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Summary

Danny Lieberman, born in Kovno (Kaunas), Lithuania, describes life before the war when his father owned a lumber yard and his mother worked in a grocery store; the Russians occupying Lithuania in 1939 and confiscating their property; the occupation by the Germans in 1941 and being moved from the city to the ghetto in Slabodka ; Ten thousand Jew, including some of his aunts and cousins, being killed in the “big action”; being sent out to work every morning; hiding in the basement with his father during roundups; being separated from his mother in 1943 when he and his father were taken to a labor camp not far from the ghetto; the removal of children, including his young cousin, on Oct 28, 1943; being transported via cattle car at the end of 1943, stopping for two days in Stutthof before being sent to Kaufering labor camp near Dachau; suffering from lice, frostbite, and malnutrition while working at an underground factory; refusing to leave the line of weak prisoners in spite of his father’s entreaties on April 24th when other prisoners began a forced march out of camp; being taken by truck to Dachau, but since the gates were closed, going to Allach instead; waking up at 4:00 AM to learn that the German guards were gone and being liberated a few hours later by U.S. troops; leaving the camp in August 1945 when he was strong enough to travel; receiving assistance from the Joint and UNRRA; working as a teacher in Munich and being paid in food and cigarettes; learning that his mother was alive and living in Lodz and advising her to join them in Munich; boarding with a gentile family who treated them well until 1949 when his mother's cousins in the U.S. sponsored them; living with family until he found a job and got married to an American woman.