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**Koretz, Arie**                      **Tape 1 of 4**

- 1.01    Yehuda Arie (Leo) Koretz was born in Hamburg, in July 1928. Parents were born in Galitzia.
- 2.07    Father's education.
- 9.43    Arie's mother.
- 10.22   Father's family was wiped out in the war. Only one cousin was left.
- 12.20   Only three survived out of 10 children in mother's family.
- 13.52   No one is left of the Jewish community in the city where father was born, although the house still stands.
- 14.58   In 1933, father was appointed chief rabbi in Salonika. The family moved there and Arie's sister was born there.
- 19.21   In May of 1933, Hitler has already risen to power in Germany. Father had a 5-year contract. Had to become a Greek citizen and learn the 3 languages used there: Spanish, Greek and French.
- 22.0    Living conditions and housing in Salonika.
- 25.45   Arie's life in Salonika: Education – Jewish Youth activities; friends; and American High School began at age 10 (Metaxa's innovations).
- 35.11   October 28, 1940, in the third year of high school, the whole thing came to a halt. The choices were Greek, Italian or French gymnasie.
- 37.29   Kind of Jewish practices in Salonika.
- 40.32   Activities of the Zionist movement were stopped by Metaxas.
- 40.40   Arie's parents were Zionist and they had close contact with Eretz Israel.
- 42.00   Faint recollection of events in Europe through the press and a handful of refugees.
- 43.00   In 1938, the family gathered in Europe when Arie's grandfather passed away.
- 44.08   By 1939-40, the contact with the family in Europe was lost.
- 45.00   End of father's 5-year contract, renewal for another 3 years.

- 51.00 With the outbreak of war and entrance of Italian army in 1940 in Greece, the American school closed (not to reopen until summer of 1941).
- 52.00 Rejoicing at invasion of the Greek army to Albany was short lived. On April 3, 1941, the Germans declared war in Greece and they invaded Greece on April 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 53.39 Jews in conscription age went to war against the Italians; many acts of heroism. Many fell and became handicapped.
- 54.00 German invasion found Arie's father in Athens in business for his community. His sister was only 1½ years old.
- 55.23 The day after the invasion, Nazis visited the Koretz home in search of the father. The house was impounded by the German command and the family had to find other living quarters in a couple of days.
- 56.24 The community's Jewish Council was disbanded by the Nazis.
- 57.07 Fear of Germans in the first few weeks was great. Later, it abated and for 2 years, with the exception of "Black Saturday," there was nothing to fear. The measures were taken against the entire population, not just the Jews.
- 58.00 Winter 1941-42, was harsh for all, because of the lack of food and heating.
- 59.00 In Arie's home, the situation was difficult.
- 59.58 Father was detained in Athens by the Germans and taken to Vienna.
- 2.01.08 Requests from Jewish community to the Greek authorities were always signed by the head of the Jewish Council and the chief rabbi.
- 08.00 Food in the Koretz home was sephardic.
- 10.00 Contact with simple Jews – Jewish neighborhoods; class differences; Jewish slums (Many there were refugees of the 1917 "Great Fire" that destroyed large portions of Salonika).
- 15.00 Greek population in Salonika was not as well-off as the high classes among the Jews; jealousy. The reason for the economic depression (War of 1922).
- 17.22 Composition of non-Jewish population in Salonika contributed to the great tragedy that happened to the Jews there.
- 20.00 Just before the German invasion, the Greek government escaped first to Crete and then to Alexandria. Arie's father (in Athens) was invited to flee with them. He refused. He was taken in May and returned in December from ??????????????

