

Interviewee: MAKOWER, Samuel  
Interviewer: Gerry Schneeberg  
No. of Audio tapes: 1 English  
No restrictions

Date: August 3, 1988  
Transcript: 1 v. (unpaged)  
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## SUMMARY

Samuel Makower, born January 6, 1922 in Przasnysz, Poland, where he attended a *cheder* and public school. Following the German invasion of September 1, 1939, he fled with his family to Warsaw and then to Bialystok. Under the Russian occupation, they were offered contracts to work in the Ural Mountains. He describes the harsh climatic conditions and the deprivations of wartime, with mention of aid from Russian people, among whom they lived. In 1941, the family moved to Minsk and were trapped one month later when the Germans invaded and established a ghetto. He describes the killings by Germans and Ukrainians. His family survived by creating hiding places under the floor and within a false wall. A 2-year-old niece was sheltered in a Russian orphanage, with the aid of a German soldier. Dr. Makower escaped with his sister and brother-in-law to join Russian partisans who accepted Jews. He details partisan life, obtaining food and ammunition from civilians. They blew up trains and railroads and took some German soldiers as prisoners. He mentions "Uncle Vanya", the Jewish partisan who sheltered many Jews in the forest. After liberation by the Russian Army, he helped his family who had survived move to Szczecin (Stettin). At the request of a Zionist group, he secured a train to remove 200 Jewish children to Cracow. He entered the University of Berlin and obtained a Ph.D. in chemistry and followed part of his family to Israel. Unable to find employment there, he emigrated to the United States in 1956.

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#### SUBJECT HEADINGS

Aid from non-Jews - Russian civilians and a German soldier  
Jewish labor, under contract - Ural Mts.  
Minsk Ghetto  
Killings by Germans and Ukrainians  
Partisan life - Russian and Jewish  
Sabotage by partisans  
Szczecin (Stettin)