

Elias Piorko
RG-50.106*0022

May 15, 1919 - born in Zambrow, Poland

belonged to Zionist Youth organization - Hashomer Hatzair

1937-1938 - went to Slonim to work on a kibbutz cutting lumber

1939 - went back to Slonim which was on the Russian side, house was
destroyed, strafing by airplanes

Went to Vilna - chopping wood on a kibbutz for 6 months

On way to Zambrow to visit friends Russians captured him and a friend, put them into prison in Orsha
for 6-7 weeks in a crowded room with other Jews

Went by boat to Kotlas, stayed for 4 weeks

Series of camps in Ijmi-Ukti area of Siberia

1st camp - built a brick factory, roads, ate grass and mushrooms

brigade went on strike, sent to another camp, slept outside in the snow, poured

water over snow to make ice-like insulation, people froze to death

got job repairing clothes

then sent to another camp to clear a forest and build roads, bread would freeze

End of war - was given 15 rubles and papers to work in a locomotive factory but he was
too weak

Registered with the Polish Committee, received papers to go to Warsaw

Stayed on a kibbutz in Vabje

Sent to Red Cross Camp in Prague

Met wife in Milano, married and had a son

Fall 1950 - sailed on the General Hershey from Bremerhaven with wife and son to New
York

Came to Washington with train tickets from HIAS
worked as a tailor