

## Oral History

May 10, 1993

RG Number RG-50.146\*0027

Accession number: 1995.A.1281.27

1 video cassette

Jacques-Albert Zandkorn, born in Paris in 1923 of immigrant Socialist, Polish parents and grandfather who was a rabbi at 25 rue des Rosiers, recalls Paris childhood, beginning work at 14 or 15 years old, belonging to a sports club, le club populaire sportif du 10ème arrondissement, with Jewish and non-Jewish members; describes discussions about Resistance activities immediately after June 15, 1940 German invasion, newspapers becoming violently anti-semitic, joining the "fulcrum rouge", a socialist youth group, marching down the Champs-Élysées on 11 November 1940 in first anti-German demonstration; recalls 1941 sports group camping trip with Henri Gautherot [SP] and Smuel Tyszelman [SP], who were shot shortly after the trip, after demonstrating at the gare Saint-Lazare; recalls becoming more active in the Resistance under guidance of Pierre Georges who, in fact, was Colonel Fabien, although the sports club members did not know his real identity, training in explosives, armaments; describes arrival of neighbor on July 15, 1942, telling family to bar door because something was going to happen on July 16, 1942, knock at the door on July 16, sister Lucy opening for French gendarme who asked for father, brother and Lucy, arrest of Lucy whose name was on list, after Lucy said nobody was home, although they were hidden in attic; explains that mother's name was not on list because of clerical error, making her older than 60 year old upper age limit; departure of brother for Free Zone to join Resistance in Lyon, failed efforts to legalize parents' papers, who were arrested on August 26, 1942; describes fleeing to Lyon to join Resistance, warrants for his arrest distributed throughout France, meeting Jean Moulin, chief of the armée secrète in the southern zone, who put him to work for the Resistance; describes how he was tasked to go to Camp Rivesaltes to secure release of detained Jews by bribing guards with cigarettes, eventually freeing 2 of his cousins and 14 others over a period of 8 months; recalls being sent to Toulouse to centralize passage of Jews through Spain and onward to England, although Toulouse prefecture would not permit him to stay as a Jew, finally settling in Mazanet where he secured a residence permit; discusses Resistance activities, secret mission to London to deliver information to De Gaulle, return to Lyon by plane, traveling with Pierre Mendès-France, organizing the maquis des Glières in Haute-Savoie, accompanied by Lucien Bussière [SP], Jacques Petrovich [PH], Renaud Dubois [PH], among others; describes greeting young recruits and taking them to camp, help by villagers of Termin, maquis fighting, closing in of Gestapo, being wounded, spending 2 months in hospital in Lyon, transfer to Besançon and on to military Camp Valdahon; describes receiving orders from General Guillaume on March 31 1945 to join a brigade headed across the Rhine to

occupy Germany, heavy casualties, liberation of Dachau along with Louis Armand, post-war work for military in Berlin release from army November 27, 1945, return to Paris, marriage and birth of a son.