

## **RG-50.120\*126**

### **REVESS PERETZ**

#### **TAPE 1 OF 8**

01:00:25 My name is Peretz Reves. I was born in 4.6.1916 in the Monarchy of Austro-Hungary, in a small town called Horitz in the south west of Slovakia.

My father was a lawyer. My father's family lived in Horitz since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. His family name was Leubel. My grandparents died when I was a little boy. I remember only my grandmother from my mother's side. My father studied law in Budapest, and worked for a lawyer named Reves. He married the daughter of Reves and after he died my father got his name and his practice.

01:04:45 My mother was Rosa Weinfeld. After she finished high school, she went to study in Switzerland. She was a very kind and gentlewoman. She loved literature and music, nature and beauty.

I have two brothers. The oldest is a lawyer and the youngest lives in a kibbutz.

My father was a more dogmatic person than my mother. He was brave and liked sport. He served as the chairman of the Jewish community in our town, chairman of the sport organization and deputy of the head of the little town.

01:10:45 Once in a football game the mob attacked the players of our Jewish team. My father went to the mob and shouted: "I am a lawyer and I can put you all in jail".

When the persecution of Jews started we were ordered to clean the streets from the snow. My father called the chairman of the council and asked him if there is a written law about it. He said: "no", so my father told us not to clean the snow. I was at that time a student at the medical school; I told my father that it was dangerous not to do as we were ordered. I continued to nag him about it for two more days and then stopped.

01:15:30 We were a traditional family. Kept kosher and the Jewish festivals. My father was more a Hungarian patriot than a Slovak. We, the brothers, were influenced by Massarik and were passionate Republicans.

01:26:09 I missed the registration to the gymnasium because I was sick and had to have an ear operation. So I went to study for one year in Bratislava.

01:32:30 I had good friendship with the gentile students. In my class we were 40 students, only two of them were Jews.  
The first time I remember Anti-Semitic action was in 1939. Some Bolsheviks threw stones on our windows and shouted: "Jews for Palestine". We fled to Budapest for two weeks.

01:36:40 Each holiday I went to my grandmother who had a farm and I had great fun there, with the horses, the cows, the small brook and the large garden.

01:39:20 when I was ten years old I joined the Jewish Youth movement Maccabi. My first task was to give a lecture on Achad-Ha'am.  
In 1928-9 a delegate from Macabi came to our town. When I was thirteen I became a guide.

01:50:45 Most of the teachers in the gymnasium were Czechs. I remember my teacher for Latin who taught us about the human weakness, and the teacher for French who taught us the France culture.  
I had to take the train to go to school, but the train station was 2 1/2 KM. from home, so I had to run. I participated in running contests and won the second or first places.

02:02:30 I loved animals and I had a dog and doves.

02:07:40 In 1934 I moved to the university to study medicine. There I felt more Anti-Semitism. I joined the Academic Slovak Socialist association.

02:12:30 In 1938 Slovakia declared its Independence. At the university they started to enforce Numerous Clauses. I was the secretary of the sport association and an assistant to the dean. He asked me to stay, but I could not agree to see how my Jewish friends were beaten. I left and returned home. I became the leader of a regiment in the Macabi.  
In 1932, in the Macabia, which took, place Palestine it was decided to establish a kibbutz in Eretz Israel. It was Kfar-Macabi, in which I live till now.

02:27:50 I was in charge of 200 young people in Bratislava. Thus I became one of the leaders in the Maccabi Movement.

02:30:15 I met my wife in one of the summer camps. After 10 minutes I knew I wanted to be with her. We celebrated last year our golden wedding.

02:34:36 In March 1940 we went on a Yugoslavian ship through the Danube to the Black Sea. It was extremely crowded. We were 700-800 people, who lied even on the tables in the dinning room. We slept under the table. We called it: "under the table hotel". We were three weeks on the ship. The Germans convinced the Yugoslavians not to let us to go on our way. We went off the ship and I stayed in Bratislava.

02:40:30 Josef Koryansky and Zvi Goldfarb from "Dror" joined us. They told us about the massacre the Germans were doing to the Jews. We decided to do all we could to save our friends.

