

Interviewee:	<u>DON</u> , Sam	Date:	April 4, 1988
Interviewer:	Self-taped Memoir		
Audio tapes:	1 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	None		

SUMMARY

Sam Don (formerly Zalman Domb) was born on January 15, 1927 in Ostrykół, a Polish village. In this self-taped interview he describes his trip back to Poland with his children in 1988 and describes how difficult and emotional the trip and the retelling is, but felt that it is important to bear witness. In his hometown, Sam found villagers who remembered his family and were very warm and welcoming, and contrasts this with his sadness at seeing his house, school and childhood places destroyed and gone. He was also shown the bunker where his uncle and cousins had hidden until three weeks before the Russians came, when they were shot and killed.

Sam discusses their trip to the Makow Ghetto where they found many Jewish tombstones that were made into pavements. They were in several cities where they found similar circumstances and describes their emotions. They visited Warsaw (*Umschlagplatz*, Mila 18), Krakow, Birkenau and Auschwitz. In Auschwitz, Sam found the spot where his brother was electrocuted on the fence and said *kaddish* for him. He was able to find his registration card which showed his arrival date and his prisoner number. Sam recounts an important moment when he overhears a guide teaching students about what the Germans did in Auschwitz and not telling them that most of the victims were Jewish. He shared his personal story with the students and told them exactly what had happened there including the fact that there were many nationalities murdered there, but that most of them were Jews. He states that he believes this is not uncommon among student groups brought there. They also visited Katowice and Theresienstadt, Czechoslovakia where he was liberated.

See also Sam Don's 1982 interview about his experiences during the Shoah, and also his wife, Shirley Don's interview.