

M. Zedek 1/13/97

Moshe Alpan RG-50.120*03 Tape 1-6

Tape 1

- 1:01 Moshe Alpan -- born Moshe Elefant, was born in East Slovakia, in Vranov, went to school in Michalovce where grandfather lived. Had 3 sisters. Describes childhood and Jewish life.
- 1:56 Talks about antisemitism in Slovakia, and the fact that they were the only ones who paid the Germans for every Jew they expelled.
- 2:03 Talks about the various religious and Zionist organizations in Vranov.
- 2:23 At 13, became member of Zionist-Socialist youth group Hashomer Hazair. Dr. Chaim Kugel started Jewish Gymnasium and Center for Zionist movement. describes cultural war between Zionist and Orthodox Jews.
- 2:41 At age 16, became part of Hashomer Hazair leadership. Finished high school in 1936.
- 3:16 June 1939, Gestapo arrested all Jews in Pesinok, burned synagogue
- 3:21 June 1936, went to study in Prague and left in 1938 beginning of Nazism. Talks about Jewish life in Prague.
- 3:39 June 1939 refugees from Austria came and told of what was happening. He decided to immigrate to Palestine, became active in Zionist movement.
- 3:45 June 1939, 1940 illegal immigration started. Talks about 2 Yugoslavian boats that attempted to pass through Hungary on the Danube and were refused by Hungary.
- 3:50 Summer 1941, Jewish children expelled from schools. He went to teach in a Jewish school
- 3:55 March 1942, expulsion of Jews. Anti-Jewish laws. 1000 Jewish girls taken to camp in Poprad
- 4:03 He saw Eichmann who had organized the camp

Tape 2

- 4:08 Shomer Hazir tells members about impending transports, instructs them to get non-Jewish papers. Organizers were Egon Roth, Benito and Rosenberg.
- 4:14 Describes Eichmann
- 4:21 Gives psychological explanation why people did not escape. Family ties. Disbelief in what was happening.
- 4:56 End of 1943. Hayka Klinger who escaped from ghetto and Auschwitz survivors tried to convince Jews of the impending disaster
- 5:06 Talks of Hashomer Hazair with Communist groups in anticipation of Russians
- 5:15 Meeting of Shomer Hazair representatives discussing future and goals of the movement. Need to alert and save Hungarian Jews. Decision to send group to Hungary. He was among the group also Rafi ben Schalom
- 6:00 Describes trip to Hungary. He organized in February 1944 the Shome Hazair underground organization in Budapest. Hungarian Jews did not believe it would happen to them
- 6:42 Talks about leaders: Siladi, Kastner, Komoy

Tape 3

- 7:07 Describes atmosphere in Budapest before Germans entered
7:13 March 1944, Germans entered Budapest. Talks about composition of Jewish resistance groups and their leaders: Kastner, Schweiger, Offenback, Biess, Ben Schalom
7:31 Describes how he and Mimich organized support for Jewish refugees in Budapest.
7:51 Talks about Kastner negotiations with Germans. Describes functions of rescue groups.
8:19 Anti-Jewish laws in Budapest. Transports from outlying town start
8:43 Organizes "trips" crossing Jews into Romania to take boats from there to Palestine
9:05 Tells of various "trips" he organized, people he met, work with the underworld.
10:00 Talks about the financing of their activities
10:07 April 1944, transports started

Tape 4

- 10:08 Psychological analysis of rescuers
10:18 Various activities of rescue groups, income and expenditures
10:20 Ephraim Agmon and rescue operation
10:38 German/Hungarian collaboration on transports
10:39 Mission of warning ghettos about transport and resistance to escaping. Reasons.
11:08 State of mind of Hungarian Jews. Brought in Istanbul to negotiate rescue. Eichmann's threats.
11:25 Disappointment of rescue movements in lack of help from the world, including Jewish leaders. June 1944 Paratroopers from Palestine, Hana Senech, Paldi
11:33 Lutz, Swiss Consul, and his help in rescuing
11:40 Indifference and antisemitism of Hungarians
11:50 Kastner negotiations with Germans
12:00 Rescue train to Spain. 1200 people escaped. Selection for rescue
12:10 January 1944 "rescue" train with 1600 people went to Bergen Belsen.
12:12 Rescue mission of Swiss Consul Lutz. Protection papers, certificates to Palestine
12:22 The "glass house" that became shelter to 2000 people.
12:33 August '44 Romania joined axis and "trips" stopped. Relationship between Zionist and Communist groups. Help agreements.
12:55 October 1944. Horti defeated. Rule of Fascist Hungarian regime.
13:03 Otto Komoy puts Jewish children under Red Cross protection. Started 40 illegal homes for Jewish children.

Tape 5

- 13:16 Oct. 15, persecution of Budapest Jews started. Collection areas. Protection attempts by Sweden. the Red Cross, the Church
13:21 Organization of protective houses
13:26 Alexander Grossman
13:29 Jewish life during cease fire
13:33 Plans of Kastner, Krauss, and Wallenstein
13:45 "March" of 1000 Jews from Budapest to Austria

14:03 Roles of helpers: Ben Shamol, Agmon, Gur Feigenbaum, Lauger, Mimich, Grossman
14:07 Role of women
14:36 Goal of parachutist from Palestine, Palgi, Senech, Goldstein
15:10 The Kastner plan
15:43 saving friends in prison
15:57 17 January 1945, Russian enter
16:07 Transition from war to peace.

Tape 6

16:12 Collaboration with Socialist underground. Discussions with Ivan Kadar, Futo Gambock, Korach
16:35 2 goals of movement 1) help returning Jews 2) revival of Zionist movement
17:00 Talks with Abba Kovner
17:07 Help to Polish Jews streaming into Slovakia
17:23 Emotional reaction to fate of family
17:29 He married, leaves Hungary, immigrates to Israel in July 1946
17:35 Philosophical discussion about heroism, being a victim, resistance, compliance.