

Interviewee:	<u>MINCBERG</u> , Josef	Date:	September 14, 1989
Interviewer:	Edith Millman		
Audio tapes:	1 English	Transcript:	Draft, unaudited
Restrictions:	Library Use Only		1 vol. (unpaged) English

SUMMARY

Josef Mincberg was born in Szydlowiec, Poland in 1920. His father had an electrical supply store and was an orthodox but progressive Jew. Josef attended both religious and public schools and belonged to *Betar*. He describes what he and other Jews experienced between 1939 and 1941, after the German invasion, including beatings and forced labor. To support his family, Josef smuggled leather for shoes. Deportations started immediately after *Yom Kippur* September 1942. Josef was forced on a truck with other young men to Starachowice and then to a labor camp where he stayed until January 1943. His parents and sisters perished in Treblinka.

Josef describes the horrible living and working conditions in the so-called "City of Jews" established in Szydlowiec, as well as in the Malakusnia [phonetic] labor camp, where he made shells for the army, guarded by Polish police. He explains how he managed to jump from the cattle train transporting Jews to Treblinka and then return to Szydlowiec with seven other boys. He survived with help from a Polish neighbor but was almost murdered.

He managed to get into the Wolanów and Radom labor camps illegally and then into the smaller of the two Radom Ghettos after the larger ghetto had been liquidated. Later he returned to Starachowice and worked making ammunition. He relates in great detail how he survived by using his wits until he was liberated on January 15, 1944 by the Russian army.

Post liberation he stayed in several towns in Poland, and a Displaced Persons camp in Stuttgart, Germany. He and his wife, also a survivor, went to the United States in June 1949 and settled in Houston, Texas. After a few years of struggling to eke out a living, he became a successful Real Estate developer.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

World War 1939 – 1945 – Personal narratives, Jewish, Polish

World War 1939 – 1945 – Deportation to forced labor

German Occupation of Poland

Jewish ghettos – Radom, Poland

Starachowice (labor camp)

Wolanów (labor camp)

Radom (labor camp)

Forced labor

Atrocities

Escapes

Liberation – Soviet Army