

Synopsis is incomplete - see pp 11  
- beginning of Tape #2

Summary of an interview with MARWICK, SARAH BORG 00:00:00 My mother's name was Ethel Sheby (ph), maiden name my father's name was Aaron. I have two younger brothers, now called Maurice and Jack. 00:00:30 Q - Did you grow up in Warsaw? A - Unfortunately I did not. In 1939 when the war broke out I was five years old and soon after that we left. 00:01:00 I did not start school. I have some childhood memories. I remember the last seder. 00:01:30 My father WAS DRESSED IN WHITE, The maid served the meal. I remember the bombing. We lived in an apartment. 00:02:00 We were told to move down to the basement. The men took turns watching what was happening 00:02:30 The building was bombarded but we escaped. 00:03:00 My father had been on guard, and he came down to sleep. My mother couldn't wake him and she took us out. 00:03:30 We wore galoshes and whatever we had under our coats. I remember running and seeing people falling on the way. 00:04:00 Warsaw was burning from all directions. 00:04:30 My mother later told the story of where we would up a building with a lot of guards. 00:05:00 It was a building where they admitted only women and children. We were four - there was an orphan child who my mother sort of had been taking care of. 00:05:30 There was some disturbance, my mother asked people to be quiet, and my father recognized my mother's voice. He hadn't been with us for two days.

Marwick - 2

00:06:00 A woman had given birth and my mother put the baby in a pillow, and carried the woman out of the burning building. It took her two days to get to the same building as us. 00:06:30 I remember what happened afterwards from the stories of my mother. 00:07:00 We were there when the Germans marched in. My father's brother was drafted into the army and he fought. 00:07:30 I don't remember how long we stayed there, weeks or months. 00:08:00 My father spoke excellent Polish and he was blond and blue-eyed, so he could roam around and bring us food. One day he came back and said he thought it was time for us to leave Warsaw. 00:08:30 The Germans had taken him as a Jew and chased him but he was able to get away. 00:09:00 My aunt, my mother's sister, didn't want to leave because she hoped her husband would return. So we went to Girardoff (ph) about 50 kilometers from Warsaw where the family had an orchard business. 00:09:30 My paternal grandfather had become quite wealthy and bought a lot of land around Girardoff. 00:10:00 Two of the brothers worked in Warsaw where they disposed of the fruit grown in the orchards. 00:10:30 But it wasn't good. The Poles were unfriendly. The Germans were killing rich Jews and intellectuals. 00 ~ 00 My father announced it was time to leave again, but the brothers and sisters didn't want to leave all their possessions.

Marwick - 3

00:11:30 We left. I remember it was a treacherous journey. I believe on train. 00:12:00 Somewhere a farmer came and took us to a small town near the river Buk (ph) 00:12:30 We wanted to go over to the Russian sector, and again we were searched and they took everything we had. 00:13:00 The Germans did that. 00:13:30 The German soldier who searched my father said he understood how difficult it was for him because he had a wife and child in Germany and he didn't know if he would ever see them again. 00:14:00 Later on, my father told me that he had given him some sugar and candy bars.. 00:14:30 People had to be smuggled across because the Russians did not want people to come in. 00:15:00 To cross the river, my father carried my brother, my mother carried my sister and I had to walk. It must 00:15:30 I remember I was all wet. My father became a leader because there were so many women and so few men./ 00:16:00 I remember this one building in the distance, all lit up. 00:16:30 It might have been the spring of 1940. 00:17:00 We were told to lie down on the ground. Then we heard footsteps - a man was coming. 00:17:30 My father went on ahead. He told the man that he was a Pole escaping FROM THE Germans. The man SAID TO COME with him.

Marwick - 4

00:18:00 At the man's home, he found several Jewish families and they told him he was fortunate to have found a man who helped the Jews. 00:18:30 They came to pick us up in a wagon, took us back where there was hot water. They bathed us and the next morning they took us to the train station 00:19:00 We wound up in a synagogue in Brest-Litovsk. There were many Jews there from German-occupied Poland. 00:19:30 I can't remember the life there, but there were plenty of children and I had lots of friends. 00:20:00 I think we were there for quite a time. Then the Germans came and they said they wanted us to come back home. 00:20:30 They set up booths in the market place and offered to send home anyone who wanted to go. By chance, my father found a cousin in Brest-Litovsk, and they stood in line a long time to get a visa. 00:21:00 Our cousin was in line ahead of us, and after he got his papers, they said they had their quota and closed the window. 00:21:30 It was fate. After the war, we couldn't find a trace of this young man. 00:22:00 Then the Russians came. They said in order to prove your loyalty, take a five year passport, and we will send you to some city like Kiev or Odessa. 00:22:30 My father thought the war would not last five years and he refused to take that passport.

