

Arthur (Werner) Weischel
RG-50.986*0002

Date of Interview: May 23rd, 2017
Place of Interview: Mexico City
Language of Interview: Spanish
Interviewer: Yael Siman
Video recording: Esther and Aharon Cohen

Date of birth: June 24th, 1926
Place of birth: Rimbach (Province: Hesse), Germany

Father: Hugo Weichsel
Mother: Clotilde (Tila) Straus
Brother: Erwin (older than Arthur)

He describes high inflation in Germany following World War I; and the social dynamics of Rimbach, the little rural village where he was born and which had few Jewish families. He talks about his childhood, his family (traditional) Jewish life, his father occupation in the milk business, and having good relations with non-Jewish neighbors. He describes how the rise of the Nazi party to power led to important changes in his family life. They lived under Nazism until the end of 1937 when a series of personal experiences such as witnessing the loss of impartiality by the local judges, or being subjected to anti-Jewish laws led them to migrate, obtaining a visa to Mexico from the Mexican consulate in Frankfurt and boarding the ship *Orinoco* from Hamburg to the port of Veracruz in Mexico making several stops along the way. While his father had a migratory status that allowed him to work in Mexico, the rest of the family members came as tourists. It was only many years later that he acquired the Mexican citizenship. As an eleven-year old child, he settled with his family in the city of Orizaba, Veracruz given prevailing restrictions associated with their migratory status; later on they moved to Tlanepantla where they continued with the milk business. They migrated with the support of Arthur's paternal aunt and without the help of local or international Jewish organizations. Arthur talks about feeling German in Mexico, speaking the German language with his parents, and participating in the group Menorah, which was formed by German Jews who later united with Hungarian Jews-Emunah, thus differentiating themselves from Polish Jews who spoke Yiddish.