

RG 50.120*0283
Efrat, Michal – 2 Tapes

Tape I

- 1:01 Birth name was Evelina Shlachet. She was born in 1927 in Ostrava and made Aliyah in 1949. She lived in Givat Chaim. Describes her feelings about giving testimony.
- 1:04 Family was upper middle class. Her father owned a chocolate store. Her parents were very busy, and a baby sitter raised her. She went to a Czech school and hated the German language and Germans since childhood. She went to dance school and wanted to become a dancer.
- 1:14 Her feelings about being Jewish. Her brother, who was four years older, introduced her to the Zionist movement. Describes activities of the group
- 1:19 In 1938 when Germans took the Sudeten, she was sent to a family in Moravia, but later came back.
- 1:20 When Germans came, the anti-Jewish laws limited their freedom and humiliated them. Describes her feelings.
- 1:25 In 1940 her father's store was taken. All Jewish men from Ostrava, including her father, were sent to Poland. Her mother went to Warsaw and she remained with her grandparents. Her brother went to Hachsharah (training for kibbutz life).
- 1:27 She and four girl friends joined a youth group. Describes their activities and shows photos.

(New tape)

- 2:00 Shows more photos. She was learning skills to help her survive. Describes the food shortages and the beginning of transports. Her father was sent to Nisko, supposedly to build a camp for Czechs. Only 300 out of 1,000 returned from there, including her father. Her mother also returned.
- 2:07 She attended a school of Aliyat Ha-noar in Prague, and then returned to Ostrava.
- 2:12 What they knew about Jews in Austria and Germany, the ghettos, and transports.
- 2:14 September 1942 she was on a transport to Terezin. Describes the train ride and arrival.
- 2:20

She and her four girl friends were housed in “Dresden.” Describes her life and work in agriculture. Felt it was a good experience.

(New tape)

- 3:00 Describes the fate of the elderly in Terezin. Her father died of a heart attack.
- 3:05 Talks about hunger and food.
- 3:10 Art in Terezin and education.
- 3:22 Her relationship with her brother and her romantic relationships.
- 4:00 Daily routine. She met mother every evening. Other relationships and activities.
- 4:05 Describes 1943 the transport by train to Auschwitz. The shock of arriving at the Rampa and the initiation.
- 4:20 She was sent to the “family” camp with mother. Was in block 6. (Describes barracks and accommodations. Arno Bohm was the commander.)
- 5:00 Describes how work was assigned. Had to carry heavy rocks. The stubenetest was cruel.
- 5:03 Women and men were separated. Women were more resilient. She was in this special camp for half a year. Only Czechs from Terezin camp were in this special camp that was arranged so that when the Red Cross visited, it was presentable.
- 5:11 Describes the crematorium. Every three months, when a new transport arrived, another group from the camp was sent to the crematorium.
- 5:15 She was sent to a new barrack and taught to weave clothes for the soldiers. She got special conditions.
- 5:28 Describe the camp of the “prominent.” The commander stayed in the camp. Prisoner musicians played all day. Punishments were also dealt out there.
- 6:00 In the winter of 1944, two people escaped, reached England, and told about the burnings in Auschwitz. They were not believed. Describes the escape.
- 6:08 Describes the children’s camp. German soldiers played with them.
- 6:26 May 1944. Describes selection by Mengele. She was sent to the Frauenlager. They were allowed to write and receive parcels.

Tape II

- 7:00 Thoughts and hope of leaving Auschwitz.
- 7:04 She was on a transport to Hamburg where they were housed in a storage building. Describes the crowding of 500 women in the small space and the nightly bombardments
- 7:09 Describes her work, which consisted of cleaning up bombed houses and factories.
- 7:21 Their storage house was bombed out and they were moved to Neugraben. They had to dig trenches. She had a serious skin infection but was afraid to tell.
- 7:26 Describes the nearby camp for French prisoners, who gave them food from their Red Cross packages.
- 8:00 Daily routine in the camp, hard labor.
- 8:08 Talks about a lesbian supervisor who took advantage of prisoners.
- 8:13 She was moved to a cement factory. Describes the hard labor and the American bombardments.
- 8:20 Thefts in camp.
- 8:25 Mother's adjustment.
- 9:00 More about Lesbian relationships.
- 9:06 The Sunday routine, social relations and friendships.
- 9:16 When the front advanced, they were taken by train and on foot to Belsen. Describes the total disorganizations and chaos in the camp. Piles of corpses lay around.
- 9:58 Cannibalism in Bergen Belsen. Describes the mixed population of people left over from other camps. She was there for three weeks.
- 9:25 One week before liberation, the Germans distributed poisoned bread and many died.
- 9:28 Typhoid fever and dysentery in camp.
- 10:00 Liberated by the British. Hungarian guards shot women who ran out to meet them.
- 10:05 The British soldiers gave them rich food, and many died. The following day, they gave appropriate food.

- 10:08 Describes disinfection, new clothes, and housing. Her mother got sick and died. She fainted and was taken to a hospital.
- 10:16 Describes the help she got from the British. May 8th was the end of the war. She describes her feeling of emptiness.