

Holocaust Interview

Paul Blank--Poland

Many inaudible spots due to background noise

Camp names inaudible--locations have been noted where possible

Born in Poland, 1923; 4 children, parents and very large extended family; 5,000 Jews in town; German arrival during 1939 Jewish holidays; death of volunteer in exchange for Rosh Hashoanah in homes; labor camp; replacement for father; premonition of danger; gradual deportations; roundup of father, uncles, cousins; escape with guilt; eventual capture of remaining family members; death of mother; forest hiding and survival; Polish collaborators; defense of brother and sister(executed); no where to go; death of brother; single sister; Polish derision; 500 women shot at synagogue wall; men forced to bury those still alive; removal to camp; search for gold and silver; selections for life; camp near Krakow with salt mines; sister's death on a ship; German camp; panic at boarding trains; 500 people in cars set off for Bavaria; nightmare trip; horror; railroad work; illness and amputation; death march to Dachau

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Mixed nationalities at camps; cannibalism by non-Jews; atrocities; mistakes of ignoring Hitler; lingering emotional pain and memories; sole survivor; why?-seeks peace; liberation during march from Dachau toward Switzerland in May, 1945; supposedly prisoner exchange; 10 minute gunfight with many deaths among prisoners brought freedom close; continued walk; Luftwaffe put remaining prisoners in barrack; Germans flee; Russians/Americans; 2 prisoners make contact with Allies; fear of hidden SS; trip to Allied Headquarters; kindness of Jewish liberator; two month recovery; no discussions with other survivors after War; 1946(U.S.); resentment of questions; anger at lack of real interest; children need not know; feels loss of 6 years