

Interview of GENIA BRIX
Translator: Marta Wassertzug
Recorded: August 1, 1996

Tape 1 of 2

- 1:00:20 Genia was born in Syzdlowiec, the third child after two brothers and older than another brother. She was born in 1922, on February 2. The family had a sock factory. A brother studied in the Lublin Yeshiva; another brother and her mother worked in their factory. Despite the fact that 90% of the local population was Jewish, there were no Jewish schools. Genia went to a public Polish school. Family was orthodox.
- 02:39 The village, the school
- 05:49 Older brother was a Zionist
- 06:57 Genia was in a youth movement belonging to Hehalutz.
- 07:35 Language at home was Yiddish, but they were all fluent in Polish.
- 16:34 Day before war breaks out, the older brother returned from the Yeshiva – that was dispersed from fear of the war.
- 18:13 Germans pass by Syzdlowiec on the way to Warsaw, but almost without stopping by.
- 20:01 The first days of the war. Rounding Jews up, shortages -- except for black market.
- 02:00:24 Gina's father, a tanner
- 3:50 Gina is mobilized to work for the Germans
- 06:07 Avraham, the second oldest (the Yeshiva student) got married in 1941, and Yerahmiel, the oldest a little later that year.
- 12:00 The Judenrat
- 15:00 A day in the life.
- 22:18 The Jewish police
- 24:05 Family lived among Poles, but at no time the Germans established a ghetto.

Tape 1, continued

- 3:00:00 Gina has a crisis of faith.
- 03:03 War breaks out between Soviet Union and Germany in the summer of 1941.
- 07:40 Evacuation of the Jews from Szydlowiec happened 2 days after Yom Kippur. One day after Yom Kippur, some of the family decided to escape to a work camp, Wolanów (by recommendation of a friend of Yerahmiel.)
- 18:19 The next day, they find out about the liquidation of Szydlowiec.
- 21:03 Genia and her brother decide to go to another village, where her grandparents and other relatives live, Skarzysko.
- 26:11 Genia finds out how her parents were rounded up.
- 27:54 A policeman, eyewitness to the evacuation, later told Genia how it was carried out. Destination was Treblinka.
- 29:11 Conditions at Wolanów.
- 4:07:44 Letter from brother Avraham reaches Genia in Skarzysko.
- 10:00 Genia and her brother are taken to work. Kinds and conditions of work.
- 23:40 Daily schedule
- 25:00 Living conditions and interpersonal relations
- 5:00:00 Genia manages to find work altering clothes on her own time, thus earning some extra bread.
- 02:00 Genia takes care of her brother
- 10:00 Description of the 3 different work places: Werk A, Werk B and Werk C.
- 16:08 Milgrom, one of the commanders of the work camp
- 18:57 The policemen of Radom
- 6:00:00 Life in the barracks
- 20:00 Arrivals from Majdanek

Tape 1, continued

24:24 An evening of entertainment for the workers of Werk B.

Tape 2, of 2

7:01:09 Selection of April 1943. Both Genia and her brother stay.

05:22 Rumors come about the Warsaw ghetto uprising.

06:03 Arrival of survivors from Majdanek and the Warsaw ghetto

12:00 Summary of different jobs since Genia left her home

19:34 The selection of mothers and daughters

20:11 Relocation to Leipzig of the equipment

20:42 Evacuation to Czestochowa, by train. Brother is sent to Germany

26:14 January 15. Russian front is near. Genia wanted to join her brother in Germany. At night, she is put on the train to Germany with many others. From the slits in the train cars, they see Germans fleeing (during the day there had been a bombardment by Russian forces) but do not grasp the fact that they are fleeing. Train stayed there until midnight. Poles came to tell the Jews that the town was liberated, but those already on the train could not escape!

8:02:00 Train went to Buchenwald, where the men in the group were left. The women were taken to Bergen Belsen. Arrival there.

12:40 Life there (Bergen Belsen.)

15:37 Arrival in Würzburg. No food there. They are sent to different camps, and rejected for lack of food. Bergan, Tirteim (sp?) part of Dachau (March or April 1945)

21:11 100 km. forced march to next destination. Stop at Allach. A train waited for them to take them to Tyrol (sp?) in order to be shot.

26:17 Genia contracts typhoid fever

28:00 Next morning, they found out that the Americans had arrived. They took all the ill people to an emergency hospital on the stage of an auditorium) Two weeks later, she felt better.

Tape 2, continued

- 9:10:43 Genia's goal was to find her brother. In the meantime, she became a seamstress.
- 15:48 Genia tells about her brother, and his experiences while they were separated. The brother participated in the Death March toward Theresienstadt (Terezin), and was liberated in the Sudetenland. Then, went back to Poland.
- 17:30 The brother found Genia in the survivors list 6 months after liberation. They met in Germany, and he encouraged her to go to Israel.
- 20:00 Last years in Germany after liberation. Meeting her husband. Looking for ways to immigrate to Israel (which they did aboard the Exodus). The voyage. The internment in various camps.
- 0:08:54 Arrival in Israel. Genia was pregnant already. They immigrated to Israel under the false Polish names they had adopted in Bergen-Belsen. Three years after they were first taken to the camp, they came back: this time as residents of Bergen-Belsen who had permission to immigrate to Israel, departing from there.
- 11:04 Arrival in Israel on May 14, 1948, the very day of Israel's declaration of independence. Destination: Bat Galim, immigrants' city.
- 14:00 Abraham, Genia's sister also comes to Israel
- 22:00 Genia's nightmares on the subject of the Shoah.