

RG-50.120\*0289

Markovich, Moshe – 5 Tapes

*[The original tapes are ½ hour each. Therefore the ½ hour time jumps on the Museum tapes. From the end of tape IV on, the timing is again different.]*

#### Tape I

- 01:00:00 He was born in October 2, 1923, in Czechoslovakia in Secovce Tells of his parents' history. His father was hard working in a barrel workshop. Later they moved to Slovakia, to Kosice, where economic conditions were better. He went to a Slovak school. He was the oldest of six children, and he helped his father in the making of barrels by making machines.
- 01:08:00 Describes life in Secovce, the anti-Semitism he experienced, and the discrimination by upper class Jews.
- 01:16:00 Describes the youth movements in his village. He was a member of Ha-Shomer Hazair.
- 01:23:00 Describes people in the village. The upper classes were anti-Semitic, the lower classes not.
- 02:00:00 In 1940 and 1941 the Germans were welcomed in Slovakia. Jews were sent to forced labor camps.
- 02:04:00 Describes Germans raping a Jewish girl in Branov. Moshe's father sent his daughters to Hungary to keep them safe. He continued to go to school and work. Heard about Poland before Warsaw ghetto. There were emissaries who spoke about what was happening to the Jews in other towns. Newspapers did not mention anything. He was 16 – 17 years old. They knew Jews were being burned.
- 02:15:00 In the summer of 1942, the Germans sent all the young people, including him and his brothers to Trebichovice, and then by train to camp Zebina.
- 02:27:00 Describes transport to Trebichovice.
- 03:00:00 Describes how the non-Jews in town, taking over Jewish businesses. His family could have saved themselves, but were naïve and ignorant.
- 03:21:00 Describes train transport to Trebichovice. He could have escaped by jumping off like others, but he did not. Describes cruel treatment in military camp Garda (?).

- 03:25:00 Describes the transport on a cattle train to Auschwitz Birkenau and arrival in February 1942.
- 04:00:00 Describes his arrival in Auschwitz, the people he met and the food they were given.
- 04:11:00 Describes Appels, the heaps of dead in the camp, and their barracks.
- 04:18:00 Describes the Block Alteste, who were from the Jewish underground of Warsaw. The Block Alteste was extremely cruel and killed other Jews.
- 04:22:00 Talked more about the criminal elements among the Jews in the camp. Kapos, who were homosexual, gave easier jobs to good-looking boys.
- 04:30:10 – 05:00:00 This section is blank.
- 05:00:00 They were told that skilled laborers would be taken to work. The intellectuals were killed. Describes the killing of a famous professor. They killed them in deep pits, buried and burned. No gas yet. Old system. The heroes died in from of them, without a reason. After the Appel, he was next to his brother. Professor said he was going to the hospital to get well. He said a nurse would come to take him. He was given a shot of phenol and so killed in Auschwitz.
- 05:10:00 Describes the food they received. The stubendienst (room supervisors) killed inmates to get their rations.
- 05:13:00 He and his brother were taken to Auschwitz to Block 11. There were 300 to 400 Jewish youngsters to be trained for work. There were also Czech and Slovakian non-Jews.
- 05:17:00 Describes a basement cell, where people were kept waiting to be killed. They were then hung by a Lithuanian Jew.
- 05:24:00 Describes his work in a carpentry shop. He had a decent boss and was transferred to Block 15. His brother got typhoid fever and was taken to the infirmary.
- 06:00:00 Describes visiting his brother in the infirmary where Dr. Josef Mengele conducted his experiments. His brother got an injection of phenol and died.
- 06:08:00 Describes his workplace.
- 06:15:00 Talks about what he learned about the fate of his family.

- 06:18:00 Describes SS Lange, at his workplace. He treated him well but was cruel to others.
- 06:29:00 Describes the slaughterhouse that he saw from the window of his workplace, and the sausages that were made there.
- Tape II
- 07:00:00 Talks about his Polish coworkers and their intense anti-Semitism.
- 07:16:00 Describes the plunder of new arrivals, who had hidden valuables in their clothes.
- 07:18:00 He was able to get sausages from the slaughterhouse, which he traded for diamonds taken from the new arrivals. Kuban Klein took sausages to the women in Birkenau.
- 08:02:00 Describes the selection to get deloused and disinfected. He escaped as he would have been killed otherwise.
- 08:12:00 His friend told him of the easy jobs that rich families were able to obtain through bribery.
- 08:21:00 Describes the latrines.
- 08:28:00 A Belgian prisoner told him about Belgian anti-Semitism.
- 08:29:00 Diamonds were smuggled out of camp in condoms.
- 09:00:00 In 1943, he was transferred to another carpentry shop. The Kapo was a French Jew and good to work for.
- 09:11:00 Talks about friends he made in camp.
- 09:15:00 The Americans bombed the Krupp Union Werk. The building where he stayed was damaged.
- 09:18:00 Describes a cruel Kapo from Yugoslavia and the Jews from Bialystok who worked in the shop.
- 09:24:00 Describes the arrival of transports from Hungary. He met Dr. Horvat, who helped him.
- 10:00:00 Describes the Hungarian arrivals and Dr. Horvat. They had more education than the Carpatho-Russian Jews.

