

Summary of Oral History: Harry Drucker

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

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Oral History

Harry Drucker starts in mid-sentence speaking of his father, a meat supplier to local hotels, who was born in 1896 as Joseph (last name unclear); his mother was Genya Proca (?), born around 1902 in Lubatowa, Poland; speaking Polish and Yiddish in the home; with three sisters (Regina, Raisel, and Rachel) and a brother (Mendel); moderately religious; attending public school where he was the only Jewish student; reading the *Chwila (Why)* as their primary newspaper; relates his experience with anti-Semitism with Pilsudski's death making it worse; describing his return visit to Lubatowa [Lubartów?] with his son after the war; describes his feelings when the war started on his 16th birthday, August 31 or Sept. 1, 1939 (birth year 1923); remaining in their home until 1942 managing to eat from local supplies; working as a tailor until they were suddenly moved to a ghetto in Rymanów in May 1942.

Harry describes that Jews were rounded up in July 1942 by Ukrainian Blackshirts in July 1942 with older people taken to forest for execution, with most others – including his family, excluding him and his brother – put on rail cars, he thinks; his brother and he remained working on the highway until Harry was taken to a small labor camp in Moravská [unclear if Moravska Ostrava, Moravska Trebova, Moravske Budejovice, or Moravsky Krumlov] near a larger camp, Szempinya (?), never seeing Mandel again, remaining until the approach of Soviet troops; describing the mild treatment by the deputy commandant, Major Türk, who took them to a camp in Czechoslovakia in Autumn 1944 and the role of the Ukrainian guards; the escape of all the remaining twelve Jews in April 1945 joining a group of partisans which ambushed a German army unit but had to escape over the Carpathian Mountains; his full liberation by the Russians near Rájec (?); his treatment for dysentery; his travel to Cracow by train and on to Breslau for a few months in an apartment; his trip west in Autumn 1946, staying in Berlin for a short while before getting to the American sector staying there until 1949 before leaving for United States through his Uncle Nathan's sponsorship.

Harry concludes with his observations on what it means to be a survivor and his attitude towards his experiences; and his sense of what America, Israel and his family mean to him.