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Summary

Jacob Vogel, born March 5, 1917 in Meierbach, a suburb of Linz, Austria. Early childhood in Austria, the family moves back to Bucovina, Sadagura (Sadhora, Ukraine), a village near Czernowitz (now Chernivtsi, Ukraine) in 1925. Elementary school at Sadagura, high school at a private German high school in Czernowitz, fails the baccalaureate exam, returns home to work at father's shop. Father very successful in his work wins some important contracts, delays the idea to move to Palestine. In 1940 the Russian occupy Romania, father closes shop, works for them, Jacob enrolls in Czernowitz at a Russian sponsored school for nursing aid and Russian language. An aunt with her husband and two kids are deported by the Russian, uncle dies on the way, aunt sent to Siberia. Returns from there after 20 years.

22 June 1941 the Germans arrive. Jacob lives Czernowitz, returns home. 10-12 days later, the hunt for communists starts, village gendarme saves his family. The hunted people are taken to the edge of the forest, made to dig their own graves and shot. 6-7 July they leave home on foot, arrive in Leușeni (Moldova) factory, men separate from the women. In the middle of the night ordered to go, on the way hear sound of machine gun fire. The Polish soldier shut to prevent them to pass the border, the Romanian shut back. Finally, they arrive at Ataki (Otaci, Moldova). A Romanian officer sends them home but, on the way, another Romanian officer sends them back. They arrive at the outskirts of Yedenitz (Edinet, Moldova), around 12,000 people live there in miserable conditions, no food, dirty water between July to October. Outbreak of typhus, little sister sick with typhus. Middle of October they are again on foot, describe the dead of the old Raby, arrive at a field, heavy rain, Jacob and family spot a light and try to get there but the peasant do not let them in, they find a hut and stay there for the night, they are dry. In the morning all is white with snow. From 1000 people in this convoy survive only around 100 the rest frozen to death. After more travel arrive at the Dniester, cross to Moghilev (Mohyliv-Podil's'kyi, Ukraine). Find a hut, bribe the inhabitants and let them in. Live there for 6-7 months.

Look for work; find work next to the post office at a garage. Obtain the work after giving an embroidered table cloth to the Russian owner. Clean cars for Romanian soldiers, get some food. Meet by chance an ex neighbor [an officer in Romanian army], cannot offer help but gives them some money. Summer of 1942 arrive the Jews from Dorohoi, Romania, 20,000-30,000 people. The place gets over populated, typhus epidemic breaks out. They move to the Skazinetz camp (in Skazintsi, Ukraine), have to ascend the Shargorod mount, lot of people die on the way. Skazinetz camp, people are divided, the ones that have clothes and the one who have not. Father meets some friends who move them to the right. Father fixes something at the cantina [cafeteria] of the camp gets some peas tin. Very little food, look in the peasant garbage for potatoes peels. Small sister runs away to Moghilev [10-12 km] from Skazinetz.

Middle sister dies in Moghilev in 1941. Mother dies a short time after. 5-6 months later. Father and older sister go to Moghilev to work at the foundry. Jacob runs away with a friend, stopped by some soldiers, presume that he is communist but has a prayer book that saves him. Arrives

in Moghilev, with the help of friends starts working with father at the foundry managed by Engineer Yegendorf. Father dies in December 1942. Jacob continues to work at the foundry at the turning department until the end of war. In 1992 meets at New York, engineer Schmidt with whom he worked there. Describes the activity at the foundry, some days no production, mostly makes objects to make presents to bribe authorities. Produce some agricultural tools, pickaxes, shovels, for the kolkhoz who gives them some food. Describes the food they receive each day.

At the end of the war, the Russian arrive. 600-700 workers called to the Russian Commandment, 70 sent back to work at the foundry, the rest sent to the front. At the end of the war in 1944, two of Jacob sisters return home. Jacob runs away in December 1945. Tells how he makes extra money, bribes a driver who takes him to the rail station in Czernowitz. He has not papers [documents], is arrested, presumed spy, but by luck let free. With the help of some cousin in 1946 leaves Czernowitz, passes the Siret River to Siret, from here he arrives in Tulcea, Romania. Has some family in the USA, where he wants to establish a new life. From Tulcea he tries to go to Czechoslovakia where his sister is married. No luck. Moves to Bucharest, with the help of another cousin he gets to USA in 1963.