

RG-50.120*128

Rodnitzky, Moshe

Tape 1 of 4

- 1.00 Born in 1923 in the village of Chinchian (??) near Vilnius. There were 5,000 Jews in the village. Describes his family. He was the oldest of 5. Father was a fruit distributor and was well-to-do. Describes his Jewish education in the village and after high school, one year at the technical school in Vilnius.
- 1.05 Describes life in the village, his education and participation in youth groups. When the Russians entered in 1939, all of the Jewish activities stopped. His father's business was destroyed and he moved to Vilnius. He remained in the village. In 1941, when the Germans entered, his cousin, Yischak Arad, fled to his village and told him what the Germans were doing to Jews. He tried to get his parents out of Vilnius, but he did not succeed.
- 1.23 When the Germans entered, the Lithuanians collaborated with them and killed Jews. The Germans took his father and brother to a labor camp and later killed them.
- 1.26 Later, all of the Jews from the small villages were sent to Poligon. He, his cousin Tolka, and three others escaped to Globuk??
- 1.29 Describes how he and his friends organized an underground unit and how they got weapons. He was sent by the Judenrat to work in an ammunition dump. A man from the Wehrmacht told them that when the Gestapo came, they would all be killed. He told them to escape and allowed them to take ammunition.
- 1.35 He knew that the Germans were going to exterminate the Vilnius ghetto and he, with five others, escaped to Globuk?? near the Russian border. Describes his group and their plans to escape to the forest to join the partisans.
- 1.48 Life in Globuk. Describes four months in the ghetto with his family. His mother, sister and cousin (Toka's sister) worked for the Germans. Tolka's sister saved his mother and sister and brought them back to Chincian.
- 1.56 He and his family went to the ghetto in Vilnius. Others were taken by train to Ponar.
- 2.02 Describes life in the ghetto. He worked as a gate watchman (part of the Jewish police) and let people in who came from the forest with weapons.
- 2.09 Describes life in the ghetto – the killing of Wittenberg; the ghetto underground; mentions Gestapo commander Weiss.
- 2.15 Describes the Jewish police.

- 2.24 Preparations to go to the Naroch forest to join the partisans. Describes his group of 10 and how they escaped and reached the forest after 12 nights.
- 2.32 Describes finding the partisan group under commander Markov who accepted them. Describes the attitude of the partisans toward the Jews. Anatoly Sudarikov was his captain. They were all taken to fighting units.
- 2.41 He and his unit went to Kazan forest where munition was dropped by the Russians. There were close to 100 people in his unit. The Jews wanted to prove that they were brave. He became the unit commander.
- 2.47 Describes his first action to kill a group of local collaborators and take their ammunition.
- 2.53 Describes the fate of the collaborators and Ukrainians killed by the partisans. Actions against German police groups. He killed 47 Germans, including Generals.
- 2.58 Describes 800 partisans who left the forest in the winter and stayed in villages. They fought everyday.
- 3.01 Winter 1943, after Stalingrad, the Germans were in the big cities and partisans prevented them from getting out. There were 25,000 partisans in units of 600. They destroyed 500 meters of railroad tracks. He was in the village of Mankowicze. Describes battle with Waffen S.S.
- 3.20 How they dealt with S.S. prisoners.
- 3.36 He is sent to Vilnius ghetto to bring 8 doctors.
- 3.48 Describes German money forging plant that they destroyed.
- 3.57 Describes how they got into the Vilnius ghetto.

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- 4.01 Describes his action to get 8 doctors out of Vilnius and to the partisans.
- 4.12 How he recruited the doctors and brought them to the forest – among them, Dr. Nissan Resnick. Describes the Wittenberg affair.
- 4.21 Aba Kovner did not let him take out his mother and little brother, and they were subsequently killed. Describes how he organized 50 people from the ghetto, including the doctors, and brought them to the woods.
- 4.47 Describes the German blockade of the forest. Sudarikov, his commander, to his unit and the doctors out of the forest. 32 were killed.

