

RG-50.120*0307

Arieli, Kalman

Two Video Cassettes

In Hebrew

Abstracts: Originally named Aharonowitch, Kalman Arieli was born in Kovno in 1928. His father was killed during the war and Kalman was sent to work on the construction of an airport while he and his mother lived in the ghetto. When the ghetto was liquidated, Kalman was taken by train to Stutthof. There he changed to a wagon of men that went to a work camp in Landsberg. From Landsberg, he and a group of 16 boys were taken on trucks to Dachau where he stayed for seven months. After liberation, Kalman received medical care. While at the hospital he met a man who wanted to adopt him. Kalman's adopted father sent him to school and taught him about music. In July 1951, they both went to Israel. When Kalman was 23 he was married and joined the Israeli army and played in the Army band. After the army, he taught and performed. He and his wife adopted a girl and now have four grandchildren. Every year he continues to meet with his group of child survivors.

1:00:00 Kalman's family name at birth was Aharonowitch. He was born in Kovno in 1928 and was an only child. His father was a tailor. The family was traditional. He went to Yavne school.

1:06:00 Kalman talks about experiences of anti-Semitism as a child. Members of his family were Zionists and had relatives in Israel.

1:07:00 He talks about the annual reunion of survivors in Israel.

1:17:00 When war broke out in 1939, there were many Jews from Poland who escaped to Lithuania.

1:20:00 Kalman describes his mother.

1:25:00 He describes how life changed when the Russians came to Lithuania. All the Jewish schools were closed. He learned Russian. Lithuanians hated Russians and collaborated with the Germans. He describes how his father was taken to a work camp and killed.

2:00:00 He describes how Lithuanians robbed Jewish homes. He describes moving to the ghetto.

- 2:07:00 Kalman talks about being in a labor group assigned to build the airport. When he was at work he bartered for food and then brought it into the ghetto. He describes his work.
- 2:21:00 Kalman describes getting food outside the ghetto.
- 2:27:00 He sings a song from the ghetto.
- 3:01:00 Kalman describes the Jewish police chasing people out of their houses during an "Action."
- 3:03 He describes the orchestra in the ghetto.
- 3:06 Kalman further describes the first "Action." There was a "Selection" and people were taken to the small ghetto. At night they were taken to the Ninth Fort and killed.
- 3:09 After the big "Action" his mother and aunt came out of hiding. People who worked at the airport were not killed.
- 3:18 He describes social life in the ghetto.
- 3:22 Kalman describes that when the "Kinder Action" occurred they hid. He states that Hungarian SS took the children.
- 3:26 Kalman describes hangings in the ghetto and the killing of Russian POW's.
- 3:28 He states that he knew of people going to the forest to join the partisans, but he stayed with his mother in the ghetto.
- 4:00 Kalman talks about friends who helped him.
- 4:03 He describes how he heard that his father was killed.
- 4:05 Kalman talks about others who escaped from the ghetto.
- 4:18 The German who headed his work group treated them decently. They also had more food than most.
- 4:23 Kalman describes the workshops in the ghetto.
- 4:26 Kalman shows a card with printed names of survivors of his children's group.
- 4:29 He talks about his friend Yoske Papinsky.

- 5:00 Kalman states that people kept the whereabouts of their hiding places secret. He didn't know of any others.
- 5:05 Kalman talks about his mother.
- 5:07 He describes the evacuation of the ghetto. He was taken by train to Stutthof. There he changed to a wagon of men that went to a work camp in Landsberg.
- 5:16 Describes the Landsberg camp. He and a group of 16 boys were taken on trucks to Dachau where he stayed for seven months. Life there was bearable. They had heard that being sent to Auschwitz meant certain death.
- 5:24 On the train to Birkenau, two boys jumped out of the window and escaped. Kalman describes his arrival and initiation at Birkenau.
- 6:00 His job at Birkenau was to clean up the garbage.
- 6:05 Kalman describes the illnesses in camp and how a Block Alteste housed the Germans who were criminals.
- 6:08 He describes daily routines and social life in camp.
- 6:12 Kalman explains that they were moved to the gypsy camp after the gypsies were killed. The camp population also included Polish and Greek Jews.
- 6:18 He states that when Allied airplanes flew over, the Germans produced a fog that hid the camp.
- 6:20 Kalman describes his work removing garbage. Women gave them food.
- 6:25 He describes the selection process by Mengele.
- Tape 2
- 7:00 Kalman sings ghetto songs.
- 7:06 He states that when the Allied front approached they were marched and then taken by train to Mauthausen. He describes their arrival. Spanish soldiers from Franco's army were prisoners there.
- 7:09 Kalman describes being punished severely for asking for food. He also describes the accommodations and routine of the camp.

- 7:12 He explains that Hungarian Jews arrived in the camp but did not share their food.
- 7:18 Kalman describes his mood of hopelessness, depression and weakness.
- 7:22 They were marched to camp Gunskirchen. Kalman describes the camp. He states that the bunks were full of corpses. There was cannibalism. He was very weak and sick.
- 7:29 When Americans liberated the camp, he was sent to a hospital in Italy.
- 8:00 Kalman describes sleeping outside in Gunskirchen because of the corpses in the bunks. He was already a Muselman. The Red Cross sent packages to the camp, but the Hungarians took them.
- 8:06 The Jewish Brigade took the sick, including Kalman, on trucks to a hospital in Udine where he stayed for two months. Then he was taken to a hospital in Milan. Kalman describes the excellent treatment he received.
- 8:11 An Italian priest tried to convert him to Catholicism and befriended him.
- 8:13 An Italian Jewish partisan who had heard about him, visited him and befriended him. His name was Joseppe Riegler. When he felt better this man took him to his home and legally adopted him.
- 8:15 Kalman describes his adopted father who was a musician. He sent him to school and to a conservatory where he learned to play the accordion.
- 8:25 In July 1951, they both immigrated to Israel.
- 9:00 Kalman talks more about his father who adopted him when he was 17 years old.
- 9:06 Kalman and his adoptive father went on the boat named *Arza* to Haifa. They played music on the boat and then were given work playing at the Café Eden in Haifa.
- 9:10 Kalman was married and joined the Israeli army at age 23 and he played in the Army band.
- 9:12 After the army he taught and performed. His wife and he adopted a girl and now have four grandchildren.
- 9:17 Kalman has visited Auschwitz with his wife.

9:20 Kalman describes the yearly meeting of his group of child survivors that he belongs to and what it means for him.