

RG-50.091.0096

Summary

Isador Malcmacher, born October 2, 1916 and raised in Pryztyk, Poland, describes working in his father's shoemaking business prior to WWII; preparing for pogroms in 1936; Germans blowing up the synagogue when they entered the town in September 1939; being forced to leave Pryztyk in 1940, living with his grandmother in Radom for a few weeks, and then forced into the ghetto; sneaking out of the ghetto to obtain food; staying in Vershiptze [PH] for a few months after being warned that selections were being carried out in the ghetto; moving to Siedlce for a few weeks before going back Radom; being sent to make shoes at a labor camp 3-4 km from Radom and a few months later being sent to a labor camp in Blizyn where the camp leader daily identified people to be killed by the Ukrainian guards; being sent to a camp in Krakow that was built on a Jewish cemetery; being transported to Auschwitz in July, 1943, but proceeding to Mauthausen because there were too many trains arriving at the same time; being sent to Melk where he dug tunnels for 1 ½ years; English bombers accidentally bombing the camp; being sent to Ebensee for two months where he was very close to death before being liberated by the Americans in May 1945.

After liberation, he describes being transported to a sanitarium in Santa Maria, Italy; preparing to go to preparing to go to Palestine with the assistance of the Jewish Brigade, but changing his mind when learned that his mother and sister were in Czechoslovakia; arriving at a DP camp in Prague and being told that his mother had left for Germany; traveling by train and having his pass ripped up by Russian soldiers who accused him of running away from Russian; being sent to a labor camp on the German-Austrian border where he was force to install telephone lines; escaping after four weeks with the help of a Russian soldier; reuniting with his mother, brothers and sister; living at Feldafing DP camp for four years until they were able to leave for the United States; settling in Cleveland with his wife and baby and finding a job as a butcher with the assistance of Jewish Vocational Services.