

Bay Area Holocaust Oral History Project

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

Name of interviewee: Drabkin, Julius

Date of interview: 1/27/1990, 4/9/1992, 8/26 & 10/14/1993

Summary: Father:

Mother:

Siblings: 2 sisters

Family Killed in Holocaust: only 1 aunt survived

Julius Drabkin was born in 1918 in Maritopa, Latvia to Mikhail and Sarah Daviolovna. Before the war, Julius lived in Riga, Latvia (which was not a part of former Soviet Union before WWII). Julius was a soldier in the Latvian Army until German invasion in July, 1941. During most of the war, he lived in the ghetto until ghetto liquidation in 1943, and then he was sent to Kaizerwald camp. He married Amalia, his 1st wife, in 1941.

Julius was liberated on March 10, 1945 at Stutthof. After the war, he returned to Riga because he was distressed, even though he had the opportunity to emigrate. The Nazis, except for one of his aunts, killed all of his family. He remarried shortly after the war (his wife also lost all her family), had 2 sons, and lived in Riga until he immigrated to the United States in the late 1970s. He emigrated because being Jewish his older son found it impossible to pursue his career. Julius later went to Riga for the World Conference of Holocaust Survivors.