

RG-50.120 #046 2 Tapes
Gardosh, Kariel

TAPE I

- 1.01 Talks in general about Hungarian Jews, their optimistic state of mind in 1944, and the death of 600,000 during the spring, summer and fall.
- 1.03 Gardosh, Karol (or Karoly) was born in 1921, in Budapest. Father's name was originally Goldberger. Family was assimilated.
- 1.07 Personal history. Mother died in childbirth, and he was raised by an older father and aunts.
- 1.12 Describes Jewish life in Budapest and anti-Semitic incidents.
- 1.15 Effect of economic depression in Europe on his middle class family.
- 1.23 Finished 8 years of high school where he got nationalistic and anticommunist education. Strong anti-Semitic feelings and terror because Jews were identified with communism and Zionism.
- 1.28 Anti-Semitism at the university. He lived in a non Jewish neighborhood.
- 1.29 1938, German influence increased anti-Jewish laws that restricted employment.
- 1.36 Describes family life and awareness of his being Jewish.
- 1.39 Search for employment, worked in textile factory.
- 1.40 1939, outbreak of war. 2 relatively quiet years Jews were enlisted to work for the army.
- 1.44 1942, he was enlisted, joined a work group of 200 people under Hungarian army. They were sent to South Hungary to build an air field and lay train tracks. They lived in a village. Describes.
- 1.49 Jews heard about extermination camps in Poland but did not believe it would reach Hungary. Thought that Horthy would protect them.
- 1.51 His search for activist groups, Zionist groups and movements. Thoughts about illegal immigration to Israel.
- 1.57 Describes fate of friends taken in actions with thousands of others and killed in Poland.
- 2.03 Media knew fate of Polish Jews in 1942.

- 2.06 Hungarian army fought against Russia. Jews were taken to work.
- 2.07 Describes his enlistments and his work.
- 2.10 Describes destruction of Hungarian army by the Russians and how Jews were caught in the middle.
- 2.13 Fate of Jews in Hungarian army in the Ukraine.
- 2.19 He is sent to central Hungary to work. Some were sent to work in the copper mines on the border with Yugoslavia, to Bor. They heard what went on there.
- 2.22 Describes people in his group, social life and the inner administration of camp which was by Jews.
- 2.31 His intellectual interests.
- 2.36 Fate of Jewish Olympic champions.
- 2.42 1943. His group is sent to Yugoslavia to Bor.
- 2.47 His escape and return home.
- 3.01 His family convinces him to return to Bor for safety reasons.
- 3.10 Situation of Hungarian Jews in 1944.
- 3.18 Thoughts about his escape and later return to Bor under family pressure.
- 3.28 Describes his return to Bor and his first impressions.
- 3.38 Describes his work in a group that was building train tracks.
- 3.40 They were divided into work groups of 200. Every 10 km was a camp and the name of a German city. He was in camp Heidenau, describes. Mentions camp Berlin, sadistic Hungarian guard Morany.
- 3.49 Describes treatment in camp, sanitary conditions, food, people in his group.
- 3.56 Describes work, and punishment by Hungarian guards.

TAPE II

- 4.03 Daily routine in camp. Conditions were bad but not terrible. Talks about M. Radnoty, who was a famous Hungarian poet in his group. This lasted for 3 months.

- 4.09 The stories about camp Berlin were very bad. The Hungarian commander was an anti-Semitic sadist. Describes punishments.
- 4.14 Shows his drawings of camp Eidenau.
- 4.16 Describes hundreds of U.S. airplanes over the camp en route to bomb the oil fields of Rumania.
- 4.19 Reasons no escape plans were made. In the area of the camp were Chechnik partisans, under Michailowitz, who were anti-Tito and pro German and were delivering escapees to the Germans. They also knew of advance of Russian army and the invasion of Normandie, and thought that the end was near.
- 4.25 End of August 1944, they received order to stop work and march to camp Berlin to join 6000 Jews there. They thought that the Germans did not need them anymore and would exterminate them.
- 4.27 The 6000 in camp Berlin were divided into 2 groups of 3000 each. The first step and second step they were told they would be returned to Hungary. The group from Eidenau was in step 1.
- 4.30 Step 1 group were exterminated in mid September 1944. Group 2 were liberated by the Partisans.
- 4.32 He was one of 10 or 20 who survived step 1 group. They were marched in the direction of Hungary until they got to camp Zimon in Belgrade. Describes grueling march.
- 4.38 Describes the Croatian, Oustach guards who were pro German, who marched them to Panchova. 300 people who could no longer walk were killed.
- 4.44 Describes march and being shot at by Hungarians, Germans, German peasants.
- 4.48 They crossed the Hungarian border to village Chervenka, 1000 continued march, but he stayed with 1000 in Chervenka.
- 4.52 They were taken to a brick factory. Nazi unit Prinz Eugen, which was an extermination unit arrived. Moslem Unit Hanjar also arrived.
- 4.58 Describes conditions in the brick factory and witnessing exterminations.
- 5.10 Describes his escape in October 1944.
- 5.17 He gets picked up by Hungarian train workers who hid him and then directed him to Serbian village.

- 5.21 He walks to another Serbian village and is liberated by Tito partisans. He joins the partisans. He remains to fight and to find his family.
- 5.29 Thoughts about what he could have done differently.
- 5.32 He obtains Russian papers and returns by train to Budapest. He joins the Russian army and enters Budapest. He joins the Russian army and enters Budapest.
- 5.34 Describes the fighting and destruction in Budapest. He returns to his home and is told about the fate of his family.
- 5.39 He returns to Yugoslavia. Names of family members who perished in the Holocaust.