

-TITLE-YARASLOW KLYMOWSKI
-I_DATE-FEBRUARY 22, 1988
-SOURCE-CHRISTIAN RESCUERS PROJECT
-RESTRICTIONS-
-SOUND_QUALITY-
-IMAGE_QUALITY-
-DURATION-
-LANGUAGES-
-KEY_SEGMENT-
-GEOGRAPHIC_NAME-
-PERSONAL_NAME-
-CORPORATE_NAME-
-KEY_WORDS-
-NOTES-
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*The numbers in the left-hand margin pertain to the numbers seen on the VHS display panel.

0: Tape begins.

1: Sound cut off

1:09: Sound comes on

1:10: His parents had eight children.

1:23: They lived in a large town in the western Ukraine which was divided into eight sections. There were three regions in the western Ukraine, and Hernallee (PH) was one of the regional centers.

1:31: Yaroslav was the oldest child. His father was a contractor (builder). They were a middle-class family.

1:43: Their family was Catholic and very religious. Yaroslav's father did not drink alcohol because he was very religious.

1:53: Klymowski's father was a very strong influence. His mother was always concerned with the children. Yaroslav helped his father at work during vacations.

1:58: Yaroslav's father was very influential as an educator. Yaroslav was choir master in their church, and his father would help him with his music. His father was also altruistic. He charged lower rates to those who were poor.

2:04: The Jewish children in his town attended secondary schools while the Ukrainians were in power. When the Ukrainians were taken over by Poland, the Jewish children entered the Polish-run schools. Ever since he was very young, Yaroslav played with his Jewish neighbors. There were no Jewish ghettos near his home.

2:45: In proportion to the other cities in the western Ukraine, Yaroslav lived in one of the large ones. (It had a population of up to 50, 000 people at one time) . The population was about evenly divided between the Ukrainians and the Poles and there was a small percentage of Jews. The Jews lived throughout the city, but there were sections which had a larger Jewish population. These sections were not classified as ghettos.

2:73: There were no pogroms in his city, which was called Ternopol (PH,) or anywhere else in the western Ukraine until the Nazis came. The moment the Germans arrived was when Yaroslav first found out about what was happening to the Jews. This was between 1942 and 1943.

3:00 :The Germans actually invaded the Ukraine in 1939, but the Bolsheviks came and took it back. The Germans came back between 1942 and 1943. Yaroslav never thought that he could count on the Germans to free the Ukraine. He was never happy to see the Germans nor did he ever think that they could win the war.

3:35:Had Yaroslav had lived in Ternopol at the time, he may have known of some of the people who were helping Jews because he knew many people there. However, at that time, he was already in Leviev (PH), which was so large that he knew of few instances of people trying to save Jews from the Germans. The rest of his family was in Ternopol during the War.

3:52 :He was in Leviev (Baben PH), the captured city of the western Ukraine at the time. The population of the town was about 500,000 at that time. In 1932, Yaroslav left Ternopol so that he could get involved in the theater. He only returned home for holidays.

3:79:At that time, he had a very good Jewish friend in the theater by the last name Shiftman who was from a small town called Berezhany. In that town, Shiftman had a female friend who saved Shiftman's life. Yaroslav does not know if Shiftman is alive today.

4:00: When the Greenbergs (The Jews that Yaroslav saved from the Nazis) came in the door, the first thing that he knew to do was to shut the door immediately in order to give the family a chance to escape. The Germans had come in through the entrance of the building in order to search it. Luckily, the two entrances into his store were separated so that by closing the one door before the Germans could enter the store, the Greenbergs could escape through the other door. It was when the Greenbergs saw the Nazis' truck approaching that they ran into the store.

4:23: Yaroslav lost track of the Greenbergs until he discovered that they were in Munich after the War. This instance stands out the most in Yaroslav's mind in terms of helping Jews during the War. When the Greenbergs' were entering his store, they had to know that they were placing Yaroslav's life in danger.

4:51: When he saw the family in Munich, Yaroslav was thrilled that they had survived. He had no resentment toward them for putting his life in danger. When he was in New York, he heard that the Greenbergs had moved there, but there were so many listings under Greenberg in the telephone book that he could not locate them. Yaroslav would like very much to see them.

4:62: Technical conversation

4:84: Yaroslav's second wife, Joanne, performed rescue efforts at the same time that he did. (They had not yet met at that time). Joanne had a close friend who had lived in her neighborhood. When the Germans came, Joanne hid this girl and her family in the loft of her barn. She hid them during the entire German occupation. Joanne fed them and gave them whatever they needed.

5:07: This took place in Sombir in the foothills of Karpatian Mountains. This city was quite small (about half the size of Ternopol).

