

RG-50.120 #0220 2 Tapes  
FRISTER, ROMAN [also wrote autobiography]

TAPE I

- 1.01 He was born in 1928 in Bilski, Poland. He was an only child. Describes his parents and the Jewish school he attended.
- 1.05 Describes Beitar Youth group and camp. He was in 5th grade when the war broke out and the family moved to Chelm.
- 1.08 Describes the 1937 pogrom in Bilsko. In 1938 trains with refugees from Germany arrived. Describes how they were received by the Jewish community.
- 1.14 Describes the social life of his family who were assimilated Polish Jews.
- 1.29 In August 1939 the family went to Chelm. Describes bombardments when the Germans came. From Chelm they went to Zdolbunov in the Ukraine. Describes the orthodox Jewish community. On Sept. 17 the Russians entered.
- 1.40 The family went to Lvov and stayed there until the summer of '41 and he went to a Polish school
- 1.49 In the summer of '41, when the Germans invaded Russia, a Protestant priest gave them forged papers and converted them. Mother worked for an SS man as a secretary. They moved to a village Sochovola and father also worked for the SS.
- 1.54 The SS discovered that they were Jews and they escaped to Krakow. They lived with his grandmother and their Polish maid who helped them.
- 2.04 In June 1942 he worked as a messenger and was befriended by the wife of an SS man who told him about her brother who killed Jews and sold their jewelry.

- 2.10 Mother had forged papers and worked in a German casino. Father was hiding out. Describes his friendship with a Jewish boy whose father was hiding Jewish refugees and then handing them over to the police for money.
- 2.19 A friend took the family to Garliza Duchovna [?] to save them. They returned to Krakow and pretended that they were Poles escaping the Germans. Mother returned to work in April 1943.
- 2.25 Describes the destruction of the Krakow ghetto. He was caught by the gestapo and the whole family was arrested. They were interrogated by Wilhelm Gunde. When mother referred to a prior agreement she had with him, he shot her in his presence. He and father were sent to Plazow.
- 2.40 Describes visiting his grandparents in ghetto Krakow and getting them out to their daughter in a village. They all suicided when the Germans came.
- 2.52 Meets his father in camp Plazov and tells him how his mother was killed. After 3 months, end of summer 1943, he was transported to camp near Radom and worked in a steel Sterkoviza factory. How he learned to survive. He knew about Gett. Describes his work and living conditions in Sterkoviza.
- 3.15 Father died of typhoid. Their relationship.
- 3.25 End of 1944. A group in the camp organized an escape. He escaped with them to the forest, where they joined a partisan group. When the Nazis followed them, the partisans killed all the escaped group. He was not with them at the time and was the only one who survived.
- 3.35 He tried to make it on his own but could not manage and returned to the camp. When the camp was abolished, he was taken to Auschwitz. Describes escapes during the train ride. Arrival in

Auschwitz and initiation.

- 3.47 Describes episode when Gett tried to shoot him.
- 3.52 Describes stay in Birkenau and the gypsy camp nearby.
- 3.57 Describes state of mind and the mental break-down of his friend.

## TAPE II

- 4.00 He volunteered for work as an engraver and was taken to work in a weapons factory ion Swentachovitze. He stayed in camp Auschwitz 3 near the factory. Describes learning the work from a Polish coworker who saved him.
- 4.15 Describes life in the camp, protected by his Polish coworker. He returned to Poland in 1947 and met the man's mother.
- 4.23 Describes Hungarian man in the camp, protege of the camp captain, who made sculptures from bread and had a group of boys who helped him. He was gay and took advantage of the boys. Describes being raped by him.
- 4.42 Describes the physical and mental torture endured in the camp and how he fought it.
- 4.48 End of 1944. They were taken by train to Mauthausen. Describes the train ride, arrival at the camp, initiation and conditions in camp. Despair.
- 4.59 Suicides and murder in the camp.
- 5.03 He is taken by train to work as an engraver to camp Savgenberg near Vienna. Describes the underground factory where he worked the night shift.
- 5.12 A civilian worker on the day shift left him a newspaper from which he learned about the approaching end of the war.

- 5.15 April 1945. The factory closed and they were taken on a 14 day death march. How he survived.
- 5.32 They were marched back to Mauthausen. He collapsed and woke up in the sick barrack. Describes cannibalism.
- 5.42 5th May. Describes liberation by Americans. He was hospitalized for TB and dysentery. When the hospital was taken over by the Russians, he leaves. Describes his survival methods.
- 5.54 In the fall of '45 he goes by train to Bratislava and is hospitalized there for advanced TB, paid for by the Jewish Agency. Describes making a deal with doctor to leave the sanatorium.
- 6.05 Describes his methods of survival. In 1947 he revisited Poland.
- 6.10 Adds to life in camp Sterkowiza. Describes Lager Alteste Vilchek, head of the ordnungs-dienst and his cruelty. He was killed by the prisoners at the end of the war.
- 6.25 Thoughts of revenge after the war. In 1964 he was a witness at the trial of Gunde, who had murdered his mother.
- 6.35 Talking about his Holocaust experiences.
- 6.40 He wrote an autobiography focusing on the dark side of behavior, elicited by the war, in himself and others.