

RG-50.120 #0048
ALVIN GLAZER

He was born in 1919 in Kromeriz, Czechoslovakia. He describes the town with a population of 300 Jews, the synagogue and the schools. His father had a store. He had 2 brothers and a sister. The family was not religious. His mother and one brother were Zionists. He joined the 'Young Macabees' youth organization as a young boy and later became one of the leaders. They collaborated with the Czech YMCA and he had many non Jewish friends.

After high school he went to Prague to the 'School for Home Industry', and after graduation he attended the School of Architecture. He had to quit, as a Jew, in 1939 when the Germans entered Prague. Describes the atmosphere when the Germans came, and the very gradual changes in everyday life.

After he left school, he was asked to work in the school of the Youth Aliya. The Jewish community was highly organized, with detailed lists of addresses, which later made it very easy for the Germans to annihilate the Jews.

He lived in the center of the Youth Aliya and describes the leaders of the Jewish community, Otto Zucker, Edelstein and Yanovitch. Zucker negotiated with Eichmann the preparations for the move of the Jews to Terezin. Zucker asked him to go on one of the first transports to organize the ghetto.

On November 24 1941, he went on a transport with a group of people from different professions to prepare the camp.

He went back to describe his work in the Youth Aliya in Prague and the activities there. They were lied to by the Germans about the move to Terezin which was described as temporary. He therefore took very little with him.

When they arrived and were met by Czech gendarmes with drawn guns, he was shocked. They were locked in barracks. He names people who were in the room with him and their activities. Later, two groups of 1000 came, one from Prague and another from Brno. The first was a transport of families and the second composed of men for hard labor. They were guarded by Czech gendarmes.

Zucker, Edelstein and Yanovitch came on a later transport of 'leaders', and were housed in the Magdeburg Barracks, separated from the others. The Dresden barracks were for women and children.

His work was to draw up an exact plan of barracks to be built in the future.

He moved to the Magdeburg barracks room 229. He describes the accommodations and the food supplies. He was there from November 1941 - May 1945.