

MICHAEL (MIECZYSLAW) MADEJSKI

January 30, 2004

Summary

Born in Warsaw, Poland on June 26, 1923, Michael Madejski discusses his religious Catholic family; how his advanced proficiency in the German language and training in scouting helped him survive the war; the "Volksdeutsche," Polish citizens who felt as if they were German and the "Herrfolke," Polish "men of the world" who felt they belonged to Germany; how his family saved twelve Jews during the war; his experience with Zegota, the Polish Council to Aid Jews; his membership in the Armia Krajowa, the Polish Home Army; how his battalion during the Warsaw Uprising, Zoska, received a medal from Yad Vashem; how he and his wife left Poland in 1968 to come to the United States; his unusual circumstance of having been declared dead due to mistaken identity; belonging to Aspika, a Polish veterans' group; his studies in mechanical engineering at the Polytech Institute of New York, which eventually led to his position as the head of the X-Ray Department at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City; and his feelings about war and hopes for a peaceful world for his grandchildren.