

RG-50.091.0109

Summary

Mike Prayzer, born in Bendzin (Będzin), Poland, describes living a comfortable life prior to the war with his parents, four brothers and one sister; attending night school from 1938-1939 to become a furniture maker; Germans entering Bedzin in 1939; one of his brothers going to Lodz where he was conscripted by Russians to work in a coal mine in Donbas; being taken to a ghetto in Kamionka but working outside the ghetto in a carpenter shop; being taken, along with his sister, to a labor camp in Karvine, Czechoslovakia where he worked building a factory; being transported to Gross Masselwitz and then to Klettendorf labor camp near Breslau where he was reunited with one of his brothers; being taken to other labor camps and concentration camps including Graslitz, Freiberg, and Hersbruck, where he spent 8 months doing heavy labor before volunteering to work as a carpenter; being moved to Nuremberg in December 1944; being transported to Gross-Rosen where he found oldest brother; being marched to Buchenwald in the spring of 1945 as American planes increased their bombing; walking on to Dachau because there was no room at Buchenwald; being liberated by Americans April 29, 1945; remaining at Dachau to convalesce until August 15, 1945; receiving assistance from UNRRA and HIAS while living in Munich; following leads to find two of his brothers; living in Hof when his brother introduced him to the woman who became his wife; getting married August 1946; the birth of his eldest son in 1947; obtaining immigration papers to go to Israel or to the United States and choosing the U.S. where his wife had family; living in New Jersey for 2 ½ years where he learned the trade of cabinetry and then moving to Lorain, OH to be closer to his wife's sisters.