

MARVIN CRELL
RG-50.228.0001 (rec. 1990)

Marvin Crell was born in 1932 in Hotin, which was a city in Rumania and then taken over by the Russians. He lived with his parents, brother, paternal grandfather, and the family ran a dry goods store in a town of 200-250 Jewish families. Marvin was 8 when school was closed though he continued to go to Hebrew school in 1939 he remembers that the Russians took over his area including Bukhovina and Bessarabia, and special measures against the population were started.

In 1940 special convoys started and the populace was sent walking towards Ukraine for 2 months. His father managed to save his grandfather on the march, and the later lived 5 more months. By the times they were settled in a camp in the Ukraine, about 30% of the people marched had died. Marvin and his family spent 4 years in the camp under Rumanian rules. Marvin did menial tasks, and the main concern of his family was getting enough food. There were no escape attempts because there was nowhere to escape to. Marvin knew he was in the camp because they were Jewish, and he even had a secret Bar Mitzvah in the camp

After liberation the family returned to Hotin but it had been bombed and was in terrible condition. All of his nuclear family survived, but none of his extended family. In 1946 they moved to Paris for two years and then his mother's siblings in Fort Wayne, Indiana, helped them emigrate to the US. Marvin recalls that move as very happy. He graduated from Indiana University in 1954 and law school in 1958. He married and had children. In 1975 he took his eldest son to Israel for a survivors meeting. He doesn't feel guilty about surviving, but feels it is his duty to tell his story even if other people can't relate.