

RG-50.091.0115

Summary

David Roth, born in 1916, describes growing up in a family of five boys and two girls in the Jewish area of Munkacs, Czechoslovakia (now Mukacheve, Ukraine); going to work in a woodworking factory at age 14; moving from town to town to avoid being drafted or assigned to a labor camp until he was eventually sent to Mátersfelt (sp?) to help build an airfield, being sent to a hospital in Pecs where he drew portraits for the doctors; going to Turka, Poland with his battalion after the Germans arrived where they built roads and bridges; drawing portraits for guards in exchange for easier work and a bit more food until the unit moved to another location; moving closer to the front and then beginning to retreat after seeing Russian planes overhead; arriving at Uzhorod where he built tank barricades from September to October and began drawing portraits again; being marched out of the camp as the front moved closer and being freed by Russians; walking to his brother's house in Munkacs where he began working as a sign painter; being reunited with one of his brothers in February 1945 and later with another of his brothers; being picked up by Russian soldiers but released by someone who recognized him before he was assigned to a labor camp; leaving for Israel by train on February 2, 1946; boarding a fishing boat in Italy; being spotted by the British while at sea, towed to Haifa and then taken to Atlit detention camp; being taken to Kibbutz Tel Yosef after the Jewish Agency arranged their release; serving in the Israeli army after independence was proclaimed in 1948; marrying his wife in 1949; leaving Israel in 1954 to settle in the U.S. where his sister and two of his brothers were already living in the U.S.