

Synopsis of interview of Jakob Ginzburg; Mellbourne, Australia Holocaust Centre

Jakob was born in a family of seven children in Lodz, Poland on March 10, 1920. His father was a Gerrer (Gur) Chasid, the owner of a small knitting factory, who died Jakob was 14 years old. With the help of a Volkdeutsch acquaintance, the family managed to escape from the ghetto to his mother's hometown of Koinck(ph) [Kolucki near Radom, Poland]. From there he was taken to Chelmno and Lublin, where he was forced to work on airplanes. He was then taken to Ukraine to forced labor on roads and fortifications. He landed there after an accident in the hospital and was sent back to Koinck. Eventually, he wound up in the Radom Ghetto where he worked in a bicycle factory. There he started to learn the electrical welding trade, which later became the secret of his survival. He then worked in a munitions factory in Skolna(ph) as a welder. As the Russinas were entering Poland he was taken on a five day march west winding up in Auschwitz. From there he continued to Weihnigen, a French prisoner of war camp and eventually to Dachau. From there he was taken to Seefeld and Garmisch Partenkirchen, where he was saved by a German woman. Eventually he was liberated by the United States Army. Jakob believes that the reason he survived was to share his story with future generations.