

## **RG-50.156.0017**

### **Summary**

Born Max (Mordechai) Goodman in Radauti, Romania 1923. Father, Samuel, was agricultural products merchant, and wife, Enid, a housewife. Paternal grandparents, Zelig and Rachel, moved to Canada with 8 of their surviving 10 children in 1913. Maternal grandparents, Rabbi Joseph and Sarah Karp. Family all from Radauti since 1718. Spoke Yiddish, German and Romanian at home. Goodman went to Jewish schools until age 15. All Jews considered "foreigners" no matter how long they had been in Romania, although a few Jews were in Parliament. "Shtetl mentality" in Radauti as Jews self segregated. 6000 in city. Newspapers right wing (Unkahrame) were antisemitic. When war started, Jews blamed for "betraying" Romania as area occupied by Russians. Polish refugees came across river and were put up in Jewish homes. Some Polish officers refused to stay in Jewish homes. Jews excluded from public schools. Father thrown from a train in 6/40 by Romanian Iron Guard and died 6 months later from his injuries. Deportations en masse started in 1941. 200,000 taken from Bukovina and Transylvania provinces to be "recolonized" in the east. Goodman and family taken in October, 1941 in cattle cars, 100/car, to Dnestr and then to Moghilev Podolsk across the Russian border and then Transnistria. Says 200,000 Jews from Bessarabia were killed by SS Group D out of total of 400,000. Goodman and 16 others lived in 2 rooms in the ghetto set up by Germans. Many relatives taken to labor camps when rounded up in Aktions by German and Jewish police. All died. Some Jews allowed out of ghetto to barter clothes for food in marketplace.. Many died in the street and were picked by carts in the morning for burial. Others were killed trying to wash in the nearby river. Goodman thinks an American named Ira Hirshman negotiated with Romanians for the release of 2000 Jews. Liberated by Russians in March, 1944. Many young male Jews inducted into Russian army. 2500 of 6000 returned to Radauti postwar. Goodman married and went to school and decided to leave in 1951 but could not get exit visas until 1958. Spent a year in Vienna and then on to St. Paul with help of aunts and cousins. Joint Distribution Committee sent parcels to Romania after the war and more help from Central Organization of Communities in Romania, which still exists (1984) .