

RG-50.031.0001

Summary

Charles K. Adler, born in Haguenu, France (Alsace-Lorraine) on May 2th, 1905; moving to Worms, Germany in 1909; describing the close nature of 5 brothers, father and mother; attending German public school, being one of 5 Jewish students; the mounting of anti-jewish sentiment in 1928; his father working as a writer for an anti-Nazi underground movement; his father committing suicide in 1929; working as a store apprentice in Frankfurt, Germany in 1931; working in a store in Munich, Germany; witnessing anti-jewish demonstrations in Munich; loosing friends due to Jewish-German social restrictions; the boycotting of all Jewish stores on Shabbat in 1933; moving in a store in Stuttgart, Germany; warning from a German friend to leave Germany; the Nuremberg Laws going into effect in 1935; applying for immigration papers at the American consulate in 1938, receiving his immigration number days before November 9, 1938; the looting and destruction of his store on November 9, 1938 (Kristallnacht), the synagogue burning; being arrested by the SS along with three Jewish co-workers; being tied up in a room with hundreds of other people; deported via buses to Dachau the morning of November 10, 1938; arriving at Dachau; tens of thousands of people waiting to be processed; the registration process taking 2-3 days; being given striped uniforms and assigned to barracks; the SS being unprepared for the amount of people; elderly people being exposed to the most punishment; an SS officer removing an abscess from Adler's mouth with a knife; the young Rabbi encouraging them to survive; using an apple and a straw as a Hanukkah candle; performing a sharp turn and salute to the Kommandant in order to leave Dachau; being released from Dachau in February 1939 because of the French immigration quota; weighing 86 pounds; reporting his immigration status to the Gestapo each week; his immediate family escaping Germany; leaving Stuttgart, Germany for Amsterdam via train on June 15, 1939; learning about the concentration camps in Germany; boarding a ship to New York; moving to Chicago, IL; working for a photographic company for 40 years; remaining active in the synagogue; visiting Worms in 1963.