

# Oral Interview Transcript of Frank (Franz) DAVID

b. 12 May 1902 Tiszaszászfalu (today, Sasovo, Ukraine) / d. 1986.in Philadelphia, Pa, USA

Conducted by Miriam Bedein, *student at Gratz College in Philadelphia*

*Courtesy of Stacy Reines, USA and Mark Horn, USA*

## Summary

- Frank David worked as a farmer before World War II.
- Life in Czechoslovakia was good in the years before World War II.
- Frank served for 2 years in the Czech army and received a medal for his honored service.
- Frank had a wife and four children who were killed in the Holocaust.
- Frank served in a Hungarian Jewish forced labor battalion during the war.
- Frank was working at Szent Ersebet train station in Budapest around November 1944.
- Frank was put on a train to Auschwitz, and survived for ten days without food or water. The train could not complete the trip due to the Russians bombing the tracks.
- Frank then worked in the kitchen at a German camp on the Austria-Hungarian border.
- Frank survived American bombardment under terrible conditions.
- Frank took part in a forced march of 4,200 Jews. During the march, his sock was caught and his leg was run over by a German tank. He was left for dead.
- The 4,200 Jews were killed by the Germans. Only Frank and one other man, named Koffler, survived. (Note: Yad Vashem documentation on Austrian death marches does not appear to support this number of deaths)
- Frank was rescued from the field where he lay by a German soldier. He was taken to a convent and then to a hospital in Graz, Austria.
- The doctor refused to operate on him because he was circumcised, but another doctor did the operation.

# Oral Interview Transcript of Frank (Franz) DAVID

b. 12 May 1902 Tiszaszászfalu (today, Sasovo, Ukraine) / d. 1986.in Philadelphia, Pa, USA

Conducted by Miriam Bedein, *student at Gratz College in Philadelphia*

*Courtesy of Stacy Reines, USA and Mark Horn, USA*

- Frank spoke 9 languages. The Russians were the first to enter the town after the war ended and Frank translated for them at the hospital.
- The Russians believed Frank was a German soldier since he was dressed in a German uniform.
- The British took control and Frank was moved to a prisoner of war hospital. There was little food and he nearly starved, his weight fell to 92 pounds.
- When Frank was well enough to walk on crutches, he went into the town of Graz and found a Jewish community.
- An American chaplain put Frank in contact Mr. and Mrs. Schiller of the Joint Distribution Committee, who helped him by providing food and a doctor to perform an operation.
- Frank's brother was contacted and he was not able to offer any assistance.
- Frank was employed as acting rabbi of the town of Graz and received a salary of 500 marks a month.
- Frank as rabbi in '48 oversaw the creation of a stone monument to those who had fallen.
- Frank was denied entry to Israel and Cuba.
- Frank received approval to go to the US, but was stopped by the FBI, who accused him of being a Nazi.
- In September of 1949, with help from HIAS, Frank finally was able to emigrate to the US

# Oral Interview Transcript of Frank (Franz) DAVID

b. 12 May 1902 Tiszaszászfalu (today, Sasovo, Ukraine) / d. 1986.in Philadelphia, Pa, USA

Conducted by Miriam Bedein, *student at Gratz College in Philadelphia*

*Courtesy of Stacy Reines, USA and Mark Horn, USA*

## INTERVIEW

Interviewer: Alright Mr. David, suppose we start with where you lived in 1938?

Frank: In 1938, on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, I get an SS come into the army, the Czechoslovakian army, and they took me right on the first day of the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah.

Interviewer: Alright, what city were you living in at the time?

Frank: Tiszaszászfalu.

Interviewer: Alright, that's a hard name to remember...it's a city in Czechoslovakia?

Frank: Yes.

Interviewer: Alright, fine. And you went into the army?

Frank: Yes, to the army.

Interviewer: And what happened then?

Frank: In the army they try to put me in my unit and they draft me. We went out to the German border. We were there in the German border patrolling, watching, what's gonna happen? Finally then come the Munich Conference when England said the Czechoslovakia should give the Sudetenland for the Germans. In the meantime the Hungarians start to revolt because, when I was born, I was in Hungaria, but after the First World War, it was divided. Each little, what they call this...countries tried to establish, Czechoslovakia established her country and Hungaria left the rest and Romania the third. It was divided. And we would have under the Czech government very good, better almost like here in America. We had everything, our president was a

# Oral Interview Transcript of Frank (Franz) DAVID

b. 12 May 1902 Tiszaszászfalu (today, Sasovo, Ukraine) / d. 1986.in Philadelphia, Pa, USA

Conducted by Miriam Bedein, *student at Gratz College in Philadelphia*

*Courtesy of Stacy Reines, USA and Mark Horn, USA*

fine president, his name was Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, and I been in his army for two years. When I was released, I came home, and I couldn't do my education on account my father died in First World War and I couldn't go anymore to Medical (School), we didn't have the army supply us with any medical help like here in America. I married, and I had a wife with four children, and it was good. Then when...

