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**Hamel, Shimon**

**Tape 1 of 2**

He wrote a book called "Souviens toi D'Amalek"

- 1.00 Hamel, Shimon, nee Fritz, was born in September of 1907 in Strasbourg. Describes his childhood in an assimilated middle class family. Became aware of Judaism through religion classes in Protestant school.
- 1.09 Talks about tension between German and French Jews in Strasbourg.
- 1.16 Joined Jewish scout group and became a leader of the scout group, Hatikva.
- 1.22 Describes Jewish life in Strasbourg.
- 1.40 Became responsible for all scout groups in Eastern France. In 1931, he worked on his PhD in Chemical Engineering.
- 1.47 Describes pre-war Nazi movement across the Rein, and the anti-Semitic influence crossing to Alsacia where people had always had anti-Semitic tendencies.
- 1.57 He was in the cavalry in 1938, and describes the disarray in the French army. In 1939, he became a Chemist in the army.

Tape 2 of 2

- 2.02 Talks about Jewish refugees from Germany and the inadequate help they received.
- 2.04 In 1940, Jews of Strasbourg knew what was happening to Jews in Germany and what was in store for them.
- 2.06 He was sent by the army to a large laboratory to do research on chemical warfare. Talks about anti-Semitism in the army.
- 2.12 After the fall of France on July 29, he was released and joined his family in Le Monde D'Or.
- 2.20 Winter of 1941, he talks about Andre Solomon who saved hundreds of children. He met with Castor and developed an action plan for the scout movement. They planned to open children's homes for children under 17. The aim was to save children and train them to earn a living in agriculture and trades.
- 2.26 Talks about Leo Cohen, caught in Toulouse in May of 1944. Of his group, only 20 out of 100, survived. Only one child was not saved.
- 2.30 He bought a farm near Lyon and remained there with 27 children for 3 & ½ years.

- 3.01 Describes how he maintained a good relationship with the local gendarmes who warned him of Gestapo actions.
- 3.32 In April 1944, the scout organization decided to dispense the farms because of increasing danger. The children crossed into Spain.
- 3.41 He was assigned to contact the military underground and appoint Castor as the leader. He crossed the Swiss border to meet Marcel Mayer, a banker who arranged the flow of money into France.
- 3.44 Talks about Marianne Cohen, who saved hundreds of children, and was herself caught. She helped him escape.
- 4.02 Talks about Leo Cohen, a great artist, musician, and educator who was caught in Toulouse. There is a book about him called "Leo."
- 4.07 Talks about David Donovan "Toto." He was the right hand of Minister Glasberg. He forged I.D. papers and money. He was shot in Lyon.
- 4.12 Talks about legal and illegal Zionist movement in France.
- 4.24 Talks about Simon Levitt and Claude Gutman.
- 4.40 Talks about the bad treatment of Jews in Switzerland. He went to the Swiss and U.S. intelligence to alert them, but they did not do anything.
- 4.51 He went to live in a kibbutz in Israel. Describes his visit in France and his meeting with friends and family.