

RG-50.498.0023

Summary of Oral History—Fernand Cachard—ENGLISH

Fernand Cachard, born on October 22, 1922 in Arcelet (Le Mazet-Saint-Voy), in the commune Chambon-sur-Lignon; speaking of his parents as country people, or farmers—like his grandfather, and great-grandfather; from nobility also—les Polignac; did a little bit of everything on the land—cows, chickens, ducks, potatoes, geese, goats, mares; grew wheat; sold butter, cheese; one ate what came from the land; a remote farmland; all natural, without the use of pesticides; as for clothing, the family used a tailor and dressmakers; a Jewish refugee was the family tailor; the tailor living in Mazet; Jews in the community; the farm being in the Mazet region, about 10 km from Chambon and near the Volamont mountain; a Protestant area; recalling how almost everyone in Mazet was Protestant; the most Protestants in any region in France; speaking of his childhood; Pastor Monod; recalling the family's wireless radio « t.s.f. » (télégraphie sans fil); not much contact with Jews; the children in Chambon-sur-Lignon before the war; Pastor Louis Comte; Pastor Trocmé; the pastor of Mazet; the Trocmé family; speaking of his great grandfather who bought « le domaine » that belonged to the Chevalier of Malte; his grandfather *Arcelet*; remembering Pastor André Trocmé and Nelly Trocmé; telling a little story about Martine Dreyfus, a young Jewish girl, Nelly Trocmé, and his mother; being close to the Trocmé family; Americans visiting the farm, wanting to see a French farm and wanting to taste the rye bread; his work as an instructor in Clermont, Creuse, and Toulouse; in Toulouse, recalling being at the Olympic pool to witness a world record attempt in swimming by Alfred Nakache—a Jewish swimmer who was later deported to a concentration camp; his work in the fields; hiding places; Jews on his parents' farm; French police that were Pétainistes; people in Saint-Étienne; Jews coming to his parents' home, including an Austrian, Mrs. Aufère (who walked everywhere), from Reims; another Jewish professor—Mr. Hano; the Jewish schoolmates; Fernand staying at the pension of Mrs. Baro; Mr. Anneau—another Jewish man; a young Jewish girl named Annie; recalling the Trocmé family sitting in his mother's kitchen; denunciations; his life in Clermont-Ferrand; Jews that came through his parents' farm, and the attempts to hide them; « No one spoke much—it was better that no one knew anything...»; showing his photos from July, 1944; a picture of the barn door of the farm; false identity cards of Jews, refugees; the false papers of a Mr. Rosovsky; resistance activities; the tailor of Mazet—a Jewish tailor, possibly from Paris; the tailor making jackets for his father in 1944; the tailor had a nice place to stay; Jewish refugees in Chambon; deportations; « One kept quiet...»