

RG-50.120 #095  
Lorensy, Menashe

I

- 1.01 Born in 1934 in Kluzh, then Hungary and later Romania. Describes family and his twin sister, Lea.
- 1.07 Describes persecution of Jews by Hungarians and Romanian.
- 1.08 Describes Kluzh, the large Jewish community and center of Zionism.
- 1.15 End of 1942 father was recruited to forced labor; only women, children and old people remained.
- 1.20 Describes city, cultural institutions, song.
- 1.28 Survival in Kluzh. Hungarian anti-Semitism as bad as German. Gave evidence after the war about incidents.
- 1.37 Describes how family coped economically. Mentions the Kastner family, and the later Kastner trial.
- 1.44 Criticises Jewish leadership who said that nothing would happen to the Jewish community, in spite of knowing what had happened in other countries.
- 1.48 Describes hardships during the war. Bombardments by the British and Russians.
- 1.58 Jewish life in the city. Cultural life, Zionism, friends and their fate.
- 2.18 1944 Anti-Jewish laws under the German government. He and sister are sent by mother to their grandparents in a small town.
- 2.26 Orders to go to the ghetto in Czilastnocho [?]. Describes sadistic ghetto administrator Krastnai against whom he testified after the war.
- 2.41 Describes ghetto: food, conditions, Hungarian administration. Mother was in ghetto Koloswar [?].
- 2.58 After 2 months they were transported to Auschwitz. Describes selection by Mengele. He and sister were taken to special area for twin experiments.
- 3.26 Lessons from the Holocaust. His preparations for the trial of Mengele.
- 3.39 He and sister were taken to camp A, 1200 children, mostly twins of all ages, triplets, mothers of very young children.

3.55 Describes the research block and the children, mostly girls. Male identical twins were in another camp.

4.00 His thoughts about what helped people survive.

## II

4.02 Shows family photos.

4.08 Describes again getting to Birkenau research camp. All other children were exterminated.

4.13 Describes life in camp.

4.24 He was one of the few boys in camp and became a leader. He became a food carrier, which helped him and other children survive hunger.

5.02 Describes his work and the people he met.

5.21 Describes the experiments. Only 183 out of 1500 children survived.

5.46 Describes meeting Mengele. After that he organized an open public trial of Mengele. Collected material on the power of traumatic memories.

6.02 Describes the experiments.

6.11 His belief that his parents were still alive and that it was his duty to bring back his sister kept him alive.

6.25 He saw allied bombings and knew that the end of the war was near. Witnessed the blowing up of the crematorium and the uprising of the sonderkommando.

6.36 Witnessed the destruction of the gypsy camp and family camp.

6.39 The execution of girls who were discovered stealing.

6.43 Describes camp routine.

6.55 They were moved to filthy gypsy camp.

## III

7.03 Description of gypsy camp.

7.09 Allied bombardments near camp and what they knew about the war.

7.21 The experiments stopped during the last month of the war. The older children went on a death march. Only 10,000 out of 50,000 survived.

- 7.25 Describes Germans destroying evidence in Auschwitz.
- 7.30 Describes chaos during the last days. Burning of barracks by the Germans.
- 7.40 27<sup>th</sup> January they were marched out of Birkenau to the forest where they were liberated by the Russian army.
- 7.45 The Russians returned them to Birkenau where evidence and pictures were taken and later published.
- 7.52 A hospital was organized in Auschwitz. He was sick in the hospital and Met Dr. isidor Leibovitch who took him and his sister under his wing.
- 8.02 Shows photo of Russian general who liberated Auschwitz.
- 8.12 He went with a group to Katowice.
- 8.17 Describes traveling for month on trains in the direction of Hungary. Describes reception in Chernovice.
- 8.24 They were taken to BelloRussia to Slusk prison camp with Italian POWs.
- 8.42 In 1945 they finally get home to Kluzh where they were taken by uncle.
- 8.51 He went to high school in Kluzh. Describes his adjustment.
- 8.57 Is reunited with his father when POWs from Russia returned.
- 9.13 The search for his mother who probably was killed in Riga.

#### IV

- 10.12 Efforts to go to Israel. In Dec. 1950 the family left Romania on the boat 'Transilvania', and arrived in Haifa in Jan. 1951. They were taken in by uncle in Jerusalem.
- 10.23 Describes adjustment in Israel. Enlisted in the army in 1952. His feelings about being in Israel.
- 10.35 Experiences of telling about his war experience and not being believed.
- 10.40 After the army he married, had three children. Describes his work in the diamond business and his ongoing army duties.
- 10.47 How his Holocaust experience influenced his thinking about the wars in Israel.

- 10.54 The attitude of Israelis towards Holocaust survivors and the neglect by the government.
- 11.07 The change of attitude towards survivors after the Eichmann trials.
- 11.11 His life in Israel, work, family and friends.
- 11.18 The interest in the twin experiments in the eighties. Organization of group of surviving twins. Visit of the group in Auschwitz Birkenau.