

RG-50.120 #109 Tapes 1,2,3
MYMON, YEHUDA

TAPE I

- 1.00 Born Leopold Wasserman [Poldie] in 1924 in Cracow. Comes from middle class family, went to Jewish schools throughout gymnasium. Describes rich Jewish life in Cracow, with a Jewish population of 60,000. Describes Zionish Jewish scout movement of which he was a member.
- 1.12 1938, he was 14 ½, was a scout leader, wanted to go to Palestine. Knew what was happening in occupied Europe but did not believe it would reach Poland.
- 1.23 Aug. 1939, he was sent home from summer camp because war had started. First actions against Jews.
- 1.32 Jewish schools were closed but teachers continued to teach underground, in small groups.
- 1.43 Cracow is declared capital of the general government, Dr. Frank was governor.
- 1.47 Joins the underground Akiba movement.
- 1.51 January, 1940, Jews were told to leave Cracow. Shimshon Singel, Elena Holland and Gusta were arrested and sent to Troppau. They escaped and returned to Cracow. Simek [Shimshon Sengel] organized underground meetings.
- 1.55 Fall 1940, family moved out of ghetto to suburbs. He passed as non-Jewish Pole and worked for army in railroad repair. Sabotaged equipment.
- 2.03 March 1941, went back to ghetto, containing 1500 people. Describes underground organization in ghetto. He worked as messenger and liaison.
- 2.16 June 1942, was told of mission of underground, to fight Germans, to die with pride and courage.
- 2.19 June 1942, 7000 Jews were transported to Bogusze extermination camp.
- 2.23 October 1942, 2nd transport to Belzec.
- 2.53 Leaders of the fighting unit: Duleg, Laban, Simek, Eisenstadt, Tennenbarum, leaders of Akiba II. Describes functions of the unit and the relationship with the communist underground.
- 3.25 In response to impending action, Laban planned their action for 22 December 1942. They threw grenades into establishments frequent by SS and Gestapo, and

plastered posters calling for Polish revolt. This was done as a Polish action outside of ghetto. Differed from Warsaw underground who fought in the ghetto. Discussed ideology.

3.53 Most of the group were arrested. He hid in suburbs.

TAPE II

4.11 Simek is arrested. He is hiding out with Polish families.

4.22 19 March 1943, termination of Cracow ghetto.

4.31 Describes robberies to finance actions. Parades as Gestapo.

4.40 Is arrested and jailed in Cracow. Describes tortures. Names others with him.

4.46 Describes 'death cell', where Zimek and Laban organized their life to keep up morale.

4.58 Is sent to Auschwitz 3, Buna, IG Farben factory for synthetic fuel. Forced labor.

5.00 Is sick in hospital. Describes life and people in hospital.

5.12 Is saved from crematorium by head of communist underground in camp. Works in hospital.

5.17 Describes underground organization in camp.

5.20 Works in Buna factory. Describes Samek Wachtel, a well known Cracow thief, who helped him survive.

5.24 Returns to hospital as aide, joins communist underground.

5.41 Bombardments of Buna factories. Describes underground in Buna.

5.47 Fall 1944. Russian front is near. Poles sent to other camps. Describes Aushwitz, who could survive and who could not.

6.03 Struggle between communists and criminals in camp.

6.28 Underground preparing for time when Germans will liquidate camp. The 80 people underground are getting armed.

6.37 18 January 1945, everybody ordered to leave camp. Describes March. Organized 2 escaped groups. One group escapes to forest.

6.47 Arrives at Gleiwitz camp and meets his brother.

6.50 Describes his escape, and hide out with Valdi family.

7.04 Is arrested and then released by Russians.

7.05 Describes hundreds of German POW led by Russians.

TAPE III

7.12 Describes freedom. Depressed mood, talk of suicide. Victory was staying alive, nothing left now.

7.15 Gets back to Cracow February 1945. Describes Polish anti-Semitism. Only 1000 out of 60,000 Jews remained in Cracow.

7.18 Turns down offer of leadership by communists. Wants to go to Israel.

7.23 March 1945, organized group to go to Bukarest. Describes kibbutz group in Bukarest and Abba Kovner.

7.32 Abba Kovner calls for revenge against Germans. He joins revenge group. Talks about 'Gustina's Diary'.

7.40 May 8, victory day, is sent to open road of escape to Italy.

7.41 Ideology and goals of revenge group.

7.46 Meets Jewish Brigade on Austrian Italian border who organized transition camp. He escorts refugees.

7.56 Revenge plan.

8.08 Describes organizing Aliya B.

8.13 Plan to kill goering in Nurenberg. Revenge ideology, plan A – describes.

8.27 Israel's Haganah opposed plan A. Describes plan B.

8.39 Describes his part in plan B.

8.45 Abba Kovner orders them to come to Isral to train with Palmach and then return to Europe for more actions.

8.46 Group went to Kibbutz Ein Hachosh. Describes life until March 1947.

8.50 Disillusionment and break-up of group. Founded Kibbutz Kiryat Chayim.

- 9.04 Talks about 'Revenge' ideology. Background and historical context.
- 9.43 Thoughts about how to teach about the Holocaust.
- 10.03 Story of return to Poland as Israeli Diplomat in 1963 and meeting Polish family who hid him.