- 20.52 Father's harsh treatment and interrogation in Vienna was a direct result of his success as the chief rabbi in Greece, with all of the concomitant good relations with the King and other authorities.
- 21.40 When Italians invaded Greece in January 1941, they bombarded Salonika and its cathedral was greatly damaged. Father requested contributions to its rebuilding from all of the chief rabbis in the world.
- 23.00 The publication of the new Nazi party's ideology in Greece: anti-Semitism and Rabbi Koretz's connections with the Greek authorities, etc.
- 24.42 In March 1941, in Athens, he spoke in a cultural institution about the outcome of the bombing in Salonika. He received an honorary degree.
- 25.45 Rabbi Koretz's interrogation in Vienna centered about all of the above and his critique of the Axis.
- 26.05 Father returned in poor physical shape in December, to Salonika, and resumed his job.
- 29.29 Father's contract was renewed again before the German invasion. The Jewish authorities didn't inform Arie's mother of it. Months went on without a salary. At home, the situation was difficult. Germans took away father's library which had 3,000 volumes. In August of 1941, the Rosenberg group impounded all of the Jewish libraries.
- 32.27 Summer 1941, schools reopened. Arie had to go to a Greek school ????????????
- 33.16 Arie had to study on Shabbat – arrangement with teachers and principal of school. Studied until February 1943 when the ghetto and yellow patch were imposed.
- 34.00 Community's activity was concentrated only on charity to the poor and soup kitchens (Red Cross provided produce for it).
- 36.36 June 1, 1942, father was arrested again. He was the only Jew among 600 prisoners of the German Army. They were taken as possible exchanges in case of an allied invasion. Father was away for 2 months and no one knew his whereabouts. They even consulted a medium for some hint. The medium gave them exact information.
- 40.54 "Black Saturday" in July 1942.
- 43.43 July 1941, Arie had his Bar Mitzvah. Father was in Vienna.
- 46.00 Forced labor camps.

- 46.14 A committee was organized then, informally, to help the forced laborers.
- 47.37 Finally, the Germans accepted ransom for the forced laborers, paid for by that committee which became official in time.
- 49.58 The Jewish section of the cemetery was sold (to the University) to raise the needed money. All workers were freed from labor camps.
- 50.00 Negotiations between the community's committee and the Germans took place August to November.
- 51.00 Division of Greece between three conquering armies from Germany, Italy and Bulgaria.
- 53.31 Atmosphere at home during those years.
- 55.00 Passover 1942.
- 55.52 Lack of contact with the rest of the world. BBC broadcasts were rarely listened to for fear of being caught.
- 59.30 In 1942, 5,000 Greek Jews were rounded up in Paris. This fact became known after the war.
- 3.00.20 Salonika was a natural ghetto; isolated; and surrounded by a ring of Greeks who couldn't care less about the Jews.
- 2.00 Money collection for a ransom and difficulties.
- 7.15 Modus-vivendi with German occupiers was easy until January – February 1943, when the Nuremberg Laws were implemented in Salonika.
- 8.02 In December 1942, there was a request from the Gestapo head in charge of the Jews, Dr. Kalmes, to have Saltiel replaced as head of the Jewish committee.
- 10.03 Arie's father was appointed in Saltiel's place by Dr. Kalmes. Father refused to accept it, but Kalmes demanded he accept. In addition to Arie's father, an advisory committee of six to seven other Jews was also appointed.
- 15.00 After the Nuremberg Laws were enacted, things happened at a very fast tempo: ghetto, Jewish police, yellow patch, confiscation of property, and the first transport in March of that year (1943). The atmosphere was difficult.
- 19.00 The first train transports. Arie's father tried to intercede for the Jews, offering ransom. The answer was "no."

- 24.00 Jews in Salonika were a big percentage of the entire population and held great economic power. Many in the Greek circles celebrated the evacuation of the Jews.
- 25.48 The deportations. Attempts at staying there; efforts failed.
- 32.55 The Jewish police.
- 36.00 Father was arrested, demoted and accused of boycotting the Germans' efforts.
- 37.00 Report about Arie's father's intervention on behalf of the Jews.
- 41.26 Family of Arie was taken to the Baron de Hirsch camp. Father joined them later (April 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>, 1943, and they stayed there until August 2, 1943.
- 42.00 Another attempt of Arie's father at finding opportunities in Greece, in order to keep Jews there. All kinds of negotiations took place to play for time.
- 43.00 Fleeing attempts of Jews ended in tragedy many times.
- 47.00 Reflections on Rabbi Koretz's actions during the war and about the particular straits of the Salonika Jewish community.