02:44:50 I worked for the "UJE" (?) Jewish Organization for vocational changing.

02:48:00 We heard about the deportation. We were ripped off from our civilian priviledges, our property and our families. I decided to do everything in order to survive. They (the Germans) won't get me alive.

02:53:00 The Germans arrived in the evening and gave the Jews two hours to leave their homes. My brother had contacts with Vashek (who was the Slovakian Eichman); he sent a telegram to release us. We looked for contacts to smugglers to escape to Hungary.

03:01:30 In April I took five people to a driver who smuggled them to Hungary. One day The Gendarmerie caught us and put us in a big hut. I decided to escape. I jumped out of the window and ran to the river. Then I took a bus to Bratislava.

03:18:10 I took my wife and we went to hide in the driver's house.

03:28:00 I decided to cross the border to Hungary. We paid a lot of money to the smuggler (15.000 Slovak Crones). We were three: My wife, another woman and myself. The smuggler was totally drunk, and didn't succeed in his mission. We came back to Bratislava.

I was a member in the “Chalutz” organization. We had good relations with Raffi Ben-Shalom and Benito from “Hashomer Hatzair”, with Dr. Oscar Neumann the president of the Zionist organization in Slovakia and with Leo Rosenfeld and Gizi Fleischmann from WIZO.

03:42:30 We found another way to go to Hungary. It was in a coal boat. We arrived to Budapest and went to my uncle (my mother’s brother). We could not stay with him, since his wife was too nervous about it. I was very bitter, but I got another address: of Yoel Brandt from Poalei Zion and Dr. Denesh.

04:33:30 We arrived to Yoel Brandt in the afternoon. He asked me to tell about myself and promised to help. His wife Hanzi was very kind to us. She gave us dinner and a dress to my wife, so she won’t look as an immigrant.

04:38:00 In 1940 40.000 people without a Hungarian passport were slaughtered in Karpato-Russia, among them was Hanzi’s sister. Yoel was an important figure. We looked for contacts with the institutions abroad. We knew about Nathan Schwalp, from the Halutz movement, who was in Switzerland. He sent money and parcels to thousand Jews in Poland. In Istanbul was a delegation from Eretz-Israel Haovedet: Vinia Pomeranz, Menachem Bader and Akiva Levinsky.

04:44:45 When the refugees stream increased the Hungarian police KEOK (?) tried to catch them, to put them in prison and to send them back to Slovakia and from there to Auschwitz.

04:47:10 We bought forged documents; we found an apartment with a Jewish family (Schwartz).

04:55:10 I met with Renito and his girlfriend Ruth. We invited them to our apartment. She was from Hashomer Hatzair. After some days she came to us with two Hungarian detectives. They were looking for me by my previous name, which I used in Hungary: Hoffman Yenny. I was not at home and my wife took care that I wont come back home.

05:03:50 I believed in Vandor’s loyalty. He was a Communist who lived with us. Unfortunately I saw him with a detective on the street. I punched him in his face and started to run. The detective ran after me. Eventually he

caught me and took me to their headquarters of the Budapest Police, where I was brutally beaten.

05:19:20 The detective asked me why I was running. I told him I was a runner in Slovakia. From that moment on he changed his attitude to me. I was thinking of a story, so I won't inform on anybody. I told him that we are refugees who tried to rescue our lives. About the documents I told him that I know someone from the OLAM TACHTON and I described someone else. They put me in a very crowded cell

05:23:10 On the next morning the chief investigator interrogated me. He asked me about my wife. I told him I don't know, that I am a student and not a criminal. Then they told me that to forge paper is a very big sin and if I won't tell them they will send me to the security police and they will find the way to make me talk. (It was where Channa Senesh and Yoel Peleg were killed).

The detective told me about another system they used: They hanged a man with his hands tied behind his back and poured water on him. He took me down and wrote on my papers: "Needed for more investigations, do not let him go out of the country". I arrived to a police prison and went into a room with 70 others prisoners. My name was: Hoffman Yane – Rebez Laslow. After two terrible nights I moved to the Jewish room, where I met: Uzi Richtenberg, Bertzi and other friends from the movement.

