

## **RG-50.091.0105**

### **Summary**

Mark Newman (né Freedman), born in 1908, discusses growing up in Soyme, Czechoslovakia [possibly Soimy, Ukraine]; being one of eight children, including seven girls and one boy (half of the children were given his mother's maiden name at birth including himself); his father, who was a farmer; his sister Sarah, who had five children, one of which survived and now lives in Israel; his sister Basa [PH], who had six kids and two survived the war; his sister Rivka, who had three kids; his sister Hannah, who had two children and lived in a bigger city at the onset of the war; attending private schooling with Rabbis learning writing and Hebrew studies until age 14 and receiving no further education beyond that; going to Haifa, Israel and working digging up streets until his parents needed him to return to Soyme; joining the Czech Army in 1930 and serving for two years and returning for six week periods for three years; working in lumber after; returning to Soyme and then being taken to a working camp in Lemberg, Poland (now L'viv, Ukraine); the Hungarians who ran the labor group; escaping with a friend from the labor group; hiding in Horodenka, Ukraine; passing as a non-Jew; his family being taken away on August 20, 1941 and being killed with the exception of his sister who was able to get off in Khust; being taken to a field to dig his own grave and killing the soldier in order to survive; spending 14 days in the forest; joining a 45 member partisan group for a month in 1941; going with the Russians to Sadogora (now Sadhora, Ukraine); leaving Sadogora and walking to Chernivtsi (Ukraine); spending six weeks under the Russians; returning to the Czech Army from 1944 to 1946 and receiving shrapnel wounds to his feet but not receiving treatment for them; going into concentration camps as a member of the Czech Army and helping young girls leave; working at a factory after the war with his 3 surviving nephews; buying tombstones for his family he lost; staying in Czech until 1949 and then traveling to Bratislava and onto Paris; moving to the United States in 1951; knowing his wife prior to the war; marrying his wife Margaret (née Yosowitz) who is also a Holocaust survivor from Czechoslovakia and having three children, Marilyn, Nelson and Rita.