

Bay Area Holocaust Oral History Project

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

RG-50.477*0615

Name of Interviewee: Alperovich, Simon

Date of Interview: 11/14/1993

Simon Alperovich was born in 1928 in Vilnius (Vilna), Lithuania. Simon's family was well-educated and Simon's father had been trained as an engineer in Germany. In 1933, the family moved to Kaunas (Kovno) due to the lack of employment opportunities in Vilnius. At the age of seven, Simon began his education at Shalom Aleichem school. In June of 1941 Simon and his mother were able to make their way to Russia by train, and soon after were joined by his father. While in Russia Simon's father opened a children's home where some Lithuanian children were able to find refuge. After the war, Simon returned to Vilnius with his family and he resumed his education in a Russian school because all Jewish schools had been closed by the Russian government. Simon and his family survived the war by fleeing Lithuania, but the majority of his relatives was not able to do the same and ultimately perished in the Holocaust.

Summary Version 2

Name of interviewee: Alperovich, Simon

Date of interview: 11/14/1993

Summary: Simon Alperovich was born in Vilnius, Lithuania in 1928. Although Vilnius was composed of many nationalities, there were many Jewish residents in Vilnius before the war. In fact, Vilnius was called "Lithuanian Jerusalem" because of the contributions that the Jewish community made to the Jewish Culture. Simon's family was very educated. His father, Chaim Alperovich, was an engineer who received his education in Germany. In 1933, Simon and his family immigrated to Kalnoovs(?), Lithuania because of the unemployment situation in Vilnius. Kalnoovs(?) also had a large Jewish population at the time. In Kalnoovs(?), there were five Jewish schools that taught Efim Nenaydock Hebrew and one school that taught Yiddish. At the age of seven Simon began his studies in Shalom Alechem, the one school in town that taught Yiddish. Before the beginning of the war Simon finished six grades.

When the war began, on June 21, 1941, Simon's father was able to get Simon and his mother to board a train to Pence(?), Russia. His father did not leave with them but he joined them soon after. During the years of evacuation they also stayed in: Tashkent Area, Kirov Area, and Moscow, Russia. His father opened a children's home in which many Jewish children from Lithuania found refuge. The children's home also took in some Lithuanian children. Simon's life during evacuation was difficult because food was very scarce.

After the war Simon returned to Vilnius with his family. He resumed his education in a Russian school because he had picked up the Russian language during his years of evacuation. At that point, all of the Jewish schools have been closed by the Soviet Union.

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Simon and his family survived the war by evacuating. However, many of his relatives were not as lucky. Most of Simon Alperovich's relatives on both his mother's and father's side did not evacuate and perished during the Holocaust.