

RG.50.120 #148  
SHPOONGIN, AVRAHAM

- 1.01 He was born in Latvia in the village of Yakovshtat near the river Drina in 1921. Describes the village with population of 5600, 800 Jews. Describes Jewish life in the village.
- 1.08 Describes his family who were middle class. He went to Jewish school and then to Latvian high school. Describes relationship between Jews, and political life.
- 1.19 In 1939 he went to study in Riga. In 1940 the Russians entered and closed all Zionist organizations.
- 1.26 Talks about Latvian history and Jewish history in Latvia.
- 1.31 In 1941 the Germans took Riga. All Jews had to register and got work assignments. He heard that all the Jews in his village had been killed.
- 1.37 Talked about his student life in Riga and later where he worked.
- 1.46 In August all Jews had to go to ghetto. Describes his lodging and work. The first Action was on November 30, 1941.
- 1.51 Talks about the Judenrat and Krechmer who was head. There were 30,000 Jews in the ghetto. Describes the 1<sup>st</sup> Action. Half the Jews were killed, 15,000 in Ramgola[?], Rambola[?] Rumbola[?]
- 1.57 After the Action he stayed in the little ghetto. Describes life and various people; in particular, Dr. Bedill. He worked on the train commando. Describes.
- 2.05 The ghetto was enlarged when German Jews were brought in. The second Action was in December 1941. 'Bloody Tuesday'. Mentions book by Hilda Sherman. Relationship between the sexes. Different Germans he interacted with.
- 2.14 Describes Rumbolas, food distribution, killings.
- 2.22 He remained in ghetto until '42, afterwards stayed in house near train station. Describes commander of ghetto, Sorge. Describes punitive actions.
- 2.28 Talks about what he knew about the underground.
- 2.31 Describes personality changes in people in the ghetto. Mentions Dubnov.

- 2.36 Talks about Captain Fogeler who saved 200 women, and other Germans and Latvians who saved Jews.
- 2.49 Sept. '43. 4 people escaped from work and, 8 were taken hostage. They were all taken to a transit camp in Kaiserwald. Describes conditions there.
- 2.56 He and 200 volunteered for work in Dundaga. Describes the work and conditions there. He stayed there for a year, from the end of '43-'44.
- 3.13 Describes what happened to transport of 299 young women from Hungary
- 3.17 He mentions incidents from the book he wrote.
- 3.28 When the Russian front advanced, he and a friend escaped and hid him in a peasant barn for 11 months, until May '45. Describes his life in hiding and the help of the peasants.
- 3.45 Describes the German surrender and his liberation.