05:40:10 After two weeks my wife came to visit me. I managed to send a note to Yoel Brandt, asking to help me out. Mr. Crow, a lawyer, came told me that Yoel sent him. With his help I found myself after 8 weeks on the other side of the border.

05:47:00 I was in with Bertzi and we arrived to Tihanopze (?) with the Hernat River. We decided to go to Koshitze (?) We bought tickets to Budapest and I went to Yoel where I met Nonika.

06:10:24 I needed a new identity. My new name was Leibowitz Yanno, from Karpat-Russia. We found an apartment and I looked for a job. Israel Savoy worked in a paper warehouse and he arranged for me to work there too. After three months we had to move from our apartment, because the janitor informed us to the police.

06:22:30 We had contacts with Nathan Schwalp from Geneva. His code name was “dod Kaspi” (uncle money) or “Doda Aliya” (aunt immigration). He was a light in the darkness.

06:25:00 We lived and worked in a big conspiracy. We had to change our documents to Christians and lived in Buda.

06:33:00 Shmuel Schpringman was a goldsmith and a jewel merchant. He had contacts with Yoel Brandt and in Kushta. The help-and-save committee started to work in October 1942, and later in 1943 with Kastner from Transylvania. Komoie from the General Zionists became the head of the committee, but the engine of it was Kastner.

06:40:20 Yoel had to deal with the escape of Jews from Poland and Slovakia. Kastner had to take care of the refugees. He was snob, very smart, intelligent and formal.

06:58:30 I didn't see any defect in the fact of saving Jewish lives in return for goods. Yoel Brandt started the negotiation with Eichmann. He succeeded to rescue 70.000 Jews and later 100.000 more. I don't understand how could people blame Kastner.

We had a printing house. We supplied people out of our movement, who heard about us from personal connections. We worked also for “Hashomer Htzair” and “Bnai Akiva”, but the members from “Hanoar Hazioni” didn't help us when the flee to Rumania had started.

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07:12:30 We worked with Slovakian refugees. In 1943 the Polish refugees arrived. Yoel asked me to organized the committee who took care of the refugees. I wrote all the reports. They are now in the Archive of Haifa University.

07:20:20 There were some rumors that Yoel took the money for himself. I met with Leon Blatt from Benjin and Asher Drago from Yugoslavia. The refugees told about execution of thousands of Jews in the forests.

07:33:30 In May 1944 Kastner asked me to give some protocols about the extermination of the Jews to the Swedish ambassador so he could give them to the King of Sweden. The Hungarian Jews didn't believe that Horthy (the Hungary king) would allow expulsion of the Jews.

07:47:25 In 1943 I heard that some Jews left the country with the help of Moshe Krause. He said that it is very confidential, but if I have young men he can help them. He did a good job.

07:57:35 There was a coalition between "Hashomer Hatzair" and "Mizrachi". All the other movement: "Habonim", "Dror", "Hanoar Hazioni" and "Maccabi Hatzair" had only 30% of the certificates. I felt very bad that while Jews are suffering extermination, the Zionist movements continued to fight each other.

08:11:00 We had a factory for false documents under the cover of factory for Soya paste.

08:27:30 Herman Adler arrived with a scheme of Treblinka. He asked for 5 Christian papers. He told me he hid with the director of the Swedish Red Cross and with him some 8-10 other Jews.

08:45:50 We did not sell the papers. it was financed from Kushta. Kastner got a phone call from Gizi Fleischmann in Slovakia that they ran out of money. One of my duties was the contact with Slovakian Jews. I went there to Bratislava. I met my brothers and my parents.

09:08:00 When the Slovakian leadership learned about the extermination they tried not to collaborate with the Germans.

09:14:00 The way to Bratislava and back was not easy. (He tells the details).

09:24:00 When I arrived I went to Kastner house, where I saw a policeman in the gate. I decided to get inside. It was very quiet. I saw Begy Kastner. She was in a shock. She told me that the police made a search and arrested Kastner. Later he was released.

09:43:40 I worked in a small factory making the elastic for the suspenders.

We had collaboration between the Zionist movements.

09:57:30 On 3.16.1943 Yoel Brandt asked me to come to his place. Dr Schmidt, the commander of the APEVER(?), was there. Yoel told me that Schmidt told him as a top secret, to take his wife and the kids and to escape.

