

### Summary of Interview with Harry Burger (SLCHS)

He was 14 years old when Austria took over Germany in March of 1938. "It was awesome". Austria became part of Germany. There were red flags and swastikas all over the place. Jewish people were surprised. In Vienna there was a large Nazi movement. His sister lived in Italy and was married. His friends threw rocks at his windows. There had always been anti-semitism, but he lived in a nice area and had no worries. The changes came gradually.

On November 10, 1938--Kristallnacht-- every Jew could be openly persecuted. He survived it because he had a cousin in the Austrian army who saved him. Every non-jew wore a swastika in lapel. Everyone knew who jews were. His father was arrested. He wanted to get out, so he signed away his textile business and went to Italy, and then to France. Everybody was trying to get away. His father had a Swiss bank account, and they stayed in Nice waiting for their visas. France was supposed to kick Germany out. On May 10, 1939, Germany went into Belgium and France. Vichy became capital of France. In September 1939, Germans were in Paris. Germany demanded unconditional surrender from France.

After this time he had to renew his permit every month. Jews were sent to holding camps when they were picked up by Germans. He was in hiding with a French family until 1942.

The Italians were very nice to Jews. A synagogue held forty jews in Italy. They were brought to the Sussfield camp and they lived very well there for four months. Once, a German truck came and demanded all of the Jews, but the Italians would not give them up. There were 700 Jews living in the Alps and they lasted until 1945. Burger's father tried to buy Cuban visas for the family, but the visas were phony and they could not leave. His father was put in jail. 700 jews had to go away--went to Valderi( town in valley). The nazis came to town and surrounded the people, then took them to a camp near Cuneo. 12 of them escaped and were given shelter by people in the hills. Burger went into the mountains with some Italian deserters. With the help of farmers , they formed the **First Alpine Division**. They sabotaged railroad tracks, bridges, and anything that had wheels, and then hid in the mountains. Eventually they linked up with the allies. The Nazis would not surrender to partisans. They group was under orders from the allies to kill every SS officer they could find.---" A German a day keeps the doctor

away". Burger was the Italian underground, a partisan. He went back to France with his mother. He was screened by French personnel and put into an old hotel with Nazis and Fascists. After three weeks there, he was liberated . His mother lived her daily life in the mountains, his father was executed at Auschwitz.(He was burned alive} Out of the 700 from Italy, all were executed at Auschwitz. It was a question of survival--it was easier to shoot back. He is not bitter anymore. Austria is full of anti-semites. We must be careful that it does not happen again.