Interviewer: What did you do for a living?

Frank: I was a farmer. A farmer produced for the University, you know, everything what they needed for the lab, and I made good at it. Until 1938 when they called me in, we went to liberate Yugoslavia. I got a medal for my honored service.

Interviewer: How old were you then about?

Frank: I was old, and when we went into Yugoslavia I was 36 years old. And I come home, and there was nothing until 1940. Then they discharged me, the Hungarian army, and I come home, and they put me in labor camps. But they didn't touch my family on account I had a medal. Then they call me in and they send me with the Germans help them, in '39 I been there, the Laygfunmark, Breevort (?), they let me come home, and I come home in '43, I come home, and...

Interviewer: You were in the army from '38 to '43?

Frank: Ya, I been in the army as a laborer.

Interviewer: Oh, OK.

Frank: Then I come home, and it was Passover. The first night, I went to services. The second night, we were afraid to go, and I come home the second day from the shul, and it was very dangerous to go in the street, and I had right, and SS come, "report back." I cried when I was...

# Oral Interview Transcript of Frank (Franz) DAVID

b. 12 May 1902 Tiszaszászfalu (today, Sasovo, Ukraine) / d. 1986.in Philadelphia, Pa, USA

Conducted by Miriam Bedein, *student at Gratz College in Philadelphia*

*Courtesy of Stacy Reines, USA and Mark Horn, USA*

Interviewer: Now some of this, if it's too painful, you know, just skip it.

Frank: I left my home with my wife, I knew what they were doing for the Jewish, and I went. They put me in a division for the labor and I went back with the Germans. In the meantime, my wife wrote me, on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, no May 12<sup>th</sup>, when my birthday was, "don't worry about me." But they killed her, with the four children.

Interviewer: Oh dear.

Frank: They killed her, but I didn't see it. If I would have seen it, I would kill myself they would have killed (can't make out words)...I went wandering around with them, and finally the Russians start to advance, and we come back to Budapest in 1944 in September. The Hungarian ruler proclamate that every Jew should take off his armband.

Interviewer: Yes.

Frank: Then we went out to work on a station called Szent Ersebet. And we worked there till the end of November.

Interviewer: This was still in Czechoslovakia?

Frank: This was in Hungaria in Budapest. Then in November, finally the Russians was not far from me, only I could see them with a, with my eyes, but they retreated. I think I was liberated. Then Himmler come, with Eichmann, to Budapest. And they said "All Jews in the train," they will take us to Auschwitz. We went to the station, there was Jews that didn't know that we are Jews, Gentile nationality, didn't knew that their husband was, he called them "whore...go away." [asks that recorder be stopped]

[continues] We were loaded, 70 people in a wing, with our belonging, and we went for 10 days without food, without a drink, nothing. Finally the Russian break the line, we can't go to Auschwitz, they brought us back to

# Oral Interview Transcript of Frank (Franz) DAVID

b. 12 May 1902 Tiszaszászfalu (today, Sasovo, Ukraine) / d. 1986.in Philadelphia, Pa, USA

Conducted by Miriam Bedein, *student at Gratz College in Philadelphia*

*Courtesy of Stacy Reines, USA and Mark Horn, USA*

Kuresek (?), Hungarian town. After ten days without food, without anything. We unloaded, there was a big snow, and we been marched to a farm, and they was laying on top of a stable in the straw. In the early morning they come “get up and go to work!” We got black water, we went to work. I myself learned to be a butcher when I was young. And they ask, you know, they put me to the kitchen. And I was working hard till April 1945. The Russian cannons got to (hear good? – or is it a place name?) and they been start to running away.

Interviewer: Where were you working in this kitchen—at a camp?

Frank: On the Austria-Hungarian border, we was manning a defense line.

Interviewer: Oh I see, OK.

