

RG-50.120 #074 7 Tapes

Klibanski, Bronka

- 0.05 Bronka Klibanski was born in Grodno Poland in 1923. History of Grodno and the Jewish population, parents history.
- 0.06 Went to Tarbut kindergarten. Childhood memories. 4 children in the family. Went to Polish elementary and high school.
- 0.16 Describes father and family life, traditional but not religious.
- 0.29 Describes 1936 pogrom in Grodno.
- 0.33 Describes different Zionist youth groups. She belonged to 'Dror'. Describes activities of group and her personality as an adolescent.
- 1.07 1939 outbreak of war. Anti-semitism in '38, '39. State of mind of Jews in Poland.
- 1.22 Prewar Jewish cultural life.
- 1.27 1939 outbreak of war. Mood in Jewish community. Describes pogrom after the breakdown of Polish army.
- 1.31 Russians entered Grodno and protected the Jews. Describes the period and what they knew about the happenings in Germany.
- 1.40 Youth movement was outlawed and went underground. Was interrogated by NKVD.
- 2.00 Jewish community under the Soviets.
- 2.09 Describes entry of Germans into Grodno in June 1941.
- 2.16 Expectations of Jews from Germans.
- 2.20 Describes her work in the fields of peasant village.
- 2.40 'Blue Division' from Spain who loved Jews and her work for them.
- 2.42 Anti-Jewish laws and forced labor.
- 2.47 1st of Nov '41, everybody had to go to one of two ghettos. Her family went to ghetto 2, describes.
- 2.58 Life and organization of ghetto.

3.02 Nov. 1942 Destruction of ghetto 2.

II

3.08 Winter '41, '42. Describes ghetto 2, kibbutz activities.

3.13 Jan. '42, visit by Mordechai Tannenbaum who told them what happened in Vilnius, Ponar and encouraged the group to resist.

3.27 End of February she was invited to Bialistock ghetto. Describes meeting with underground group and their plans.

3.45 March 1942, she and Hershel Rosenthal enlist young people in the villages and Grodno to enlist in the resistance and go to Bialistok. She remained in Bialistok; describes separation from family.

3.52 Describes trip to Bialistock.

4.03 Describes seminar led by M. Tannenbaum teaching and training for resistance. She represented Grodno.

4.19 Her life and work in the kibbutz in Bialistock.

4.33 Organization of ghetto in Bialistock. Barash was head of Judenrat.

4.35 Describes Children's House.

4.36 She worked in sawing factory, became ill from malnutrition. Describes personal struggles.

4.50 November 1942. M. Tannenbaum recruited her as a courier. She got Polish ID papers. Talks about other women couriers.

5.08 She passes to the Aryan side. Describes her housing, work as a maid.

5.17 Dec. 30. Describes leaving ghetto to Aryan side, her landlady, her work for German train guards, her Polish neighbors.

5.36 Her life as a Polish woman, her underground activities, her difficulties and sense of isolation.

5.41 Story of Tema Schneiderman who went to Warsaw on a mission and was not heard of again.

5.50 What gave her the spiritual strength to carry out her underground activities. Describes M. Tannenbaum.

5.54 Nov. 1942, all small ghettos were abolished including ghetto Grodno. Transports to Treblinka. M. Tannenbaum was shot.

5.59 Her task was to find a hiding place for Tannenbaum's archival testimonies and diaries and documents, including the Jan. '42 declaration of Aba Kovner.

III

6.15 Describes content of Tannenbaum's archive.

6.22 Feb. 5. Describes first action in Bialistock ghetto. Describes her job in finding sources of weapons for the resistance.

6.30 Describes her false personality as Jadvigo Bronia Shkibel.

6.37 Describes her trip to a village to find a hiding place for the archive.

6.43 Describes Feb. 5 action in ghetto.

7.01 Describes ghetto after action. Stories about individuals.

7.18 Story about Tema Schneiderman.

7.23 Military training in the underground – smuggling weapons into the ghetto.

7.27 Her work as a courier; getting weapons; what helped her succeed.

7.54 Her relationship with M. Tannenbaum.

7.55 '43. First witness reports from Treblinka in the archive. Dissemination of information in the ghetto.