#### **Tape 2 of 4**

- 4.22.00 April 10, 1943, meeting of Rabbi Koretz with Greece's Prime Minister Ralis (where deportations were in their apogee) by ???????? of the Athens' Jewish community.
- 30.54 A transcript of that meeting exists.
- 32.42 Reading of transcript (in English).
- 39.32 On November 15, 1946, Arie met with Genadios and asked him about his father, Rabbi Koretz.
- 43.00 Rabbi Koretz was arrested and brought before the Gestapo the day after his meeting with the Greek Prime Minister. He was released after a couple of days and joined his family in the Baron Hirsch camp (where they stayed until August 2, 1943). Vital Hasson, head of the Jewish Police, accompanied the family to the Baron Hirsch.
- 48.02 Arie became a shepherd there. There was a flock of sheep within the camp. Arie left the camp everyday looking for pasture. He stayed with the job for a couple of months.
- 50.14 Father didn't do a thing in the camp.

- 52.57 Sojourn in the Baron Hirsch camp was very short, a week at the most.
- 54.43 Life in the camp. It was clear to all residents there that they would be deported.
- 55.04 On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, they were put on trains bound for Germany.
- 5.03.00 Originally, the Jewish community was convinced that the Nazis wouldn't take them because they were "Latin (sephardic) Jews."
- 3.25 Also, in 1942, the Greek Prime Minister, Solakoglu (????), declared that Greek Jews have the same rights as other Greeks.
- 7.17 Life in Baron Hirsch camp. There was a central kitchen, but families were together. They ate legumes mainly.
- 9.49 Reaction of the population to Arie's work as a shepherd, sporting a yellow patch and among the people who used to know him.
- 12.25 Arie had a permit to leave the camp daily for his work. There were no fences around the camp.
- 13.48 Dr. Cuenca's (????) escape attempt ended in his deportation to Auschwitz.
- 17.30 Position of Arie's mother in the camp and afterward.
- 20.18 Mother's maiden name was Zweigel; name changed (????) in Israel to Sarig.
- 21.10 By August 2<sup>nd</sup>, the family was told they were leaving, not to Theresienstadt, but to another concentration camp in Northern Germany. They were deported with 300 Spanish Jews. 75 Jewish Greek citizens were deported. A mix of people from the likes of Saltiel and Ugiel and the secretaries of the community to the photographer, gardeners, tailors, shoemakers, etc. Also, some protégées of Hason and even some Ashkenazic Jews stuck in Greece.
- 25.46 Deportation done in cattle cars.
- 26.00 On August 13<sup>th</sup>, they arrived in Bergen-Belsen.
- 27.05 In Yugoslavia, they encountered Jews (still free) who brought fruit, etc. to the train passengers.
- 28.26 Bergen-Belsen was divided into smaller units. The camp was established in 1939, as a prisoner of war camp (from Belgium, France, etc.). In spring 1943, part of the prisoner camp (where Russian soldiers were being held) was taken over to keep the Jews. There were already two groups there, German criminals and political prisoners (those help to build up the camp). Polish Jews, from Warsaw,

- were completely isolated to prevent the Jews from telling the newcomers what happened in Poland.
- 32.48 Special camps were established for the Greek and Spanish Jews.
- 33.46 There were segregated barracks for men and women, closed with barbed wire and a gate. During the daytime, people could mingle. At night, the gate was closed.
- 36.25 Albala was appointed head of the camp where Arie sat.
- 39.20 Work order arrived, together with a mountain of shoes from Auschwitz. There were some jewelry and money in some of these shoes.
- 40.31 The job consisted of recycling the shoes by taking them apart completely. Trucks would then take the materials away. This work lasted a whole year.
- 41.24 In September, a new group arrived – Jews from Holland. These Jews told of groups being sent “eastward.”
- 43.21 At one point, there were about 4,000 Dutch Jews.
- 43.33 Jews from Albania also started arriving, and from Bengazi (????) – Tripoli (these didn’t work because they possessed British passports); also women from France (wives of Jewish POW’s) from the concentration camp called Derancy (???). There was a group of Jews who possessed certificates of immigration to Israel. There was another group from Holland who were experts in the diamond trade.
- 47.24 All of the above “exchange” of groups happened until the end of the first part of the year 1944.
- 47.40 Different periods in Bergen-Belsen.
- 48.40 Roll calls.
- 51.51 Escape attempts by communist prisoners. Through these people, the Jews received news (or newspapers) of what is happening on the front.
- 52.07 Geographic location and description of Bergen-Belsen.
- 54.37 People working in workshops were better off – they made good contact with the Germans in charge of them. Other works and conditions in the camp (latrines, faucets, etc.)
- 6.00.36 Talked about the crowded conditions.

