

Interview of Szoel Balbin,  
Melbourne Holocaust Centre  
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Szoel Balbin was born on September 22, 1926 in Rawa Maravetzka(ph), Poland a city not far from Tomaszow. Szoel describes the establishment of the ghetto at the end of 1941 and its brutal liquidation in the fall of 1943. During the ghetto's liquidation, Szoel's entire family managed to escape and was hidden for the duration of the war. In addition to saving Szoel's immediate family of six, his Polish rescuers also hid other family members. After the war the family moved to Stettin (Szczecin, Poland) where Szoel was active in smuggling Jews to the allied section of Berlin, Germany. Szoel was caught by Polish police during one of these trips and jailed. He managed to escape to Berlin via Łódź, Poland. Szoel arrived in Australia in 1951. Length of interview: 1 hr 12min