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Hurwitz, Cipora

### **Tape I**

- 1:01 Cipora Hurwitz was born Fedunia Rosenstein in 1933 in Hrubieszów, Poland. Family was upper middle class. Father owned a large shoe store. She had two older brothers.
- 1:04 Describes happy childhood. She went to Jewish school. Describes town and social life.
- 1:19 October 14, Germans entered town, then Russians. Describes entry of Germans and violent behavior, breaking and plundering.
- 1:24 Describes entry of Russians who were not violent. There were Jews among the soldiers. Father was advised to leave, but did not want to.
- 1:27 Re-entry of Germans. Father gave his store to a Polish friend.

### **New segment**

- 1:01 Childhood memories.
- 1:04 Germans announced that all men looking for work would be helped to cross to Russia for employment. Most Jews went and were taken on a death march. Her young brother also went.
- 1:13 Father bribed a Volksdeutsche and was able to rescue his brother and cousin and then smuggled her brother into Russia.
- 1:18 Father was taken to prison by the Gestapo, then transferred to Lublin and condemned to death. Mother was also arrested, and Tzipora went to stay with an uncle.
- 1:22 Father and mother were released, and they all moved to the ghetto.

### **New segment**

- 3:00 Describes difficult life in the ghetto.
- 3:07 Father became member of the Judenrat. Talks about the functions of the Judenrat.
- 3:12 Describes “actions.” Those who went were taken to Sobibor. Her family made a hideout in their house.

- 3:24 The Germans declared the town “Judenreini.” Her family went into hiding. Germans arranged a small camp in town “the Zoo” for Jews who had remained to clean up the houses and bury the dead. Father joined and was able to bring food to their hide out.
- 4:00 Repeats description of hide out.
- 4:05 Germans discovered the hide out and everybody was taken out. She describes her escape, joining her father and staying in a different hide out.
- 4:20 Describes her thoughts and feelings.
- 4:28 Fate of her younger brother. All 16-year olds were told to dig graves and were shot.
- 5:01 Her parents were taken in an “action” to Majdanek, and she joined aunt in a small work camp. Dr. Orenstein saved her by arranging for her to work in the kitchen. She was made up as a grown up.
- 5:15 Everybody was taken by train to Camp Budzyn.
- 5:24 Describes camps. She worked in the kitchen.

### **New segment**

- 1:00 Repeats story about their move to the ghetto and her father’s illness.
- 1:05 Started Polish school but then stopped because of anti-Semitism. Joined Jewish Hashomer Hatzair group.
- 1:16 Adds to story about life in the hide out.

### **Tape II**

- 7:00 Memories of life in the Ghetto.
- 7:03 Describes Camp Budzyn.
- 7:08 Describes initiation, showers, body searches, and barracks. Population consisted of women from all over Poland.
- 7:11 Describes two Jewish kapos who treated them decently.
- 7:17 Describes a typical day in camp. Public punishments and how it affected her.

- 7:24 Her work in the kitchen and extra food.
- 8:00 Describes hardships of camp and her survival.
- 8:06 Describes factory for airplane spare parts near the camp, near Lublin. Men who worked there had special privileges and were able to bring extra food to the barracks.
- 8:18 Rumors about Russian advance spread and they were transported to concentration camp, in Budzyn.
- 8:15 Describes her relationship with aunt and cousin who were with her.
- 9:00 Tells of incident of men digging a tunnel to forest, being discovered and shot.
- 9:14 The camp was closed, and people were transported to different camps. Children and elderly were sent to Majdanek.
- 9:20 Describes train ride to Lublin and then by truck to Majdanek. Describes arrival and initiation.
- 10:00 Camp was divided into six "Fieldsii" and prisoners were kept in separate groups. She joined a group of Jewish Dutch women.
- 10:06 Day they left Budzyn, Germans killed all remaining Jews, also from other camps. 19,000 Jews were killed, including her father.
- 10:15 Describes her stay in the Dutch barrack with 10 children.
- 10:24 Describes her work in the central laundry of Majdanek. One of her tasks was to sort out the clothes and to find any valuables they contained. The Germans then sent to Germany.
- 11:00 Russian prisoners were sent to work in the surrounding Polish villages. They liked the children and brought them food from the villages.
- 11:13 Her barrack was near the crematorium, and she describes the large piles of eyeglasses, hairbrushes, etc. around the barrack.
- 11:17 She stopped working in the laundry and was sent to work in the fields where the Germans grew strawberries.
- 11:23 The Russians advanced and there were air raids. They were told to go to shelters. The Germans burned all their papers to destroy evidence.

