

RG-50.156.0023

Summary

David Jagoda, born March 10, 1918 in Miechow, Poland. Father Elias, tailor/candy store owner, born in Naglowice, Poland. Mother Hannah born in Miechow. Spoke Yiddish at home. Went to a Mizrahi Hebrew school. Much antisemitism in town. When a gentile dying, church bells rang and townspeople knelt in the street. Jagoda, age 6, did not and a priest cut a cross in his head with scissors. Town occupied by Germans 9/4/39. Saw 35 Jews taken to a church and shot. His uncle, Mr. Danzinger also shot. Saw a girl named Weinblau try to escape and was shot. Jews put in ghetto in Miechow for 1 and a half years. In 8/41 taken to arbeitschlager (work camp) near Cracow airport to do mechanical work. 300 Jews in camp. Taken to Plaszow to dig rocks in a mine. Saw dogs owned by SS man Goeth tear apart an inmate and others shot. 2/43 sent to NKF camp overseen by Oskar Schindler who treated prisoners well. Made pots and pans. Stayed until summer 1943. Sent to Mauthausen 7/43. Saw Himmler there. Conditions bad. Sent to a satellite camp nearby. Brother there too. Wore metal tag on clothes which he lost. Taken to shreibshuber (HQ) and beaten with a whip handle. When Hungarian Jews came into camp, many were killed for not obeying orders. 4/15/45 taken from Mauthausen into woods where they stayed until liberated by the Americans on 5/5/45. Saw "piles" of bodies nearby. Brother died right after liberation after eating too much food. All other family members killed during the war. Put up in a warehouse in Wels, Austria for a few months. Left for Germany and found girl- friend/future wife in Feldafing. Married 1946 and son born 1947. Moved to Munchberg where wife worked as a photographer and he contracted TB. Eventually helped by HIAS to come to St. Paul with 100 others. Made refrigerators and later learned welding. Worked for Renley Engineering until retirement in 1983. Belongs to Holocaust organizations and suffers from survivor's guilt.