

-TITLE-GERALD ROSENSTEIN
-I_DATE-
-SOURCE-SAN FRANCISCO HOLOCAUST ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
-RESTRICTIONS-
-SOUND_QUALITY-
-IMAGE_QUALITY-
-DURATION-
-LANGUAGES-
-KEY_SEGMENT-
-GEOGRAPHIC_NAME-
-PERSONAL_NAME-
-CORPORATE_NAME-
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-NOTES-
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Born 1927 in Benzheim, Germany. Lived there until 7 years old.
Youngest of family of three sons. In late

1:03:08 1935 moved to Darmstadt. Lived there for 6 months, moved to
Holland.

Gerald remembers early acts of anti-Semitism. In the first grade
he was beaten up by the father of a schoolmate who said Gerald
insulted the boy.

During Harry's early days in Holland he remembered he had to quit
his regular high school and attend a Jewish high school in 1942. In
early 1942 the deportations started from Holland. Since Harry's
father was an officer during WWI the family wasn't deported until
1943, to Auschwitz. He thinks the family received preferential
treatment.

Life under the Germans changed drastically after 1941.

11:42 Under the occupation. In 1942 there were arrests of Jews,
closing of blocks and deportation.

12:47 In late 1943 Harry was deported to Theresienstadt. In 1944
Harry and his father were deported to Auschwitz. His mother
remained in Theresienstadt. Harry and his father survived
Auschwitz.

16:02 Harry remembers that the Dutch were very helpful and
cooperative towards the Jews. He remembers that he was arrested in
the middle of the night and sent to a theater for 48 hours.
Subsequently Harry was transferred to Westerbork. While he was in
Westerbork there was no mistreatment of prisoners. Meanwhile his
parents were shipped to Bergen-Belsen.

Harry stayed four or five months in Theresienstadt. Life

24:50 was difficult but bearable. During the day he spent the day working in potato fields and performing menial work. There was reading and art material available. Harry's mother worked on insulating materials for submarines. It was warm and they were reasonably fed. His parents were housed in separate barracks.

27:22 During spring 1945 Harry and his father were deported from Theresienstadt to Birkenau. After they arrived at the camp they were selected to go left. They marched with the Dutch and walked to showers. They were tattooed.

After staying in Birkenau for 6 weeks Harry and His father were sent to Glewitz. The camp was a labor camp. Life was infinitely better than Birkenau because there wasn't a gas chamber there. Harry worked in a factory manufacturing weapons doing welding.

At this time Harry weighed about 110 pounds. His father had lost considerable weight. Harry spent this time with his father at Glewitz. He claims that his father helped him to survive.

43:30 Harry had encountered minimal health problems except during two episodes. He had experienced open sores on the back of his hands and injured his back picking up heavy weights. His group was one of the last to be evacuated to Gleicheimer. The Germans guarding the tower started to randomly shoot at anything that moved. Shortly afterwards the German abandoned the camp.

49:00 Harry and about a dozen marched to a English prisoner of war camp. There was a lot of rape and pillaging committed by the Russians in Kadowitz area.

They traveled by train to Odessa with English war prisoners. After six weeks a ship arrived sent by the Red Cross to take everyone to Marseilles. When the ship arrived in Marseilles his father contacted the relatives to notify them that Gerald and his father had survived.

59:41 After the war Gerald and his father got very ill in Paris. Gerald got ill with pneumonia in July 1945. His mother was in good health. They continued on a train to the north of Amsterdam. He got himself on an army train to Brussels. From Brussels he hitchhiked on army trucks to Amsterdam. This is where he found his mother. Afterwards he took his mother back to Paris. A year and a half later the family emigrated to the United States.

1:03:23 In August 1945 the whole family reunited. They never discussed the events that occurred to them in the camps. The community failed to offer support groups to assist his father. Gerald and his parents never wanted to talk about their experiences.

1:08:10 In september 1946 Gerald and his family arrived in New York. Gerald started to attend college and working. Gerald took a job in San Francisco in October 1949. His first job lasted four to five years. His second job export-import trade.
.END.