- 1.19 Arie's father worked first in the old peoples' barrack and then he was responsible for the team that worked in ??? the roots of old eucalyptus trees. Raw was the Nazi commander of the camp.
- 4.21 Arie's other jobs in the camp.
- 6.06 Life in camp passed in fear and sadness.
- 8.00 Germans gave extra portions on Yom Kippur, and more bread on Passover. It was almost impossible to carry out a ritual or religious life, especially in the second part of their imprisonment there.
- 9.52 Passover 1944, Rabbi Levinson from Holland wrote a beautiful prayer.
- 10.40 Passover 1945 (March), a curious story in which some matzahs are baked.
- 15.51 Medical care in the camp.
- 18.39 Food became an obsession. There was little of it and it was bad. Perceived inequities on food distribution caused fights and stealing of bread.
- 22.10 Attempt at fighting off the stealing of food. Inside trials.
- 23.10 Hunger took its toll, little by little. Diseases and death followed. Loss of self-dignity.
- 25.12 July 1944 to March 31, 1945, dates in which Arie wrote in a journal. Entries had to do with himself. Very short entries. The journal was published. Arie wrote in Greek. In Israel, it was called "The Journal of a Young Man" (Yomano Shel Na'ar). The diary was reserved with Arie's tallit, tefillin and prayer book.
- 30.55 Arie visited Bergen-Belsen in April 1990. The visit was on the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the camp's liberation. It gave him the impulse to open his diary again. During.....?? translated it into Hebrew.
- 32.40 Three were other people who wrote journals in Bergen-Belsen: Laqueur, Hertzberg, Levy.
- 34.13 Arie's work with the Auschwitz shoes lasted from August 1943 until February or March of 1944. Started dealing with shoes, exchanging for better ones.
- 38.15 Only people with influence could get into the better jobs – those connected with food.
- 39.00 Cigarette "industry" another source of food.



- 40.00 Food storage for the S.S. had everything.
- 42.00 Barracks, which were dismantled in Auschwitz, arrived in Bergen-Belsen and were put together there.
- 44.00 Work teams and distribution of labor. Penalty for stealing pieces of bread.
- 56.00 Reaction of Germans at seeing the camp inmates; feelings of inmates.
- 7.04.09 New job as “gopher” and messenger through a Dutch friend.

**Tape 3 of 4**

- 7.05.00 Continuation of Arie’s description of his job.
- 22.10 Crowded conditions in the camp. Now, two inmates had to share a shelf (there were now three stories, instead of two). This happened at the end of the fall and in the winter of 1944, where the ghetto was in total disarray. There was no work. Inmates just lied there, weak and hungry.
- 23.47 Shower arrangements and disinfection; lice infestation.
- 26.37 Polish Kapos were brought in and replaced the Jewish police.
- 27.49 Situation worsened even more from October 1944 until the end of the war.
- 28.22 Germans started calling the camp “recuperation panatorium.” Since the end of the summer of 1944, they began transporting inmates from other camps who could no longer work from hunger and illness to Bergen-Belsen.
- 29.21 From October – November 1944, the crematorium was working at full capacity so that they had to start burning corpses in bonfires outside. A high mortality rate brought about this situation.
- 30.12 No one could escape the smell of the burning corpses, including the camp’s neighbors.
- 30.19 By March 1945, burning outside was also not enough.
- 30.56 More about Arie’s jobs.
- 32.00 Illnesses in the ghetto.
- 38.52 Altruism was rare in the ghetto; everyone was for himself.
- 40.54 Sirens gave inmates some clue on the military situation. Geographically, the camp was situated between Hamburg and Hanover. Allied bombers passed over

