

**RG-50.407.0077**

## **Summary**

Zvi Sharp, born in Ryki (Lublin, Poland), small town had 2500 Jews, in 1927; father, Yitzchak Szarfsztrum (age 53 in 1939); mother Malka Szarfsztrum (age 50 in 1939), Brothers, Mendele, Libel, Meyer, Hennan; Father was a scribe; attended Polish school in the morning and chayder in the afternoon; Languages: Yiddish at home, Polish in school; much antisemitism while at school, lots of fighting; 1937 boycotting Jewish shops, Jews had to wear arm bands; Polish army began bombing Jewish areas; September 1939 walking to a nearby town; the Germans burned everything in Ryki, Poland; Rosh Hashanah praying and Germans made them leave synagogue, made the men dance; 1940 put people in ghetto, Judenrat directed work, made men work on the road, very bad living conditions, no food; SS came into the ghetto in middle of night to kill people; SS coming from Lublin, demanded money or take people, Germans ordered Judenrat, Judenrat collected money, demanded work from the Jews; 1939 school ended for Jews, ghetto conditions worsened, no food, unable to wash; after Pesach 1942 selections began, Germans took people to gas chambers, Judenrat told everyone to get into the streets, separated men and women, SS took gold, even cutting finger off to get ring, walked twelve kilometers to Dęblin; Black SS man struck his father, shot into the people, killed people including children; SS took 500 younger people out of 2000 people to work, never saw father again; pushed people into train cars; taken to Dęblin to work camp near the airport, about 1000 people; worked there for 1 ½ years; 1943 – Germans told them to sing Jewish songs, little food, ate potato peels; barracks in the camp, before Rosh Hashanah no work to do, SS came and sent everyone out of the barracks, SS with whips, told to stand in rows, work groups of 150 people, took everyone but 300 people; 1944 – Germans had trouble at the Russian front, Russians started to come to Lublin, Poland; October 1944- Put in train car for 2 weeks, taken to work in a metal factory, worked there about 6 months and Russians came so put on train again for three weeks to Buchenwald, took clothes off and put in a big room to be disinfected, given uniforms, with Russians approaching Germans brought people from Auschwitz, many died in route, so tight people could not move, there for a few months and then taken to camp at Colditz, near Leipsic; built a munitions factory, hungry, given ½ liter potato soup and 100 grams bread; war coming closer so started walking again; March, 1944, Americans on one side and Germans on the other; walked for two weeks, 300 people survived out of 500, ran away to a house to grab food, walked until Theresienstadt, learned he was free, saw the Russian tanks, had no place to go, friend was Morrill Pesah, now living in Israel, Morrill Pesah wanted him to go to Austria with him, but went to Poland to look for family, family took him in near Dęblin, went to Lublin, did not stay there, went to a kibbutz in Poland, Hertzl was there, after three months crossed border into Czechoslovakia, then to Prague, then to Bratislava, where jailed for two days, Jewish organization got them out, crossed into Germany and Americans started to settle them in a DP camp, stayed 3 or 4 months and then to Palestine in 1945-46, first to Paris, then to Marseilles and then by ship to Palestine, two weeks on the ship, English military ships came,

told English they are going to Lebanon and carrying furniture, English put nets on the ship, they tried to fight the English who took the ship to Cypress, lived in tents, fed, learned Hebrew, went on food strike, Golda Meir came to help, slowly they were sent to Palestine in 1946, began to do construction work, after three months Arabs attacked, joined the Army, in the Palmach, after six months he was given a holiday and went to Haifa, two years in the Army, 1950 married Romania, 1951 and 1958 children born, found an uncle who brought him and his family to Australia,

Pressure of what he experienced has made him frightened his whole life. Always working hard.

Photos of German soldiers harassing Jews in Poland, then killed the Jews, from 1945 Polish newspaper

From Cypress in 1946, had nothing from his family, wanted a monument for his family, has names of his family members