

Interviewee: Abel Fligeltoib

Interviewer: E. Elbert

Abel (Abisch) Fligeltoib was born in 1905, in Warsaw, one of 6 children. He arrived in Argentina in 1925. His mother, a war widow, was already in Argentina with a daughter. Father was sent to fight during WWI, and perished in a hospital. Abel decided he will not serve in the Polish army. In the period of time since he was called, until the date he needed to present himself in the army, he managed to escape Poland to Argentina with the help of his Warsaw's aunt's savings. In Warsaw, Abel had been a manager of a large clothing manufacturing store. In Buenos Aires he found work in a beds factory owned by a rich Jew, Jacobo Henik. All the beds were manufactured from metal. Henik had 4 sons and 4 daughters.

The Metallurgic Syndicate was already in existence, and Abel joined it as a delegate of his factory's 100 workers. There were 4 delegates all together: a Jew (Abel,) an Italian, an Argentine and a Swede. Abel functioned as a delegate for 30 years, and was appreciated by all. Abel's work in the Syndicate consisted of obtaining legal status for the factory workers through contracts, and vacation time. Every request from the owners was granted. The only thing not granted was a raise in salary, which gave origin to a strike that lasted 100 days in 1933. The syndicate was the one that demanded a strike. During the strike, the syndicate would give coupons to the workers who then redeemed them in designated stores.

Mrs. Fligeltoib worked as an ironer in a different factory. She was not a member of a syndicate, and began to work in 1941.

Abel was also a leader in the Warsaw Cultural club. Activities of the cultural club.