

Interviewee: Ossy Kreisberger

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Interviewer: Ilana Solowiejzyk

Ossy Kreisberger was born near Czernovice, Rumania, in Petruzi, near the Bukovina capital, in 1935. The family was mildly observant. He was 4 when the war started but its impact was not as bad as it was for others. He remembers when the Germans arrived in Rumania a year later. He was an only child, and lived with his parents in a town where there were 11 Jews only. Father had a wood cutting business. The other 8 Jews were the Deutch family, who owned a grocery store. He remembers finding refuge from the Rumanian soldiers in a neighbor's barn near, the house, owned by a farmer who proceeded to tell on them to the Rumanian soldiers. They never saw Germans. It was the Rumanians who carried their orders. The 11 were forced to lie on the floor, faced down, and they were shot with rifles. When the soldiers departed, 7 of the Deutch family were dead and the mother seriously wounded. Ossy's father had been grazed in the neck, the mother in her hand and Ossy in his jacket. They got up and left the barn. Later, they were taken to a detention location prior to being taken to a concentration camp. They were allowed to go home for an hour. They found the home totally pillaged, including the wall paper. They returned to the detention place without food. The farmers, who knew the father, sometime would bring them food, which was given to Ossy. At some point Ossy's family escaped to a wheat field, fearing being caught again. Some soldiers did find them and mother, standing in front of Ossy, asked they would all be killed with one bullet. The soldiers turned around, and left. Return to the detention place. A doctor took care of the mother's hand. Finally, they were told to walk, but did not know where. Other people in the area would feed them bread. Arrival in Czernovice. Waiting for further orders. Meeting a maternal uncle, and walking to his house. The others in the group continued to a river where they were all shot. The uncle was an electronic engineer who repaired the equipment in hospitals. Thanks to that, he had a pass and was not taken. Ossy's family lived there for many years. He went to school, and changed towns often. Returning to Czernovice when the Russians entered, began another nightmare with the Russians. Before that, even the uncle, who had a permit, and Ossy's family was about to be deported. Ossy's father was doing forced labor (building a stadium) and the order was that if any relative was thus employed, the family could not be deported. The other order, involved electronic engineers that could neither been deported. That same night, they were all back home! 2 years they had to stand the Russians. From 1945-47, they were waiting for emigration papers to be sent from abroad (a maternal uncle in the US, and two in Chile.) The first papers to arrive were from Chile. Arrival in Bucharest then via Paris, they arrived with a temporary residency by which they could not work. Ossy went to a yeshiva in Paris. The Joint was in charge of the family for the 2 years awaiting a visa. Father had 9 brothers and they all, but one, disappeared. They arrived in 1949 in Chile.

Because of his story, Ossy doesn't assign any importance to material things. The hardest thing to adjust, was the permanency in one place, after changing residences and languages so often.

Israel is important to the entire family. Love of family is paramount.