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| Interviewee: | <u>FOX</u> , John | Date: | May 28, 1981 |
| Interviewer: | Hanna Silver | | |
| Audio tapes: | 1 English | Transcript: | 1 vol. (unpaged) English |
| Restrictions: | None | | |

SUMMARY

John Fox was born on February 2, 1928, in Tuszyn, Poland, a town near Lodz. Of the 2,000 Jewish residents very few survived the war. He went to a Polish school where antisemitism was rampant. John and his father were active in the Betar Revisionist Zionist movement. In December 1939 the Jewish townspeople were deported to Piotrkow (which later became a ghetto). The Jewish leadership, identified by the Poles, were rounded up and killed first. From December 1939-1941 about 44,000 Jews lived in this ghetto.

In 1942 the Germans closed the Piotrkow Ghetto and most of the Jews were sent in cattle cars to Treblinka. John's mother and sister were sent to Treblinka and he never saw them again. John described how about 600 escapees from Piotrkow were caught by Ukrainian guards, were imprisoned in the synagogue, and left to starve to death. The few surviving Jews had to dig their own graves and were then shot. John and his father and brother worked in a glass factory, making medicine bottles for the Germans. They were later sent to various labor and concentration camps, but could not believe the rumors about killings in Treblinka. As the Russians advanced they were sent to Buchenwald. His father, suffering from dysentery, died 2 months before liberation. John and his brother were marched to Mauthausen, and to Hartsung and other smaller camps and John describes the brutal conditions there. John was separated from his brother. John was liberated from a derailed train transport, and cared for by Czech partisans. His brother was liberated from Terezin.

After the war John found his brother and was able to go to England with him on a children's transport to Windemere, near the Scottish border. They lived in a RAF camp with ill children until he and his future wife were able to get papers to go to America. On March 3, 1956 they arrived in the United States and lived with a cousin in Philadelphia.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

Holocaust Jewish-1939-1945

World War, 1939-1945 Personal Narratives, Jewish

World War, 1939-1945 Poland

World War, 1939-1945- Treblinka, concentration camp

World War, 1939-1945- Buchenwald, concentration camp

World War, 1939-1945- Mauthausen, concentration camp

World War, 1939-1945 - Piotrkow Ghetto, Poland

Aid by non-Jews