- 10:10:00 Describes the evacuation from Auschwitz. German Jews from other camps joined them and told them of their experiences.
- 10:18:00 Talks about Kapos who took sexual advantage of young boys.
- 10:19:00 In 1943, the Germans opened a whorehouse in Auschwitz with Polish prostitutes who 'served' the SS.
- 11:00:00 Describes life in the camp. The Red Cross sent investigators and talked with Slovak Jews in front of the SS. He was also questioned but did not tell about the killings. Slovak Jews in the United States had demanded the investigation.
- 11:09:00 Thirteen year old Yossel Duchman escaped. Many others tried but did not succeed. Describes hanging in camp after escapes.
- 11:20:00 Describes the Greek Jews who made synthetic rubber.
- 11:25:00 Illnesses in the camp.
- 12:00:00 Jews prayed on Yom Kippur.
- 12:05:00 Talks about women in Block 10 who were used in experiments.
- 12:11:00 Describes relations with women in Birkenau.
- Tape III
- 13:00:00 Talks about Jews who prepared lists of names for deportations.
- 13:04:00 Jews who served in the Russian Army and got caught were sent to Auschwitz.
- 13:13:00 His friend Kuban Klein told him about the gypsy camp.
- 13:19:00 He heard about the death of his family.
- 13:20:00 Talks about the death of his brother.
- 13:26:00 Mentions Heinrich Himmler's visit to the camp and his order to rush the killings in 1943.
- 14:00:00 The sonderkommando were in a separate camp. They worked three months and then were killed. Some forged money for the Germans and were not killed.

- 14:06:00 Talks about the failed uprising of the sonderkommando.
- 14:09:00 Talks about his thoughts about his strength to survive.
- 14:18:00 Talks about a young Jewish general, Tchernichovskiy, who was killed by Stalin.
- 14:25:00 Describes the death march west.
- 15:00:00 Continues about the death march. They had to walk 50 km a day.
- 15:05:00 They stayed overnight in the town of Kompel. He and his friend, Yacob Herskovitz, hid out and in the morning went to the nearby forest. The next day, they sold watches in a village and got new clothes.
- 15:18:00 Back in the forest, the forest keeper guided them across the Czech border to Moravska Ostrava.
- 15:25:00 Describes people in Ostrava.
- 16:00:00 Describes hiding out first with a non-Jewish shoemaker and then with a prostitute.
- 16:12:00 He called himself Jan Kovatch and passed as a non-Jew. He mentions several Czechs who helped him risking their lives.
- 16:22:00 Describes different people who tried to join him.
- 16:29:00 Shows a photo of a woman informant by the name of Blasta.
- 17:00:00 Tells a story about a companion who was a thief and about the women he slept with.
- 17:14:00 He crossed the border and arrived in Rudnik. Describes his work for a farmer and, the people in the house. The area was still German-occupied, but the Russian front was near.
- 17:28:00 Describes crawling through a long ditch towards the Russians, but was shot at by the Russians, who shot young men trying to reach them because they did not believe that they were Jews.
- 18:07:00 He returned to the farmer and convinced him to entrust him with his valuables, which he would smuggle out to evade the advancing Russians.

- 18:11:00 Describes riding on a bicycle, with smuggled goods, to Cieszyn. He stayed at the house of the peasants' daughter.
- 18:17:00 Jewish Russian soldiers liberated him and gave him identification documents.
- 18:22:00 Describes Russian occupation of the village.
- 18:26:00 Describes driving in a jeep toward Slovakia and being stopped many times by the NKVD (Narodnyĭ Kommissariat Vnutrennikh Del – People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs).
- Tape IV
- 19:00:00 Talks about the Russian advance toward Berlin
- 19:05:00 Describes train ride to Kosice in Slovakia and having a dispute with an anti-Semitic hotel owner.
- 19:10:00 Describes how Russians treated the local population and the collaborators.
- 19:21:00 Went to his home town, 30 km from Kosice, where he met people he knew.
- 20:00:00 Names of Jews who returned and tells their stories. Moshe finds valuables they had buried.
- 20:09:00 Describes performance of a "Yiddishe Truppe".
- 20:18:00 Describes his return to Sevorich where he was born
- 20:20:00 Talks about the people of Spinka.
- 21:00:00 Places he visited in his hometown, people he met and later reunions in Israel.
- 21:09:00 His visit in Mukacheve.
- 21:13:00 Went by truck with a Russian officer to Prague.
- 21:19:00 Describes Prague. Stayed in a hotel with his friend Hershkovitz.
- 21:27:00 Describes how his friend became rich by stealing money from bombed out banks and illegal money exchanges.
- 22:07:00 Moved into another old friend's house. Moshe knew this friend from home. The friend found Moshe a job with Markole.