5:34: When the Communists came and Joanne's friends were freed, she lost contact with them. She did not know whether or not they were alive and if they were alive where they were living. At one point, Joanne met a man who had just arrived from Israel and she found out that he knew her friends.

5:58: Joanne took a greater risk upon herself than did Yaroslav. He believes that about 2,000 people were saved in a similar way. His wife had made a plan that, if she was caught, she would deny knowing that there were people in the loft.

5:78: Joanne knew that her Jewish friends would never reveal her name because, if they did, she and her entire family would be liquidated. The barn in which her friends stayed belonged to her family, but it was at a distance from her house. Joanne was very modest about the role that she played. She felt uncomfortable with all the praise that she received.

6:05: Joanne had no children from previous marriages.

6:06: Technical conversation

6:14: Joanne spoke of what she did modestly to her husband. Yaroslav was raised as a nationalist and had been very active in the nationalist movement. He was taught to be ready for anything and to have no fear. He helped the Jews for humanitarian reasons, but his training gave him more courage to help others. The influence of his father also helped him.

6:41: Yaroslav's daughter knows what he did to help the Jews, but she does not know specific details. She does not know about this interview. Yaroslav has been interviewed before.

6:54: Technical conversation

6:85: Yaraslaw did not have time until after the War to think about the significance of what he had done. He did not tell others of what he was doing during the War because he had so many other concerns at the time. He did not think about what he had done until Joanne talked to him of the role that she had played in saving Jewish lives.

7:06: Yaraslaw would help anybody who needed aid. Before the end of the War, he was emigrating toward Germany, and there were many displaced persons camps along the way. He was heading toward Germany because the Russians were advancing toward the western Ukraine. His daughter was four years old, and she went with him.

7:30: By the time his daughter was twelve years old, she was completely self-sufficient. Yaraslaw was in Dipi (PH) camp in Regensburg in Germany. The Dipi camps were disbanded between 1949 and 1950. Then they went to Mittenwald (PH), and in 1951, he and his daughter came to the U.S. A Ukrainian group sponsored the people from Dipi camps. The man in charge went by the name Ealer (PH). The rest of Yaraslaw's family remained in the Ukraine.

7:51: Yaraslaw came to America for freedom. His family lived in Ternopol near the advancing Communist troops so they had no chance to flee. Yaraslaw has a brother from Ternopol who now lives in Montreal. When Yaraslaw escaped, his brother was in Sombir (PH) studying theology. His brother had a better chance of escaping than the rest of his family because he was closer to the Polish border.

7:71: Technical conversation

7:95: Yaraslaw had no hope for a future after the War because he could not return to his homeland. His life was disrupted when he was forced to move to the U.S. He lost his position in life. At home, Yaraslaw had been the administrator of a large theater, and now he has to perform physical labor. He does not have his family. His father and sister have died.

8:21: Yaraslaw's daughter has received some scholarships. He is gratified to see his daughter, Nina's success.

8:43: Technical conversation

8:51: Yaraslaw's daughter is an art teacher and she free lances. (She gets commission). Yaraslaw feels that historic rescuing could be adapted into a book for adults but is not meant for children to learn about. He does want children to know that there is a nation like the Ukraine and that Ukrainians helped to save the lives of Jews.

8:80: The Jews hated the Ukrainians many years ago. It is a historical rivalry. The conflict started because the Hazars (PH) accepted the religion of Moses. The Jews had control over the Hazars. When the Hazars developed a negative attitude, the Ukrainians pushed the Hazars away. This hatred is historical because the Jews, who had control over the Hazars, began to hate the Ukrainians.

9:08: Although the Jews hated the Ukrainians, thousands of Ukrainians saved Jewish lives.

9:30: Yaroslav wanted to show that he was just another Ukrainian, who in spite of the Jews' hatred for Ukrainians, was willing to save Jewish lives. He wants to make it known that Ukrainians did help. His family's house was on the outskirts of town and had a large front yard with many bushes and trees so it would have been easy to hide somebody there. Yaroslav believes that his family would have saved somebody who needed help, but he cannot say for sure. He lost contact with his family except for his brother who lives in Montreal so he does not know if the opportunity to save anybody ever came up for his family.

9:55: Yaroslav rarely sees his brother so they talk about family matters when they get together. They do not talk about saving lives because both have lived through a lot.

9:60: Technical conversation

9:68: Yaroslav writes for newspapers in Ukrainian, especially the largest Ukrainian daily, *Tous Vaboda* (PH).

9:71: Technical conversation

10:66: Yaroslav never witnessed German brutality, but he knew that it existed. As soon as the Germans arrived, they began to organize Jewish ghettos. During the war, he knew that there were concentration camps, but he did not know that there were people being killed there. Yaroslav had heard of the murders at the death camps but he did not believe it.

10:78: Technical conversation
.END.