Frank: Defense line that we will beat back the Russian army and liberate. But it didn't help them. Finally we on April the 1<sup>st</sup> we were marching towards the city of Graz and the Americans come and bombardier so that it was a horror. And I told my fellows, “Look, I will die here. I'm not going.” I had nine or ten good friends. They want to stay with me. We been sleeping outside in the bushes. In the morning everybody want food. We put the names on little papers, and whose came up first, he goes. I was the chosen one

Interviewer: (giggles)

Frank: I went there, and come a German soldier stay there. I said “Look, I'm hungry. If you want to shoot, shoot me. “No.” He ordered the old man from the house to give me. He give me apples, he give me potatoes, and I come back with a whole sack of potatoes. And I give them. And I told them “Look, it gonna be over in 24 hours, we wait we will be safe.” We been 4,200 Jews in a march. Finally, they ate, and I ate, but they want and I say lay down, but they start to tell me lies. Lies we have an inch long lies, white

# Oral Interview Transcript of Frank (Franz) DAVID

b. 12 May 1902 Tiszaszászfalu (today, Sasovo, Ukraine) / d. 1986.in Philadelphia, Pa, USA

Conducted by Miriam Bedein, *student at Gratz College in Philadelphia*

*Courtesy of Stacy Reines, USA and Mark Horn, USA*

lies. The German run around and they saw us and they capture us. "Come on Jews, go!" I was coming to the route and from the potatoes in the stomach, I start to bloat. And they was retreating. The one tank carried three tanks. And I was on the side of the road and one tank caught my sock and pulled me down, he ran over my foot, here, you see.

Interviewer: Yes, in the calf part, right?

Frank: And broke my foot. And I was deep in the mud, but this they didn't cut off. They left me and I had from my village a few of them and I told them "look, you say to (or save?) my wife , my children, I'm dead here." And I was laying there, and they left me. On those night, on April the 1<sup>st</sup>, and night, they killed all the 4,200 Jews except me and one Jew by the name of Koffler, was here in Canada, he was rescued. I was laying there a whole night.

Interviewer: Did they think you were dead?

Frank: They were thinking that I'm dead. Finally at night around 10 o'clock a German in uniform come to me and he said " Do you have a knife?" And I said "Don't kill me with a knife, shoot me." He said "No, I want to help you." He grabbed a blanket and rode me over the blanket and pulled me across the street he have a bar, and put me in his yard, and give me coffee and a roll, and a cigar, and he said "I will try my best that you go to the hospital." Constantly till midnight he tried, nobody want to do it. The hospital was a mile and a half away. I was laying there, I have diarrhea, I couldn't do anything, I was laying. In the morning all the women, the old ones, come from the church, and see me laying there, and they said "This is a Jew." But the man couldn't stay. Finally come 11 o'clock arrive from Hungarian 4 boys and 2 girls. He stopped them on the route and said: "Look, this is Juden man, take him to the hospital it's not far." He was speaking...I was speaking at this time 9 languages.

# Oral Interview Transcript of Frank (Franz) DAVID

b. 12 May 1902 Tiszaszászfalu (today, Sasovo, Ukraine) / d. 1986.in Philadelphia, Pa, USA

Conducted by Miriam Bedein, *student at Gratz College in Philadelphia*

*Courtesy of Stacy Reines, USA and Mark Horn, USA*

Interviewer: Nine languages?

Frank: Yes. "They will help you." The girls have good heart, and they said, "Let's take him." They prepared a little bed and they pulled me in the back. Before the hospital, the boys start "What we gonna carry a Jew?" I said to him, in the Hungarian language, "Why did you took me? Who asked you?" There was a nun establishment on the right side of the route, and the girl said, "Take him there and leave him there." And they did, they left me there in the yard and finally a nun came out and she said "Oh my God!" She went in and come out a priest, and he looked at me and said to the nun "Go and get and take him to the hospital." She went on the route and got two SS soldiers and they took me to the hospital. In the hospital when I come there was a nun. It was so there was not even a place in a bed, only in the hallway. She come to me, a nice nun and looked at me. When she undressed me she said "I know what you are, but I will take care of you." She did. I was hungry. She said "You can't get food. I will give you a tranquilizer and you will go take x-ray and the x-ray will show what is wrong. She did, and it was already start to darkness. They took me to the x-ray room, there was a lot of nuns, they were smiling and patting me and they took the x-rays and they finally decided that they got to stretch my foot. Stretch'em out, you know. They took me to the operating room and they start to give me to sleep. In the middle, the woman doctor comes and she saw that I am circumcised. She said "He's Jewish, I'm not doing the operation." But I was not asleep and they went for the President of the doctors. And he came and he said, I heard it when he said, "He might have venereal disease." [unintelligible] And he asked me "Did you have venereal disease?" I said "Yes." "Where they operated?" I said "In Poland, where the Germans." "Ah, I said it," he waved his finger and put on his coat, "I will do it."

