

MORRIS [MOSHE] GLUCKMAN
RG-50.106*0051

TAPE I Side A

Morris Gluckman was born in Java, Romania [Bukovina, Moldova, the Austrian-Hungarian Empire] at end of WWI

- 000 Java: Born in 1924 in Java. Jews there since 1500. Jews from Galicia. Had to live in village. Massive Jewish population but not a shtetl. Orthodox Jews and assimilated. Good Christian schools. Jews considered foreigners.
- 031 Life in Java: Relatively happy. Father worked first as apprentice, then opened own family store. Had Talmudic studio. Representative in Jewish Council. Was Hadassah Wizo. Self learned. M. learned in cheder and Talmud there. Was big family, both father and mother's. Summer as spent in country with grandmother. Had happy childhood. Public school 4 classes. High school, 1940, but had to leave school. Government regulation. Not many gentile friends. Jewish intellectuals and middle class. Little connection with gentiles.
- 092 Religion: All were orthodox - only some assimilated. Mother was strict on Shabbat and went to synagogue. Spoke German at home, Romanian in school. Father's family spoke Yiddish. Learned Hebrew, French, Russian and English.
- 140 Childhood: Football. Few toys. Read books, collected stamps.
- 155 Antisemitism: Antisemitic slogans as 'Down with Jews' on walls. Neighbors were antisemitic, but no harm done. During elections, stoned Jewish stores. Market days, antisemitic talk. All parties were antisemitic.
- 232 Information: Knew about Germans. Had radio. Heard about Hitler's rise to power. Iron Guard came to power in Romania. Knew their fate will be same as German Jews. High school teachers mistreated Jewish students. His father complained. Teachers were political. Jews had to be better than gentile students. Therefore, became intellectuals.
- 350 End of recording.

TAPE II, Side B

- 002 Antisemitism: Got news from radio and newspapers. A German family came to village. Told of 1st years of Hitler. 1938 Romania had first antisemitic Nazi government, but after 3 months they had no majority. Jews were beaten and threatened and arrested. Massacres in Radensky and Katoslity. Preparations for war brought soldier. Threw Jews from train. Governments were replaced by king, but bad times started. 1941 war against Soviets started. Took Jews as hostages.
- 110 Deportation to Bessarabia: Prepared for deportation with food, clothing, shoes, without knowledge what for. Oct. 9: Deportation was announced: 2 days. Report to train station. Oct. 10: left without belongings: first poor. They perished. M left second day. 5000 Jews were deported. Waited 1 day for train. 1500 were pushed

into 1 car. Finally, they arrived in Bessarabia. Attacy, destroyed village. Camped on field, prey to Ukrainians. Hungarian peasants who took their belongings. Finally got to village; first stayed in synagogue. A new transport of Jews came, begging for food and water. A Romanian officer took them away. They moved to house. They sold jewelry to Romanians for money. Later they were searched for jewelry. In Mogilev they hired German trucks with this money and went to Moravia. Thus they survived. Others left by bay. They were shot. They settled in a little town: a labor town. Lived there, synagogue and school and hospital.

355 End of Tape.

TAPE II Side A

- 000 Finding shelter [in Moravia]" They rented room for 6 people. Survived for long time. But lived at mercy of Romanian Gendarmerie. Winter 1941-42: Typhus and diphtheria. He and mother were sick. Cold, no food, but survived. Worked in Germany and other places. 1942 wanted to take them to a deadly camp. They fled and with bribes were left.
- 062 Moravia: Ukrainian police guarded the village. They could not leave. But they went to other villages for food. There was also a Jewish police. They got people to work. When Germans came, the Jewish police helped Jews. Work was to help Germans build bridges. Also, to excavate coal from open mines. Always feared dying in camp. They were beaten. Worried about mother's relatives. They helped refugees from other camps.
- 132 Information about Europe: No information about Poland. About Ukraine: refugees reported gassing in cars. Bessarabia: killing. Had radio from Russian partisans. Knew Russian positions and approaching front. Their village was on route of German retreat. Those were exhausted.
- 202 Life in village: Chief of police prevented Germans to go through village [Lampert]. Had to make a living. Father created a cooperative store: to bring in food and sell. This financed a kitchen for the poor and bribes of authorities.
- 267 Work: Worked in quarries and in tobacco fields, and crops. Father and others went to kolkhoz. Traded cabbage, wheat, and meat for camp kitchen. Gendarmes caught him going to field and were to shoot him. Was saved. They shot for any provocation. Order was to go to work - so they enforced.
- 340 End of recording.

TAPE II Side B

- 002 Guards: There was no mass killing. Occasional beatings, some brutality for 'pleasure'. They were not commanded. Father had good relations. Asked that they should not bother people, in return father was beaten! Compared with other camps, this was not extermination. But conditions were bad and sickness, density, fear, cold, freeze. Hard to bring water from outside. Food: had to go out a night [father].

- 80 Liberation: Village was between two hills. From one could see Germans. From the other, Russians. Germans shot at village. Finally, Russians chased away the Germans. Liberator was a Jewish colonel. He knew what was up and rushed to liberate. March 1944. Were in Moravia 2 1/2 years.
- 118 Russians: Happy about arrival, but trouble. Cooperative was confiscated. Father was arrested. They looked for gold. They enlisted people in army - to the front visits. So father took M and brother-in-law and escaped. Mother stayed for a year. Father returned May 1945. Learned about Auschwitz from survivors, autumn, 1945.
- 184 After war: Disoriented. Thought to go to Palestine, but could not. A shaliach came to organize aliyah. But his father got him to high school, then to medical school in Bucharest and urged him to finish school. Communists did not let them out. Then in 1983 they came to USA, with a daughter and 2 grandchildren.
- 244 Jobs: EE with motors. Manager of design for 20 years in Europe. In USA clerk, bank, working 7 days a week.
- 267 Feelings as survivor: Was saved due to energy of father. He worked, fought and made everything possible. Nothing was too difficult. Was well respected mrechange. They were on 2nd transport. The first did not survive.
- 312 His experience not as bad as Auschwitz. But it meant deportation with no food or medicine.
- End of recording.