

-TITLE-TINA DAVIES

-I_DATE-

-SOURCE-JEHOVAH WITNESSES

-RESTRICTIONS-

-SOUND_QUALITY-FAIR

-IMAGE_QUALITY-GOOD

-DURATION-

-LANGUAGES-

-KEY_SEGMENT-

-GEOGRAPHIC_NAME-

-PERSONAL_NAME-

-CORPORATE_NAME-

-KEY_WORDS-

-NOTES-

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-born in Kraków, Poland, March 23, 1921.

-mother, Cecilia (Steiner).

-father, Izadore: owner of a chemist shop.

-sister, Irene, four years younger and in school.

-brother, Ludovik, ten years younger and in school.

-education: grammar school, one year before entering university
when war broke out.

-hometown: moved away from Kraków to take on business elsewhere.

2:56 Father against Hitler, boycotted German goods.

3:10 Some Polish Nazis, many anti-Semitic Catholics, suffered from
this. Treated okay, went to school with Polish girls.

4:00 Undercurrent of 'anti-Jews'

4:33 Year before war, changes started to occur uncertainty,
rumors. Taken to Kraków because they thought it would be safer.

5:20 Friendly with schoolchildren, accepted her although Jewish

5:56 When Hitler arrived, Mother left them with relatives in Kraków
at first. On her way back she was told Kraków was bombed which
wasn't true.

7:00 Father went with Red Cross East away from Germans, was in
territory occupied by Russians.

7:50 Jews had to put arm bands on the were restricted in movement
so Mother took brother and sister home and left her because she was
in school. Schools closed so she went home.

9:15 Didn't want students to congregate together so closed school.

9:45 Mother was still running chemist shop

10:00 Didn't want Jews to have shop so they remained in half house. The other chemist took the rest, the money, furniture.

11:00 Didn't see Father at all since going to Kraków. Father was in hiding with others and discovered and shot by Germans.

12:00 Once chemist shop was taken over, had to move to separate Ghetto, leave all belongings and go to Stariesonge (ph.), didn't receive food rations, people from villages

13:00 Exchanged furniture for food before Ghetto.

14:00 She was always on guard, knew thousands had disappeared but hadn't heard of camps. She knew they wanted to destroy Jews. Asked people from villages to bring clothes so they could dress up and run away to village.

15:00 Kept clothes under bed. She had been reading a book about the Turks destroying the Armenians in W.W.I.

16:00 The book was written by a Jew and not allowed in Germany. She could see the Germans doing the same thing and this alerted her to be on guard.

16:45 People in town lived normally, even playing cards.

17:00 They thought they would be okay and taken to work.

17:30 Small town with not many Jews as some managed to escape maybe 100.

18:00 Only way to get food was to exchange possessions. Didn't have any contact with Germans except that some German soldiers had lived in their house before the chemist took over.

19:00 Germans said, "We don't hate you--just the Jews in America who are in power.." People never paid for things--just took piano because they thought they needed one in their mess.

20:00 Were in Ghetto until told they were going to be transported. Allowed to take certain weight amount in sacks, had to pay money for transport.

21:00 Said to mother, 'Now is the time to run away', but she refused. Said you had to march and old people who couldn't were told to step out. Went to Novisange (ph.) to a larger Ghetto. Heard the older ones were shot.

22:00 Had no where to go in Ghetto. Kind lady asked them to come in. Very crowded, barbed wire around, curfew meant being off the streets by 6:00, August 1940 or 1941.

23:00 From there, taken to extermination camp. Worried she couldn't get out. Knew many couldn't work because they were sick. Food was coming in a little...potato peels, anything.

24:00 Prayed to God with Hebrew prayer. They did get out which was a miracle.

25:00 Met a woman she knew who told them the police were coming to get them out tonight. Told them they were going to get over wall and go to restaurant and back to Kraków.

26:00 Told mother who wouldn't believe her.

27:00 Went to woman to discuss plans, left everything behind. Began shouting "Curfew" and mother felt they must go back to things.

Sister went with Mother but little brother stayed with her.

28:00 Woman said time to go but she didn't want to leave mother and sister.