- Bergen-Belsen (in the summer of 1944). Events gave inmates hope. The Germans were worried. Bakery in Hanover was destroyed. No bread for the inmates.
- 50.00 December 1, Krebe arrived from Auschwitz, to become the new ghetto commander. He brought his staff with him.
- 51.15 There were many different populations in Bergen-Belsen. At first, they were segregated. In December of 1944, when many people arrived, the sections were more mixed and in chaos.
- 54.00 Jews from Hungary; Kastner's train; the Satmar (???) rabbi and followers.
- 56.28 Group of girls from Salonika, who had been in Auschwitz arrived in Bergen-Belsen. With their arrival, inmates found out about the ovens.
- 58.47 Arie's job as a messenger/"gopher" lasted until March 1945. Reason for his dismissal.
- 8.00.00 Difficult to find work. Most of Jewish workers were replaced with non-Jews.
- 8.05.18 Mid-March 1945, camp is struck by a typhoid epidemic. No one could work outside and the camp was isolated for 10 days.
- 10.20 New job. With the approach of the allies, many inmates of other camps were being brought to Bergen-Belsen. Many were already dead or about to die. Arie's job was to drag the bodies to the piles (no more wood for burning).
- 13.05 After this, Arie contracted typhus.
- 13.28 Cannibalism.
- 15.50 Attempts to escape.
- 19.00 Out of the 10-12 rabbis, only two escaped, but only Dr. Shuster arrived in Israel. Arie's father died of typhus.
- 20.00 Arie's father, unable to work, kept busy by improving his English (with a novel that fell in his lap????).
- 23.10 At the beginning of their stay in camp (in 1943) when Sundays were still rest days, they gathered outside to sing.
- 29.00 Talks about vacating Bergen-Belsen because of advance of the Allies. Three train-loads of inmates were sent out. The first one arrived in Therezienstaat, the second was liberated by the Americans. Arie and his family were on the third

- train (2,500 people) with all of the Greeks, French, Poles and Dutch. This occurred on April 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>. Arie was already sick with typhus, and his father lifted him for the 10 km walk to the train station. There was no food. Describes the train route (in Berlin they received a warm meal from the German Red Cross). Some ran away from the train and others hid in farms. Yossef Weiss registered all of the train prisoners and also marked the death date and burial place of those who died on the way. Important registration.
- 39.25 Typhus hit its peak on the 14<sup>th</sup> day. Arie overcame the peak. His mother and sister were also infected. French doctor on the train had medicine against typhus. He gave the last dose to Arie. The doctor, himself, died later of the disease.
- 41.26 April 23<sup>rd</sup>, no guards were around. No locomotive. The Russian Army was there. Jews were told to take over the village of 900 residents next to where the train had stopped (Trabitz???) Food and medical care came much later. Jews were on their own. Most of the 1,300 passengers left on the train were unable to move. Russians emptied the villagers from their homes. Food was still on the range. Much food was stored there to last for years. People died from eating all at once. Over 300 people died there, from eating, dysentery or typhus. There is a cemetery there for the Jewish dead next to the Christian one. Between April 26<sup>th</sup> and mid-June, there were also collective graves. One was by the train tracks. And barracks used for Ukrainian workers at one point was used for the sick and lonely who didn't have anyone to care for them. These barracks were between the train tracks and the village. Another collective grave was dug there. There are five graves all together in addition to the cemetery.
- 50.34 When Russian nurses and doctors came, after 2-3 weeks, they separated the ailing from the healthy. Arie's father died on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of typhus.
- 52.06 All were kept in the village until 30 days of the last death. Russian orders. Food distribution.
- 55.00 Each group identified itself with an improvised flag of the country of origin. Commerce with other villages.
- 56.00 The very ill were taken to Leipzig or other hospitals.
- 57.30 When rumors spread over impending departure, Arie fashioned a headstone for his father.
- 9.02.38 In July, Russians began talking about repatriation – exactly to where they came from. Arie and his mother wanted to go to Palestine. The Dutch left first, then the French. There were about 100 left from the Eastern block (Serbian, Hungarian, Czech, Romanian and Greek). Russians decided to make out of these refugees, only ??????????