- 5.03 Return to the forest after the blockade. He heard that his sister and girlfriend were killed by the Germans. He organized his unit to take revenge on the village that had given them up. Describes destruction of the village and the killing of the entire population.
- 5.09 100,000 partisans from Belarus arrived with tanks and ammunition. They were sent from Moskau to kill 25,000-30,000 Polish collaborators. Describes the ruse to lure all of the officers together. They attacked and killed 2,000 to 3,000 and the rest tried to escape across the Vilya River. Describes the battle. On command from Moskau, they killed all of the partisans who had previously collaborated with Germans.
- 5.18 Describes going back to the forest to bring provisions to the group who had escaped the ghetto, but were not accepted by the partisans.
- 5.22 Winter 1943 – 44, he was assigned to take four wounded high communist officials (first secretary of party) through enemy lines to a small airport that would take them to Moskau. Describes his way there and back. He received a red star of courage.
- 6.18 He took a group of 500 partisans who had parachuted in, to the forest and trains them to survive.
- 6.27 Winter 1943, he led a group of partisans to the villages near the forest to survive on the food supplies of the villagers.
- 6.38 Describes the return to the forest with a stopover at villages, and how they were treated by villagers.
- 6.49 He met up with his old unit and reported back to Markov.

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- 7.01 After return to this unit, he tells them what had happened to him.
- 7.15 Describes the killing of Ukranian partisans who had been collaborators.
- 7.16 Describes the life of his unit in a large village.
- 7.17 Describes how he led Markov and four others to the airport behind enemy lines. Describes his return.
- 7.32 Operation at Oshmina railroad. Describes how he and a large group of partisans destroyed railroads, fuel tanks, and supply buildings.

- 7.43 Describes action to kill village collaborators who supplied food to the Germans and the Germans who came to take the supplies.
- 7.57 Describes operation to destroy bridges to make withdrawal of Germans hard.
- 8.01 Describes Russian tanks entering. He and all of the partisans from the Markov unit were in one village. NKVD ordered the partisans to be divided into ethnic groups. Russians ordered to kill all of the Ukrainian partisans who had once been collaborators. The Russian partisans who were escaped POW's were interrogated. Some were killed and some escaped.
- 8.12 Describes killing of Ukrainian unit. The rest of the partisans were recruited into the Russian army, including Moshe.
- 8.22 Describes his job in the army and weapons training. Describes the harsh winter of 1945.
- 8.27 Because of his knowledge of German, he was sent to an officers' course. After that, he was assigned to a fighting unit.
- 8.34 He is assigned to the front. Describes treatment of deserters.
- 8.37 April 1945, his unit moved into Berlin. Describes the destruction of Berlin. His job was to search for German officers and the Gestapo.
- 8.44 May 8, 1945, describes the victory parade in Berlin. He got permission to search for family.
- 8.49 He went by train to Warsaw, then Lodz, where he met his cousin Tolka at the Jewish community ?? He wanted to go to Palestine and went by Train to Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Austria and, then with the help of the Jewish Brigade, to Italy.
- 9.13 He spent 3-4 months in a camp near Milan. A cousin in the American Navy wanted to send him to the U.S., but he declined.
- 9.22 He got on a boat (the Enso Sereni) in Napoli. Describes the 2 weeks on the sea. The British discovered them and sent them to Atlit in December 1945.
- 9.26 The Palmach helped him to escape and took him to the Kibbutz Nve Eitan. Describes his work.
- 9.32 He was recruited as a football player by Hapoel in Petah Tikva. Describes his life and work in a factory.
- 9.46 Life and work in Petah Tikva. He joined the Hagana in 1947.

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- 10.02 Describes action with the Palmach in Abu Kishi.
- 10.07 He joined the army on May 8th and was sent to the Galil. Describes training unit of new immigrants. He was wounded in a training accident.
- 10.17 Describes stay in a hospital.
- 10.21 He returned to his unit. Describes the battle of Nebi Yusha – the killing of wounded and the rescue of children of Manara.
- 10.42 Describes the conquest of Zefat.
- 10.50 He was assigned to Harel unit and trained new immigrants.
- 10.55 He was released from the army in 1949 and got married and raised a family.