

19 October 1953
Baumholder, Germany

To Whom it May Concern,

I was born in Lodz, Poland on 15 September 1928. I lived and went to school there up until the time that World War II began.

In 1939 German Armed Forces occupied Poland. Two months later they confiscated all of my families properties and evacuated us to Izbica, Poland, which is on the Russian Border. We were only allowed to take the clothes that were on our backs and twenty Deutsche Marks per person. Also there were many other families with us from around our area. All of these people including my family and my self were of the Jewish faith.

We settled at this place and my parents had to work for the German Army for wages that were so cheap that it was impossible to even buy enough food for the family. They made two DM a day apiece.

We were not punished, guarded or molested while here. The people that were here stayed because there just wasn't any place else to go.

We stayed there through the winter of 1939 and in the summer of 1940 we left and made our way to Cracov, Poland. We were supposed to stay at Izbica, but we decided that we could find a better place in which to live.

We stayed at Cracov until late summer of 1941. At this time the German SS Headquarters informed us that all Jewish people would have to go to a Ghetto that was already formed and had been there all of the time. It was in a section of the City Cracov. We were only given a 24 hour notice.

Again my family and I fled. This time we went to Szydlowiec, Poland. We settled here, but three months later the German SS Troops surrounded the town and took all of the people including my family away by train. After the War I heard that all of these people and my family had been taken to Treblinka, Poland and put into gas chambers. This could be true as I have not heard from or about my family since that time.

My sister Adela, then 15 years old, and I were taken to an ammunition factory in Poland called SKARZYSKO-KAMIENNA. We had to work here for no pay. The factory was guarded by SA Troops. We got coffee of a morning, but it was not drinkable. In the evening we got two pieces of bread with about $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of watery soup. Work was from 0700hrs until 1800hrs or from 1800hrs until 0700hrs. If you did not work they would beat you with a whip about $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet long with a metal bolt attached to the end of it.

One night at about 2200hrs I cut the barbed wire fence and got out into the city. I bought a train ticket and went back to Cracov to the Ghetto. My sister had escaped a week before me and I met her there. Also we met my Aunt and her five year old son. All of the people had to work for the German Troops, but my sister and I were not registered at the Ghetto and therefore had to stay hidden all of the time.

We stayed here until 13 March 1943. At this time the German SS Troops surrendered Cracov, but before doing so they took all of the people from the Ghetto, about 10,000, by truck, under guard, to Auswith, Poland. All of the small children, a few hundred, were taken to a city square and murdered by the German SS Troops with machine guns.

At Auswith I was one of a group of three hundred people that was selected aside from the rest. We were given a tatoo on our left arm. Mine was the number 108068. All of the other people were put in the gas chambers at Auswith, including my sister, my Aunt and her son.

The rest of us were made to work for the German Soldiers. I had to work eighteen hours a day building gas chambers. They continually beat us with whips while we worked. It was not because we didn't work hard enough, but more of a habit they seemed to enjoy.

After helping complete three gas chambers I was sent to Jaworzno, Poland.

I worked here in a coal mine until the end of 1943. The work was the same as at other places. We worked twelve hours a day. I worked three months for one period without seeing daylight.

When the Russians started moving across Poland the German Army had to retreat to Germany. I was with a group of 3000 people who were taken on a death march, which lasted for three days and three nights. We marched without food, water and sleep. We finally arrived at Blechamek, Germany.

When we got here only fifty of the 3000 were left. Those that could not stay up with the march were shot on the way.

At Blechamek we were put on cattle trains with other people and taken to Gross Rosen, Germany, but when we arrived here it had already been evacuated.

From here we went to Lipmaryce, Czechoslovakia, which is about sixty kilometers from Prague. Here we worked in a factory built in the side of a hill. We made engines for German Army tanks. I stayed here until 1 May 1945. I was then sent to Teresenstat, Czechoslovakia.

This place was a collection point for all Jewish people that the German Troops were trying to kill before the end of the war which was close by.

On the day of 8 May 1945 I was liberated by the Russian Army. On 14 August 1945 I was sent to England with three hundred other children where I stayed until 1952.

On 30 Mar 1952 I arrived in the United States of America. On 21 November 1952 I was inducted into the United States Army.

As far as I know my whole family is dead because of the war.

Father	Abraham Frydman
Mother	Franka Frydman
Sister	Adela Frydman
Sister	Hela Frydman
Brother	Smul Frydman
Sister	Hannah Frydman
Brother	Mosses Frydman

Frydman, Gerson
Pvt US 51 209 635
317th QM RCLM & MAINT CO (SMBL)
APO 46, US Army