10:11:25 On the next morning we had a meeting in the “Keren Hayesod” with 40-50 people from all the range of political views. We decided that Yoel would tell the people that he got information about the imminent German occupation of Hungary. We had to flee to the smallest cities.

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10:19:30 We had discussions about the situation. Most of the people were against rebellion and for saving our operation in order to earn time until the Russians would come. We should try to save any option, even by negotiation with the enemy – the Germans. The criticism about this came only later, in Israel.

10:28:30 The Germans entered Hungary on 3.19.1944. They were organized and had lists of names. The restrictions of the Yellow star, the prohibition of traveling by public transportation, or going to school came very fast. The deportation started on May 15, 1944.

10:32:10 We knew that Eichman was in charge of the Jewish emigration from Germany.

10:36:30 We lived in a large villa that we got from Nino Rossi. Then we moved to another villa that we got from Van-Harten, a Jew from Holland.

10:47:20 Kastner knew as we all knew, that if you negotiated with Eichman you could die. But he was brave. Hanzi, his wife, encouraged him. She told him that he was not a beggar, but a real partner. He could have saved himself and stayed in Switzerland, but he decided to risk himself. I don't know what were his motives.

11:18:40 The Red army was in Poland and Carpato-Russia, so there was no option to cross the border.



Misselenitch (?) dealt in “selling” Jews: 2 Million Jews for 2 Million Dollars. We were suspicious of him and were afraid of dealing with him.

11:33:30 Yoel and Kastner asked to meet Misselenitch. He said that if we could pay \$220,000 each month there is a chance to stop the extermination. In April 20, 1944, Eichman invited Yoel to a meeting. I met Yoel after the meeting. He was very exiting and nervous. He told me: “Goods for blood and blood for goods”. Eichman was ready to give 1 million Jews for goods. But the Germans continued with the deportation of 10,000-12,000 Jews each day. Yoel asked to go to Kushta to talk to the representative of the “Jewish Agency”. He left on May 18, 1944. He was expected to meet Chaim Weizmann, but nothing happened.

11:44:30 Yoel told Eichman that if the Germans continued with the deportation, no body would believe him that the Germans were serious about their offer. Eichman said that you should step on the Jews’ wart and threatened Yoel that if he won’t come back his wife and kids would send to Auschwitz.

11:47:20 Kastner his wife and his mother, Yoel and Hanzi, Biss and his wife, all lived in a big apartment. We waited to get a positive answer from the committee in Kushta. Until July 8 the Germans finished all the deportation from Hungary except Budapest.

11:54:30 Hanzi suggested that Kastner would make the negotiation with the Germans, because he was a leader and she and Kastner had an affair. Revers does not understand why Kastner was later (in Israel) blamed as a traitor, since 80,000-100,000 Jews were rescue from Hungary thanks to him. His ambition was to save the Jews.

12:01:00 We knew that Yoel was hiding. We didn’t know where, but we were in a telephone contact.

12:09:00 We found out that there were British certificates in the Swiss Consulate. From Hungary went 1100 Jews and from Bratislava 170 Jews. Of-course among them was family members of Kastner and Brandt. Krauss was the head of the “Eretz-Israel” Bureau. He disappeared after 3.19 until May.

12:23:15 The motivation for the “Bergen-Belsen” train was to be a gesture to show that the Germans were truly serious about releasing some Jews. Kastner was not involved in who would get into the list for the train and who would not. We looked for wealthy people in order to pay the transporter. Offenbach was in charge of the currency and we had total trust in him.

12:50:38 The parachutist from Palestine arrived after the train went out. We heard of their plan to come to help us and to strength us morally. We all were against it. We didn’t meet Channa Senesh, but we met Yoel Palgi and Peretz Goldstein. We could not save them.

13:14:30 Channa’s mother asked Kastner to save her daughter. He didn’t want to get involved, because he was afraid it would interrupt the next train from going out.

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13:19:10 We knew about the cruelty towards Chana Senesh in the Magrit-Kelt prison, but we didn’t have contact with her.

