

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM
INTERVIEW

Walter Taranowicz

April 16, 1992, Hempstead, Long Island, New York

Walter Taranowicz discusses growing up in New York City in a Catholic family with Polish-born parents; how he and some of his family members returned to Poland to help run a family ranch after the war started; how his father remained in the United States to stay employed; being arrested by the Nazis when he was 18 years old; losing his American passport and being charged with being a spy or saboteur; his brutal treatment by the Nazis; being sent to the Lublin prison and then to Auschwitz where he arrived in 1941 and remained there for two years working as a cabinet maker apprentice; volunteering to transfer to Mauthausen concentration camp, where he worked as a cabinet maker with the camp architect; being liberated by American forces on May 5, 1945; living in Italy and returning to New York in 1945; working as a cabinet maker at Piano and Sons in New York City, marrying Sabina, a Polish orphan; and how he has never returned to Poland.