

RG-50.030.0954

Summary of Oral History — Serge Holand — ENGLISH

Serge Holand, born on February 6, 1934 in Paris; fifth arrondissement — 7 rue Scipion; a small two-room apartment on the first floor; his parents came from Warsaw in 1923; his father had false work papers from Clermont-Ferrand; his mother was a seamstress; a middle-class family; his grandfather was an accountant; speaking of his grandmother and family; amazing parents; his father working in a small atelier; speaking of his life; friends singing in Yiddish; a happy childhood; the "passeurs"—smugglers; speaking of family trips, his return to Paris; bombing of the Renault factory; gas masks; school vacations in the country; staying with a working-class family; very risky to be in Paris; returning in August, 1942—after the Vél'd'Hiv roundups; his parents stayed in the apartment during the roundups; organisations helping the Jewish children; a 'passeur' near Orléans and Chartres; the 'passeur' telling everyone to stay calm; being a wise child at the age of eight; passing the demarcation line near Orléans; staying with an aunt; Léon Holand; Jacques Holand; a camp in the Dordogne; his cousin Jeannette; another 'passeur' in Lyon, then Grenoble; being taken to Saint-Priest-la-Feuille; rejoining his parents in the beginning of September 1942; the 'passeur' Nadel; staying in the rectory; his father joining up with other socialists; being in the country; schooling in the village of exceptional people; the Mother Thérèse; getting through the war with authentic papers; "I knew the bare minimum..."; his parents listening to Radio London; being disciplined; his childhood; the maquisards; the organisation AMLO — of the Bund; some difficult periods; his father's work in Lyon; false papers; the resistance; a period of freedom in the country; the Germans; the apartment; his return to Paris; Liberation; in 1944, leaving for Switzerland—meeting the 'passeur' in Annemasse during the summer; crossing into Switzerland during the night; Swiss soldiers; staying in a pension; in 1947, going to London; participating in a play called L'Altesse; Cécile Stengard; vacation colony; Warsaw prison; the Bund; arrests; military service in Algiers—almost a vacation; the death of his mother...; not being a Yiddish speaker