

RG-50.120 #049 2 Tapes
Granek, Menachem

Tape I

- 1.01 Born in 1914 in Chepitz[?] near Chenstochov where he went to school. His parents had a bus company and he worked for the family. He had a brother who went to Urugvy[?] and 3 sisters.
- 1.07 He organized the Betar youth movement in Chepitz in 1931. Describes activities of Betar. He was in Hachshara as a machinist in Alexandra, near Lodz.
- 1.11 Talks about anti-Semitism in Chenstochov in 1937.
- 1.12 He was 2 years in the Polish army, released in 1937 and re-enlisted in August 1939. He was taken prisoner and brought to Germany as POW.
- 1.15 Describes the unpreparedness of Polish Army.
- 1.17 Treatment of Jewish prisoners who were sent to a Rittergut near Dresden to build an artificial lake for fisheries.
- 1.26 July 1940, he was sent to an SS camp [Lipowa street camp] near Lublin from where he escaped back to Chenstochov.
- 1.30 He was asked by kozuk [?] to organize a resistance group. They warned people not to go to Germany to work because nobody came back. In 1941 he was caught by the SA, as many other young people, and was sent to Germany to work.
- 1.39 Describes head of Judenrat Kosok and his activities.
- 1.43 Summer of 1941, all able bodied men were sent to Germany to work. He was for 8 months in a Jewish work camp and worked on an Autostrada. Describes German Guards who behaved okay.
- 1.49 He was sent to camp Grossharne[?] to work on Autostrada with Russian POWs. After he was injured he went to a hospital in Sosnovits and after that home to Chepitz [?]
- 2.01 In June 1942 the Gestapo closed off the village, all Jews were assembled in a synagogue and were transported to 'work'. He saved his parents and brought them to Sosnovits.
- 2.11 He stayed one year in Sosnovits, joined the Jewish police and helped the underground. Describes his activities.

- 2.28 Jews in ghetto Sosnovits were assembled end of 1942. Describes life in the ghetto. In August 1943 the ghetto was liquidated. His parents died.
- 2.41 Describes his work in the underground with Leon Blatt. He got weapons, false Ids, decided not to go to camps even though they did not know about exterminations.
- 2.51 1st of August 1943, the ghetto was closed. Describes rounding up of people to the trains for transports. He escaped. Describes escape.
- 2.56 Describes his escape to Donlag [?] as a non Jewish carriage driver.
- 3.05 His escape to Oppeln to a non-resident work camp. He worked in a Mercedes Benz garage. Describes his life.
- 3.32 Recounts meeting with Goldning and Carola Baum. Was recruited to the underground by Ludova. The camp was closed because of typhoid fever.
- 3.45 Describes treatment, receiving Red Cross packages.
- 4.00 End of 1944, he read in newspaper that the Russians were advancing and the end of the war was near.

Tape II

- 4.06 Describes the limited knowledge his German coworkers had about what was happening to Jews.
- 4.19 January 1945, he is told by the director of the factory that the Russians were coming so that he was retreating to Germany.
- 4.23 February 1945, the order came that everybody had to leave Oppeln. He stayed behind and then took train to his home village.
- 4.26 The Germans withdrew and the Russians came in and liberated the area.
- 4.29 He describes the difficult time he had to get newspapers from the Russians who doubted his story and change of names. After repeated interrogations and arrests he was freed.
- 4.41 He walked back to Chenstochov and then to Sosnovits where he met Leon Blatt. He stayed for 1 month and should have enlisted in the army but instead got a job as a driver for a Polish minister, Petrosewitch.
- 4.48 Describes his return home and what he found there. He continued going under is assumed name, Rateiski, to evade Polish anti-Semitism.

- 4.51 He went to Israel in 1948, illegal aliya through France. He joined the Israeli army in September, until 1949.