

Interviewee:	<u>FERLEGER</u> , Albert	Date:	July 31, 1984
Interviewer:	Eileen Steinberg		
Audio tapes:	2 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	Not to be used for profit by individual or organization.		

SUMMARY

Albert (Abraham) Ferleger was born in Chmielnik, Poland, June 15, 1919. He was one of six children from a very Orthodox family and had a public school as well as a yeshiva education. He describes the customs of the Jewish *Kehillah* in his town, relates the Polish antisemitism before the war and describes what occurred after the Germans took over the town. He describes the influx of populations from several different towns being forced into their ghetto and describes atrocities (people being killed on the spot and burying them) and deportations. Albert was sent to *zwangsarbeit*, forced labor, where he shoveled snow and worked in the ghetto community kitchen.

Albert fled from the Germans and was hidden by a Polish farmer for two years: he was buried in a hole, naked, under the farmers stable, along with another Jewish man. They subsisted on bread and potatoes. He details their horrid conditions.

With the Russian victory and the help of the *Briha*¹ (underground Zionist organization helping Jews get to Palestine) he became the leader of a group of Jews that was smuggled across the Polish and Czechoslovakian borders to Germany pretending to be Greek and later as German Jews.

He met his wife (who was liberated from Theresienstadt) through the *Briha*, as well. They were sent to Munich and then to a displaced persons camp in Regensburg, Germany for seven months. With the help of HIAS and President Truman's aid to refugees they went to relatives in Philadelphia. He relates in great detail how he was able to survive during and after the war, how his experiences challenged his religious beliefs and his bitterness that not more was not done to help the Jews.

¹Also spelled *Berihah* or *Brichah*.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

Holocaust Jewish 1939-1945 - psychological aspects

Holocaust, Jewish 1939-1945 - Poland

World War 1939-1945 - Personal Narratives- Jewish

Chmielnik, Poland

Zwangsarbeit forced labor

Aid by non-Jews

Briha / *Bricha*