

## **Summary of Oral History Interview with Jacques Szmulewicz—ENGLISH**

### **RG-50.146.0028**

Jacques Szmulewicz, born in 1924 in Poland—from a very religious Jewish family; coming to France in 1930 with his mother and sisters; speaking of his schooling; his bar-mitzvah in 1937—Julien Lacroix Road; exodus in 1939; his mother's death in March 1939; leaving for Bordeaux; returning to Paris; his father's arrest and release in 1941; working with his father; in 1940, the first movements against Jews; saying Kaddish for one year after his mother's death; leaving his religion when in Bordeaux; being stopped in 1941; leaving for un-occupied zone; from Montceau-les-Mines, crossing into un-occupied zone with a "passeur"; taking train to Lyon to his sister's; finding his school friends—the Rubins, who were twins; being stopped and held in Ruffieux; hunger; being released to a refugee camp; being with Raymond Grynstein in 1942 and trying to survive clandestinely; speaking of Mirowski; having no idea of danger or the Resistance; knowing the fate of German Jews; being in prison St. Paul and then liberated; returning to his sister's and wanting to participate in clandestine operations with Raymond; Carmagnole movement; speaking of Gestapo headquarters on Berthelot Road; sabotage excerpts with Robert and Antoine; leaving for Grenoble with friends; participation in M.O.I. (Main d'Œuvre Immigrée) where he stayed until 1944; October 1943—participating in derailments (even in broad daylight), destroying factories, getting rid of collaborators, throwing grenades on German troops; living in the home of an elderly woman; creation of "LIBERTE" in Grenoble with Raymond Saks (a remarkable intellectual Jew from Poland) as the head; using bicycles to do the damage; false papers under a variety of names; speaking of Jacques Goldeberger; using the names of Abel Juillet and Gaston Largeau; working with Etienne Raczynow and Guy Landowicz (then arrested and killed in St. Paul prison at age of 19)—both Jews; his father remarrying; going to Lyon as the head with the Carmagnole group—numerous branches, including "Simon Fried"; Raymond Saks from Lyon was injured, arrested, and tortured—was silent for 48 hours, as prescribed, then went crazy; speaking of Villeurbanne; German stand at Vénissieux; staying in Lyon until liberation of Lyon; becoming a communist—not yet a citizen; order of command; reading "Le Capital"; his brother-in-law was an orchestral drummer who drove the camp truck, but he was deported; his sister also arrested; during the war, knowing that the Jews that leave will never come back—"influenced our thinking"; three of Jacques' sisters never returned; his sister's children survived; diverse Resistance groups; speaking of attack on Darnand—head of the militia; not knowing of Resistance groups that were exclusively Jewish; attack against Jeannette Zontag—eventually killed at St. Genis Laval; Raoul Hertz being a Zionist; being lost after liberation; studying in Lyon for the "Bac" at age 21; speaking of his comrade who was unable to adapt and committed suicide; everyone stayed close; finally becoming a French citizen in the 1960's; receiving the "Croix de guerre" honor in 1947; considers himself French; working at his father-in-law's dockyard in Nancy, France; receiving the "Ordre National du Mérite" given by Charles Hernu (mayor of Villeurbanne) and eventually receiving the "Légion d'Honneur"—Legion of Honor.