

**Erwin Deutscher**

**RG-50.106\*0085**

Born on January 28, 1923 in Vienna, Austria

Had thorough religious training, in Zionist Youth group, HaShomer HaDati

Maternal grandfather had come to US in 1898 to Oklahoma City

1936 - Bar Mitzvah - teacher taken later to Dachau and did not survive

1938 - heard on March 11 that Hitler had come to Austria

Very proud, scoffed at SA men, never said Heil Hitler

Father's dairy business closed. Mother tried to collect on debts - woman turned her

in and mother taken to Police HQ. Her 4 children able to see her

Father picked up and had to march with others in funny hats and carry brooms

Erwin got notice that his youth group was to go to Palestine. He and father met

Eichmann at Emigration office. Father fearful. Eichmann said "Sign the lousy

paper and let him go." Erwin rode elevator against Nazi rules.

Conditions worsened - Nazis broke furniture and insulted leaders of Zionist youth

group, people forced to clean streets with toothbrushes wearing their best

clothes while others laughed

He and 25 others went by train to Trieste and by boat to Haifa, Israel

arrived Oct. 24, 1938

Went to Mikveh Israel agricultural school for 2 years, then to Bnai Akiva yeshiva for

another 2 years

Worked for Haganah, met his wife

1948 - Fought in Israeli War of Independence

Father taken to Dachau after Kristallnacht and then to Buchenwald from June 1939 to

January 1940. Parents got to US to Oklahoma City, sister stayed in Italy, brothers

came to U.S. in 1939

Visited parents in U.S., stayed, worked for life insurance company, got Masters and

Ph. D. in Hebrew Letters at Hebrew Union College