29:00 Man came and said they must go, the police will come and get your mother and sister again. Insisted they go.

30:00 Grabbed her and put her over wall. She and brother went with police station and on to Kraków. Polish policeman helped rescue, and took them to home where wife took care of them.

31:00 Her aunt took them to Ghetto in Kraków where she found out what was happening to transports. Man went back to find mother and sister but couldn't find them. She never saw them again.

32:00 'Auntie' had figured that if they heard anything they would go to the village and said they would be able to get work and permits. They got work in cable factory and were taken from the Ghetto daily. Brother stayed home with Auntie.

33:00 Gradually they were getting rid of people. Policeman rushed in and warned of Aktion and said he was going to take the boys. She had to stay in . She looked for hiding place.

34:00 Found man who had house if paid. Uncle gave her the money but wouldn't go with her. Then they heard, "Everybody out, anyone in hiding would be shot".

35:00 They took people who listened to them and took them away. Took away her uncle, his wife, daughter, grandson and many others. Once more she survived. Policeman brought her brother back.

36:00 She was going to stay in special huts for workers instead of Ghetto. Another Aktion in Ghetto and everyone taken to concentration camp. She managed to get a pass saying she had to go to Dr. but she went to look for her brother.

37:00 Little brother got typhoid fever and she didn't go back to concentration camp. She could have been hanged for it.

38:00 They found her but she said she had a bad fever. They excused her.

39:00 Complete liquidation of Ghetto while she was at work. Some were sent to concentration camp, old and children were shot. Sent letter to policeman through Polish factory workers to get brother for her. He tried but couldn't find him. This was first time she gave up fight, stopped working.

40:00 Had nervous breakdown (perhaps 42, 43). Those who wouldn't work were put on black list and taken back to Ghetto to be shot. She expected them to take her back.

42:00 Had to work 12 hour shift, couple 1/2 hour breaks. Fellow workers brought them food.

43:00 People on black list taken and she was forgotten. She was glad and decided to work again.

44:00 They left her alone because fellow factory workers were writing down their production under her name.

45:00 Were allowed to keep working until one day they were told they had to go back to the concentration camp. 1944.

46:00 Russians were coming so in order to cover up what had been going on, they dumped the dead down some hills after burning them. Camp was dirty, not much food. They were okay because of the cable factory.

47:00 Told camp was going to be liquidated, separated them, took factory workers, about 2000 women. It was rumored they were going to Auschwitz, which they had heard of.

48:00 Were wearing striped clothing and stars. There were not only Jews, but others (she could see the different color triangles). Some were Bible students who were there as 'religious fanatics'. Could see them even though they were in different parts.

50:00 She cut her hair very short because she didn't want to have head shaved. They were put on trains, not passenger trains. Arrived in November at Auschwitz.

51:00 "Work makes you happy" written on gate.

52:00 Took them into part with gas chambers. Those who worked in gas chambers told them that if they were segregated, some would get through. In morning they were segregated. One woman stayed with her little son and she went with the child.

53:00 Put in Birkenau, sleep five on a bunk of straw.

54:00 Given the clothing that had been from those who had been burned. They were rags and so dirty. They looked better in the prison clothes than these. Others were 'walking skeletons'.

55:00 Ordered them around with whips, told to get together and start marching. Had to be counted every morning.

56:00 Could see they were getting nearer to gas chambers, ovens. The fire was coming out of chimneys and the stench. Suddenly told to march back, had made a mistake and made the 'skeletons' march.

57:00 Some committed suicide on electric wires. Then taken to main portion of camp of Auschwitz where they were tattooed.

58:00 Taken to special section, given 1/4 loaf of bread, some jam, soup, coffee in a.m. There were showers. Given back prison clothing to wear and went to fields to dig up cabbages. Ate them raw. Brought soup in midday.

60:00 Hands were so numb and cold that it was hard to hold bowl. Bread was given in evening. Others argued over bread. Loaf to be divided which brought on fights. Trusted her to distribute bread.

1:00 With Jewish people only at this time. Russians were coming nearer and nearer, never bombed camps.

TAPE 2 of 2

1:00 January of 1945 told Russians are coming, we are getting out of Auschwitz. Gave tin of meat and loaf of bread to everyone.