When I awake, the nun was sitting with a warm glass of milk. She said "Friend, don't worry. I'm with you." When she give me the glass of milk, she

# Oral Interview Transcript of Frank (Franz) DAVID

b. 12 May 1902 Tiszaszászfalu (today, Sasovo, Ukraine) / d. 1986.in Philadelphia, Pa, USA

Conducted by Miriam Bedein, *student at Gratz College in Philadelphia*

*Courtesy of Stacy Reines, USA and Mark Horn, USA*

said "Now you will go in a different room and I will take care of you." They put me in a different room, there was a Hungarian lieutenant that I recognized, with an amputated leg. And we been good friends. And I was laying there from April 2<sup>nd</sup> till May 8<sup>th</sup>, when the war was over. Before the war was over, the doctor and the nurse want me to go down in the basement to be safe from bombardment. Finally, May 7<sup>th</sup> at night, the mayor of the city of Graz proclaimed everybody should be calm because an army (he doesn't know which one-- English, Russian or French or American) will come in. Everybody should be indoors because their life will be jeopardized. Finally at midnight, I was laying with other very sick people there, came in four Russian soldiers with machine guns. And looked around and when I saw them I told them "Drosvunto aresh(?)"

Interviewer: Which is?

Frank: And they looked, and it didn't take ten minutes he come back and he say in Russian "Katoray goveret Porvosisky(?)." What I'm gonna do? I raised my hand.

Interviewer: Excuse me, what did you say to him?

Frank: I told him "I speak Russian," and I did speak. He said to me in Russian "Bechego unimustniti" ("Why are you here in the hospital?"). I said to him "[Russian words]." I told him "Look, my leg is broken." He said "How come you speak Russian?" I said "Ja luri, I am a Jew." Well they said, "You come up with us." And he brought six help, and they took me to the main lobby. And then a Jewish lady, a lieutenant from the Russian army come to me, and she said, "Listen, you speak very well Russian, give the orders: Nobody should leave these doors until the commandant comes in the morning and everything will be in order." I said to her, "Would you please take me back?" She can't help me. Then the Germans come to me and start "Franz, how come you speak Russian?" I said "I speak all kinds of

# Oral Interview Transcript of Frank (Franz) DAVID

b. 12 May 1902 Tiszaszászfalu (today, Sasovo, Ukraine) / d. 1986.in Philadelphia, Pa, USA

Conducted by Miriam Bedein, *student at Gratz College in Philadelphia*

*Courtesy of Stacy Reines, USA and Mark Horn, USA*

languages.” At 8 in the morning they come promptly in, officers, and they come to my bed and start the Jewish, she didn’t want to believe that I am a Jew. She looked under my arm. Every German soldier had his blood type there on account if he get sick, they catched anybody who this same blood type and pumped it out and give it to him. And I didn’t have.

Interviewer: Under your armpit, right?

Frank: Yes. Then they been going around, I been by every bed. Ask the Germans what nationality, to which army unit he belonged and what he did. And they was, and when they called by name SS, they separated and they took them right out. I told them “Look, I am a Jew, I want to go home.” No, he can’t do anything. They left, and we went under Russian rule. I think in June, come the British army in, and I told them...can’t help. Only what they did, they needed the hospital. They need for the English army. And they put me in a prisoner of war hospital. In prisoner of war we didn’t have food. I was going to die, you know I weighed 92 pounds.

Interviewer: How much do you weigh about now?

Frank: About 164. And then I was laying there, I had operations, and nothing happened. Finally I told the doctor, a British doctor, “Look, I’m not dumb. I want to go out and see papers and people.” He said alright and he gave me permission. A nurse come in the morning and I come on crutches out and I told the nurse I would like to have a paper. She didn’t have the money. A lady [unintelligible], she gave a paper. I took the paper, and saw a sign, a Jewish community is there. When I saw this I start to fall down. She grabbed me and helped me back to the hospital. In the meantime, in the hospital, I was afraid the English are going to look through things. I took the little paper, tore it out, and put it in my mouth. The doctor come “What happened, what happened, what happened?” He gave me a tranquilizer. Finally I got better. The next day I go: “I want to see Jews.” The doctor said

# Oral Interview Transcript of Frank (Franz) DAVID

b. 12 May 1902 Tiszaszászfalu (today, Sasovo, Ukraine) / d. 1986.in Philadelphia, Pa, USA

Conducted by Miriam Bedein, *student at Gratz College in Philadelphia*

*Courtesy of Stacy Reines, USA and Mark Horn, USA*

“You been yesterday in...” (interrupts) “I won’t be sick any more.” I went there to, there’s a river, in the river there were English and American soldiers. In a place they call (sounds like) Esther.

