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| Interviewee: | <u>CAIM</u> , Sigmund | Date: | February 9, 1981 |
| Interviewer: | Fred Stamm | | |
| Audio tapes: | 1 English | Transcript: | 1 vol. (unpaged) English |
| Restrictions: | None | | |

SUMMARY

Sigmund (Siggy) Cain was born in Freiberg, Germany near the Swiss border July 29, 1910. He grew up in Wilmersdorf, a suburb of Berlin, where he went to boarding school. His mother died when he was seven and his father, a buyer for a large department store chain, had served in the German army in World War I. When Sigmund was 16 he was apprenticed in a textile factory.

Amid growing antisemitism (Sigmund was attacked by Nazis in Bruchsal) in April 1933 Sigmund left Germany, and went to Colmar, in Alsace-Lorraine. There he joined the *Hehalutz* - a Zionist youth movement - and received *hakhsharah* agricultural training on a farm, hoping to immigrate to Palestine. In 1936 fearing deportation by the Parisian police he fled, via Spain, to Palestine. He joined kibbutz Na'an near Afula. He lived on the kibbutz but worked in the new port of Tel Aviv as a stevedore. His parents visited in 1937 but returned to Germany. In 1938, however, Sigmund was not happy in Palestine and he applied for and received a visa to go to his relatives in the United States. Sigmund relates that in 1938, after *Kristallnacht* (when Sigmund's father was briefly imprisoned in Dachau) his parents decided to immigrate to Palestine. They lived in Israel from 1939-1956. In 1956 illness prompted his parents to join Sigmund and his sister in Chicago.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

World War, 1939-1945 Personal Narratives, Jewish
Holocaust Jewish 1939-1945
Palestine 1938-9