2:00 Told to march escorted by SS. Held on to each other, placed in stables along the way.

3:00 Those who couldn't walk were shot, marched for three days and placed on open trains, and taken to Belsen, passed Buchenwald where a lot of dead bodies were taken off train, mostly men because weren't given food.

4:00 There were all Jews on train. In Belsen, taken to showers. They thought they were gas chambers but weren't. Hardly any food and typhoid broke out.

5:00 There were Ukrainians there who were violent people. Men and women were always segregated.

6:00 Dead were lying in heaps, no one buried them. April of 1945, British liberated camp.

7:00 Surrounding villages were burning, rumors had that mines were laid to kill them off if they left. Saw troops coming, thought they were dressed-up Germans.

8:00 Troops had to be careful of typhoid, but gave food. Nobody

could take it after starving. She got typhoid fever.

9:00 Found her cousin's husband who managed to get her to hospital.

10:00 Didn't meet any other groups there. She was unconscious for a long time. Some prisoners were doctors and they helped her. They had all been covered with lice.

11:00 Cleaned at hospital and shave hair, powder. She heard them say, 'don't shave her, she won't last long.'

13:00 Cousin's husband came to see her and said he wanted to go back to Poland. Placed in D.P. Camp in Belsen.

14:00 Taken to another D.P.Camp, Linerberg (ph.), fed by British. Met husband in this camp and asked to go to dance in the Mess.

15:00 She could speak German and Polish. Met husband in July, 1945 and married in Dec., 1945. Had clothes from Red Cross.

16:00 Lived with some other friends from Ghetto and concentration camp. First stayed in Germany, had army quarters.

17:00 Couldn't hate Germans.

18:00 Ended up in England, lived with her husband's parents, went to Scotland and had a son. Posted to HongKong, posted to Germany. Met Jehovah's Witnesses.

19:00 Had thought Christians were no good because killing Jews. Both she and husband believed in God, but didn't practice religion.

20:00 Didn't want to raise child as any denomination because she had been different all her life, so she wanted him to 'be comfortable' so raised him as Church of England.

22:00 Thought maybe she would also be Church of England but decided to stay loyal to family. Jehovah's Witnesses came, and offered two books to her, came to visit her again.

24:00 Remembered the Bible students in Camp and asked her about it. The German lady told her about why they had been in camps as well-- for not saying "Heil Hitler".

25:00 She liked Ecc. 9:5

26:00 Started learning about Jesus, reading Bible.

27:00 Had asked her mother about Jesus who'd said 'was good man, but not God, only one God.'

28:00 Took time for her to understand 'all true' and better than other religions, met some others from concentration camps were Jehovah's Witnesses when she went to meetings in Germany.

29:00 Show pictures of family before war. Davies, David -Husband to

Tina, married in 1945. -born in July 4, 1922.

37:00 Tells where he met Tina at a dance in D.P. Camp.

38:00 All he knew was that she was a C.P. from concentration camp. Met her and got to know her and married in December. He was in Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers, repairing motor vehicles.

39:00 Joined as boy soldier in 1937, apprenticed until placed active at age of 18. Started at N. Scotland during the war, then to Egypt in 1942 and the Battle at Al Amein.

40:00 Then to Salerno, Italy, then to N. Italy, transferred to S. France (Marseilles) to Belgium and on to Germany.

41:00 At time of liberation, 30 to 40 miles south of Bremen, occupied German barracks in Lunepold (ph.)

42:00 The Russian Ukrainian (many thousands) were very active, noisy, singing, marching. The others weren't very well but were struggling.

43:00 International aid was coming to give medical help. Invited girls to dance to dispense with desserts and chocolates. After two or three meetings got to know each other well.

44:00 Got through language problems, had been prepared for horror stories from those already discovered.

45:00 One year after liberation, visited Belsen, Dachau was a desolate location.

46:00 Recollections--uncanny silence over the whole area, no birds in the area--a known fact.

47:00 Retired and received post with Defense Ministry in British Government. Response to those who say Holocaust didn't happen: very sad, pities those who are so abysmally inclement, or they just don't want to know.

.END.