

HYMAN GOLDBERG

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

1988

1:39 Apparently he told his place of birth and birth date before the camera was running. (but apparently it was in or near Lodz) Father: Hersch ran a grocery store, had a transportation business with horses. Mother: Chendall Sisters: Leya, Miriam Brother: Issac

1:40 Early life: lived in the same house for 28 years, had the store in the front and lived in the back; went to Polish public school, had contact with Non-Jews, relationships were cordial.

1:42 When war broke out with the Germans the Polish army was in very poor condition

The Germans came in and took possession of all Jewish valuables, and any possible weapons; then a ghetto area was designated - the Poles moved out and the Jews

1:46 moved in carrying only the belongings they could carry . Poles who had been friends refused to admit they knew any Jews.

Immediately, food was a problem, there were long lines for bread; everyone was hungry. There was sickness and great confusion and unrest so the Jewish police force was formed and in many instances they were worse than the Germans.

1:49 There was some rioting in the ghetto and the instigators were taken away and never heard from again.

1:51 An offer was made to the young people in the ghetto by the Germans that they could go away and work in Germany and the money they earned (15 marks per week) would be given to the families.

Mr. Goldberg went to Germany and worked on the Autobahn for 2 years.. He cut stones by hand to build the autobahn for two years. They had minimal food but had some straw mattresses and blankets. He was taken to Auschwitz then,

2:01 At first, he worked in the gas chamber area disposing of bodies. He was there about 2 mos and a friend said he should switch out of that job or he would die there also.. So he volunteered to work in the factory at Buna. Even there, there were selections every Sun. to pick out the sick kids who would then

2:08 be taken away.

Some of the Germans were not too strict with the kids, letting them work slowly if they were not well. Mr. Goldberg would help get food from the farmers for the Germans and he would be repaid with food.

2:12 On Jewish holidays they were made to work hard on purpose - sometimes in the winter the Germans would take them to walk and lie down in the snow with out shoes, warm clothes.

2:13 They were living in a barracks with tiers of bunkbeds; there was inspection every

week by the German Jew who was the Kapo, he made the kids keep clean, told them not to sell their food and to hold on for the end of the war.

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2:15 In the ghetto, in 1939, he had witnessed the Germans pulling up to the side of the hospital and throwing the babies and children into wagons.

2:16 On the streets were swollen, dying people. There was terrible hunger in the ghetto. The Jewish police treated their own people worse than the Germans did.

2:18 The Germans would demand so many Jews for deportation from Rumkowski.

2:19 The Jewish police complied with orders for their own survival.

In 1944 Lodz ghetto was liquidated and there were a very few people who were still alive when the Russians came in.

2:30 Rumkowski was shown to the prisoners when he was brought to Auschwitz to be put in the gas chambers.

2:32 As the Allies got closer, the kids got moved away from Buna and put in open cattle cars to go from place to place, there was no food or water; they ate snow..

2:33 They were put in the Donner camp. Kids were dying all around, praying for liberation. The camp had been wired so that it could be blown up before the 2:34 Americans arrived, but a German SS disconnected the wires.

2:35 The Americans brought in lot of food but some kids ate too much and died.

Local Germans pretended not to know anything about the camps and what was 2:37 going on.