

RG-50.120.0206 3 Tapes  
TSUR, YA'AKOV

I

- 1.00 He was born Kurt Cierer in Ostrava in 1925. Gives his parents' history. His parents divorced in 1934. He stayed with his father who was a factory owner. He went to the Jewish school in Ostrava, elementary and high school. Describes school.
- 1.10 He joined the Blue-White youth movement. Describes activities and names leaders.
- 1.15 March '38, the annexation of Austria and rumors of war. He went to live with his mother in Sudeten and went to school in Carlsbad which was one of the centers of the Nazi party. When the Sudeten was annexed to Germany, the Jews moved to Rokycany. He and mother also moved there and went to the local school.
- 1.26 On the 15th of March the Germans entered Ostrava. There was no opposition and life went on as before.
- 1.33 Jews tried to get out. Mother went to Palestine with Aliya Bet. He was in a group of children scheduled to go to England when the war broke out in '39. This was cancelled.
- 1.36 Talks about a German organization that offered to transfer Jewish money to Switzerland. They gave part of it to the Nazi party. Jews were afraid to do it.
- 1.41 His family [father] moved to a town near Prague. He went to school and joined Aliyat Hanoar.
- 1.49 Anti Jewish laws were enforced. Describes his life in the youth movement.
- 1.52 October '39. 1260 Jews from Ostrava were transported to Poland 2 uncles were transferred to the Russian area. Those who were sent to Siberia were saved.
- 1.56 They heard about what was happening in Poland and about the concentration camps but did not believe it would reach them.
- 2.07 May '40. Father worked for a company called Monopol which sent him on business to Yugoslavia, Greece, and Bulgaria. He sent money to mother in Israel.
- 2.16 Sept.'41. Jews were ordered to wear yellow patch. Father got Danish

- papers by his company. Oct. '41 6,000 Jews were transported to Lodz.
- 2.21 People were sent to ghetto Terezien. In '42 they heard about killing of Jews in Kiev and the transports to Riga.
- 2.32 Heydrich was killed in Prague and all non registered Jews were arrested. Lidice was destroyed and mass executions were taking place.
- 2.44 '41. Father went to Persia and Syria. His company tried to get money to smuggle Jews to Syria and Lebanon. His company also did business with Germans, was also involved in black market. In Dec '42 father was arrested and later released.
- 2.56 They heard in Oct. '42 that transports from Terezien were sent to Auschwitz and were scared. Describes his work mending suitcases taken from Terezien.
- 3.04 How the Germans financed the transports and camps.
- 3.09 Heard about the Warsaw uprising.
- 3.15 Jan. '43. 7,000 people from Terezien were sent to Birkenau and killed.
- 3.18 He, father and his wife were sent to Terezien in Aug. '43. Father became responsible for the organization of life in Terezien. Describes the arrival of children from Bialystok. The mood in Terezien.
- 3.33 De. '44. He and father were sent to Auschwitz Birkenau. Describes initiation and life in camp.
- 3.46 He is sent to a camp in Heidelberg. Describes transport to the gas chambers. Talks about Mengele who saved them from the transport. Describes him as a decent man who saved twins and doctors.
- II
- 4.01 Shows letters his father sent from Turkey.
- 4.07 Repeats story about Mengele and how he saved twins, doctors and women from transports and how this was done.
- 4.21 Reasons that the Nazi save Terezien; more about Mengele.
- 4.29 How people were saved through connections and more about Mengele.
- 4.40 Why there was no uprising.

- 5.02 What his father told him about the Monspol firm.
- 5.11 Describes the children's' house.
- 5.14 The escape of Lederer the Black Alteste and how his father was implicated. Peske also escaped.
- 5.25 May 3rd. Transport from Terezien arrived in Auschwitz. Peske was caught. He and father were interrogated about it.
- 5.32 The younger people lived together in a group his father was suspected by the inmates and beaten up. [?]
- 5.37 Lederer was caught and sent to Terezien.
- 5.43 Father's work at Monospol.
- 5.45 Talks about Willie Brachman.
- 5.46 End of the camp. June 30 there was another selection. He passed but his father didn't. The first 1,000 were taken to 'work' but were killed. He was taken to camp Schwarzheide. Describes camp, work and bombings by the allied forces.
- III
- 6.01 Repeats about the allied bombings and flyers.
- 6.06 Jan, Feb. The Russian front was near. Feb.'45 they were taken to Sachsenhausen through a destroyed Berlin. Describes the camp, his work and the gypsies' camp.
- 6.17 Describes work to bury victims of Berlin bombardments and then to disable unexploded bombs in Oranienburg.
- 6.27 April '45. The sick from Terezien came to Auschwitz. They were all taken on a march. The Red Cross came and gave them food. In the beginning of May the Germans ran away.
- 6.35 Describes meeting the American army. Was taken to DP camp. Describes life in camp and people.
- 6.39 He was sent to DP camp in Hamburg and from there to Prague to find his family.
- 6.45 He goes by train to Budapest and then to Italy. Describes the trip and the people he meets. Describes meeting the Jewish Brigade.

- 6.55 Adds details about camp Schwarzheide and the people he met there.
- 7.01 The Brigade took him to Rome DP camp.
- 7.10 From Rome by train south to Capo de Luca DP camp. Israel Gutman organized a kibbutz there. Describes.
- 7.17 He joined the 'Bricha' organization and forged papers for the aliya. The black market in Italy.
- 7.27 Talked about political parties in camp.
- 7.41 His work forging papers.
- 7.45 Spends 3 1/2 months in Nolantola getting ready for aliya, then to Carrara and by boat to Palestine. 800 people on boat. Boat breaks down and the British take them to camp in Famagusta. Describes life in camp.
- 7.59 The waiting list for quota entry visas. How decisions were made.
- 8.06 Dec. '46. He went to Israel to camp in Atlit and then to kibbutz Naan. His adjustment to Israel.
- 8.15 He joined the Haganah and then the Palmach.
- 8.23 Describes actions he took part in.