

Ivan Jarny, born June 1, 1924 in Spiskanovarnis, Czechoslovakia, discusses
Father and five brothers, timber business
Elite of the town, own house and car
Father and grandfather in timber business
Did well until 1929
Mother from Bohemia portion, Sudetenland; Sephardic not observant but identified as Jewish
Father and his brother belonged to Reform movement, went to temple on holidays, Ivan had bar mitzvah
Aware of living in an anti-Semitic society
800 Jews out of 11,000 people in town
1938 - Fascist in Slovakia became strong and made them unwelcome. Started by throwing stones on Catholic holy days, windows broken, graffiti on houses, met by thugs at night, would pin star of David on his back
Jewish primary school, only Jew in high school, Waited outside during religious instruction, 1939 thrown out of school, Hitler separated Slovenia and Bohemia, anti-Jewish laws passed, needed permission to travel or work, wore star of David, could not live on main street, could not employ non-Jews, in newspaper anti-Jewish propaganda, blood libel....
Sister thrown of school after only four years, had glandular fever
Father lost all his money in 1929
1940 life in town impossible
Müller was mother's maiden name, family from Trieste, Italy, her father was a tanner,
After 1929 father tried to set up a chemical business, failed, tried to sell life insurance, not successful, later worked to estimate amount of timber from a forest
Had friends that were orthodox, Reformed Jews, Czech friends, non-Jewish friends, fascist friend too, no problems
Parents had Jewish friends
Family had lived in the town for 5 generations on father's side, originally from Russia
Synagogue near their home, had rabbi
Dr. Rosenzweig, rabbi who had fled Germany, was new rabbi after their rabbi passed away, Reformed Spoke German at home, also spoke Slovak or Czech and Hungarian
Before 1938, mayor, head of police, and other religious groups would come to synagogue on holidays
1935-6 things began to change, German emigres coming to town and telling how bad Hitler was, thought they were exaggerating, some brought money, and some lived on charity
1939 started anti-Jewish legislation began
Family tried to emigrate, but it was too late, tried to get Ivan out
1940 Protestant minister tried to talk them into changing religion, father said no
1939 joined Hashomere----- (Jewish youth group **22:50**) Zionist, Jewish education, hiking on weekend
1942, March - first transports of girls to Auschwitz and Treblinka, a girl sent a card from a workcamp that was brought back to town by a railroad man, she said, "do not let them take you" this is not a work camp, worst that can happen, she said she would not survive, he was still going to mountains (hiking with friend Zvi Liebman who now lives in Israel) approached by two Hitler youths who told them to report to the police station in town of Stucher **26:26**) policeman there let them go but told them not to go hiking again, next week an article in German newspaper in Slovakia about Jewish thugs in mountains that were apprehended by Hitler youth and that they will go to work camp, police came to Ivan's parents and told he would be on next transport, one of his uncles was able to get Ivan's way out of the transport because he had a **presidential exception** that the Jewish laws did not apply to him. Uncle's **Presidential exception** allowed him to travel and he had very good connections with those in charge of transports, bribed (**name of paper at 29:39**)

1939 – his father was happy that England finally entered the war, thought the Germans would be defeated

1940 – His parents sent him to another town B_____ (31:20) 80 kilometers away, non-German, predominantly Protestant town, in a Catholic country, worked as an apprentice in a Jewish leather company that had an **arrizato (sp 32:03 non-Jew who ran a Jewish company)** Some Arrizatos were friends of Jews and would save Jews and would give business back to Jewish owners, others did everything to get Jews sent to death. His arrizato employed Jews under guise that they were necessary for the war effort, but really making handbacks. Work permit issued by arrizato, His name was Coubine (sp? 33:43) some workers from Bohemia, from the town, Bratislava. About a dozen Jews employed. Still had to wear star, but did not feel anti-Semitism