13:28:20 We wanted to save some of our activists that were caught and detained in prison. We heard about a man, Marin, was his name who had contact with an officer in the prison and swore he could help us for 300 Napoleons. It was the end of December and we succeeded to save 17 people from the prison. They looked terrible and we could not recognize them.

13:40:00 After October 8, the shelling and bombarding became more frequent. Budapest was surrounded. It was a very cold winter. The bodies of the dead were frozen and it was impossible to bury them. We did not have electricity and water.

13:47:50 Lutz(?) was the Swiss consul. He was an extraordinary man. He succeeded to achieve the recognition of the Hungarian foreign affair ministry that people could be under his auspices and would get protection’s certificates (Schutzpassim). He saved 20.000 Jews. We forged this Schutzpassim and saved some additional 70.000 Jews.

14:08:00 In November the Germans confirmed the Transports.  
In the end of July I went to Bratislava with Schteger. I was told that I would meet Becher at the railway station. My cover mission was to buy 50.000 working shoes for the Hungarian army. I met my brother, my parents and Gizi Flieshman.

14:23:20 Schteger knew Kastner and Becher.

14:26:55 The International Red Cross wanted to save 5000 children and to move them to Switzerland. The head of the operation was Fredrick Born. He established "Department A", and Komoi who was the chairman of the Hungarian Zionist movement was the head of the department. After October 15, every Jew from age 16-60, had to go to a labor camp. People had to march to Vienna. It was the "death March" of the Budapest Jews. Many of them died on their way. The old people and the children stayed in the ghetto. We gathered the children in 34 homes and saved thousand children.

14:43:00 One day I got a message from the director of the Swedish Red Cross to come and meet her. She told me that a man came to her and ask to help the Jews. His name was Van-Harten. He was a Jew from Holland but he collaborated with the Nazis. His wife was from the Schoken family and they had two children. I told him that we need equipment for our children homes. We got everything I had asked for in two days. He asked if we need money. He gave us \$30.000 and 10.000 Sterling. We committed to pay back after the war. Later we learned that the money was false.

14:49:30 In the beginning of November, Schteger managed to bring my parents and my younger brother with his wife to Hungary. They lived in Britain Hotel with Nazis soldiers.

Van-Harten told me that he needed to leave Hungary. He was a banker and helped Becher. He showed me his food warehouse, his villa and his office and gave me all the keys. Until 1946 I didn't hear about him. Then I was told that he is in a prison in Italy.

15:08:30 My wife and my sister in law walked near the Britain Hotel. They saw a group of Jews led by Germans soldiers. The Germans asked them to join the group, because they looked Jewish. They were released after their passports were examined.

15:14:05 We moved to live in another apartment in a pension house. In front of the house was a hospital, the pathology institute and the army boarding school. The house was damaged from the bombs.

15:23:30 Schteger called me one day and asked me to save two Jewish girls he saved from the death march. He did so for 8-10 other girls.

15:37:00 When Kastner was in Switzerland he told me that Sali Mayer didn't agree to meet a German officer.

15:42:40 On January 15 I saw Russian soldiers in the hospital. Our house was bombed by a Russian shell and collapsed. We were saved. The Russians helped us a lot. They gave us food and found for us a new place to stay. But then came the Mob from Ukraine. They were drunk, and were busy with theft and rape. Three drunken men came to rape Noninka (my wife). They threatened me with a gun. We were lucky because an officer came and arrested them.

15:54:30 The situation got worst. We didn't have electricity and the dead piled up on the streets.

16:02:45 We were happy to know that the nightmare is behind us and the war was over. For five and a half years we were persecuted, we saw the injustice, the cruelty and dangers. The hope came back to our lives. We knew that our duty is to collect the young people and to build a new homeland.

16:23:00 The people who survived the war were broken. They lost everything.

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16:27:50 When we went out we saw the destruction and the ruin of the houses all over the city. After two days we found my parents and we moved them to live with us. It was a great joy and happiness. In the Red Cross we met with Hanzi and Offenbach. The population in Budapest suffered from lack of food. We arranged to bring food from Rumania and the rural area of Hungary to the children homes.

The Jewish community in Budapest was organized back to “normal” life relatively fast, 97% were assimilated Jews. Only the young people were interested in immigrating to Eretz-Israel.

