIVES  
-RESTRICTIONS-  
-SOUND\_QUALITY- EXCELLENT  
-IMAGE\_QUALITY- EXCELLENT  
-DURATION-  
-LANGUAGES- ENGLISH  
-KEY\_SEGMENT-  
-GEOGRAPHIC\_NAME-  
-PERSONAL\_NAME-  
-CORPORATE\_NAME-  
-KEY\_WORDS-  
-NOTES-  
-CONTENTS-

7:02:00 His grandfather was a chief rabbi from Iran. He had a son, Jacob, who came to Greece at 6 years old. Jacob is his father. He has five brothers and one sister. He is the oldest. He became a partner with his dad. They made a lot of money.

7:03:00 He was born in Salonika in 1914. He went to high school then to Athens University where he studied literature. He had a business as a tailor.

7:04:00 He was married in 1938. After one year, problems with the war began. Germans took many people; some escaped and some were killed.

7:06:00 After the Italians lost the war, Germans came and took all the Greeks. They took all of their merchandise. There was a special order for them because they were rich. It was 1942.

7:07:00 They remained in Greece until October 1944. The Germans were so cruel. They were against everyone, especially the Jews. The Italians were much better people, they gave the very poor money to eat.

7:09:00 They were in hiding; if they had been found they would have been killed. He thanks God for the police, they gave them certificates with a Greek name. Their home was so dangerous. They could be taken anytime. They cried all the time.

7:12:00 After the war, they had not one penny. Before they were very rich people. They made all the uniforms for the Greek government officials. Afterwards, they worked day by day.

7:13:00 He came to the U.S.A. as a refugee. He was sent to Seattle, Wash. The climate there was bad for him. He then went to Denver, Colorado where his mom, sister, and nieces and nephews were. Then he left for Los Angeles, Ca. where he now has success.

7:15:00 Back to the war and his experience with the Germans. There was a special order from the commander because they had the biggest store. There was an order to punish them so they went to court. The justices agreed but the money was already taken.

7:16:00 They took his Dad as hostage. They went to Cardiza (sp) far away. There they found his grandparents and his brother.

7:18:00 They kept his dad until the end of the war. They returned to Athens. Everything had changed; different homes, different name, and no money.

7:20:00 He was chased twice during the war. Every time he went home, if anyone was outside his door he would return later.

7:22:00 He never raised a family because the Germans came right away. When they came to the U.S.A, it took them a long time to make money. His wife had some jewelry, they sold it all to give money to the family and themselves.

7:26:00 All of his cousins went to concentration camps. His uncle came from Salonika with his daughter who was 18 and adorable. Everyone loved her and she became a teacher. When the Germans found out that she was teaching, a drunk man came and killed her; he threw her from the veranda. Her father went to a crazy home.

7:30:00 In Athens, it was not possible to join the underground Partisans. They didn't want to fight, they just wanted to protect the family.

7:33:00 They left everything in the company (when they fled to Cardiza). When they returned, all was gone, so they came to the U.S.A. The liberation was great but very sad. They all went to synagogue and cried. They had lost all of their people and everyone was poor.

7:37:00 They were all religious. They said prayers most of the time, more so when he was in school than when he started working in the business (because he was so busy).

7:39:00 Today, they still have holidays in the synagogue. A month ago, they had a holiday to respect all those lost. He can tell the new generation what happened. It can't happen again. The Jews can't lose faith.

7:41:00 His experience has changed him. You lose so many innocent people, which is the reason for all the monuments and statues, but why kill innocent people? The Jews lost life because they were born into it.

7:44:00 Many today still don't know what happened; they think it's a fairy tale. Before the war, they heard about it but it seemed so far away. They lost so much, it changed their character. Now they think entirely differently. He remembers everyday but not a specific event.

7:47:00 His message is that the new generation has to be very careful. They can save this 'human' problem. For him and his wife, life is almost over. They need to make the difference. He ends: Thank you for letting me tell all of those things.  
.END.