

## Bay Area Holocaust Oral History Project

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

**Name of interviewee:** Borsky, Vladislav

**Date of interview:** 3/20/1996

**Summary:** Vladislav grew up in post-WWI Czechoslovakia. His father Woyja, a steel mill worker was abusive, and his mother, Honorata, died of TB when he was a young boy. He had two brothers: Freda and Pavel, and two sisters: Helen and Angela. After 2 years of technical college, at the age of 17, Vladislav moved to Prague to work as a welder for an engineering company. Soon after, Czechoslovakia came under German occupation. Vladislav describes in detail life under the Germans. He and other Czechs were advised by their president not to resist, as doing so would essentially be suicide. Vladislav lived under constant fear of the SS, even as a Catholic, since Nazis were executing people of all backgrounds if they failed to cooperate with the Jewish roundups. It was very traumatic to watch the Jews, many his friends, taken away on a daily basis to concentration camps. Vladislav's experiences during the Holocaust still have a significant impact on his thoughts today. He candidly states, "You must never trust the Germans," and he believes the Germans will cause another world war. After the Holocaust, Vladislav gave up his Catholic beliefs and is now an atheist, feeling that God could never have allowed Hitler to be.