

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

WEIDENBAUM Larry

PHOENIX.

Date of interview : 12/13/88

1 of 2

1925 April 2nd.

Dembrova 12 km. from Krashnick (ph) - Poland

2 brothers - farmers village.

2 sisters

Public school - Jewish school.

Not good relations with non-Jews - anti-semitism - he got stabbed by a fellow student last straw - he hit him in the head with a bat - defense - all other kids became scared after that.

1930 - Anti Jewish feelings - no Jewish shops, boycott everything that was Jewish.

1939 - war - 1/4 of city was bombed.

1940 - Judenratt - Jewish police - Jews controlling Jews.

Germans demanded young people for work and killed them - started taking women, children.

1941 - war with Russia - tanks, army.

Had to wear yellow stars - he wouldn't wear it. Sold food on black market

1942 - Village next to his - Gestapo massacred Jewish families there.

Krashika ghetto (ph) - whole family taken there - one window - crowded - "worse than animals". Ran away from ghetto - left family.

Mother ran away - look for sisters - too women and children - to Auschwitz - Polish non-Jews helped Germans.

He (Larry) was helped by a non-Jew, hid in barns during the winter of '42.

1943-

Joined resistance - to fight against the Germans - dynamite trucks of Germans with supplies, he volunteered to take revenge.

1944 - Tape 2 of 2

Fought for days against entire group of Germans - ran out of ammunition - each person ran in the woods.

Continuous fighting with Germans fought with Russians for a while - left Russians after a while - went back to Partisans - 4 Jews the rest Poles (22) -

They (Jews) had to leave Partizan group because they were threatened by group. Got shipped to Krashnik (ph) - no help - very sick - got shipped to another hospital - close to Russian border - spent a week there started feeling better - got a ride back to Krashnik (ph).

Trade with Russians 1944 in city - lived there

1945 - War ended - did business between German and Poland.
Went back and forth on roof of train - went to Bulen - got a ride
from Russian soldier - Went to American DP camps in Germany,
decided to leave Germany - made plans for Brazil (because of
family there) - also made plans for U.S. (Milwaukee family).
Grandfather in N.Y. - rejected him - went to Wisconsin.
Worked in shoe factory - quit and junk peddler.
1949 - got married to Argentinean woman
1951 - son Mike
1953 - son Robert live both in Wisconsin
opened up business - auto parts 31 yrs.
Moved to AZ - wife got sick.