

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
Oral History Volunteer Collection
Survivor/USHMM Volunteer Project

Summary of Interview with
FRITZ GLUCKSTEIN
RG-50.106*0137

Date of interview: October 5, 2000

Interviewer: Esther T. Finder

*Notes: This interview focuses on the interviewee's post-Holocaust experiences. There are two earlier interviews with this interviewee which can be accessed by requesting RG-50.029*021 and RG-50.163*024. This summary follows the order in which the interviewee relates his or her story on tape.*

Tape 1 of 3/Side A

Fritz Gluckstein was 18 and living in Berlin when the war ended. Of the approximately 40 Jews who worked in Berlin (as he did), most were of mixed marriages. The American and Russian liberators supplied food for Berlin, and food packages came from the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

Tape 1 of 3/Side B

Fritz's father was Jewish, but his mother was not. Fritz recalls the experiences of some members of his father's side of the family. After the war, Fritz resumed his studies with other Jewish and German students, but it was difficult to find teachers who were not connected to the Nazi Party. He describes life in post-war Berlin and his father's decision to remain in Germany rather than to emigrate.

Tape 2 of 3/Side A

Fritz emigrated to the United States, where he studied veterinary medicine. He never considered going to Palestine. He left from Bremen on the so-called "Liberty" ships, arriving in New York in January 1948. Fritz took a train to Minnesota, settled in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area, worked and attended the university. He never spoke about his Holocaust experiences except in response to questions from his wife or others.

Tape 2 of 3/Side B (interview resumed December 7, 2000)

When Fritz came to America his career goals were to graduate from university and to become a veterinarian. Before he had a veterinary practice, he worked for the United States Army and at the Department of Agriculture.

Tape 3 of 3/Side A

Fritz discusses his reactions to segregation in the United States, the Korean conflict, the Viet Nam war, and the dissolution of the Soviet Union. He talks about Israel, the American gun culture and the relative ease of immigration now in contrast to before the war. Fritz also discusses the impact of his Holocaust experiences on his post-war life and perspective, including raising his daughter. He talks about his volunteer work with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Tape 3 of 3/Side B

Fritz continues discussing his work at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the effect it has on him. He describes how he met and married (1955) his first wife, Ethel (dec. 1993). He married again in 1996. Fritz believes that it was good luck that helped him survive the war and the Holocaust. Fritz is listed in the American Men and Women of Science as well as in Who's Who in America.