

RG-50.120 #0243            2 Tapes  
GELER, YA'AKOV

TAPE I

- 1.01 Ya'akov [Y] Geler was born in 1924 in Klezyc, Poland. Describes family. Father was a tailor. 4 children in the family. Religious home, yeshiva, friends and youth groups he belonged to.
- 1.10 His family's attitude towards Palestine. Relations with neighbors.
- 1.15 In 1939 Russians entered town. Life under the Russians between 1939-41.
- 1.24 They did not know that a war was on. Refugees who came to town from Poland.
- 1.33 In 1944 the German army entered. Describes what happened. The killing of 34 Jews, and anti-Jewish laws.
- 1.43 Describes Judenrat and their activities.
- 1.46 1st Action on 10/30/41. 380 people were killed. Describes the Action during which his father was killed. Creation of ghetto.
- 1.59 Describes life and work in the ghetto. Smuggling of food.
- 2.17 What they knew about groups in the forest.
- 2.21 Health services in the ghetto. The Jewish police.
- 2.30 The burning of houses by the Jews in the ghetto when the Germans attacked.
- 2.33 Describes the first Action in the ghetto, the mass killings.
- 2.41 Talks about the Judenrat and SS man Koch.
- 2.50 The despair and hopelessness in the ghetto.
- 3.00 His nightmares and feelings in the present.
- 3.10 Describes the destruction of the ghetto and his escape to the forest.
- 3.31 Describes life in the forest.

- 3.40 His relationship to a friend, Isaac, who guided him through the forest.
- 3.42 Life in Baranovitz, where he had escaped before the forest.
- 3.51 Describes his escape to the forest with a group of 13, looking for partisans.

#### TAPE II

- 4.01 1942. Life in the forest. How they joined the partisans. The Polish leader was Pogachov.
- 4.16 Russian parachutists organized them and gave them weapons.
- 4.20 Describes Actions he participated in.
- 4.25 His feelings and motivation while with the partisans.
- 4.27 The role of women in his group.
- 4.36 Describes actions accomplished and also failed.
- 4.44 Meeting with German collaborators and their actions.
- 4.47 Describes more actions, killing of Germans, the burning of villages of collaborators.
- 4.56 Bringing people out of Baranovitz to the forest. Mentions names.
- 5.04 Social life in the forest.
- 5.07 When the Russian front reached them, they left the forest and were recruited into the Russian army.
- 5.10 The partisan group was always sent first in attacks on the Germans. In one attack almost all the partisans were killed. Describes the burning of German villages, plundering and rape.
- 5.17 Describes attack on and destruction of Berlin.
- 5.19 He went with the army to Hungary, Austria and back to Germany until his discharge in 1946.

- 5.21 Interrogation by the NKVD.
- 5.21[?] After his release in 1946 he returned to Baranovitz to look for his family and was told that they had all died.
- 5.29 He went to Lodz, joined 'Ichud' party and tried to get to Palestine. On the boat he met a cousin who told him that his mother had survived.
- 5.35 The British caught his boat, Theodore Herzl, and brought them to Cyprus.
- 5.41 Describes incident of having been taken prisoner by the Germans, and his escape.
- 5.50 He reached Israel in 1949 and joined the army. Describes a difficult period of adjustment. Gets married to another survivor.