

-TITLE-HENRY GOLDBERG
-I_DATE-18 JANUARY 1986
-SOURCE-DALLAS MEMORIAL CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES
-RESTRICTIONS-
-SOUND_QUALITY-A LITTLE FUSSY, BUT GOOD
-IMAGE_QUALITY-EXCELLENT
-DURATION-NEARLY 2 HOURS
-LANGUAGES-ENGLISH
-KEY_SEGMENT-
-GEOGRAPHIC_NAME-
-PERSONAL_NAME-
-CORPORATE_NAME-
-KEY_WORDS-
-NOTES-
-CONTENTS-

Beginnings: The Lodz Ghetto

27:30 The Poles would point out where the Jews lived.

28:18 There was confusion until about 1940.

28:30 Then the Germans started their organized terror and built the Ghetto (p&d).

28:52 It took 6-9 months before there was full organization.

29:40 All Jews had to wear the Star of David.

32:45 Description of the Ghetto

33:18 The Ghetto was 4-5 km squared.

33:45 The Ghetto was built to "mentally disrupt" its Jewish inhabitants. "We tried not to lose our minds. "The Jews were hanged as "criminals." Also prominent Jews in the Ghetto.

The Story of His Brother-in-Law

44:10 (1941) Brother-in-Law announced he had signed up to work in Posnan.

45:15 Had extra

45:30 Brother left

45:57

46:23 He (speaker) would get (brother) out by digging a hole

46:31 They worked through the night, finally got him out, and took him back.

47:02 The next day, the rest of the Jews were sent to Birkenau.

53:45 There was nothing to eat; (the Germans) took the children (5 - 10 years old) to "relocate them"

54:20 Nobody knew what was going on.

54:35 There were Jews coming in from other places.

54:50 Another Ghetto was built inside the already-existing one.

55:10 This new one was surrounded with electric wire.

55:38 (The Jews in the "old" Ghetto) were trying to find out who these new people were (i.e. the Jews that moved into the new Ghetto).

56:25 There were five dead people; it was hard to tell if one of them was dead or alive.

57:00 The Jews were buried in one big hole in the cemetery.

57:23 (The speaker) had to find out what was going on.

58:40 At night, one heard nothing but yelling, destruction.

59:00 A girl was killed with a huge pick-axe through her stomach.

95:35 (Germans:) "Now she's dead."

60:15 The Germans were murdering people till there was nobody left.

60:38 When the Jews (from the old Ghetto) went into the new Ghetto, there was nobody left.

60:50 They found food and suitcases of children hiding in the walls and in the ground. These people had pianos and beautiful clothing.

64:00 At night, one heard crying, yelling, killing, beating in the little Ghetto.

64:31 There was not as much beating in the big Ghetto

64:45 The "Kriminal" police lived in separated buildings in the Ghetto. Some of the spies were also Jewish!

66:00 Sick people were thrown on trucks and taken away. They were promised a better place.

66:30 The conditions grew "worse and worse, day by day." People were taken out every day.

68:13 "People were dying, day by day...everything was mentally gone." it was cold; people started burning wood to keep warm; if you burnt down doors, then you got hanged for it.

68:12 One day, 18 people got hanged (for burning down doors) in the middle of the market.

68:57 Everyone had to go see them.

70:05 German to (speakers's?) mother: How many children do you have? Three. German: "...gotta love them with a smile." (German:) "Which child do you love better?"

70:33 A child would be chosen and taken away. The child would be brought back later, but this never happened.

70:52 Then women got smarter. "You see, (the Germans) tried to disrupt you"

Train to Auschwitz

72:52 There were 150-160 people standing up inside the railroad car.

73:06 They made a stop; one man and woman (Poles) from the station were waiting for another train.

73:30 (Speaker:) "Do you know where we're going?" (the speaker was stronger at first - physically.)

73:46 (Woman in Polish:) "Wherever you go now, there's no way to return", i.e. Auschwitz. No coming out of there.

74:03 (Woman:) "You known, you'll see smokestacks, and you'll know there's no getting out of there.

74:30 Lots of people jumped off the train and got killed (shot).

In Auschwitz

80:00 Poles came in with pipes at night, hitting people on the head; there were often 20-30 dead people in the morning "for nothing."

80:30 A little piece of bread was given in the morning; some marmalade and butter was put on top of the tank by the Poles. The Germans would just kill you outright if they didn't like you; the Poles played around with you.

81:05 This is why Henry has more against the Poles because of what they did to him.

81:30 There was never enough food. Everyone followed the bucket. If (when) the bucket was spilled, some people started eating off the floor. The prisoners couldn't understand it yet, but the Germans came in and started shooting whoever was on the

82:10 floor. It was a play to the Germans.

83:40 In the summertime, (the Germans or Poles?) would put a piece of bread on top of the electric wire. Whoever didn't know would go for it.

84:08 People were killed day by day, but then again, there were always new people coming in.

Liberation

99:20 Liberation...from Lager 1 back to Dachau (29 April 19/11). Everyone got into civilian clothes as they would be going through towns.

100:05 During the march to Tirol, there were bulldozers and machine guns set up in the mountains.

100:28 Henry escaped with a little fellow.

100:55 They tied themselves up in a tree so they would not be found and killed.

101:20 Henry and his friend went to Bad Heiz (ph) - to the Burgermeister's house and stayed in the barn.

101:55 The Burgermeister knew, but he was old, so they knew wouldn't say anything. His daughter brought food.

102:35 On 1 May, the American troops came in, but Henry didn't trust them, since they could be Germans in disguise.

In Retrospect

110:38 (Henry:) "I'm thinking that, for every day that we live...and building a family, I tell a lot of American people they don't know what freedom is -- to stay free."

111:50 At night, Henry dreams...he cannot sleep...he gets up...he always thinks somebody's after him, running.

112:17 It's a feeling you never get out of your system.

112:32 It never leaves you. A lot of people cannot understand. It's so consuming.

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