

RG-50.493.0008

Summary

Herman Goslins, born in 1911 in Groningen in the Netherlands, describes growing up in a family of four children, with one sister dying at a young age, another sister, Sara, and a brother, Israel Goslinski; having his bar mitzvah; belonging to a town synagogue; working with his father, Mozes Heiman Goslinski, who had a small wholesale meat business until the war broke out; his mother being Dutch but born and raised in Weener, Germany; antisemitism in Groningen before the war; memories from Kristallnacht in 1938; when the war started in 1939, trying to move to another place in the Netherlands, without success; Jews no longer being allowed to use public transportation without a special permit and having to turn in gold coins; all Jewish men up to 52 being sent to labor camps; how he and his wife, Henriette "Hetty" Magnus Goslins, were planning to marry in October 1940 but decided to do it sooner, July 4, 1940, after the Germans invaded the Netherlands; being sent to a labor camp; having to dig holes up to 8 feet deep; his wife's brother being sent to Buchenwald, where he died; his wife going into the underground in Groningen to try to get falsified identifications; how he got a permit to leave the labor camp to travel back to Groningen for a doctor's operation on his nose, then not returning to the camp; him and his wife giving their daughter Bertie, born in 1942, to strangers for protection; hiding in a home from October 1942 until being liberated in April 1945; Canadian soldiers liberating his neighborhood; their daughter Bertie being returned to them soon after liberation; after the Berlin airlift began in 1948, he and his wife starting to discuss leaving Holland for America; moving to the United States in 1953.