

Summary of Oral History: Maurice Prau

RG#: RG-50.084.0011

This Summary was written by a USHMM Volunteer on [05/2022]

Maurice Prau, born in Lodz, Poland, on September 1, 1914, describes his family – Mother (died in Auschwitz), Father (died 1942), one brother (disappeared), and two sisters (Hannah (died 1942) and Regina (survived)), and his early life. From 1928 to 1935, the family relocated to Lubjanitza (phonic spelling), 3 km from the German border and operated a general store run by him. Spoke of antisemitism in Lodz, but was not as bad in the small town. His family moved back to Lodz in 1935, and he was drafted into Polish cavalry for 2 years. His Family was forced into the ghetto in March 1940. Described life in the ghetto and jobs he had. He spoke of the number of times he and family avoided deportation, until August 1944, when the ghetto was liquidated. He, his mother, and Regina were sent to Auschwitz. Mother was immediately sent to the gas chambers. He was there for 6 weeks, then sent to Gross-Rosen, then to Flossenburg. Describes his ways of surviving in each camp, the jobs he had, and the help others gave to him (and he gave to others.) During time in camp, his leg was badly injured by Kapo; (he was operated on after liberation). Moved from Flossenburg as Americans approached. Transport was damaged so he had to walk 5 days and nights. He and his friend, Ansel Lazar (Romania), ran away and hid in a barn for 2 days, then liberated on April 23, 1945. He wanted to find his sister, so he found out she was in Bergen-Belsen in the English zone. He made his way there. Met his wife, Tamara, there. Married in November 1945. Came to the US in June 1946, then to Los Angeles, where they settled. **Tape Two:** Reflections on his two visits back to Auschwitz, clarification of some points, and the importance of “Never Forget” and charity work and contributions.