- 6.52 Leaving Trobitz.
- 13.00 More about the village and the villagers on the perspective of history, both East Germans and Russians – Trobitz today and the Jewish cemetery.
- 29.00 Arie's visit to Trobitz in 1986 (September 2<sup>nd</sup>).
- 36.00 Collective graves are also kept.
- 49.00 More about the train that left Trobitz.
- 49.30 Weiss documents, precursor of "displaced person" document and helpful in getting Germany's indemnization(????????????????).
- 51.02 Local help on the way of the train.
- 53.26 Arrival to the Greek border. Shock at the negative reaction of the Israeli soldiers of the Jewish Brigade upon hearing who Arie was.
- 55.00 Only three went to Salonika – Arie, his mother and his sister. Upon arrival, mother was immediately sent to prison. She was taken by the Greek police following a complaint by the local Jewish community.
- 57.13 There was a trial and Rabbi Koretz was number one on the list of the accused. The family requested that his name be removed as he was no longer alive. It was done.
- 10.02.42 Left alone with his sister (6 years old), Arie went for help to friends of the family. They all shut their door on his face.
- 4.00 Dr. Sheuberg (???) took the family home. He was subsequently shunned by the entire Jewish community. Arie wrote to his family in Israel.

**Tape 4 of 4**

- 7.32 Passover Seder, first at Bergen-Belsen in April 1944. Photocopy of Rabbi Levenson's prayer for the Jews who could not fulfill all of the holiday's commandments. Rabbi Levenson was the chief rabbi of Holland.
- 10.03 Trobitz and Bergen-Belsen. Dutch – German survivor's documents. Documents on the treatment of those ill with typhus.
- 14.00 Order of May 31, 1945, by the Russian commander to the villagers of Trobitz to help the refugees with housing, food, etc. Prohibition against complaints.
- 16.00 1949-50, Holland took all of its dead from the Trobitz cemetery to burial in Holland.

- 17.22 May 12, 1945, the people liberated from the train wrote a thank you letter to Marshall Stalin in Moscow (Arie reads the letter).
- 23.44 Photos of the Koretz's home in Trobitz.
- 24.30 Picture of Trobitz today.
- 25.26 Return to Salonika.
- 26.30 Arie sent a photo of himself and his sister to his relatives in Israel, in French.
- 27.27 The family in Israel, on mother's side, has lived there since 1936.
- 28.06 A telegram was received asking about mother. She wrote to her family about what was happening. They knew that Arie and his family had been in Bergen-Belsen, which had started as an exchange camp for German prisoners. That is, the Jewish inmates would be exchanged for German prisoners of war.
- 29.22 Ethnic composition of Bergen-Belsen and different stages (Sephardic – Franco; Kastner – Hungary; Eretz Israel group).
- 30.00 In 1944, 2,000 Jews left for Israel. Many registered for family reunification.
- 33.50 Israeli relatives sent the Koretz certificates, but they were never received. They were found after liberation.
- 35.00 Talks about how the certificate was originally obtained by the family.
- 37.00 In 1944, when relatives obtained the certificates for the Koretz family from the King of Greece in England, there hadn't been any accusations against Arie's father.
- 38.36 Only assistance Koretz received immediately after the war, in Greece, came from the relatives in Israel, England and the United States.
- 40.32 Living quarters. Dr. Livadas offered the Koretz family their old apartment. They took one room only.
- 44.30 Dr. Livadas encouraged Arie to continue his studies (he needed to complete three more years).
- 48.00 In order to demonstrate that Arie stopped his studies because of his deportation to the camp he needed a document from the Jewish community (which didn't want to help any of the Koretz family).
- 49.22 Dr. Shomberg finally obtained the document.

