

## WILHELM KORN

Born: Vienna, October, 1915 two brothers and a sister; Father died after WWI in 1922, when he was age 7, placed in a home for 7 years; Learned a trade for 5 years, no jobs during depression; 1937 joined the Austrian army, when Hitler came he had to leave the army because he was Jewish; Held by Germans for 6 to 7 years;

Siblings: Frank Korn, Janie Korn, Siggie Korn (died in Central America); Mother's name: Helen Korn, took in sewing; Father's name: Chaim Korn was in the army;

Finished school at 14, learned shorthand; Jews told to leave class when the priest came; At age 14 left school, became an apprentice plumber for 3 years, could not find work because of the depression, never employed as a plumber; then joined army, had to leave because he was Jewish; laws against Jews began; after army, got documents from an Austrian lawyer to leave Austria, went to German office to try to get permission to leave, waited many times; sneaked people over the border into Switzerland; October 1939 was taken by Germans; put on train, told to hand over all money and documents and hid money for someone; on first transport to camp in Poland not far from the Russian border, started shooting at prisoners, this was Eichmann's first transport, then he escaped to Russia, caught by Russians and imprisoned in a military prison for 6 weeks, sent to Siberia, few survived, first stop was in Czechoslovakia to take Jews off the train then he was taken off the train in Vienna, walked all over Vienna looking for family, then reported to Gestapo, and sent to place to get work, sent to a quarry in Austria, learned mother was put on a transport and left the quarry to go to Vienna to look for mother, then to Poland; Went to train but Germans circled the station, took his mother so went with her, sentenced to two months prison, mother went to Katovich, he was released later, went to get mother but told she was transported to Poland, went to Krakow and told she has been sent to Auschwitz; went Tisch (city with 70,000 Jews) and met a woman who he told it was time to leave, he was taken away, later told all those Jews were taken to Auschwitz, taken to many camps; Moved from camp to camp, five years in the camps, 1943 loaded in train, German officer pulled him off train; Six weeks before the end of the war, dropped down and pretended to collapse in front of SS officer, taken to sick barracks and survived, felt he could not go on any more;

Kapos were very cruel, lice, fleas, five in a bed, tried to sleep on top;

8 May, 1945 night before the liberation Germans were told to liquidate the camp, he warned the officer that he would not be able to escape if he killed everyone, the Germans abandoned the camp; Liberated by Russians, after liberation left camp, went to Polish/German border, went to Germany; then went to the Americans, reported to UNRRA and Red Cross, sister also went to Red Cross, went to Austria, then to Italy from north to south, in camp in Italy, stayed in Italy for 2 years, found brother and sister, younger brother in Australia, brother sent permit to go to Australia in 1947;

In Australia worked in a factory, learned English from radio, advertising, newspaper and books; 1949 married, met wife in Milan, Italy refugee camp; 1975 visited Vienna, would not speak German, beautiful city;

At the end of the interview he shows the following documents:

many German documents

Transport paper to Poland

Release in 1945 from concentration camp

German "invitation: to report on 1, May 1942

Document showing release from camp

Showing release from prison after crossing polish/German border

German prison document

French permit to travel through country

Department of health in Palestine

Birth certificate

Permit to go to Austria

Passport to Australia

Austria military papers 1936

Austrian passport

Diary from camps