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Summary of Oral History Interview with Charles Eyraud—ENGLISH

Charles Eyraud, born in 1920 in St-Chamond, France – not far from Saint Étienne; his father was a professor; Charles speaking of the Caritey family; speaking of Léon and Antoinette Eyraud who took it upon themselves to find lodging for Jews arriving to Le Chambon-sur-Lignon – they hid Jews in farms and religious institutions around Le Chambon-sur-Lignon; the Eyraud family directed the Ombrages – a boys' home; speaking of a refuge for Jews; there were Jews all around Le Chambon-sur-Lignon; seeking a way for Jews to escape the pressure – from Biarritz to London; Charles himself wanted to escape to London; speaking of the Caritey family; speaking of the "real" false papers; speaking of the photographer named Zérafra (sp) who also fabricated false papers in Le Chambon-sur-Lignon; in his estimation, thousands of Jews passed through Le Chambon-sur-Lignon; there were denunciations; the arrest of Mr. Forestier; speaking of the Montluc prison in Lyon; the Caritey family was not arrested; speaking of the lists; Charles and his brother fabricated false papers for Jews; speaking of the resistance; speaking of the Jews in the Ombrages home – a large home with six levels; there were people everywhere; many people were saved; Charles' uncle Léon and Antoinette harboured Jews – they were awarded the "Righteous Among the Nations", a title bestowed by Yad Vashem; speaking of the parachute drops, and the handling of arms in the "drop zone"; numerous parachute drops around Le Chambon in 1944; speaking of the Germans around Le Chambon; Le Chambon was more of a R&R (rest and recuperation) zone; the Eyraud family was a practicing Protestant family; numerous Protestant sects in the region; the Catholics also hid Jews; Charles was arrested by Klaus Barbie; speaking of forced labour; turning himself in at the Palais de Justice in Lyon, the same place where Klaus Barbie was put on trial; being afraid of Klaus Barbie; during the war, one had heard of Klaus Barbie; speaking of the Lyon region; Jewish children were harboured in children's homes or pensions – underwritten by the Swiss mission; Charles speaking of the foreign children who were hidden in the Ombrages pension....