

**RG-50.407.0234**

**Oral History: Paul Stein, December 11, 2001**

**Summary**

Paul Stein [born circa 1912] in Slovakia, describes: spending the earliest years of his life with his parents and brother in a First World War prison camp near Vienna where his father ran a factory; moving into Vienna as his father became director of a prominent company; having a good life and education in Vienna between the ages of ten and twenty-eight, the last ten years of which was spent working at a wood processing plant; his life changing drastically after the Anschluss, when in a case of mistaken identity he was detained in solitary confinement for several months; leaving Vienna with his brother to the area of Czechoslovakia that became occupied by Poland; immigrating to London and never seeing his brother or parents again; with the help of the Jewish community, moving on to Australia, where he remained ever since; having two marriages and a daughter.

Responding to questions about his earlier life, describes: his brother, Robert, older by a year and a half; his father, Ludwig, and mother, Theresa (née Altman); grandfather, Joseph; his parents being observant Jews; being aware of Hitler's plans for war and the Jews. Concludes by warning of the dangers of continuing worldwide antisemitism and the importance of maintaining Judaism and keeping Israel safe.