16:44:09 In 1948 we made statistic test and we found out that: 20% of the children were orphans from both parents. 60% - were half orphans and 20% - found their parents. We had 1200 children in our children homes.

16:48:00 I ran the office which was responsible for the children homes. We had many departments in our organization as: Medical (two physicians, one physiologist and one psychiatrist). We had education department, supply department, transportation and statistic department.

16:58:50 Most of our budget came from the JOINT. Joe Schwartz arrived from the USA. He belonged to the AJDC. Like us he thought that we should move the children, as many as we can, to Eretz-Israel.

17:17:25 Jacobson from the AJDC came later. He didn't see our aim in the same eyes as we did. He put some pressure on us to close the office and the children homes as well.

In June 1948 the communists took the power in Hungary. I asked to resign. The number of the children homes was reduced from 60 at its maximum to 9. Tibor Shterenberg took my job. I remained in my duty in Aliyat-Ha'noar.

17:38:40 My grandmother was in a Christian hospital in Slovakia, where she died at age 88. My eldest brother survived the war and we all reunited in the Kibbutz Kfar Maccabi. My youngest brother came in 1947. My parents

in April 1949, and I and my family on May 25, 1949. We also found most of our family members in Hungary.

17:45:55 Noninka got pregnant during the end of the war. She gave birth to our daughter: Judith, in October 1945.

17:52:20 We moved again to a new house, where Hanzi and some other friends of us lived too.

18:03:30 We met some of the delegations from Israel as: Shayke Dan, Bobash and more. They brought us the new spirit from Eretz-Israel. Our mission was to bring the children to Israel

18:46:20 In 1947 our son Danny was born.

18:52:30 On May 15, 1948 when Israel was declared we celebrated and danced spontaneously in the streets. We had a new era: The problem of the Aliya (immigration) was solved for us. 600-700 children went on their way to Israel.

19:02:15 Nathan Schvalp and Ben-Ari came to our apartment at the end of November 1946, they asked me to organize the distribution of the money and the escape from Hungary. I told them that I have responsibility to my family and we decided to go to Israel, but I agreed on one condition. The minute I will feel insecure - I'll leave and go to Israel.

19:12:00 I had two deputies and we worked in conspiracy, in order to avoid problem from the new regime.

19:18:40 On one day the Zionist activist were arrested and they had trial in order to stop the Aliya.

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19:27:05 Telling about the journeys he did during his duty:  
He was invited to participate in the Zionist Conference in London in 1945, but there was no room on the plane.

19:31:20 In 1946 he was invited to participate in the conference of Youth Aliya in Versua in Switzerland. And he traveled to Rumania.

19:37:50 In 1947 he went to the Zionist conference in Carlsbad. It was a great experience and he filmed it in his 8 Millimeter camera. He also traveled to Theresienstadt.

19:43:30 In 1948 he traveled to a Youth Aliya conference in Holland in Zandport. He also traveled to Paris for a meeting with the Labor Party, where he met Pinchas Lavon. From Paris he went to meet Nathan Schvalp in Gemp in Switzerland and got money for Hachlutz movement.

19:53:50 On April 25, 1949 we left Hungary on our way to Israel. Noninka went with the kids on a train and I went with my car. I asked the police a return permit, so they won't suspected I'm running away. The officer who gave me the permit told me: "I am envy you, if I would have been you, I would not come back". We met in Vienna and went to Paris, where we stayed in a fancy hotel for 31/2 weeks.

20:07:00 Then we went to Marseilles and after 4 days sailed to Israel. We had a nice cabin on the ship. The Jewish Agency organized it. We arrived to Haifa on May 25, 1949. My father and my sister in law met us and took us to the Kibbutz. It was a big relief to leave the Diaspora behind us and to start a new life in our homeland.

20:14:50 In the Kibbutz they didn't have accommodation for us, so we lived in a small warehouse near the laundry. The kids had to go to the children home (Bait Yeladim) and it was very hard for our daughter.

20:23:00 I identified very much though with the Idea of the Kibbutz, which was very idealistic. We should be sorry for its failure. I didn't approve the boarding sleeping and I fought for family sleeping.

