

RG-50.967.0005

Summary of Oral History —M. Perelman/M. Goriely— English

Professor Perelman discusses the persecution of Jews; the far left politically; the AJB— Association of Jews in Belgium; speaking of the Jewish population in Brussels; the Independent Front; speaking collaboration with the Administration; recalling the Finance Secretary General—Mr. Plisnier

Professor Goriely discusses resistance work; specific Jewish organizations; collaborative organizations; political organizations; recalling the traditional factions of Judaism; the Jews who wanted to be part of the armed resistance joining Belgian organizations like the Independence Front; the armed Partisans; the organizations geared towards helping and saving Jews, and the organizations geared towards Belgian resistance; helping to save Jews did not carry a huge risk, which the professor found interesting—in Poland, helping a Jew carried the death penalty; risk of being denounced; the people that were well hidden were not always saved; the Gestapo section which chased resistance fighters; the Breendonk prison; Auschwitz; Buchenwald; Dachau; Jewish resistance fighters; Jewish tradition is one of moral resistance, rarely military resistance; Jewish action is one of the soul, of thought; heroism is being a martyr; speaking of courage; recalling the Gestapo reach in Belgium; the Belgian population; deportations; the Nazis; the Belgian government was similar to other governments—negotiating with Himmler; the Secretary Generals were Belgian officials—there was a certain complicity; the political view "the lesser of two evils"...

Professor Perelman discusses having to wear the 'yellow star'—this being against the Constitution; collaboration of Belgian authorities; President Reeder—head of the Belgian administration; General von Falkenhausen; the Germans; Belgian Jews; Belgian officials; equal rights for all Belgians; Jewish foreigners; controversy surrounding the defense of Belgian Jews; questions concerning the Jewish population of Belgium; the collaboration of certain Belgian officials; deportations; speaking of Queen Elisabeth's spokesman—Mr. Destrét [PH]; collaborators; speaking of a magistrate; the arrival of Grohé in July, 1944; speaking of Reeder; the regime; the German magistrates and Belgian jurists; a question of opportunity; speaking of the Flemish population and their intentions; Belgian officials; Reeder's declaration; Himmler; Mr. Plateois [PH]; Group G; the Belgian legion; the AJB; the grand rabbi of Belgium Ullman; Mr. Van den Berg; Mr. Benedictus; the Belgian police; Monsignor le Clerc; Malines; penalties for non-Jews that helped to hide Belgian Jews; speaking of the hidden children; Professor Berman; the resistance movement; "One did what one could..."