March, 1942 – young girls taken to railroad station, then another transport for men and boys
Permit needed to travel home, one weekend, he was hit over head by fascists at train station,
From his primary school class of 30 or 40, he is the only alive, about 6 survived the war
Travel permission gotten from police Jewish Department, head of fascists in Czechoslovakia was Rinka (sp ?39:34) Rinka guards organized transports and pushed people into wagons, rounded up on Friday and would not transport until Monday, by time taken to transports people were no longer recognizable, dirty, smelly

1942 – made contacts with partisans, Russians had partisans in the mountains, he was told about cave in which he could contact partisans, he was given a German pistol that had been stolen, told needed to build bunkers, Slovakia governed by its own fascists and police in 1942 and 43, not occupied by Germans, transports then

Talked to Jews in his town and built a series of bunkers in lower Tetra Mountains, put in wooden bunks and food, bunker to house 12 people would take 8 weekends for 4 people to build

1942-43 deportations,

1944 – no longer deportations but would be put in working camps, Rinka guards in charge, Ivan's friend Dr. Spitzer said not to go

Camouflaged bunkers, sawed down trees for bunkers, some Christians gave help, used caves also
Bunkers in Low Tetras were on plateaus, told to build bunkers in high Tetras too, needed to maintain low bunkers too

Whistled through teeth as signals, stored food in waxed cloth, stored sardines

1944, August – Germans occupied Slovakia, Russians on border, partisans began uprising against Germans, (56:15) fascists tried to join in

Hitler sent in Einsatzkommandos, (sp?56:39) those who killed the Jews, those who were not killed moved to bunkers or be hidden in Christian homes

Ivan's family hid in bunkers,

1943 parents had moved to Mikolage (sp? 57:44)

1944, August, Germans came to mikolage, about a dozen partisans killed most of the Germans, 60 Germans came, that day his family went to bunker with knapsacks

Dr. Popper in bunker (sp? 1:00:34)

Fascists would burn out bunkers, or kill them, 1944 November, moved to bunkers in the High Tetras
Number of Jews decimated in bunkers, hunger

Had a German walter pistol from partisans

1944, near the end of the year, still in bunkers, smoke gave them away

1944 mother went to Christian family to wash, on 30 December he was told it was safe in village

In morning Ivan took dirty clothes to village

December 31, 1944 7:00 AM, two Germans were at gate to village, family caught, shot at him, but he ran into forest, ran to a Christian family with the name of Yurikatch who lived *in another village*

(sp?1:10:03)

Germans came to that village and shot the people

Yurikatch had built a hiding place in the roof of his house, Ivan crawled into cubicle in the roof and hid there for 6 days

Germans in the house for 6 days

Yurikatch took him to partisans, Partisans had already liberated a prisoner of war camp with French prisoners in the town of Dupkesa (**sp? 1:15:02**) there was an armaments factory there.

Leader of French partisan, Capt. Durien (**sp?1:15:24**) Russians armed the partisans, Ivan became liaison between French and Russians because of his language skills,

1;16:24 name of head of partisans, could not understand

Russians wanted to know what Germans were doing, French would kill Germans at night or take to Russians for interrogation

April 4, 1945 Ivan crossed the front and went into a town occupied by Russians (**can't understand name of town 1:19:43**) he was liberated

Went to Bratislava worked for partisan association, left that and opened a leather goods business

1948 Communists government took over his business

1948 Moved to Vienna for a year

Changed name from Rofburger to Jarny

Bratislava restored Jewish community after the war

1948 applied to Canada, US and Australia, Sister was in Australia,

took a boat from Genoa, Italy

1950 arrived in Melbourne, Australia

Worked for General Motors for two years, 1953 worked for a tubular furniture company, 1956 began working with Parker furniture, became representative and built up company in Melbourne

1948 married in Bratislava

October 15, 1950 first son born in Melbourne

1953 – second son born in Melbourne

Received well in Australia, non-Jewish customers

Message: Jewish people can only live in a democracy, Israel must stay alive