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RG#: RG-50.120*182

TITLE: Oral history interview with Arie Zizemsky

DATE:

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 15 videocassettes (U-Matic), Protection copy
5 videocassettes (VHS), User copy

SUMMARY: Born in 1923 in Pruzany, grew up in a rural area, where his family had a farm. Following the German occupation he was transported to the ghetto at a small town, and from there transported to Auschwitz. Sent to forced labor at the Buna camp, next to Birkenau. From there he escaped, together with some Russian captives, through a tunnel they had dug under the fence. Captured after two weeks, he was tortured by the Gestapo, and returned to Auschwitz. Since the others were not captured he was held in prison. The approach of the Russians had disrupted the usual punishment process applied by the Germans to escapees from the camp, and he was put on a transport to Buchenwald, Germany, probably the only Jewish prisoner who managed to escape Auschwitz, was recaptured and kept alive. At the end of the war he was transported by train to Theresienstadt on a journey that lasted 17 days. He was liberated at Theresienstadt. After the liberation he became an active member of "Ha-brikha" organization, and made his way to Eretz, Israel. On their way to Eretz, Israel his ship was captured by the British and he was sent to Cyprus, where he became a manager of several refugee camps.