

RG-50.120*0175 3 Tapes
ZABLUDOVITZ, PINCHAS

TAPE I

- 1.01.02 Pinchas was born in Poland on January 6, 1924. Mother's name was Leah Ciechanover. Father's name was Moshe Leib Zabłudovitz, and was born in Lomzha [under Russian rule then]. Father was a merchant in wood and coal, and had moved to Ciechanow a long time before.
- 02.53 His older brothers: Yosef, Mordechai and Noah could help the father already. Later came Nachman, and in 1924, Pinchas.
- 04.07 Father was well-to-do and helped his wife's brothers to emigrate to South America.
- 04.55 All the children were born at home. The family lived in a rented house of 2 rooms and a kitchen. The parents had one bedroom, 4 boys slept in the other one, and the rest in the kitchen - including a little girl, the 7th among the siblings. After her, two more children were born, but she was the only girl.
- 06.18 Education for the Jewish children was separate from the others. Pinchas studied a few words of Hebrew in the Yavneh schools, and then he attended a Talmud Torah. The children would spend the entire day there, until 8 p.m. The children would spend the entire day there, until 8 p.m. after 7th grade, the students could go to a technical school.
- 08.23 Before the beginning of the war, Pinchas studied to become an electrician.
- 10.19 There were 30,000 inhabitants in Ciechanow. Only 5,000 were Jews. There were constant conflicts with the Catholics. The Jews lived and worked in the 'Jewish street', Bereg Yoselevitz. The gentiles lived on Warshavska Street [so named because it was on the road to Warsaw]. The two groups wouldn't cross over, for the most part. Although, there was only one movie house and it was located on Warshawska Street. But the Jewish youth would only go as a group.
- 13.21 The only place the Jews could go - and only on Shabbat - was the fortress of the ----- Jadwiga, a beautiful park.
- 16.41 Pinchas' father helped the less fortunate Jews, until his situation didn't permit it any longer.

- 23.41 War breaks out on Polish Air Force Day, Sept. 1, 1939. When the planes came and started bombing, the residents were confused... until they understood that Germany was attacking Poland. The border with Germany was 70 km away. The Germans, which began the air attack at 8:30 a.m., entered the village at 12.30 p.m.!
- 26.00 In Pinchas' household, the two older brothers had left home for Palestine 1 1/2 years before the war. They promised to bring the entire family there, once they found work.
- 34.20 Another brother, Nachman, received papers from his uncles who were in Uruguay, and he also left.
- 43.58 The Wehrmacht gathered the Jews in the synagogue in Ciechanow and told them that they were safe as long as the Gestapo and the Hitler youth won't enter the town. Some fled, but the most religious stayed. Pinchas' mother remembered that the big cities had been spared during WWI. She had a sister in Warsaw, who had left the city and left there an empty apartment. Pinchas' family moved there.
- 48.49 They stayed in Warsaw for 3 weeks. In one of the air attacks, when the family had sought protection in the basement, the apartment was totally destroyed. They decided to return to Ciechanow.
- 53.28 Life under the severe restrictions of the Gestapo.
- 2.00.00 The family moves to the property of Noach's boss.
- 09.23 Pinchas is assigned to work for a German, responsible for the work of the other 3 youth which worked in his farm.
- 12.44 Treatment of the handicapped.
- 14.39 Pinchas' boss, Exner, changes his name to Ernest, which doesn't sound so Jewish.
- 16.16 Thanks to his job, Pinchas had a permit to move freely.
- 33.00 Pinchas' brother Noach is taken to prison for insulting a German who was beating up a Jew. Pinchas intercedes for his brother through Exner. After many months of cruel imprisonment, Noach was supposed to be hung with another 10 Jews. The hanging took place when Pinchas was at work. While doing errands in the city, another Jew approaches Pinchas and tells him, 'Blessed be God, who resurrects the death'. They he says, 'I saw your

brother in the streets.'

- 42.00 Pinchas is told by Exner that all the Jews are being sent to a work camp. Exner is willing to keep Pinchas, but he requests that the entire family stays, to which Exner cannot agree.
- 42.59 The deportation to Auschwitz, at the end of 1942. The trip took 3 days and 2 nights. [The transport took place in a comfortable passenger train.] 3,500 were deported. the other 1,000 had been sent earlier to a ghetto in Neustadt.
- 3.02.00 Pinchas relates an early attempt to flee to Russia, with his brother Noach, in a group of 25 Jewish youth. The Russians sent them back to Germany, after 2 weeks of imprisonment in a basement.
- 34.12 In Ciechanow, the Jews knew about ghettos, but never had heard of concentration or death camps, even when Auschwitz was being built in its proximity.
- 39.53 There were many youth movements in Ciechanow. With the advent of the war, they stopped functioning.
- 40.42 When the war started, it became clear that 2/3 of the population was Volksdeutsch.
- 46.43 It seems that handicapped from many cities were brought to that basement in Ciechanow, and executed there.

TAPE II

- 4.14.40 They were deported to Auschwitz on Nov.4, 1942. Arrival in Birkenau on Nov. 7. The distance from Ciechanow -----[last line cut off].
- 22.52 Pinchas' parents and younger children were taken away immediately. Only 600 entered the camp, out of a transport of 3,500! About 100 women were sent to a women's camp.
- 27.33 Pinchas and his 2 brothers were put in the same barracks.
- 29.21 The Slovakian Jews - who had preceded the Polish Jews in the camp - were in charge of tattooing the numbers on the new arrivals' arm. There were already over 73,000 Jews in the camp. The Catholics also had a number tattooed, but with an addition of a half star of David, to differentiate them from the Jews.

