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| Interviewee: | <u>FINDER</u> , Herbert | Dates: | February 19, 1987 |
| Interviewer: | Nora Levin | | March 19 & 26, 1987 |
| Audio tapes: | 3 English | Transcript: | 1 vol. (unpaged) English |
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SUMMARY

Herbert Finder was born in Vienna on April 22, 1929 of a Polish father who was an Austrian citizen and a German mother. He mentions antisemitic acts experienced in school. He describes the Anschluss and his family's flight to Breda, Belgium and Antwerp, where Herbert attended a Jewish school. They received American visas in April, 1940 but lack of funds and the German invasion trapped them. His father was sent to a camp near Toulouse, France. Herbert, his mother and his uncle fled to Southern France. Herbert lived with a Jewish farmer, who took in many refugees, for two years. His father joined them after his release, and they lived on a farm in Duvernay. His mother returned to Antwerp to salvage their visas, but was deported in September 1942. After the war, they learned she had been killed.

Herbert and his father remained on the farm until arrested as foreigners in August 1942 by French police. They were sent to a camp in Viviers, then to Drancy. On September 4, 1942 they were shipped east on the 28th convoy to work at Oberschlesien osten, near Katowice. Though underage, Herbert remained with his father at the labor camp of Tarnoviche (Tarnosky Gura), which he describes. Internal affairs of the camp were run by Polish Jews who reported to the Germans.

In the spring of 1943, Herbert and other inmates were sent to Sosnowiec to work in Katowicz. In November 1943 they were shipped to Birkenau where they were tattooed, suffered brutal conditions and saw crematoria. They moved to Auschwitz for one night and then to the Warsaw Ghetto to clear rubble, until July 1944. He describes the ghetto, where non-Jewish German prisoners were in charge. Prisoners traded for food with Poles and a typhus epidemic killed many. He worked in a burial detail that burned corpses of victims shot in Paviak. In July 1944, as Russians approached, prisoners began a three-day forced march to Lodz, then went to Dachau in sealed cattle cars without food or water. While his father was recuperating from an injury, Herbert was sent to Allach, a camp where Jews and non-Jews built an underground factory. His father joined him after three weeks. In April 1945 prisoners were put on flat cars. After two days, German guards disappeared and prisoners were liberated by Americans on April 30th. In May 1945, Herbert and his father went to Antwerp via Stuttgart and France. He describes their survival strategies and faith in God. They came to the United States in December 1946, lived in New York City until 1950, and then settled in Vineland, NJ.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

Vienna, Austria
Antwerp, Belgium 1938-40
France: Duvernay
France: Drancy (transit camp)
World War, II 1939-1945 Deportations from France
World War II 1939-1945 Concentration Camps-Liberation
Tarnoviche (Tarnosky Gura) Labor Camp, Poland
Sosnovwec, Poland
Katowicz, Poland
Birkenau (Poland Concentration Camp) 1943
Warsaw Ghetto
Deathmarch to Lodz Poland 1944
Dachau (Germany Concentration camp)
Allach (Labor Camp)
Postwar experiences
Survival skills