

Summary of Oral History: Gershon Goldsteen, August 19, 2021

RG#: RG-90.141.0035

This Summary was written by a USHMM Volunteer on 03/2022

Oral History Summary

Gershon Goldsteen, born in February 1942, discusses his family's experiences during the war; his father being Jewish and his mother a gentile, thus Gershon not being officially designated as a Jew (he converted later); his father using false papers to work for the resistance; his father being arrested on a train in the Netherlands when his papers were determined to be false; after being held for several months in Westerbork transit camp, his father being transferred to Auschwitz, where he remained until January 1945, when he was transferred to Mauthausen; his father being killed in Mauthausen in April 1945; his paternal grandmother being hidden by Gershon's family (which he didn't understand as it would not have been safer) and later joined by an uncle and aunt, both of whom were arrested and gassed upon arrival in Auschwitz; his father's youngest brother being arrested in 1942 and dying in Auschwitz; his grandfather's six brothers and one sister also dying in Auschwitz; a total of about 100 relatives dying, most in Auschwitz and a few in Sobibor; his mother never getting over the loss of her husband; one uncle surviving because he was a TB patient in a sanatorium from 1939 on; the Holocaust being a constant subject of discussion Gershon's his family; Gershon being particularly fascinated by it and writing a book; Gershon learning in detail about his mother's prewar background; Gershon spending his youth in The Hague and Amsterdam; moving to Canada (Ottawa) in 1965; returning to the Netherlands for five years in 1978; immigrating to Australia (Tasmania) in 1983.