- 49.49 Arie continued his studies; talks about his studies; he was the only Jew in the school; he made arrangements to keep Shabbat.
- 51.27 Almost no contact with the Jewish community and could not even go to the synagogue to say Kaddish for his father on the first year of his death. The few contacts were unpleasant. Opposition to the Koretz came mainly from those who returned from Auschwitz and Treblinka.
- 57.00 This controversy also reached the press.
- 57.51 In July 1946, began the trial against the collaborators, some of whom had been in Bergen-Belsen.
- 58.36 During the trial, Arie received his diploma.
- 59.00 Special considerations of the school to Arie so that he didn't have to take exams on Shabbat. He graduated third in the class.
- 11.00.00 Koretz family moved to Athens.
- 1.01 Accusations against Rabbi Koretz. They were advised to drop their defense at the moment because of the common hysteria and pain for the war losses.
- 3.09 Chaim Raphael's friendship.
- 4.00 Observance of the first Yom Kippur in Salonika, after return from Bergen-Belsen. Arie never had doubts about his father's innocence on the deportations. All testimonies from the trial show much subjective interpretation of his father's actions.
- 8.40 Friendly relations with the family of Hezekia Shaki, judge in the Appellate Court in Athens. For a time, the Koretz family lived with them while waiting to get to Palestine.
- 14.59 Moved to a rented room.
- 15.15 End of November, 1946, they received notice that they may be departing for Palestine. They didn't have their passports yet.
- 16.03 Letter from the Mossad in Greece to Israel.
- 17.05 Contacts with Jews in Athens, but not with the community (Fred Cohen, Dr. Alalouf Saltiel Cohen).
- 22.23 On Friday, November 29, 1946, through a phone call, the family was told to be on the upcoming Sunday in the port of Pyrens where an Italian ship on the route

- Marseille – Italy – Pyrens – Alexandria – Haifa – Beirut will be anchored. They were to ask permission to visit the ship on port and once on it, to hide until the boat sails. Then, they had to go to a certain compartment, in first class to meet someone. Nothing was to be taken except for the documents. Arie took a comb and a toothbrush, his Siddur and the tallit and tefillin he had all through the camp.
- 25.03 Preparations for departure on December 1, 1946.
- 28.33 More refugees came on board the ship later on.
- 30.15 On December 5, 1946, the ship arrived in Haifa. How to disembark with no papers?
- 30.50 The arrival.
- 43.00 First steps in Israel. Talks about the youth village, Hagana.
- 48.00 Survivors did not talk about the past. Arie shut off his past completely and did so for many, many years.
- 52.00 Arie's studies in the Technicon were interrupted by the events following the UN Partition decision in November 1947. Activities in the Hagana (help from Irish division in training Hagana fighters).
- 54.26 Arie was wounded in the head and was hospitalized for months in recovery.
- 55.00 Family moved to Tel Aviv. Family's achievements.
- 12.02.39 Arie begins to study Law.
- 4.57 Secretary of Association of Lawyers in Tel Aviv.
- 8.15 Judge Shaki was Head of the Court of Appeals in Athens. End of 1948, he retired and the family immigrated to Israel. Brought his private law library with him. Died in the early 1950's. His widow and daughter were forced to leave Israel (and Israeli citizenship) and moved to England because the Greek government refused to pay them the Judge's survivor pension in Israel (Greece did not accept dual citizenship then).
- 11.10 Judge Shaki gave Arie his library.
- 12.10 Became an independent lawyer and married in 1959. Talks about wife's family; three children.
- 22.05 Arie's mother passed away in 1988 at the age of 91.

- 23.27 Arie visited Greece on vacation and on business many times. Most of the time, he spent in Athens and the islands. Only once, did he visit Salonika.
- 24.20 In 1975, Arie and his wife visited Salonika.
- 30.00 Visit to one of his friends at the University; the path to the friend's office was paved with Jewish memorial plaques.
- 34.09 In tribute of his father and for his rehabilitation.