

Shoham, Moshe
RG-50.120*0314
Two Videocassettes
In Hebrew

- Abstracts: Moshe Shoham was born in 1929 in Kovno. His family was upper middle class. His mother was a dentist and his father was a dental technician. He had a twin brothe, Jacob, but they were not identical. He describes a happy childhood. He went to the Schwabe School and spoke Hebrew.
- 1:05 Moshe describes school, friends, summer vacations, and social and cultural activities.
- 1:23 He describes Kovno, his childhood activities, and how he was a member of Hashomer Hatzair.
- 2:00 He describes what he saw when he visited Kovno.
- 2:15 When the Russians entered Lithuania in 1940 his family did not feel oppressed. The professionals did not suffer. There was, however, an atmosphere of fear. He states that he was in the Komsomol.
- 2:23 They were doing well and his family did not believe anything would happen to them, even when the war broke out in 1941 and Kovno was bombarded.
- 3:00 Moshe describes the political situation in 1940-1941. Fear spread, the anti-Jewish laws were proclaimed and his family stayed mostly inside their home.
- 3:10 He describes feelings of fear and helplessness and yet he tried to always be optimistic.
- 3:12 Moshe describes moving to the small ghetto in Slobodka, life in the ghetto and bartering for food.
- 3:16 He describes a ghetto "Action." Everybody was ordered out. His grandmother, who was ill, was carried out by his father and uncle and they were never seen again. They later found out that his grandmother, father and uncle were taken to the 9th Fort and killed.
- 3:21 Moshe tells how a month later they moved to the larger ghetto. He worked as a carpenter.
- 4:00 He describes their move from one ghetto to another and tells a story about the children who saved him and his family.

- 4:04 Describes the big “Action.” 30,000 people were assembled. He describes the selection.
- 4:09 Moshe describes in greater detail life in the ghetto. At the age of 13 he started working and doing repair jobs.
- 4:17 He describes the “Children’s Action” and how his mother saved them by hiding.
- 4:19 The Germans started work shops. He made toys for the Germans that they sent back home.
- 4:22 He describes the 9th Fort and what he found out about it later. He details the state of his mind at the time.
- 5:00 He describes the workshops and what he and his mother did there.
- 5:07 They heard that the Russians were advancing and that the ghetto would be annihilated. They hid in a basement for some days, but they went out and were then taken by train to Stutthof. Everybody was ordered off the train but his mother told him and his brother to get back on, and that saved them.
- 5:17 He describes arriving with a group of kids in Dachau and what happened to them there.
- 5:21 After two weeks they were taken by train to Auschwitz.
- 6:00 He describes his arrival in Auschwitz and then Birkenau and the selection of twins for experiments by Mengele and how he and his brother were able to escape the selection.
- 6:09 Moshe repeats on many occasions that he does not remember what happened on a daily basis.
- 6:13 He describes his work, carrying dead bodies to the crematorium.
- 6:20 Moshe tells about a later episode when they were taken out by train. The train was bombed His brother was wounded and later killed.
- 6:24 He describes daily life in Birkenau.

Tape II

- 7:00 Moshe summarizes the four months he spent in Auschwitz. He was there until January 1940. Then the Russian front was advancing and they were marched out to Altshaimer and then taken by train to Mauthausen. His brother was killed when the train was bombed.
- 7:07 Moshe describes his two month stay in Mauthausen.
- 7:14 He remembers the camp was bombed and the dead were cannibalized by some of the inmates.
- 7:28 On April 1945, they were marched out to camp Gunskirchen which was in a forest. There they received Red Cross packages. On May the 2nd, after two weeks in the woods, they heard airplanes overhead.
- 8:00 He knew that he was the only one left in his family. He describes his state of mind at the time and the accommodations in camp Gunskirchen.
- 8:09 On May 4th, 1945, they realized that the Germans had left and that they were free. Many of the prisoners died by over eating the food they found.
- 8:14 They met the American Army and were taken to a hospital in Herching (?).
- 8:20 After two weeks in the hospital, the Jewish Brigade took them on trucks to Italy, to Santa Maria Luca.
- 8:22 He describes accommodations and organization in groups with Israeli leaders. On November 1945 they received certificates and went by boat from Naples to Israel.
- 8:28 Moshe reads from a book by an Israeli journalist who described meeting him and talking to him.
- 9:00 He describes the passage on the boat to Haifa on November, 1945. After one week in Atlit, he was taken with a group of children to Kibutz Ma'anit. He describes his two years there.
- 9:06 In 1947 they were asked about their plans for the future. Moshe joined the IDF for two years and then the regular army for 28 years.