

**RG-50.569\*0024**  
**Peter Wortsman Collection**

Interview with Dr. Eisenschimmel  
February 5, 1975

000      Imprisonment and Auschwitz

Was prisoner in 1943 in Vienna. Was deported to Auschwitz as a political prisoner. Was opposed to National Socialist party (NS) from 1938. Was imprisoned for 8-10 days by Gestapo. Knew nothing about Auschwitz. Deported to Auschwitz via Breslau (Wroclaw). Arrived with Czech criminals. First in Auschwitz I where he met a Polish friend who could not help. Then to Birkenau. In Birkenau, he was shaved and lost his clothes. Was asked about his nationality. He said he was Austrian, and a lawyer and that he was opposed to the NS. Received a tattoo. SS man asked him to work for him and he did which brought him leather shoes and better clothing. Then he got sick with encephalitis. The SS man cared for him until his recovery. His job was to help process German speaking Polish prisoners. In Birkenau until 1945. Then he was taken to Mauthausen by train and a and on a march. He worked in a factory. The camp was about to close because the Russians were approaching. He was transferred to a shoemaking shop.

208      Mauthausen & Ebensee

In the shoemaking shop he met a physician who told him the news from the BBC daily. From here he was transferred by train to Ebensee. On the way, many prisoners escaped, so he and the others were to be shot. But the commander of Ebensee did not allow the shootings to occur. There was severe hunger as prisoners received hot water and one piece of bread. His weight declined to 48 lbs and he would have starved to death, but in May 1945 was liberated by Americans and went to Austria.