- 22:17:00 Police arrested him during an investigation at the hotel, but a friend paid bribes and he was released.
- 22:21:00 He went to stay with a woman survivor he knew. His friend joined him to continue with his illegal money business.
- 23:00:00 More about money dealings. His friend, architect Sperlinge, advised him to go the Sudeten and work as a wood carver in an airplane factory.
- 23:13:00 In 1947, he went with Sperlinge to Sudeten, to Hummené, and with his partner built a factory (shows photos).
- 23:20:00 Made much money smuggling cigarettes from Hungary. Describes getting caught and jailed at border and released when his friend posted a large bail.
- 23:26:00 Talks about Jews who had deposited money in Dunai Bank before the war, and Davidovitch and the bank director pulled the money and split it between them after the Jews were killed in the war.
- 23:30:13 The interviewer says that they need to put in a new cassette and when they do, the time seems to have been reset.
- 00:00:10 Continues story about the bank
- 00:05:34 Describes being jailed in Slovakia after severely beating a man who insulted his mother. He is later released and returned to work at the wood factory.
- 00:21:25 Plans to go to Palestine and went to Prague to get bed-linens for his trip. Describes the Aliyah organization there. Later crossed border to Germany to the American Zone.

#### Tape V

The timing reset again when this tape was put into the video camera.

- 01:00:26 Davidovitch went to live either in Chile or in Brazil and it was said that he took car trains full of money. Describes the American DP (Displaced Persons) camp. The Haganah organized group activities. He went to different camps and was trained to fight in the Haganah.
- 01:08:36 Transfer to Marseilles.
- 01:09:03 Describes boat trip on a Greek boat. The first legal boat.

- 01:12:48 Disembarked in Tel Aviv, then went to Tel HaShomer. Describes military training and abuse by their leaders in Camp Bernadot. Later, in camp in Chadera they were treated decently.
- 1:20:04 Continues to describe training.
- 1:23:16 Describes sadistic commander.
- 1:28:00 Was sent to Sarafand for tests which he passed, and was then sent to Sidney Alley. It was the beginning of 1948.
- 2:00:00 He was assigned to take prisoners to special locations. Talks about taking “Jule”, the being of the under-world, from one prison to another. “Jule” told him that he had been sent by Aba Chushi to rob an Arab bank in Haifa. He was severely tortured by the Israeli secret service for this information.
- 2:10:00 He was assigned to Bat Galim to work as a boat mechanic.
- 2:12:15 Describes the class system in the Israeli navy where the manual workers were mistreated by the upper class officers. He blamed Ben Gurion for this. He was insulted for being a refugee.
- 2:17:00 Describes activities of the underground tolerated by the upper ruling class.
- 2:22:00 Describes Israeli sailors beating up German and Swedish sailors who were cursing Jews.
- 2:29:00 Talks about his stealing from boats.
- 3:00:00 Describes catching boats with returning Arabs and beating them up.
- 3:02:00 Describes different jobs he did repairing boats and his abuse by Israeli supervisors.
- 3:12:00 Describes life at the port and the lack of hospitality of Israelis toward the new immigrants.
- 3:17:00 He was sent to the Dead Sea, then to work on boats in Eilat. His officer then sent him to take a prisoner to jail in Sodom.
- 3:23:00 He was taken to a hospital with blood poisoning.
- 3:26:00 Describes Sodom and the different immigrant groups there.

- 4:00:00 Describes the development of industry in the kibbutzim financed by restitution money which should have been paid to poor survivors.
- 4:07:00 Many stories about poor survivors in the cities who struggled while waiting for restitution money. Many of them committed suicide.
- 5:00:00 Talks about survivors who made it in top positions because of their expertise.
- 5:05:00 Talks about those who rejected restitution money which was then taken by the Israeli government.
- 5:08:00 Talks about his difficult absorption in Israel and his difficulty in talking about his Holocaust experiences.
- 5:10:00 Describes going to the Eichmann trial and to other trials in Germany. He observed that the Germans continued to be abusive.