Interviewer: Where is this now?

Frank: In Austria. I saw this and thought, there’s got to be something. I came back and I rested. Until Thursday. Thursday I asked the doctor if I could go by myself on the crutches. I want to go into town. “Alright, go into town.” I went into town, and there where it said the address, was a sign “Communist Party of Austria.” I went in. (They said) “What you want?” I said, “Are there Jews around here?” They said “Why you want Jews?” “The Jews will be Friday afternoon.”

Interviewer: You were in a uniform? What uniform?

Frank: In a German uniform, that’s what they gave me to wear. I came Friday afternoon in the hall and stayed there. Everything is closed. I see one is running. It came to me, a gentile doesn’t run. A Jew is always running.

Interviewer: (giggles)

Frank: I told him, “I beg your pardon, is there a Jewish community?” He said, “[unintelligible].” I went in the shul. There were American chaplains and British chaplains and soldiers. They looked at me like a monster. Finally the preacher came to me and said “Good Shabbas.” I said “Good Shabbas.”

Interviewer: In Yiddish?

Frank: In Yiddish. “Well, what you did?” I said “Look, I am a Jew, and I am in the hospital. I couldn’t come when you were freed because I was bedridden. Now I come to see what can be done for me and everything.”

# Oral Interview Transcript of Frank (Franz) DAVID

b. 12 May 1902 Tiszaszászfalu (today, Sasovo, Ukraine) / d. 1986.in Philadelphia, Pa, USA

Conducted by Miriam Bedein, *student at Gratz College in Philadelphia*

*Courtesy of Stacy Reines, USA and Mark Horn, USA*

Interviewer: What did he say?

Frank: Then the American chaplain said we should contact Mrs. Schiller with Mr. Schiller. They were on the Joint Distribution Committee, the managers. They should come to the hospital and see what I'm doing there and how it is. The soldiers put cigarettes in my pockets and [unintelligible]. I couldn't walk and one had a jeep and took me to the hospital and I went in and I laid there. It was Monday morning [some content is missing while cassette tape is turned over]...and didn't say any more to me. I said I been wanted here and what is wrong? He said "Are you a Jew?" I almost fell down. Then Mrs. Schiller come to me and Mr. Schiller with Americans and they showed me the emblem the Magen David. They sat me at the table and I asked them if you can take me from here out. Do not say I'm a Jew. "Alright." We went out and there were 800 on us in the hospital. They all come to see how a Jew like. "Are you Jewish my friend, are you Jewish?" I said, "Well I am a Jew." Then after three days a lady come from the Joint Distribution Committee and talked to my doctor. What kind of medicine I need and what diet? The doctor told them, and they sent me every week rations to the hospital, and start to take care of me like a human being.

Interviewer: Beautiful.

Frank: Finally, I needed an operation. I said to the doctor "I will not let you operate on me because I am afraid." I called up Mrs. Schiller and she said, "He will not do the job, we have a doctor." The doctor came in American uniform and he did the operation and I started with antibiotics that he gave me to gain and to gain and to gain and to gain and I was able to walk with crutches. They liked me there in the hospital.

Interviewer: Where was this hospital?

Frank: In Graz. But I wanted to see what goes on in Graz. Finally an American boy and an English boy came, and they started asking, "Do you

# Oral Interview Transcript of Frank (Franz) DAVID

b. 12 May 1902 Tiszaszászfalu (today, Sasovo, Ukraine) / d. 1986.in Philadelphia, Pa, USA

Conducted by Miriam Bedein, *student at Gratz College in Philadelphia*

*Courtesy of Stacy Reines, USA and Mark Horn, USA*

have relatives?" I said to the American, "I know I have two brothers in the United States and a sister. I do not know the address." He said "Don't worry. Where do you think they are?" I said "Philadelphia and [unintelligible][the New York island and a county, a brother]." You know it didn't take two weeks, I got from my brother an [unintelligible]."

Interviewer: You wrote in English?

Frank: I couldn't write, they wrote.

Interviewer: How did you communicate, what language?

