

RG-50.120*22???????

Bornstein, Samuel

Tape 1 of 3

- 1.01 Born in 1918 in Warsaw. Father was an agronom/businessman. His mother was a housewife. He had one older brother who died in the Holocaust. Attended “Tarbut” high school, and studied Journalism at Warsaw University. His parents returned to Lodz.
- 1.07 Describes Jewish students’ “double life” – rich families, but active in the left Zionist youth movements (Life in the mid-1930’ and at the University). Talks about meeting “Antek;” anti-Semitism and pogroms at the University; and Jewish lower class’ resistance, but their intelligentsia was disorganized. Reflects on activism, resistance, party membership then and now, relationship with Zivia Lubetkin, Haim Lazar, Abba Kovner, and Antek’s influence.
- 1.40 Describes the bombing of Warsaw (September 1939). His family flees back and forth between Warsaw and Lodz. October, escaped eastward, crossed border with small groups. He never saw his parents again.
- 1.47 Escaped to Bellaruss – describes escape into woods, Russian acceptance, spent time in Slonim then in Deretchin (Derahychin?). Assigned to teach Marxism while rooming with a rabbi. Describes pleasant town, refugees and partisans, local Jewish population full of funny stories. Explains how Jews were sent to Siberia and caught in German-Russian initial cooperation. When Germans approached, he escaped to Minsk, a town then destroyed by entering Germans. Escaped back to small towns.
- 2.30 Describes the cruelty of Germans and the participation of local population in the killing (“Akzien”) of most Jews; names German/Gestapo commander, city mayor and other collaborators. Names Jewish residents who perished (most of the town’s people), describes operation of Judenrat, establishment of ghetto, explains how family ties prevented resistance or escape of most (summer 1942).
- 3.17 Describes escape and joining partisans, the initial organization and daily life of the partisans (initially Jewish refugees), names of some of the leaders. Among the “greatest” was Dr. Atlas, an escaped Jew, who left medicine to pursue revenge rather than survive. Describes the evolving structure of the partisan groups, their relationship with the Russians, and anti-Semitism.

Tape 2 of 3

- 4.01 More about Dr. Atlas and their group attack on Derahychin – an exciting and important event. Books have been written about Dr. Atlas.
- 4.30 Partisan family camps – describes these camps in the woods where women and children were. It was not as flexible to flee as partisan groups. Continued description of Partisan everyday life, relationship with local population, Russians,

- names of comrades and stories. He married his wife here. Describes how partisans obtained food and arms. More about Atlas.
- 5.20 Describes attack on Beliza Bridge, derailling of trains, battles with Germans and Ukrainians. Issues of Jewish partisans' autonomy, Atlas' death, wounded comrades, hospital stories, change of units, and missions. Winter of 1944, battalion had to move. There were rumors of a "big attack," retreated with many killed; swamps. Vlasov's Army.
- 6.46 Liberation by and joined Soviet Army. Jews were less happy – loss of families. He was wounded in the leg in Bialisotok and hospitalized. There was anti-Semitism in the hospital. Discharged.

Tape 3 of 3

- 7.00 Describes battle of Bialistok and hospital experiences again; difficulties of partisans to re-adjust after army took over, especially Jewish partisans. Reunited with wife (whose book was published two years ago); moved to Grodno, Vilna, attempted speculating, Lodz, Moscow. There was poverty everywhere. They decided to go to Palestine and met Yitchak Zuckerman ("Antek"?) again. Baruch Levin and Zvia Lubotkin and others plot immigration to Palestine for Jewish ex-partisans.
- 7.37 Describes contact with Zionist organizers of illegal immigration to Palestine, organizing groups of partisans, several border-crossings en route to Italy, dangers and difficulties, disagreement with political leadership of that time and their ideology. He was among the first to get permit because of his wound. He arrived in Palestine on November 1st. He was among the first partisans there.
- 7.47 Describes many of his past and current activities for war veterans in Palestine/Israel. Explains why his 2-3 years as a partisan is the leading experience of his life.