

**RG-50.091.0052**

**Abraham (Abe) Akst**

At time of interview he lived in Beechwood, OH, 61 years old, self-employed dry-cleaning business. Wife: Molly; two sons: Hymie and Kenneth.

Grew up in Bodzanow, Poland – near Plock. Mother: Malka, father: Chunah; two sisters: Rivkah and Chaya; brother: Yisrael. Parents had a dry goods store. Belonged to Agudas Yisroel. Maternal uncles belonged to Bund.

1935-36 father's store was boycotted. 1939 war broke out; 2 bombs were dropped on town, Nazis arrived and occupied town. All Jewish stores closed. Jews were rounded up to serve on work crews. Judenrat was set up and helped in round ups.

Accused of talking politics; jailed for 6 days then taken to German gendarmes in March 1941, Ukrainians and Germans surrounded the town and Jews taken to transit camp Soldau, then taken to Czestochowa. Was sent to another labor camp. Parents and many others in ghetto were sent to Treblinka; he was sent to work at Mellalurgica munition factory in Czestochowa and later sent to larger munitions factory, HASAG Pelzerei (40 km from Czestochowa). Degenhardt made selections. December 1944 Germans began to close factory as Russians approached; January 1945 he avoided death march and made his way to DP camp 100 km from Munich, the Bricha provided assistance. Found (and then married) his second cousin, Molly in DP camp. Learned tailoring skills during ORT course. 1949 emigrated to Canada; arrived at Halifax, then went to Montreal and worked as tailor. Canadian Jewish Congress assisted. Seven years later settled in Cleveland. 1958 bought dry cleaning business. Active in Kol Israel Foundation. Member Taylor Road Synagogue.