Frank: With American and German. Finally he wrote a letter and I forwarded it to Mrs. Schiller. She said to me, "According to what is written in the letter, we will do more for you than your brother will do. The letter that was written to you was not the help we expected." "Alright." I've been in the hospital from April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1945 till 1947 till I healed up. In '47 I healed up, then the Joint said, "Let's take him to a resort place." They took me to a resort place for three months in the Alps. I gained a lot of weight and I got stronger but the foot didn't want to heal. Nothing. When I got back the hospital wouldn't accept me. They sent me to the Jewish camp. I came there, and I must say, our Jewish brothers, they don't like if you are Russian or Polish or Hungarian or Czech. They hate each other. I couldn't stay in the camp. I went back to Mrs. Schiller and I said, "Look, the American chaplain said we don't have someone who can preach in Graz, let him be a rabbi. He knows like a rabbi." Well they put me like a rabbi, they paid me 500 marks a month, and I was serving. And then I said it would be an idea, in '48, to put there a stone, a mitzavah(?) we call it, for those who had fallen there. They did, I been there, and at home I have a picture when I put the flower on the stone as a rabbi and did everything. But to come to America, I tried all ways, all avenues. I wanted to go to Israel. The Israelis told me I'd been too sick to go to Israel. They had their

# Oral Interview Transcript of Frank (Franz) DAVID

b. 12 May 1902 Tiszaszászfalu (today, Sasovo, Ukraine) / d. 1986.in Philadelphia, Pa, USA

Conducted by Miriam Bedein, *student at Gratz College in Philadelphia*

*Courtesy of Stacy Reines, USA and Mark Horn, USA*

own problems, I should go to another country. I tried to go to Cuba. They didn't want to accept me because they needed tailors and they needed other professionals. I could do nothing. Finally in '49, Mrs. Schiller said, "You will go to America." Come a HIAS agent, and took everything from me, what I knew and what it was going wrong. Finally they called me into the FBI. They called me into the FBI and they told me...

Interviewer: The FBI?

Frank: They told me, "You said that you've been a Jew. We have proof that you're not a Jew." I almost broke down but I kept myself and I said, "Look, how could you say that? Come to the Shul, where the people will say how can you find a gentile to read the Torah like me and to speak Hebrew and to do what." (They said) "We have witness that you've been in uniform." I said, "What should I wear? I was naked." I didn't know what...and I came out from there and collapsed. Nervous breakdown. They called Mrs. Schiller and they came with a doctor to the hospital. I'm in the hospital till 1949 till May the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup>. I came out "Well the Council informed us that you've got to go to camp. From there you're going to be shipped to Germany and from Germany you will go to America." I kissed Mrs. Schiller and Mr. Schiller when I left. They were good friends and they wished me very well. And I came to the ship with no money. I have some clothes, you know. And we been there 5,000 people waiting to emigrate. I was waiting there and finally I come to interrogation. The interrogation officer said, "No, you can't go to America." "What I'm gonna do?" I start to go out in the town. They gave us only potatoes every night. "What should I do?" I went a farmer and I give him a shirt, give him a slack, and walk home (or work for him??). Then I went into town, there been a Jewish community there, I said "Look, the holiday is coming. I will not go during the holidays on the ship. I must go with the ship before." They can't do anything. I don't have a sponsor who should bring me to America.

# Oral Interview Transcript of Frank (Franz) DAVID

b. 12 May 1902 Tiszaszászfalu (today, Sasovo, Ukraine) / d. 1986.in Philadelphia, Pa, USA

Conducted by Miriam Bedein, *student at Gratz College in Philadelphia*

*Courtesy of Stacy Reines, USA and Mark Horn, USA*

Interviewer: What about your brother?

Frank: They don't respond. Finally I came back and I said "Look", with a crying voice I said, "If you can do, send me back." I had a German lieutenant who said, "Franz, you been so good, and did help me during the Russian time. You come to Germany and I will support for the rest of the life." But there is no hope. Finally, I been in the hall where the interrogation, come again to see what's going. Come a Jewish man with a beard like that, from the HIAS, and I said "Look, what's gonna be with me?" He said, "Don't worry, I will see." I said, "The holiday is coming and I don't have a lot to live, I can't live on the potatoes." He went into the interrogation. Then he start to smile and he said, "I will permit him, he is cleared". He put me on September the 25<sup>th</sup> or the 23<sup>rd</sup> on the ship and I came to New York Harbor on September the 29<sup>th</sup>.