Marwick - 5

00:23:00 He was considered an enemy of the state, so we had to leave and we ended up in a tiny store. 00:23:30 The people would bring us food from time to time. This was still in Brest-litovsk. 00:24:00 Eventually they caught us and were sent to Siberia. 00:24:30 A town called \_\_\_\_\_ near the Finnish border. It wasn't really Siberia, but you could not reach it by land. 00:25:00 It was very cold in the winter. We called it Siberia because it related to the cold. 00:25:30 The whole place was a prison. The buildings were built of logs. 00:26:00 The people spoke their own language, which I learned. 00:26:30 Single persons were kept in a prison; families were kept in barracks. 00:27:00 My father was very competent. He became a leader. He learned Russian quickly. He became some kind of official. 00:27:30 My father and mother chopped wood in the forest, my mother shovelled snow off the roof. It was very hard for my parents. 00:28:00 We school children had to walk three kilometers every day to get a cup of milk. 00:28:30 We had two families in our quarters, with a wrought iron stove with one burner. 00:29:00 I was the first one home from school so I would start water boiling, peel the potatoes, and throw them in. A new one had the milk. Each family took its turn at the one burner, and some wouldn't eat until one in the morning.

Marwick - 6

00:29:30 There was a canteen. 00:30:00 I became a pet of the woman in charge. She would comb my hair. 00:30:30 She would put away flour and sugar for me to take home. She saved clothing for me. 00:31:00 My parents worked so they had money. You could buy these things if you were lucky. People would stand in line all night. 00:31:30 The men, they had sticks with nails, they would jab people and push them out of line. It was the survival of the fittest. 00:32:00 But I was fortunate. This lady put things away for me. 00:32:30 It was in 1941, the person in charge of the region came to my father and said they could use people like him in the region. 00:33:00 He offered food and housing, but my father refused. 00:33:30 So we left, it was Dec. 1941, and we went again to the river. It was frozen. 00:34:00 We spent three months on the street, without clothing or food. 00:34:30 From there they sent us to Kazakhstan - Alma-Ata. It was about a month on the train. 00:35:00 It was beautiful. The sun was shining. For the first time I saw fruits - grapes and things. 00:35 ~ Unfortunately, we didn't get to stay there. They sent us further, south-east. 00:35.~ It took us forever, on wagons and things. It was a farm area.

Marwick - 7

00:36: ~ We were four families in one hut. It was cold, we were starving and we all got sick. 00:~3~.~ I was in the hospital, where I got all the diseases mumps, chicken pox, measles, and they had no medication. 00:37 ~ The native people hoped to be freed from the Russians. They were Oriental people. They hated us because the year we arrived, it snowed for the first time in 20 years.

3~0~

00:37.30 We were the only Jewish family among the Poles and the local Kazaks, and we were scared they would cut our throats. 00:38.~ Both my parents worked, and we started school again. I learned Kazakish. ~f ~o

00:38:30- My mother became ill. She was not strong. She had a heart attack in Siberia. She came from an orthodox family - her father was a rabbi. 00:39:~ My mother ate very little. My father was a survivor. ,74.'~

00:39; ~- In Brest-Litovsk, my father would bring home pork rind, and force us to eat it, but my mother would not. 00:40:fl~t At the end of 1942, I believe a Polish front opened up. 00:41~b A lot of Polish soldiers ended up in Iran, and some in Jerusalem with the British Army.

~30

°°~k~ My father signed up because they promised that children would be put into an orphanage, and wives taken care of. 00:42:00 But my father was refused because he was Jewish and one night the NKVD came and took him for forced labor.

MARWICK- 8

00:42:30 My mother was left alone with three children. Soj along with some other women hired a horse and wagon. 00:43:00 We went about 50 kilometers, to a larger city, and that was really the worst. 00:43:30 There were three other women and their children. At night, we would go to the station and steal wood. 00:44:00 We had rations - we were supposed to get 300 grAMS OF bread a day, but the bread didn't always come in. 00:44:30 The Russian soldiers were starving/ Sometimes we would stand in line all night and no bread would come. 00:45:00 Or strong men would come and steal the bread from the children. 00:45:30 Some days we didn't have wood to make a fire to heat the house or water. And the snow came through the roof. 00:46:00 One day, I tried to get the snow off the roof and I fell thru the roof. I ended up with tuberculosis. 00:46:30 We sent a letter to my father and he was released to find out what was going on. 00:47:00 My father did what he could. He had a two-week leave. When he went back, he took my little brother with him and that made it a little easier. 00:47:30 My father had learned to repair shoes when we were on the cooperative farm. 00:48:00 The Kazaks wore sot shoes, the bottom was the same as the top, and all he learned was to sew the two parts together. 00:48:30 So he didn't have to work outside in the forest. He was sent to the Urals and had a room of his own.

