

## HVT-25

S., Albert 1914-1995

Albert S. Holocaust video testimony (HVT-25) interviewed by Musia Schwartz and Kimberly Rimer, July 4, 1994.

3 copies: 1 SVHS first camera; 1 SVHS second camera; 1 VHS copy.

**Summary:** Albert was born on January 4, 1914, in Enger, Germany. There were only three Jewish families in this town of 5,000 people. Albert's father was a cattle dealer and his mother owned a textile store. They raised four children in a conservative Jewish home. Since there was no synagogue in Enger, they went to Herford to attend synagogue. The family kept the laws of Kashruth and, in 1930, Albert had his Bar Mitzvah. Albert did not experience much antisemitism during his youth. He described an incident in which a child in his class called him Jude. Albert punched him in the face and from that point nobody insulted his Jewish background again.

In 1933, act of antisemitism began to occur. Young Nazis from neighboring towns came to Enger and smashed the windows of Albert's parent's house. That same year his father died of a stroke. On August 28, 1938, Albert received a warning to leave the country from a friend of his, who was a member of the SS and who used to meet with him secretly. His friend had come to his house directly after a meeting of the SS.

Two days later, Albert and one of his brothers travelled to Holland. With the help their mother's cousin who had lived in the United States, Albert and his brother obtained visas and travelled to the United States via Le Havre. They met their relatives in New York and waited for the rest of their family. In 1940, their mother, sister and a brother moved to Amsterdam, Holland. Albert's sister was engaged to an Argentinean man whom she married by proxy the night before the German Army invaded Holland. Albert's mother, brother and sister managed to escape to England. When they arrived there, they discovered that the wedding officer had failed to sign his sister's marriage licence. Albert's sister was taken to a prison, where she worked in an ammunition factory. During this time, Albert's mother emigrated to the United States and joined them in Connecticut. Eventually, Albert's family managed to get his sister out of prison. She received the proper documents and moved to Argentina to be with her husband. They eventually joined the rest of the family in Connecticut.

There was a small Jewish community in Hartford. Albert helped to form a congregation and he became the cemetery director. He married an American Jewish woman and they had two children. In the 1960's, Albert was reunited with his high school sweetheart, Ilse<sup>3</sup>, and they married. Albert passed away in 1995.<sup>4</sup>

In his interview, Albert emphasized his inability to forgive and his belief that Germans today are capable of repeating their history.

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<sup>3</sup> See HVT-26

<sup>4</sup> Year of death obtained from file.