

RG-50.120 #052 4 Tapes [rest of tapes missing]  
Groag, Willi [name misspelled on tape]

Tape I

- 1.04 Wilhelm Franz, Mordechai Groag, Called Willi was born 8/7/1914 in Olmvetz Moravia. His family was assimilated. Describes city and his family. Father owned malt factory. He had 3 brothers.
- 1.11 Family knew they would be transported and learned skills.
- 1.16 Describes his mother's poems. She worked with children in Teresien and collected their work.
- 1.23 Family life before the war and life in Olmvetz.
- 1.32 He went to German high school, then for 2 ½ years to the Czech army.
- 1.36 His motivation for joining the army. Describes withdrawal of Czech army from the Sudetenland in 1938.
- 1.44 Attends German University in Prague. Describes anti-Semitism in the university and state of mind of Czech Jews.
- 1.55 1938 Germany invades Czechoslovakia. He tries to leave and is unable to.
- 2.02 Describes meeting with Youda Redlich, who recruited him to Maccabi Hazair. Describes his work as leader of the Prague group.
- 2.23 1939-1940 he taught school and then went to 'Hachshara' for agricultural training.
- 2.30 Describes his life in the group. Gets married.
- 2.36 1941 orders to wear yellow star. Work in 'Hechalutz' with permission of Germans.
- 2.41 January 1942, he left farm anticipating transport of all Jews from Olmvetz. Continues to work with youth groups.
- 2.50 Talks about Gertapo Hindke, the work they were ordered to do.
- 3.01 What they knew about Teresienstadt, and the knowledge that they would be sent there.
- 3.17 #delstein's plan to establish the ghetto.

- 3.23 3 periods in the ghetto: 1/ The hunger period. 2/ Improvement in '42,'43 in preparation for Red and inspection. 3/ Winter after ghetto was emptied of young people.
- 3.26 Describes his transport to Teresien.
- 3.30 Arrival in Teresien and description of ghetto.
- 3.48 Youth lived in separate houses; father lived with him, mother worked as nurse in prison hospital.
- 3.53 His job assignment and that of his wife.
- 3.57 Influential people, Gonda and Edelstein.
- 3.58 Description of Beit Hachalutzim.

#### Tape II

- 4.01 1<sup>st</sup> period in Teresien, the hunger period. Describes his work in the small citadel, conditions inside.
- 4.14 Works building railroad station in ghetto.
- 4.21 Describes a day.
- 4.33 Talks about Fisher, the executioner.
- 4.35 Daily life, food, diseases, medications, death and grave digging.
- 4.44 Works as carriage driver.
- 4.50 Winter '42, '43 works in building agricultural lab.
- 4.52 Meets with Gonda and returns to education work in summer of 1943.
- 5.03 Winter '42, '43, is asked to participate in resistance, to be prepared for chaos when Germans would leave.
- 5.09 State of mind in Teresien. Edelstein's philosophy of rescuing the young.
- 5.15 What they knew about the war.
- 5.19 Group punishments.
- 5.20 Arguments for and against resistance.

- 5.24 Fate of his family. Father's work forging paintings for sale by Gestapo.
- 5.35 Relationship with his wife.
- 5.37 His work as responsible for a children's house.
- 5.40 The Jewish Police.
- 5.42 Describes children's residence and his work in the "girls'" house with Rosa Englander.
- 5.53 Counting of all 40,000 residents.
- 5.54 He is ill with dyptheria and goes to hospital. Describes doctors and medical treatment.
- 6.02 Talks about H.G. Adler, the historian of Teresien.
- 6.05 Describes children and children's houses.
- 6.11 Talks about Fred Hirsch.
- 6.17 Arrival of children from Bialistok and their treatment.
- 6.22 Describes Edelstein, Platcheck.
- 6.24 Tells about children from Bialistok who were send to Auschwitz.
- 6.27 Typhoid epidemic in Teresien and his work in L-410 children's house. Shows book about the house.
- 6.37 A day in L-410. Work with 450 girls.
- 6.48 Organization of house, educational system.
- 7.00 Friedel Brandeis the art teacher.

### Tape III

- 7.02 Age composition of children. Special services, food distribution, special occasions.
- 7.20 Conflicts between traditional and non traditional educators.
- 7.26 Educational problems. Disturbed children. Children with TB. Educational institutions. Juvenile court.

- 7.28 Discusses particular cases.
- 7.33 Transports from Teresien.
- 7.37 Discusses Platchek, Rosa Englander, Epstein, Sonya Okun, Bert Simonson.
- 7.47 His ideological switch to the left.
- 7.49 "Requiem" in Teresien.
- 7.52 May 1944, his wife becomes pregnant. They decide to hid pregnancy.
- 7.54 Sept. '44, transport of young people out of Teresien.
- 8.06 He and wife were scheduled for transport, but were saved.
- 8.12 Gonda's diaries [contents].
- 8.34 Emotionally disturbed children.
- 8.41 Children's relationship with parents.
- 8.45 Activities.
- 8.48 Diseases.
- 8.58 Dyptheria and encephalitis, paintings of sick room.
- 9.07 Describes industry of forging paintings and folk art.
- 9.15 Art in the ghetto. Fleishman, Peter Kien, Leo Haas, Ferdinand Bloch. Paintings now in archive in Girat Chaim [Israel].
- 9.26 Arrest of painters who smuggled out art.
- 9.29 The painter Unger, Spier, and graphic art and how paintings were smuggled out.
- 9.47 Contrabass period. Smuggling in of musical instruments.
- 9.53 Raphael Schechter who organized choir, and Requiem in L-410.
- 9.56 Entertainment.

#### Tape IV

- 10.03 Beautification of ghetto in anticipation of Red Cross visit. Elizabeth von Stengel assigned to task. 7500 Jews sent to Auschwitz so Teresien wouldn't look overcrowded.
  - 10.10 Painting of buildings, expanded menu. Children's opera.
  - 10.18 Describes Red Cross commission visit in spring 1944 and the charade that was put up for them.
  - 10.26 End of Sept. to end of October, 40,000 people were transported out and only 10,000 remained.
  - 10.36 Describes Dr. Leo Beck and his activities.
  - 10.42 The making of the movie about Teresien.
  - 10.50 Orphans in Teresien and their care.
  - 10.55 The plight of children from mixed marriages who arrived in Teresien.
  - 11.00 Describes the work of art teacher Friedel Brandeis with the children and her friend Rosa Englander who saved 1000 drawings.
  - 11.14 Aug. '44 Friedel was sent on transport. Rosa stored 6000 paintings in 2 suitcases, and gave them to the Jewish Museum in Prague in 1945.
  - 11.20 Underground in Teresien.
  - 11.23 His work in the 'boys' house.
  - 11.34 Difficulties and pressures about his wife's pregnancy and the birth of their daughter.
  - 11.50 What they learned about Auschwitz and when.
  - 11.54 Typhoid epidemic.
  - 11.57 Special groups of prominent people who were kept as hostages.
- The rest of the tape or tapes are missing.