

Bay Area Holocaust Oral History Project

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

Name of interviewee: Erlichman, Max

Date of interview: 12/10/1993 & 1/6/1994

Summary: (General summary of two interviews.)

Max was born in Caracas, Venezuela in November of 1931 to Tobias Erlichman and Bella Kiliansky. He spent his childhood years in Amsterdam, Holland until he was taken to Westerbork with his brother and father in mid-November 1942. The Gestapo had already taken his mother to Auschwitz in September of 1942. Also, his older brother Zacharias was taken to Auschwitz in October of 1942. Max never saw either Zacharias or his mother again, and found out after the war that they were both killed in the camps. After Max, his younger brother, and his father had been shuttled to Auschwitz for one month from Westerbork; they were then sent back to Westerbork for 4 or 5 more months. Next, the 3 of them are sent to Bergen-Belsen where they stayed for 9 weeks before being sent to a work camp south of Munich until they were liberated in March or April of 1945 by the American army. They were then sent to a displaced persons camp in Wurzburg for a week before being sent back to Holland. After the war his father traveled between Holland and the US over the next few years before he brought Max and his brother over to the US.