

Summary of Oral History: Sender Lipfield

RG#: RG-50.047.0001

This Summary was written by a USHMM Volunteer on [04/2022]

Sender Lipfield was born in July 1915 in Kielce, Poland. He describes his early life with his father dying when he was an infant; his upbringing as a strict Orthodox; the anti-Semitism he experienced at public school; his experiences immediately following the start of the war in 1939 when he fled the city toward the Russian border, which he was able to enter only after some difficulty; the fates of his two brothers in the camps; his arrival in Brest-Litovsk, then on to near Smolensk where he worked as a tailor until 1941 when Germany invaded Russia; his imprisonment in various jails as a suspected spy when he fled; a poem he would recite daily to keep his spirits high; his transfer to a work battalion until 1943 and then to a Polish military group serving in tanks until the war ended; his trip back through Kielce during a pogrom in 1944 arriving in Lodz in 1945, then “smuggling” himself to Germany through Czechoslovakia; his time in Paris in 1947 from which he emigrated to Montreal, met his wife and moved to Albany, New York.

Lipfield goes on to describe how he and his Polish soldier comrades felt about the war and the genocide of Jews; he concludes with his continuing hope to resolve hatred among mankind.