

RG-50.120 #0135
SHACHAR, YEHOASHUA

TAPE I

- 1.01 Background: This is the first time in 45 years that he talks about his holocaust experiences. He was born in 1925 in Debrecen, Hungary, the second of four sons. Describes his orthodox home and community life, including incidents of antisemitism.
- 1.09 Germans' entry: They entered Hungary in March '44. Father and brother were recruited into Hungarian services, but he was medically exempted. Describes in detail the increasing restrictions imposed on the Jewish community: humiliations, beatings, etc. Mother and three sons were suddenly forced to pack and pushed with others into crowded trains.
- 1.24 Vienna: Stopped in Vienna because of the war. Worked in school cleaning and farms in the area. Hard work but food was adequate. He describes seeing atrocities around him but developing an attitude as an automator caring about nothing, abandoning his religious beliefs, and only sticking to the family. As the Russians approached, thousands were made to march until they reached Mauthausen.
- 1.41 Mauthausen: Describes the camp, hunger, his mother buying a loaf of bread with a \$50 bill. His uncle appeared. A bad Jewish Capo was 'worse than animals'. On a truck to Gunskirchen he saw people cannibalizing corpses. He was separated from the family. Working among corpse-like inmates, his own state of mind was numb, acting only for survival.
- 1.54 Liberation: Describes the Germans' sudden disappearance and the entering Americans shocked encounter; his difficulty in normal eating. They were airlifted to hospitals for rehabilitation. Reuniting with mother and brothers. Escapes camp when Russians took over and returns to Vienna to contact JOINT agency. Finds family in Debrecen [August 20, 1945].
- 2.09 Immigration to Palestine: Told family he'd move to Palestine. Joined 'Hachshara' [preparatory training] in Budapest. By train to Constanza, with 3,000 others, on illegal immigration boat [made for 200]. Arrived in Palestine on April 6, 1946, but were caught by the British and interned at Atlit camp. Married a woman he met there in '47.
- 2.17 Describes his 'survival instinct' behavior during the previous years. Talks about his feelings regarding religion, his family and his children. 'End of part one - the Holocaust'.
- 2.35 Topics:

Atlit camp for illegal immigrants.....	2.36
Joined Kibbutz Nitzanim.....	
The War of Independence.....	2.39
Siege of Nitzanim, evacuation of women and children.....	2.41
The battle of Nitzanim, invasion by the Egyptian army.....	2.49
Being captured by the Egyptian.....	2.59
Nine months in Italian prisoners-of-war camp in Egypt, in detail.....	3.03
Liberation, return to Nitzanim and its rebuilding and rehabilitation...	3.41
Some reflections on survival.....to	3.55

END OF TAPE

TAPE II

- 3.05[sic!] German's entry: Basically, repeats description of events as in previous tape [reason unclear], except in greater detail.
- 3.29 Vienna: as above
- 3.42 Mauthausen: as above
- 3.52 Liberation: as above
- 4.04 Atlit internment: as above
- 4.05 Battle of Nitzanim: as above
- 4.10 Captivity in Egypt: as above
- 4.17 Liberation [from Egyptian captivity]: as above. Return home. Meeting uncle.
- 4.25 Reflections on giving testimony: kept quiet 45 years because he did not want to burden his children. Yoram convinced him to testify. Now he feels greatly relieved. Also told his children.
- 4.31 End of tape 2