

Bay Area Holocaust Oral History Project

P.O. Box 25506, San Mateo, CA 94402

Name of interviewee: Birman, Leonid

Date of interview: 2/10/1999

Summary: Leonid was born on 1/1/1938 in Moskovoya, Ukraine. Leonid lived with his mother and three sisters in a ghetto near Moskovoya, while his father was a soldier fighting in the army. Ukrainian and Romanian policemen governed the ghetto, and Jews were restricted. Jews were not allowed to leave, and they had to wear a yellow star on their clothing. He and his family were liberated by the Soviet Army in March of 1944. After the war was over, Leonid and his family returned to Moskovoya to find their house destroyed and moved into a neighboring house that used to be owned by a Ukrainian or Romanian soldier.

In 1946, Leonid began attending school once again. Once he graduated, he moved to Odessa where his sisters worked. He enrolled in a technical school where he became a specialist with metals. He worked for three years, and then joined the army and served from 1960-63. Leonid did not receive any advancements and returned to his factory. He married in 1968, and his daughter was born in the late '70s. Leonid and his family moved to the United States on May 26, 1997, mainly because Leonid was tired of being discriminated against in Russia.