Marwick - 9

00:49:00 So my brother had a warm room, food, and he went to school. But my mother was dying. 00:49:30 On the 27th of March (she cries), 1944 - my mother passed away - she wasn't quite 31 years old. 00:50:00 I remember, for eight nights before she died, I stood in line trying to get some bread. 00:50:30 Finally, there were some wounded soldiers, and they saw what was happening, and they insisted that the children get their rations. 00:51:00 The soldiers were badly wounded, but they had good hearts. 00:51:30 I got a whole loaf of bread. with a little piece on top. I remember thinking, " I could eat that little piece. Nobody would know." 00:52:00 I felt so guilty. I ran all the way home so I could tell my mother. She divided the bread into sections and told me to take one piece and to sell it in the market for wheat. 00:52:30 She bought a grinding mill and we spent the night grinding the wheat. 00:53:00 I took the flour and sold it in the market. We got a lot of money and bought sugar beets. 00:53:30 I got wood and my mother cooked up the bran and sugar beets in a soup. As soon as people saw the smoke they came, because they were all starving. 00:54:00 My mother felt she had to share the food with everyone. 00:54:30 That night my mother came down with a big fever and in the morning she said I should take her to the hospital.

Marwick - 10

00:55:00 We had to walk 5 kilometers, and I had to carry her and we kept calling down because I was little and couldn't carry her. 00:55:30 There was no room in the hospital, not a bed. But they took her in. 00:56:00 I told a nurse I wanted to see my mother and she laughed and said she was dead. They had her in a little shed. 00:56:30 What can I say - she died. 00:57:00 So we were left the two of us. I knew how to read and write because my mother believed in education. 00:57:30 I wrote my father about what had happened and that they wanted to put us in an orphanage but there was no room for us. 00:58:00 My father came back in May. Less than a month later we go so much from the Americans. 00:58:30 Sacks of food, dated from 1942. I was so upset I couldn't eat. I just walked around crying. 00:59:00 One day I was going to the market, because I was the one who took care of the food, and I collapsed. 00:59:30 I was in the hospital about four months - I got typhoid fever and pneumonia. 01:00:00 My father was left with the two children. There was a woman there with one child, and by the time I got back, they were together. 01:00:30 And the trouble started all over again. She was not what she thought she was. 01:01:00 Here I was. just out of the hospital after four months, so thin I looked fragile, with a shaven head.

Marwick - 11

01:01:30 I heard my step-mother sayinbg to my father, in Yiddish, "She was not a virgin in her mother's womb." 01:02:00 At the time I didn't know what she meant, but I knew it wasn't flattering. 01:02:30 It wasn't until May 1946 that we were freed. 01:03:00 It could have been nicer, but a different kind if holocaust started for us.

END OF TAPE I

01:03:30 She didn't know how to treat the children. She absolutely despised us.  
~ 01:04:00 There were Russ~a n Jews who would see that we had some fiid and clothing~ They had been transferred so they didn't lose everyth~g. 01:04:30 They had been very ni ~ to us while my mother was alive. 01:05:00 These two women, if it h~ n't been for them, we would have died. 01:05:30 After we began to get these ~ tions, everything I divided in half, without asking my fat ~r. 01:06:00 I gave half to the people who had~ een so good to us. They had sold their belongings and ~w they were poot. 01:06:30 So many people, whole families would c~ e because they thought there would be food, and they sl ~t in the market. 01:07:00 Everyday these family circles would be smalle ~ because there was no food. 01:07:30 My stepmother felt she had to help her own. We we ~ just somebody in the way. -

MaRWICK ~@@~ ~

01:08:00 She took the fou~ out of our mouthes for her sister and her child. Then s~  
got pregnant and she was quite ill. I had tremendous compa~ ion for her because I  
wanted her to love me. 01:08:30 I needed a women to be a ro~ model. She jst refused  
to be it. 01:09:00 When she got pregnant, food was ~hort. And she had a terrible  
pregnancy. 01:09:30 I had to go for the doctor so many t~mes. It was 5 kilometers,  
and during the night. 01:10:00 At this point, I gave up. The spee ~ was too  
garbled.

This tape is running too slow - as can~be told  
from the fact that Marwick's voice is mu ~ lower  
from the beginning of the ta~e.