- 32.04 The disinfection - registration process.
- 33.45 Aaron[?] - Jews, criminal element were released from prison and sent to the concentration camp too. The color of the patches described their crimes.
- 42.40 Pinchas and his brothers went to work as electricians, in a group of 20. Their task was to finish the electrical work in Auschwitz.
- 48.17 Many of the wealthier Jews who had arrived from Holland and Belgium couldn't take the harsh conditions, and died soon. The Polish Jews were stronger, used to penury.
- 49.29 Pinchas' 2 brothers were inept as electricians; they were removed to work in harsh conditions in the train station.
- 56.22 A month after arrival in Birkenau, there were only 250-300 surviving Jews from Ciechanow. Some were transferred to other camps; many died.
- 59.07 After a month in Birkenau, transfer to Auschwitz.
- 5.00.00 The 'Canada' transport.
- 17.35 Pinchas lives in barrack number 16, with other technical people, and is sent to work as an electrician, to the new and modern laundry that had been built in Auschwitz.
- 20.29 Block #11, where torture took place.
- 27.38 Work in the laundry.
- 39.26 Block 10. Medical experiments.
- 6.04.00 Block 24, the 'aristocrats', the 'intelligentsia'. There, Pinchas managed to send his brother.
- 12.00 Description of the different blocks.
- 14.29 When cigarette butts were exchanged for bread, the cigarette recipients did not last; they died of hunger.
- 16.19 There were 600 prisoners in each block.

- 18.51 Pinchas' brother, Noach, managed to obtain extra rations, which were brought to Pinchas' barrack. He had a permanent group of people who came in the evening, to eat the extra food. All 3 brothers Zabludovitz were known for their selflessness.
- 22.45 Two weeks before leaving Auschwitz, Pinchas found out that his brother Noach was hoarding explosives, and that there was an underground.
- 35.39 The underground managed to blow up a crematorium.
- 44.49 In January 18, 1945, the Germans announced that the inmates were not going to work. They were marched, in correct formation, out of the camp, not to ever return.
- 50.57 The death march of about 80 km.
- 54.00 Noach, Pinchas' brother, wanted to run away. Pinchas persuaded him not to do so. It was 2 weeks before they left Auschwitz.
- 58.00 The story of Shimshon Eisen, the Israeli wrestler, who was with Pinchas in Auschwitz.
- 7.03.00 The surviving marchers are put on cargo trains, and traveled for 1 1/2 - 2 days. Crowded conditions. Deaths on the train.
- 04.22 Arrival in Gross-Rosen.
- 05.43 Transport to Dachau.
- TAPE III
- 18.00 The women's barracks at Auschwitz.
- 36.57 Dachau, a vacation place for rich Germans. Organization of the prisoners in the camp. February 1945 - no work there. It was like a quarantine camp. Only the dead were put in the single crematorium.
- 43.22 Pinchas' older brother, uncle and cousin are taken to work in a different camp.
- 44.07 2 weeks later Pinchas' younger brother was befelled by a high fever. He was taken away.
- 45.00 2 weeks later Pinchas also has a high fever, and is taken to the sick barracks.

- 48.00 Encounter with his younger brother , who had been diagnosed with intestinal typhoid and was about to die. Pinchas manages to save his brother..
- 52.59 The brothers were in the hospital until the end of March [?].
- 53.41 End of April, the front approached Dachau. The gates are opened, again they were loaded on trains, stopped by destroyed railroads. Survivors are brought to the Tyrol mountains by the Germans - who, in a state of confusion, didn't know what to do with the inmates.
- 57.00 Pinchas, his brother and a few other friends decided to flee, under cover of night, towards the valley. The Germans, who had taken inmates, began shooting. Hundreds were murdered. Pinchas and his group managed to escape in time!
- 8.01.10 American tanks approached. It was May 1, 1945.
- 02.49 Encounter with a Jewish-American soldier, Polish born [in Chelm].
- 5.25 The survivors were given 3 days to do what they wanted in the rich German homes of Dachau. They wanted only bread. After 3 days, they were put in army camps, where they were interviewed by the allies. They also received foods from the army rations, too rich for people who were starving. Dozens died.
- 10.23 Search for the other brother, Noach, in Mildorf.
- 13.20 Their reunion with Noach, and also with they uncle and cousin.
- 14.55 Pinchas, 2 older brothers, who had left Europe before the war, for Israel, were in the Jewish Brigade.
- 20.00 Encounter is emotional, funny.
- 33.18 After a couple of weeks, the older brother took his 3 surviving ones to tour Italy in a military car. After 3 weeks they came to the older brother's military base where another brother, Mordechai, was waiting. The reunion.
- 36.36 A big party was thrown by all the units in the base to celebrate the reunion and the survival of the Zabłudovitz brothers.
- 38.00 Pinchas suffers a breakdown during the celebration. It took hours to calm

him down.

40.00 Plans begin to materialize to go to Israel.

41.55 Obtaining fake passports as British soldiers.

45.00 Arrival in Port Said, Egypt.

46.37 The railroad trip from Port Said to Rechovot, in then Palestine. The railroad cut through the city itself, so that the speed was very slow. The brothers jumped off the train during that section of the trip. It was the eve o Rosh Hashanah, 1945.

48.37 The 'absorption' in Israel. The Israeli army. Pinchas was enlisted in 1948. Independence War.

55.00 Pinchas credits his survival from Auschwitz to a divine miracle.

58.00 Reflection on his parents' and 3 younger sibling' extermination.