20:26:30 We were among the first families who ate dinner at home and not in the kibbutz diner.

20:29:00 Our third daughter, Noah, also suffered very much from the boarding sleeping, so we got a special permit ion for her to sleep with us at home. All our kids left the kibbutz.

20:36:00 I began to work as a janitor. Then I moved to work in the hen house and then to the field. I got meniscus, so I became a “nanny” in one of the Bait Yeladim and then I was asked to become the electrician for the kibbutz. I served in that job for 18 years.

20:51:40 During all my lifetime I was involved in two other subjects: The Holocaust and photography.

20:51:40 I took part in many committees in the kibbutz as: education, culture, and appointment. In 1968 I was asked to serve as the secretary of the kibbutz for 3 years.

21:04:00 Then I was asked to join a course for social workers for the kibbutz in Bait Berl for two years. When I finished my studies the war of “Yom Kippur” broke out and I served as the secretary of the kibbutz for two more years. Later I worked at “Kfar Tikva” (an institute for retarded children) as a social worker.

21:13:30 Telling about medical problems, he suffered from, about their accommodation in the kibbutz, and about his kids.

21:39:50 Many of my activities were connected to the Holocaust. I could not forget. I felt as a messenger who had the duty to tell what happened, to remind of the victims. I worked with many journalist, writers and movies makers. I gave lectures in schools, army and kibbutzim.

21:53:00 Many times I was asked to tell the truth about Kastner. Among the Hungarian Jews it made no deference, because they stick to their version: “It doesn’t matter how many Jews he saved, he didn’t save my family”.

21:58:40 About the Kastner trial:



I met with Kastner who was the spokesman for the “Tzena (=austerity) minister”. He told me about the allegations (false charges) against him that was made by Malckiel Grinwald from the “Mizrachi”. Shemuel Tamir who was the prosecutor had political motivation. It was a period of election. He wanted to use the catastrophe of Hungarian Jews in order to harm the labor party and its leaders.

Kastner paid with his life. It was injustice. The trial was a witch-hunt. Krause provided Tamir material about Kastner, where he accused him for collaborating with the Germans. Krause wanted the monopoly of saving Jews all for himself.

Kastner was a journalist, and as all journalists he rounded off the corners. He lost his credibility in his testimony. The climax was a letter he sent to the Nuremberg court, where he stood on Becher side. We didn't know anything about Becher's past. For us he was the only German who really wanted to help us. But in Israel it was not accepted to say something positive about a Nazi. Kastner cooperated with the Nazis for only one reason: Saving Jews.

22:19:30 Kastner was disappointed and broken. The trial was as in the Medieval Ages. It was as a lynch. Kastner didn't stand for what he did. He didn't say he did it because of his conscience. He collapsed. The judge also had a political / Ideology motives.

22:31:30 In my testimony I was investigated about the letter I wrote, when I found out that Kastner was to be appointed as the person in charge of the refugees. I thought that he was the suitable man for the job, because he was a snob in a way. I had to wait for him when we had meetings. He drank high quality cognac smoked the best cigars and ate the best chocolate and I didn't like it. But now, I see things differently. I can understand people who are under such a pressure, who needed those things. He was loyal to his job and to the Jews.

22:44:00 In my testimony about the parachutists, I told my version, but it didn't help Kastner.

Reves talked about a series of articles by Moshe Keren in Ha'aretz newspaper, where he argued that it is impossible to turn a history trial to a criminal trial.

The verdict of the trial was that Kastner collaborated with the Satan.

22:57:20 Kastner's daughter was persecuted in school, so she moved to live with us in the kibbutz for a while.

Yoel Brandt was afraid that he would also be blamed as collaborating with the Nazis. He also had a personal issue, because of the relationship between Hanzi and Kastner.

23:07:05 I had doubts that I didn't do enough. I didn't succeeded to shock the system.

23:15:00 The verdict of the Kastner trial was published in many copies, but the verdict of the supreme court, where he was acquitted was published only in some dozens copies.

23:27:15 I saw with satisfaction the change in the last ten years, with the revelation of the confidential English documents. Dr. Dinnur brought new documents in his book and contributed to the change. Creators of movies and theaters also showed the case in different angels.