

JURIS, Blanche (Bluma)
RG-50.029*0003
One Videocassette
In English

Abstract

Blanche (Bluma) Lubecki Juris was born on May 12, 1914 in Eišiškės, Lithuania. She had seven brothers and two sisters. Their family was not very religious. They spoke Yiddish at home, and lived in a large Jewish community. She attended Hebrew school for eight years, and public school until seventh grade. She worked for a dressmaker, where some colleagues made anti-Semitic comments. She married Isaac Juris and they moved to Radom, Poland when World War II began. Her father's best friend took them to Radom, and had been very nice to them. But later, he raped and murdered her younger sister.

Russians took all Jews from Radom, and transported in cattle cars to Jalotor labor camp. Blanche was pregnant, and gave birth to their first child at the camp. They had barely enough food to survive. The baby died from measles when he was about nine months old. Blanche sewed for the commander's wife, and Isaac chopped wood. Blanche received a letter saying that Germans had killed everyone in Eišiškės.

Russians sent them by train to Kirov and then to Tashkent, where they stayed for a few weeks before being sent to Yambol, Bulgaria, then to Kazakhstan. They had another son in March 1943, and lived in a small apartment with another family from their hometown.

After the war, Blanche learned that four of her siblings had survived. Blanche, Isaac, and their son went to Vilna, then Lodz, then a DP camp in Germany where they were fed by UNRRA.

The three Jurises, sponsored by the United Jewish Appeal, arrived in United States on December 20, 1946. They were very proud to be free, and lived first in East New York. Then they bought a chicken farm, which they sold two years later. Back in New York, Blanche became a coat maker.

Blanche gave birth to a daughter in New York. They have told both their children about their wartime experiences, including the baby who died but will never be forgotten.

While Blanche has no desire to return, one of their grandchildren returned to Eišiškės.

Time Coded Notes

- 00:18:49 Blanche (Bluma) Lubecki Juris was born May 12, 1914 in Eišišķės, Lithuania. She had seven brothers and two sisters. Her father was an ironworker and blacksmith. Everyone in the family pitched in when they got old enough to earn some money.
- 00:28:33 Her family was not very religious but observed holidays and Sabbath. They spoke Yiddish at home. Blanche worked for a dressmaker. They had two houses, a big garden, and a store between the houses. Blanche went to Hebrew school for eight years and then to public school until the seventh grade. Her neighborhood was mixed, but her all of her friends were Jewish.
- 00:24:20 Although Blanche's boss was very nice, the other dressmakers made anti-Semitic comments.
- 00:21:44 For relaxation, Blanche went to meetings in the Batar youth organization. She also loved to ride her bike, walk, and dance.
- 0:19:07 She married Issac Juris, whom she had known since childhood. When the war started, they went to Radom with one other couple.
- 0:16:54 Russians took everyone from Radom with very little warning and no information about their destinations. Russians transported them in railroad cattle cars with practically no food and very little space to sleep.
- 0:12:55 They were taken to the Jalotor labor camp. Blanche's husband worked, but she was pregnant and could not work. They could not eat much of the food because it was not Kosher. She gave birth to Yankele in a hospital. The staff was helpful.
- 0:08:41 There was just enough food to survive, and no extra food for the baby. Blanche sewed for the commander's wife. They lived in long barracks with two long tables for eating. The baby slept with them.
- 0:06:34 Her husband chopped wood. She stayed in the barracks with four other women who had children. The Russians gave things for the children, such as diapers.
- 0:05:32 She did not know what had happened to her family until someone wrote and told them that the Germans had killed everyone in Eišišķės.
- 0:03:42 Her baby died from measles. He was approximately nine months old.

- 0:02:31 The Russians sent them by train to Kirov and then to Tashkent, where they stayed for a few weeks. It was very cold. They lived in barracks.
- 0:01:13 They went to Yambol, Bulgaria and were not too worried.
- 00:00:05 Babies who died were buried along the way.
- 0:01:45 They were sent to Kazakhstan. Isaac worked, including making small shoes and selling them, and she helped make clothes.
- 0:03:02 Their second son was born in March 1943.
- 0:03:54 They shared a little apartment with other people from their town in Lithuania.
- 1:05:50 When they heard that war was over, Isaac and Blanche, along with their son, went to Vilna. From there, they went to Lodz, and then to Germany.
- 1:06:21 They went to a DP camp in Germany. They were fed by UNRRA.
- 1:08:10 After the war, she learned that everyone except four of her siblings had died.
- 1:09:02 She arrived in America on December 20, 1946, after being very ill on the ship. Her family was sponsored by the United Jewish Appeal.
- 1:10:44 She was very proud to be free. They spent two weeks in a hotel, until her husband found a job. They lived in East New York and then bought a chicken farm because they wanted to accomplish something. They sold it in two years. They had one daughter in New York.
- 1:12:46 They moved back to New York City a few years later. She worked as a coat maker.
- 1:14:03 Blanche never forgot about the child who died.
- 1:14:30 They have grandchildren in college and are very proud of them.
- 1: 15:59 Isaac and Blanche told the children about their experiences.
- 1:16:58 She has no desire to go back to Poland. Nothing is there. The Poles took everything. Her father's best friend, who took them to Radom, was very nice to them. Ultimately, however, he took their younger sister out, raped and murdered her.

1:20:00 They brought pictures of the family when they left Eišišķēs. They donated these pictures to Jaffa. Their grandson went back to Eišišķēs.