

Interviewee:	<u>MAOR</u> , Zenek	Date:	October 20, 1987 ¹
Interviewer:	Sylvia Brockmon		
Audio tapes:	1 Yiddish	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	None	Libr. Catlg. #:	D 810.J4 G7 no. 85
		Translated:	Yiddish to Eng. (written)
		Translated by:	Sylvia Brockmon

SUMMARY

Zenek Maor, was born August 9, 1923, in Wloclawek, Poland, into a religious Jewish family. His father was a factory owner and the family lived comfortably until the German occupation. He details pre-war life including his *Hashomer Hatzair* activities. He describes German restrictions and brutalities in Wloclawek, where his father was arrested and held for ransom, and later in Warsaw, where his family fled in January 1940. As a 16 year-old, he worked in various forced labor brigades, including the Okecie air-field in Warsaw. He gives detailed descriptions of life in the Warsaw ghetto including Jewish police and the *Hashomer Hatzair* network of underground schools. Because of severe hunger in the ghetto, he was encouraged by his family to escape in 1942.

Eventually sent to various labor camps, he details difficult work conditions but mentions ongoing belief in his own survival. He discusses reasons that people could not escape from labor camps or from Auschwitz. He details his arrival at Auschwitz in summer 1943 including initial belief in the slogan "Work Makes You Free," the smell of roasting flesh, and his defiance of Mengele's decision to send him to annihilation with other children instead of assigning him to work with his older brother. Much information is given on Auschwitz: daily routine, work, treatment by *Kapos*, latrine communication between prisoners. He describes the death march from Auschwitz from January 17, 1945 to May 10, 1945 and gives an in-depth account of his liberation by the Russian Army. Returning to Poland, he learns that no one from his family survived. He emigrated to Palestine in April, 1947.

¹This interview was conducted in Haifa, Israel.