

RG-50.120*021

Bogen, Alexander **Tape 1 of 3**

Wrote book "Revolt" (in library)

- 1.00 Born in Vilna in 1916. Parents were doctors. He studied in the Fine Art Academy in Vilna. Part of the Bohemian world in Vilna. Describes bombardment of Vilna, the entry of the German army and retreat of Russians to the East. He and his wife, Rachel, joined refugees to the Soviet zone.
- 1.07 Describes their travels North and the slaughter of Jews in villages they passed by Germans and Poles.
- 1.23 After many months on the road, they returned to the Vilna ghetto because they could escape east.
- 1.36 Talks about his family and describes life in the ghetto.
- 1.45 Describes people in the ghetto, meeting Aba Kovner and the continuation of artistic life in the middle of destruction. His own creative drive and continued drawing in the ghetto.
- 2.01 Analysis of the artistic drive as a means of survival. Describes the objects of his sketches and what he felt when he painted.
- 2.26 Shows sketches from his book "Revolt" and explains them.
- 2.27 Why and how he joined the ghetto underground and the partisans.
- 2.28 Talks about Wittenberg and his death. Also discusses the capture of Koslowsky and the fact that they all got caught and murdered without putting up a fight, in spite of being well armed.
- 2.43 Ideology of the ghetto underground and their plans. His own critique of these plans.
- 2.48 Activities of the underground in the ghetto.
- 2.50 Glassman leaves the ghetto to the forest with his group. Describes their defeat.
- 2.58 The capture of Wittenberg.
- 3.00 Disagreements between the Judenrat and the underground.
- 3.01 He and Moshe Shulten escape to the forest of Narocz and start the "Revenge" group of Jewish partisans. Plans of action.

- 3.10 The ideological difference between the “Revenge” group and the Aba Kovner group.
- 3.30 Describes ideological discussion with Aba Kovner and how he trained and led 150 underground fighters to join “Revenge.”
- 3.48 Change in Soviet policy and order to disband all ethnic groups to be absorbed by other groups.
- 3.51 Anti-Semitism in partisan groups, disarming of Jewish groups and creation of non-fighting auxiliary groups.
- 3.57 Germans attacked forest; partisans broke up into small groups. He was commander of a group of 30.
- 4.00 Russian anti-Semitism; he was taken to the forest to be killed, but was saved.

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- 4.10 He was expelled with wife from partisan group in forest with no weapons.
- 4.11 Organized Jewish resistance group for special actions: 1) Intelligence work; 2) preparing a landing strip for partisan airplanes.
- 4.14 Describes actions in Polish villages and run-in with German troops.
- 4.20 Markov gives him missions, describes his actions and various group members.
- 4.40 Conflict with other partisan groups and his ideology and sense of mission.
- 4.52 Describes his group, Markov, and his relationship with him.
- 5.02 Unwritten laws of partisans; anti-Semitism.
- 5.10 Enlarges on his recruitment of the underground in Vilna to join the Jewish partisans in the forest.
- 5.25 Describes Dessler, head of the Jewish Police in the ghetto who was a collaborator.
- 5.46 Five groups (150 fighters) leave with him for the forest. Aba Kovner and 70 more were supposed to follow to the forest of Rudnikov and escaped through the sewer system.
- 5.50 Names of people he met in the underground.
- 6.00 Describes how he established and trained his fighting unit.

- 6.14 Describes his stay in Svinzian (????) under German rule, his day-to-day survival.
- 6.30 He is critically ill with typhoid.
- 6.33 End of ghetto Svinzian; population taken to Vilna; large group taken to Ponare and killed.
- 6.45 Describes the hunting down of Wittenberg in the Vilna ghetto.
- 6.46 Organization of “Revenge” group.
- 6.57 Meeting with Moshe Shutan.
- 7.04 ???plan and his death.

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- 7.15 Duties of Judenrat in villages and cities.
- 7.20 Description of Sutzkever and their friendship. Michael Chernichov and his fate.
- 7.27 Enlarges description of “Revenge” group and its history and organization.
- 7.38 Adversarial relationships between Jewish and non-Jewish partisan groups.
- 7.46 Becomes member of “History and Documentation” group, with Sutzkever. Uses drawing for documentation.
- 7.47 Talks about Ukranian Nazis who joined the partisans at the end of the war.
- 7.50 His relationship with Bonka (????????????????) Voyarski.
- 7.55 His work in the partisans.
- 8.00 German actions against the partisans in the forest and the siege.
- 8.05 Liberation by the Russians. He is appointed by Markov as a regional cultural director.
- 8.10 Interrogation by NKVD and his turning toward Zionism.
- 8.30 He and his wife escape to Vilna. He finishes his studies at the Academy of Art; description of his art work which is now in Yad Vashem.
- 8.42 He and his wife go to Lodz. He has a teaching position and studio there.

- 8.45 1951, he and his wife go to Israel. He gives his artwork to Yad Vashem. His book, "Revolt," is published.
- 8.53 Shows and explains drawings from book.
- 9.20 Talks about his early life in Vilna. Describes Jewish artists he knew – Rosa Suskova.
- 9.31 Shows more artwork.
- 9.50 Talks about his new life and new art in Israel.
- 10.09 Discusses the two options, resistance in the ghetto or fighting outside. He feels that the option he chose is not fairly presented in history, and the political reasons for it.
- 10.17 Difference between artistic presentation of Holocaust during the Holocaust and after.

END OF TAPE