

Baruch, Aliza
Israel Documentation Project
Hebrew
RG-50.120*0007

- 1.00 From Saloniki Greece. Her father worked at the harbor, and their family was religious, but not extremely so. She attended a private Jewish school and then went to a Christian school. There was no anti-Semitism – Jews and Christians had equal employment opportunities. She was 12 when the war broke out. Her name was Aliza Tzarfati.
- 1.03 War began in 1940 for Greece, German occupation started in April 1941. Immediately, all Jewish dock workers, including her father was fired. Jews of working age were assembled and forced to do labor. Her brother – six years older escaped with a Greek family. Soon the Jews were restricted to a ghetto. Her mother's baby died of malnutrition in early 1942. Describes life in the ghetto, constant hunger, starvation. They knew nothing of what was happening in Poland.
- 1.26 When Germans obtained lists of Jewish households for deportation purposes, a local priest alerted members of the surrounding Jewish community, many of whom subsequently fled. However, the local rabbi, who had actually seen what was happening in Poland told Jews that they were being taken to Palestine and many willingly went to be deported – March 1943.
- 1.35 Her brother returned home after her father became ill. She and her brother obtained certificates of marriage so they could go with their family instead of with the unmarried. They then went to Baronisch [ph] for deportation March 1943. Describes ordeal on train to Auschwitz.
- 1.48 Describes arrival at Auschwitz – shaving bald, receiving uniforms, entering blocks...Her parents were taken and killed, and cremated.
- 2.20 Describes daily life at Auschwitz.
- 2.30 Was taken, along with 14 [19?] other girls to Mengele's laboratory at Birkenau where they were exposed to radiation, and then taken back to Auschwitz. They continued to suffer vomiting, hair loss from the radiation, for several days afterward – some subsequently died. Those who had severe reactions were operated upon, and those who did not were irradiated again. She was irradiated as total of three times. She was submitted to an operation. Describes her recuperation from operation, further experiments. She spent 11 months in the hospital.
- 3.20 When her hospital ward was set to be deported to Birkenau, she managed to hide inside an empty block with the help of a sympathetic doctor. She then worked at sewing clothing for Germans. Describes continuing medical experiments. She was

- eventually send to Birkenau by another sympathetic doctor who thought she had a better chance of survival there.
- 3.50 Describes experiences in Birkenau – being transferred from work unit to work unit, often being helped by sympathetic kapos. Survived two selections. Describes her conditions of labor, beatings, rituals in which workers were forced to laugh while others were beaten. Found out that her brother was still alive.
- 4.35 The workers from Unio [ph] were sent back to newly constructed blocks in Auschwitz, where they remained through Nov 1944. They witnessed 4 Unio women being hanged for providing explosives to blow up the crematorium.
- 4.43 In January 1945, they were given civilian clothes, with one sleeve then removed and reduced with a sleeve of a different color. Birkenau was emptied. On the 15th they were taken on a death march. Describes how they were afraid to sleep in barns as the Germans frequently burned them. They ate snow for sustenance. They were loaded into coal trains after a number of days and unloaded at Ravensbruck. Describes crowding, starvation, lice.
- 5.05 They received new numbers and were loaded onto another train and taken to Mulchov [ph]. At the beginning of February 1945 she volunteered to work, and was put to work at a munitions factory until mid April 1945. She and another girl contracted disease, but were saved from death by a sympathetic doctor who gave them medicine and kept them safe until they recovered. As Russians advanced, the camp became increasingly empty. On May 1, 1945 the Red Cross delivered food packages. Many prisoners overate and subsequently died, The Germans marched them away from the Russians but didn't watch the prisoners, who subsequently walked off.
- 5.32 They encountered Yugoslavian soldiers who put them up in the home of a German woman. She became intensely depressed and refused to eat. After she recovered somewhat, she and her companions [who were in a town called Neustadt [ph]], went around begging and stealing food and clothing for two months. They took a train to Germany and Poland and returned to Neustadt. She and other Greeks were taken to Kaserny [ph] where there was a large group of Greeks.
- 5.53 From Kaserny they went through Rumania, Bulgaria, and finally arrived in Greece. Upon arrival in Salonica, they were imprisoned temporarily, but then released. Meeting other survivors, she discovered that her brother survived and was in Palestine. She married another survivor in Salonic.
- 6.15 She went on a ship illegally heading for Palestine. They were intercepted by the British, but were finally admitted to Palestine. She spent several months in an internment camp in Atlit until she was taken in by her relatives in Haifa. Describes experiences moving from place to place in Israel.

6.40 She became pregnant and gave birth to a healthy boy.

7.11 TAPE ENDS.

Time-Coded Notes Version 2

RG-50.120 *0007 2 Tapes 1-7

Baruch, Aliza [m.n. Zarfati]

- 1.01 Born 1928 [?] in Saloniki, Greece. She describes life in a traditional middle class family. Father worked in the Port. She had a brother 6 years older. In 1940, when she was 12, war with Italy broke out and Jews enlisted alongside Greeks. There was no anti-Semitism. In June 1941 the Germans came to Saloniki and anti-Jewish laws were proclaimed. Jews had to wear yellow star, were not allowed to work, were prohibited from traveling, had to register for hard labor.
- 1.22 At the beginning of '42, their rabbi who was from Poland and knew what was happening, led them to believe that the announced transport was to Palestine rather than to Auschwitz.
- 1.34 First transport in March '43 to Auschwitz. Describes the eight day trip, their arrival in Auschwitz. They thought that the smoke came from kitchens. She was separated from her family and was marched with a group of girls to Birkenau.
- 2.03 Describes the baths and shavings.
- 2.12 Was assigned to block 10 and describes initiation by other inmates and the shock of learning that her family had been gassed.
- 2.28 Tells about a group of girls who were killed and mummified for ethnic displays.
- 2.30 Young married women were taken for medical experiments.
- 2.33 Shuman was instrumental in taking her and 20 girls to Birkenau to Laboratories. [describes.]
- 2.44 Mengele was leading the experiments. Describes the radiations they received and the horrible reactions. She was radiated 3 times.
- 3.03 She and others were operated on as part of the experiments. Describes. She was in the hospital 11 months.
- 3.18 Spring '44 Dr Traube gave injections into the uterus. She was then transported back to Auschwitz.
- 4.02 Describes group of Russian women being burned.
- 4.03 She was taken to UNION factory for ammunition. Describes hard and dangerous work and cruel punishments.

- 4.43 Jan '45 they were given civilian clothes. In March they were marched from Poland to Germany at the approach of the Allies. Describes.
- 5.04 Describes work in Camp Malcho in ammunition factory.
- 5.18 1st of May '45 they were told to go on March but discovered chaos and German retreat. They were protected by liberated POWs and stayed with German families for 2 ½ months.
- 5.42 Described entry of Russians who were feared.
- 5.48 Traveled by train across Europe trying to get to Greece.
- 6.04 Returned to Greece. Jewish Brigade prepared them for aliya to Palestine. She got married.
- 6.19 Was taken by illegal boat to Atlit and then to Haifa.
- 6.30 Was reunited with aunts and cousins and brother. Describes adjustment to life in Palestine.
- 6.56 Lived with husband in Magfiel [?] and had baby in spite of experiments.