

## **RG-50.031.0112**

### **Summary**

**Max Haber** b. 12/31/1904 in Essen, Germany; youngest of 3 (older brother & sister), brother & parents born in Austria; attended Orthodox Jewish school; family moves to Hamburg; brief discussion on WW1; brother becomes a doctor but since he was not born in Germany, unable to practice, family moves to Kolomyia, Poland (now in Ukraine); discussion re: receiving schooling under Jewish Germans; Max becomes first in his class; becoming an apprentice in bookkeeping; arriving in US post-war, finding work at Irving Metal Company after having to leave behind a business (1934 Hamburg) due to anti-Semitism; Nov 1947, arrives to Chicago; blind date with future wife (married 44 yrs. at time of interview); built business as Chicago's primary recycler of non-ferrous metal residues, sold business, semi-retired age 55, becomes real estate investor, philanthropist; touching reunification with brother, each uncertain if other had survived war; recollections on breakout of war, in trying to reach Palestine, fleeing Warsaw to Romanian border, returning to Kolomyia; Poland's anti-Semitism before Hitler; thoughts on Poles' pre-war difficulty in business compared to the Germans; discussion on Israel-Palestine strife; Max shares his enslavement during war, memory of Russia & Germany beginning their war; a chance post-war encounter with Gorbachev; discussion on how after such sufferings, was able to become successful, "My belief that God would not forsake me."; memory of first imprisonment in Kiev (transported in cattle car); repatriated into American zone 1946 "full of lice," 3 mos. later, arrival to US; 1961 returns to Poland to search for father's grave, mother had been killed in Holocaust, learning father's remains are in Germany, refusal to visit Germany; personal observations on Jews survival in history, beliefs on the future of Jewish nation; discussion on Christian-Jewish relations; "It (Holocaust) took away 11 years of my life."; brother passed few years later after US immigration from colon cancer; Max expresses deep adoration for his wife.