

C H A I A P S H I T I T S K I

RG – 50.120* 0291

Tape 1, 1:00 to 1:11

Background She was born in 1922 in the small town of Kamikoshir/Komikotirst (?) in the Polish province of Vollin.

She describes the town as mostly of Jewish craftsmen, her father –ironsmith and she the oldest with two younger brothers. Went to public schools, extended family Zionist with friendly local connections.

1:12 to 1:30

War Years

Brief German entry in '39 brought anti-Semitism and bombing, followed by two-years of Soviet rule , with fearfulness, family property taken, night-school and day work. Those who didn't work were sent to Russia to work. Describes refugees from Poland. Germans reentry. Father and brother disappeared

1:30 to 2:00 Blank

2:00 to 2:30

German Presence and Move to Ghetto

Found mass grave with many Jews (including brother and father). Judenrat organized workshops where she worked for Germans. Moved to ghetto set up in an adjacent part of town. Describes crowded living arrangements and scarce food. They were occasionally helped with food by former workers of their family flour mill, but with constant fear of harsh punishments by Ukrainian militia and Germans.

Another Aktzia/selection with many killed and only those who worked spared. Describes many horrifying scenes of naked shot Jews. Herself barely saved.

A group of youth organized and escaped (later met them as partisans).

Describes special risks and fates pertaining to girls by the Germans.

As threat of new Aktzia started, they built two bunkers. Still the Germans caught most, leading them to their death naked; she managed to hide in a pile of clothes.

2:30 to 3:00 Blank

3:00 to 3:25

Many Narrow Escapes

Describes her hiding with Yanek's family (who once had worked with her father); with a three other women, in the cowshed, attic, bunker, throughout the winter, with his other family members, through winter into spring. Describes various risks during this period though it was partly also 'good times'.

3:25 to 3:30

Meeting the Partisans

Describes how, as more Poles escaped into the woods, partisans started roaming in need of various supplies and thus she met the Jewish partisan Izick, who talked her into joining them.

3:30 to 4:00 Blank

4:00 to 4:30

Partisans, Activities and Groups

Joined the partisans as 'wife' of one of them as it eased the risks for single a woman. Described the 'Partisan' camp as also called "Jewish camp" (distinguishable from Gentile partisans who were mostly from the villages or Russian officers). There was also a 'family camp' composed of Jews wandering in the woods (or 'Civil camp' with children), had 70-80 people, compared to about 200 in the various partisan camps. Describes assorted 'lost and found people' experiences in the family camp. Describes several activities of partisans, e.g. delaying trains, dealing with the 'contact men'.

4:30 to 5:00 Blank

5:00 to 5:18

Life among the Partisans

She participated in some of the partisans' activities, mostly dressed as a man. Altogether About 1 1/2 years with them. Describes how Russians sent them help by planes

5:18 to 5:30

Leaving the Partisans

Describes how, as the Germans receded, she was at risk to be sent away by Russians and separated from her husband. Through various connections she succeeded in getting permission to visit her home town.

5:30 to 6:00 Blank

6:00 to 6:30

Discharge from Partisans and travel Home

Describes her travel from Kharkov to Kolachov, to Sarna (?), to Rafalovska, to Kovel. Through snow storms, several bombing and delays, destroyed towns and assorted helpful people. Finally, she reunited with her husband who also escaped the partisans. Tells of

his background and losses. Formal wedding took place. Traveled through Chelm and Lublin, through Jewish Brigade connections
Her husband died in Israel in 1948 of wound sustained during the partisan years.

6:30 to 7:00 Blank End Tape 1

Tape 2, 7:00 to 7:18

Elaboration on Previous Stories (?)

Described undergoing Tonsillectomy at a German Hospital by a Jewish doctor.
while in the Ghetto.

An Aktzia one month later and related horrors

Polish refugees who crossed the river Bug (and told about the crematorium) were not allowed then into their border town.

Bunker of Samikotski (?) and other hiding places

7:20 to 7:30 and 8:00 to 8:13 (7:30 to 8:00 blank)

Escape through Many Countries

Describes their escape, as refugees (or maskering as prisoners?) organized by the Jewish Brigade, through Harkov, Kovel, Chelm, Lublin, Krakov, Hungary, Bulgaria, Austria, Italy, where they stayed and how they traveled for various durations and under different covers.

8:15 to 8:19

Travel to Israel

Describes the four day freight boat trip, arrival in Haifa and vaccination in Atlit (Nov. 1945), Kibbutz stay and final meeting her aunt.

8:20 to 8:30 (end of tape 2)

Two Partisan Stories

The fate of ten Ukrainian partisans who deserted to the Germans.
How the Partisans obliterated a German command post.

Translated and transcribed by Hava Bonne',

November 2006