

Interviewee:	<u>FRIEDLÄNDER</u> , Otto	Date:	May 25, 1987 ¹
Interviewer:	Vera Rosenberger		
Audio tapes:	1 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	None	Translated:	Serbo-Croatian to Eng. (orally)
		Translated by:	Elah Alayni & Vera Rosenberger

SUMMARY

Otto Friedländer one of four children was born January 15, 1910 in Slovenia. Otto gives a brief pre-war description of his hometown indicating that although there were many *Volksdeutsche* in the surrounding areas, they did not experience antisemitism. His parents owned a store. Otto trained as an electrician. Otto was drafted into the Yugoslav army in April 1941. He gives a detailed description of his return to his hometown where he stayed until the spring of 1942 when the Ustasha deported Otto and his family to Jasenovac concentration camp. He details gruesome atrocities committed by the Ustasha against Gypsies and Jews. A priest send him parcels of food. He describes how almost all the Jews were killed the very day they arrived. He was saved because of his occupation and worked as an electrician and doing forestry work to fell trees for poles. Otto found out later that his whole family was killed there including his pregnant wife.

Otto gives a detailed description of a partisan raid on the Ustasha in September 1943 during which he fled to a nearby village and re-joined the army. He asked to be assigned close to his hometown of Feričanci and was assigned to the 12th brigade. He was able to make contact with friends during this time. He describes how he later joined the partisans and reached Maribor, Slovenia where he worked in an Ustasha hospital and received food from some acquaintances who were doctors. There he met his future wife. Otto and his wife emigrated to Israel in 1948.

¹This interview took place in Tivon, Israel.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

World War, 1939-1945 - Croatia
World War, 1939-1945 - Yugoslavia
World War, 1939-1945 - Slovenia
World War, 1939-1945 - Personal narratives, Jewish
Jasenovac concentration camp - Croatia
Ustasha
Aid by non-Jews – clergy
Partisans – Slovenia and Croatia