8.05 She is changing her address and her relations with her new landlords who were in Polish underground.

8.20 Going to a transition camp to find out the fate of friends.

8.29 Stories about members of the kibbutz who survived outside the ghetto.

8.50 Social relations between the 5 women couriers and relations with an anti-fascist group.

8.53 Preparations for resistance in the ghetto.

8.58 Jewish collaborators.

9.02 Pressure from Germans to arrest M. Tannenbaum lead to a break up between Barrash and Tannenbaum.

9.07 Daily life in the underground.

9.16 Relationships between youth movements in the ghetto.

IV

9.22 Attempts to get weapons. M. Tannenbaum's relations with other groups in the ghetto.

9.29 Her experiences in going back and forth between the ghetto and the outside.

9.47 Preparations for resistance in ghetto, different plans, the mood of the group.

9.56 Changes after the 1st action.

9.58 The Tannenbaum archive, its contents and purpose.

10.17 27 February, after the first action. Protocol of Dror members thoughts about what should be done when the destruction of the ghetto was imminent.

10.26 70 fighters were discovered and shot trying to reach the forest.

10.39 M. Tannenbaum's plans, the different groups united under him.

10.45 Polish underground refused to help them.

10.54 Plans to join Russian partisans in the forest and fate of groups who went to forest.

11.12 German strategy for destroying the ghetto.

11.19 Evidence of collaboration of Barash from Judenrat with Germans and reasons for it.

11.20 Her life outside of the ghetto.

11.50 Describes seeing the second action in the ghetto from the outside.

11.55 Helping people escape.

12.17 Stories of people she helped escape to the forest. About 100 people from Bialistock got to the forest.

IV

12.29 Superstitious beliefs in the underground.

- 12.45 Desperate beliefs about individual survival held after the destruction of the ghetto.
- 13.13 Rumors about M. Tannenbaum's suicide.
- 13.20 Story about the uprising in the ghetto; reasons for failure.
- 13.36 Activities of her group after the destruction. Helping escape to the forest.
- 13.47 1943. When Russian paratroopers came, she became a courier of the Soviet partisans, her assignments.
- 13.58 AKA and Russian partisans excluded Jewish partisans.
- 14.09 Assignments and activities of Jewish couriers.
- 14.33 Germans leaving and burning the city.
- 14.36 Smuggling weapons to the partisans.
- 15.05 Jewish partisans in the forest, their life and activities, attacks by Germans.
- 15.09 July 1944, the liberation of Bialistock, describes.
- 15.20 Russian partisans, their organization and activities.
- 15.27 Relationship between peasants and partisans.
- VI
- 15.38 Hardship in underground after the destruction.
- 15.40 German anti-Semitism and its influence on the Poles.
- 15.48 Complaint by Tannenbaum about lack of help from Jewish organizations abroad and in Israel. Her own views about lack of support.
- 16.18 Describes liberation day for her. The first days.
- 16.40 Letdown after the euphoria of liberation. Meeting with Russian partisans.
- 16.46 New job as director of education and cultural affairs for the Bialistok region. Life in Bialistok after the liberation.
- 16.52 Describes visit to Treblinka.
- 17.13 Looking for survivors.

- 17.18 Jewish historical society in Bialistok.
- 17.28 Inability to discover the hidden archive.
- 17.34 What people told her about the uprising.
- 17.39 Youth movement organize kibbutz for young people age 14-15. Describes her work.
- 17.44 1st kibbutz in Warsaw. Describes children and her work.
- 18.03 She is sent to Gedansk to start a kibbutz. Describes.
- 18.11 She goes to Lodz, meets future husband.
- 18.16 Leaves Poland in 1946 and participates in Jewish Congress in Basel.
- 18.18 How the archive was found and saved.
- 18.44 Correspondence with Dr. Bassler re history of underground.
- 18.48 She published 'Pages from the Fire' ..., history of archive, M. Tannenbaum and his writings. Contents of archive and what happened to it.
- 19.47 Anti-fascist organization and the underground activities after the destruction of the ghetto.
- 20.00 German anti-fascists who collaborated with them.
- 20.24 In 1946 she goes to Switzerland with her sick husband. Describes trip.
- VII
- 20.48 1946. Describes meeting of underground members near Munich.
- 20.54 Visits displaced persons camp.
- 20.57 Visit to Dachau.
- 21.07 Returns to Switzerland, Geneva, to study in 'interpreter school'. Became simultaneous interpreter; studied drama in Zurich.
- 21.10 1948 – is leader of North African youth groups whom she takes to Israel.
- 21.22 Summing up. Her difficulties in being absorbed in Israel.
- 21.34 1955 – gets work as archivist in Yad Vashem.

- 21.37 Describes her work and her sense of mission.
- 21.43 Her activities in partisan group in Jerusalem and her philosophy of no relations with Germany and Germans.