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Summary

Ezra Lazar, born on 23 March 1927 in Marmar, Czechoslovakia, the oldest of six siblings-2 brothers and 3 sisters, describes his village of 800 people with 600 being Jewish, his father selling cattle wholesale at the market; not finishing his eighth grade year; his father being sent to a forced labor camp in 1944; his father offering a former co-worker the equivalent of 3000 in US Dollars to hold for Ezra and his brother and struggling to get the money back while he and his brother hid in the forest; spending 9 months in the forest located 10km from his village with 10 others-3 of whom were ultimately caught; his mother being taken to Theresienstadt Ghetto in either April or May of 1944, his brother surviving the Holocaust and, at the time of the interview, residing in Cleveland, OH; his older brother along with an Uncle returning from Poland in 1941 or 1942 only to not survive the Holocaust; his father's brother surviving the Holocaust and being the age of 93 at the time of the interview; returning from the forest to his home and residing there with the seven other survivors from the forest; finding the Russians in his hometown in May of 1945; staying in his hometown for a period of six months before traveling to Budapest and Romania in search of family; traveling to Austria to a camp where the British were for a period of one week before crossing into Italy with his brother and his Uncle; spending eight or nine months in camps before traveling to Israel; arriving in Israel before the War of Independence on a boat with 600 others; having tear gas thrown on him upon arrival in Haifa; being put in a camp in Cypress for a period of six months with thousands of others; being released from the camp before the War of Independence was over; fighting for the independence as a member of the Army; living in kibbutz in Rehovot, where Dr. Chaim Weizmann lived, even attending his funeral as it was considered a national holiday when he passed; working on a farm picking fresh tomatoes; meeting his wife, who was from Tripoli, Libya and marrying her there and living there for five or six years; emigrating to America at twenty-four years old and residing there for 24 years thus far; his desire to return to Israel; taking no money from organizations to get to America-even repaying the money given to him to take a train to his family; serving in an apprenticeship as a bricklayer; becoming a construction worker though working more sporadically at the time of the interview; having one son who would finish Dental school one year from the interview; maintaining his Israeli citizenship and intending to return there to live within the next year.