

RG-50.120 #0254
ISRAEL MILLER

- 1.01 Israel Miller was born in January, 1922, in the village of Hanusouce nad Toplov, in the Slovak Republic. His was a family of 8. One of them died of TB at the age of 24. Until 1942, 4 of the children [2 boys and 2 girls] were married. Parents had a general store.
- 3.10 In 1938, Slovakia was incorporated into Hungary. One married brother, father of 7 children, was taken to work. In 1944 they were deported to Auschwitz. His married sister, mother of 3-4 children, was also taken there, after her husband had disappeared. Israel's older brother and his parents were also taken, to Poland, whereabouts unknown, when Israel was not home. That brother, with his wife, had 3 children.
- 4.17 Until the age of 13 he studied in the local public school and the 'cheder'. Then he attended the yeshiva in his town. After 6 months in the yeshiva at Suruny, he took a break, and then, at end of 1938 studied in another yeshiva in Galanta. In 1939, Galanta was also annexed to Hungary; then began the restrictions.
- 7.36 Israel doesn't remember overt anti-Semitism until the war. Mother was the 'doctor' of the town: was able to help sick people with advice. Father extended credit to the non-Jews, never demanding payment.
- 10.14 Until 1942, when Israel fled from home, he doesn't have many memories. There was disorganization, the yeshiva was dissolved, he was sent to work building roads and railroads for the Nazis. The physical work was very tiring.
- 12.32 In 1939 or 1940, while he was at work, the synagogue was burned down: nothing in it remained. It was the eve of Yom Kippur.
- 14.46 Until 1942, no one knew about Auschwitz or what was happening in Poland.
- 14.49 Passover 1942, he left the home for Hungary, with a friend. His escape.
- 23.17 In Budapest, he was taken to jail, physically abused, and then he was returned to Slovakia, to Zilina, to a work camp.
- 23.40 September 1942, before Yom Kippur, he was taken to Auschwitz together with 1,000 others. It was the next to last 'transport' from there. A sister managed to see him off and gave him \$100.
- 31.26 Arrival in Auschwitz. Maybe 4-5 survived out of the 1,000. Processing there. Work, life - friendships.
- 35.57 Israel found out still in Hungary that his parents had been deported.
- 2.05.26 Israel managed to get work in the DAW, and indoor plant that manufactured and fixed a variety of items. He stayed there until liberation. Israel credits his work there for his survival.

- 20.00 Israel talks about his belief in God, during and after Auschwitz. He, an observant Jew, never had doubts about his belief in God. He doesn't have any answers. Neither do those whose faith was shaken during the war. However, Israel thinks he won and not Hitler, as he was blessed with 50 grandchildren.
- 22.41 More about his work at DWA.
- 24.37 In 1943, the situation in Auschwitz improved.
- 26.01 When the Hungarians arrived, in 1944, he came into a better situation.
- 27.22 His sister arrived in Birkenau in 1944. She came pregnant, denied it, and later gave birth. She survived the camps.
- 33.33 In January the news arrived that the Russians were approaching. Everyone was evacuated from the camp. They were put on trains and taken to Mauthausen. Describes life there. Work in Vienna, removing the ruins from the bombardment.
- 41.18 Moving to a camp near Vienna, where they were finally liberated.
- 47.49 Life afterwards, with nowhere to go. Going to Budapest. Arrival on May 1.
- 50.30 Going home to Slovakia, where he recuperated. One of his sisters also survived. He was set up with a girl. They married. Arrived in Israel in 1947. First steps in Israel. Fighting in the Israeli army in 1948.
- 55.00 His view on Eichmann.