

Cohen, Salomon
October 23, 1995
RG-50.106*0017

:25

Salomon Cohen was born July 28, 1937, in Athens Greece. His parents and three older brothers had come to Athens from Salonika in 1933.

1:27

All of Salomon's extended family lived in Salonika. Except for three cousins, who had come to Athens, all were sent to Poland.

3:23

An Italian officer who was a friend of Mr. Cohen saved Salomon's family. When Germans were coming into Greece, he warned them to join partisans in the mountains. He also warned family in Salonika, but they did not leave and were sent to Poland.

4:16

The Cohens escaped from Athens in February 1943 and lived with partisans in the mountains for six months. Salomon remembers living in the mountains as "being on a picnic." But parents and brothers were hungry and very uncomfortable.

7:58

Partisans were either communists or monarchists, but during the war, they all fought together.

8:50

The Cohens and a few other families escaped from the Germans and went on a boat to Ismir, Turkey. They had to pay a lot of money for the one-night trip. From Ismir they went to Habib, Syria, which had been captured by the British from the Vichy French.

12:00

British soldiers arrested them because they had no documents and sent them to a camp in the Gaza strip. Members of the Jewish Agency paid camp guards to release them, and they went to Tel Aviv where they lived from 1944 to 1952.

Salomon's parents became farmers.

16:00

Salomon went into the army as a tank fighter and served during several wars. After he left the army, he went to Haifa, got married, and had three daughters.

16:40

Salomon has returned to Greece several times to visit families whose parents had saved his family.