

RG-50.120*063

Hass, Avraham

Tape 1 of 3

- 1.00 He was born in 1923 to a family of Jewish farmers in North Romania – Bukovina – near the Polish border. His family (with 8 children) was observant Hassidic. He describes the local anti-Semitism, which they felt at school, but not in business. His parents' attitude. His expulsion from school. More aggressive anti-Semitism and nationalistic parties at a time of Anschluss.
- 1.37 Describes family – two older brothers immigrated to Palestine in the 1930's, one was in religious school. He was interested in the Zionist-left youth movement; communist ideology was attractive; secularization of siblings, but broad minded home.
- 1.59 Outbreak of war – describes the confusion of the initial months after the outbreak of war. The first catastrophe was in June 1940, when the angry Romanian army attacked and murdered the Jews in the villages. They destroyed the family's pond and land. Antonesco's revolution initiated anti-Jewish laws (i.e. not allowed to own land).
- 2.20 Thanks to farmers' warning, the family detoured and was saved from being killed. They survived in a refugee village. He traveled by cart, trading merchandise and farm products. Eventually, he was pushed into forced labor. Describes confused atmosphere, despair, different attitudes between older and younger people, and his individual struggle for survival. He learned to hide talk from cruel Romanian fascists. Through his trading and connections he managed to support his family. Describes the period before June 1941, and the first Soviet prisoner. In January 1941, the "Iron Guard" butchered Jews in Bucharest.
- 3.08 Relationship with Germans who considered "Madagascar" as settlement place for Jews; still confusion and lack of understanding of what might happen, news about Yassi (???) and German-Romanian victories. Describes life in their town, Soziava (??) with Germans. He had to transport Soviet P.O.W. after June 22nd. Bukovina and Bessarabia were liberated. 100,000 of Bukovina Jews were expelled on October 9th, 1941.
- 3.32 Family expelled – describes how they were expelled, hiding valuables, attitude of locals, their transport by crowded train cars, crossing the Dniester (???) river, marched to Molzilev-Podolsky (???). In the barrack, he saw shadow remnants of Bessarabia Jews after pogrom. Describes the 14 days spent there, terrible sights, family concerns of illness and food. Expelled to Ozarinitz in the deep Ukraine, still with local Jews.

Tape 2 of 3

- 4.0 Further expulsions and wondering – describes self as a 17-year-old interested in many things, including the Soviet Union. Local Jewish ghetto residents of

- Ozarinitz were helpful, as in the next towns, Luchinets and Kupaigerot. Jews of means could bribe and had much better conditions than his family. Wandered to further villages where he was given good occasionally, but expelled further (Shargorov, Tieransporbeshat, Stephanki). Describes difficult living conditions, several families in a room, cold, lice, population afraid of them.
- 4.20 Describes life and survival in Ukrainian ghettos (villages with local Jewish population, like settlements with boundaries – T'chum Moshav) where they lived, bartering merchandise and farm products from their work on the farms. He worked on a "Holchoz" which helped bring foods stuff to the family. Describes life in this ghetto, on the Ukraine on the side ruled by the Romanians who hurt the Jews less than the Germans on the other side of the Book River. Describes the commerce and gives examples of what and how they traded.
- 4.35 Describes the Judenrat and its uneven treatment of ghetto residents; its collaboration with the authorities.
- 4.46 Arrival of deportees from Dorohoi, diseased and dying; describes starving children.
- 4.50 Family sickness and survival – in April of 1942, the entire family (and many others) got typhoid. His parents died. His siblings recovered. He got gangrene in his feet and refused amputation. It took him a difficult two years to recover. His younger brother was taken to forced labor in the spring/summer of 1942. Initially, he was dependent on his older siblings, but eventually he contributed by wood-cutting business through a found saw. He describes how and for whom they worked and how they survived by their wits.
- 5.54 Deportation? Sensing change (summer 1943). He went instead of his brother to forced labor. Rough road to Mogilev – Podolsky.

Tape 3 of 3

- 7.07 Liberation – describes beginning signs of defeat. November 1943 to March 1944 convoys of collaborating Ukrainians leaving, rumors of partisans to the West. Describes morning of liberation, getting out of bunkers, experiences with withdrawing Germans, Soviet soldiers arriving, partisans coming, bridge repairs, returned to the ghetto free.
- 7.34 Life after liberation – hardships continued, but he felt hopeful. Thanks to Soviets, he felt "equal" to others and was not humiliated. Slowly started walking towards home, 100 km away. Through ongoing bartering, he acquired a horse and cart). The Dniester Bridge to Bessarabia was destroyed in May 1944. Arrived at Lipon between Bessarabia and Moldova on river Prost. He continued towards Chernovtsy (???) 90 km from home.

- 8.03 Return home to Soziawa. Found Jews in the town who were transferred by Soviets. How they (five siblings) found their family home intact. They lived there with Soviet soldiers and obtained some of their property (returned by a German friend).
- 8.14 Describes his brothers and sisters' various interests and activities. Some left for Bucharest. His interests were in the Zionist-Socialist activities and immigrating to Palestine. However, for the following two years he was cultivating his family's farm after the anti-Jewish laws depriving them the land were cancelled.
- 8.39 He went to Bucharest, moved from "Beitar" to "Shomer Hazair" who organized his illegal immigration.
- 8.45 Boat trip and detention in Cyprus – describes the crowded illegal immigrant boat, being caught by the British, and sent to camp #63 in Famagusta. Life and work in the camp, joining Hagana and training; stories of smuggling out inmates through Greek communists' help. He was there from March to May 15, 1948. Story of Greek soldier who hid in their tent.

NO TIME CODES???

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