

RG-50.226 #0001 1 Tape
VAYNTSEL'BOYM , MIKHAIL ARONOVICH

- 1.00 Born in 1928 in Berdichev. Discusses youth, education. Six children. Father was a house painter. Oldest brother taken into army in March, 1941. Evidently died early in the war, since family did not hear from him after war's outbreak. All siblings killed after arrival of Germans.
- 1.03 Describes arrival of Germans – 7 July 1941. Ghetto established. Jews, communists and Komsomal had to register. Police units brought in local citizens. 900 Jews shot in first days. Mother, sisters killed early in occupation. Father allowed to live because he was specialist. Mikhail was hidden on day police came for 'action'.
- 1.14 Describes how he survived a second occasion on which Jews were marched out to be killed. People told to undress in area in which a lot of old farm machinery standing about. Mikhail threw his shirt on the ground and in the same moment dove under a tractor-combine and hid. Heard sounds of shooting. Crawled to another field and ran. Given refuge in a house in a nearby village.
- 1.21 Next day went to next village. Taken to another family. Lived there a half year.
- 1.24 Then worked for local man, taking care of livestock. Stayed with him a half year. Then went to a nearby village and worked on a Kolkhoz. Stayed there until soviet troops liberated area in Dec. 1943. thereafter worked in various places.
- 1.26 Describes incident in which he was apprehended by police. He jumped in river and they shot at him, but he was a good swimmer and was able to swim away. Found his way to a house where he was helped by friendly peasants.
- 1.30 Describes return to Berdichev after war. Describes post-war life.
- 2.04 Interviewer asks how some local neighbors could betray Jews when war started or participated in shootings. He essentially says people all different. Under pressure of Nazi propaganda, desire to take Jewish possessions, some turned again Jews.
- 2.08 Interviewer asks how it was that people marched toward almost certain death without putting up resistance. He said people were told they were being taken to work. People never could be sure. Had no idea that ordinary people would actually be killed – until it was too late.

END OF TAPE