- 12:01 They were marched out of the camp. There were air battles between the Germans and Russians. The Germans jumped into the ditches along the road.
- 12:15 Describes march north. She as totally exhausted and collapsed. Two political prisoners, who had escaped, carried her to a peasant's house.
- 12:21 Describes the peasant family who nursed her and wanted to adopt her.

### **Tape III**

- 13:00 Describes again her two week stay with the peasant family. When there was danger of German searches, they packed her up to go to Lublin and join other Jews. Russian soldiers gave her a ride on their truck.
- 13:08 Describes devastation in Lublin. She knocked on many doors and was repeatedly rejected until a woman took her in.
- 13:11 Describes difficulty in finding Jews, until she found a group of three community workers who took her to a Polish orphanage.
- 13:19 Describes orphanage run by nuns who tried to proselytize her. Went to Polish school.
- 14:00 Talks about source of her inner strength and her disappointment in being neglected by the Jewish community. Finally, a Jewish woman takes her into her house.
- 14:10 She meets man from Ciobiskis who takes her back there. Gertel, an old family friend, takes her in. Went back to school where she was the only Jew.
- 14:21 She declined Gertel's offer to adopt her.
- 14:24 She went back to Lublin and entered a Jewish orphanage run by the Red Cross. Describes life in the orphanage and school.
- 15:00 Continues to describe life in the orphanage.
- 15:07 Meets her aunt and cousin who survived the camps.
- 15:09 The orphanage relocated to Peterswaldau. Describes the train ride and the excellent conditions of the new location.
- 15:18 Describes the children taking their anger out on the German workers at the orphanage.

- 15:22 Describes school. Later on, her aunt came to take her back to Ciobiskis. From there she went to school in Lodz.
- 15:29 Talks about the different Jewish political parties trying to enlist the children. She went to Hashomer Hatzair and joined their kibbutz.
- 16 :00 Describes the kibbutz, the many survivors from camps and repatriates from Russia who lived there. They were preparing to go to Palestine.
- 16: 19 Describes her travels to Palestine by truck through Czechoslovakia. She was joined by her uncle who brought her pictures of her family.
- 16:25 Describes the difficulty in crossing of the Carpathians.
- 17:00 Describes camp in Bratislava and then the train ride and arrival in Tornbad Germany and the camp kibbutz there.
- 17:06 Describes having foot surgery in a hospital then going back to camp. Describes life in the camp: school, drama club, social life.
- 17:19 Transfers to Bad Reichenhall and from there by train to Bergen Belsen in 1947.
- 17:27 Describes a commemoration at Bergen-Belsen and a kapo who was caught at the ceremony.
- 18:00 More about the camp at Belsen, where she waited for departure to Palestine.
- 18:05 Describes travel by truck and then train to Marseille.
- 18:12 Describes very difficult boat ride to Palestine.
- 18:17 Describes her feeling when she arrived in Israel. She went to Tel Aviv and stayed with her aunt.
- 18:26 Adjustment to Israel and her wish to join a kibbutz.
- Tape IV**
- 19:00 Describes stay at her aunt's house. Shares childhood memories and shows family photos.
- 19:14 After many difficulties by Israeli authorities, she is allowed to join kibbutz Beit Zera, where she meets people she knew in Poland.
- 19:19 She establishes contact with brother in Russia.

- 19:23 Describes life in Beit Zera and how the camp children were segregated from the kibbutz children and not treated as well.
- 20:19 At 17, she joined the Nachal and then army. She worked as a trainer/teacher and liked it.
- 20:26 Talks about her life later on. She thinks that the Holocaust experience did not make her life different from that of other Israelis.
- 21:00 She shows photos of Poland.
- 21:06 Talks about her return visit to Poland.