

RG-50.226 #0004 2 Tapes
BARTIK, MIKHAIL ABRAMOVICH

TAPE I

- 0.00 Born 27 October, 1928 in Tulchina [Vinnitskaya oblast], where 14,000 Jews lived - about 98% of the population of the town. Many synagogues.
- 0.05 Beginning in 1937, regime began to restrict Jewish culture. Jewish school closed. Father worked as shoemaker.
- 0.08 Had sister and younger brother.
- 0.10 Discusses beginning of war. Family decides to evacuate. Father remains behind with workshop. Family flees east, but Komsomol officials tells them and others that they should return to Tulchia, that there is nothing to worry about. Family returns.
- 0.15 Most men in Tulchin mobilized into Army. Women, children, old people remained. Barik's father also remained to wversee evacuation of workshop equipment.
- 0.16 Soviet troops retreating through area, set fire to much of town. Germans arrived. Jews subject to many restrictions.
- 0.22 Establishment of ghetto.
- 0.25 Discusses local Ukrainians ---- and how they worked or refuse to work for Germans.
- 0.27 Some Jewish leaders collected money in an effort to buy safety for Jewish population - persuade police and Germans not to harm Jews.

[Break]

- 2.00 In December 1941, Germans gathered all Jews in ghetto. Many given injection of various diseases - typhus, dysentery. Then about 3,000 Jews marched out of town. Marched into marshy area. Marched all day. Those who couldn't keep up were shot.
- 2.08 Driven to Pechora, to sanatorium grounds and buildings. No food or water provided. No records kept, no numbers given to prisoners. Intention was that people would die.
- 2.13 Judenrat formed in Pechora camp.
- 2.15 Brother and father died of illness. Local people helped prisoners, exchanging food for articles of clothing, or giving food.
- 2.23 Bartik sneaks out of camp with a few other children. Went to various villages and found food - returned to camp with food for mother and others.
- 2.26 Sneaks out for food a number of times. Caught and beaten twice.

2.28 Thrown in basement of monastery. Then beaten and driven out. Held later in gov't building - fed by night watchman.

2.33 Returns to camp in Pechora.

[Break]

3.00 Says Jews from various areas brought to Pechora - Romanian Jews, Mogilev, from Bessarabia, from Bukovina. 25-35,000 Jews died in Pechora.

3.08 Describes incident in which he guided group of Bukovina Jews out of camp, but they were caught and beaten by guards.

3.10 In Sept. 1942 Germans came to camp and began to select Jews for work. Weak, sick persons shot on the spot.

3.13 SS troops and Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian troops soon ringed Pechora camp. People put in trucks. Remaining people, including Bartik and his family told they wouldn't be shot.

3.26 After war no Soviet officials or press would acknowledge that a Pechora there had been a concentration camp for Jews..

3.27 Interviewer asks about moment of liberation of Pechora camp. Most inmates escaped as Soviet troops approached - March 1944.

3.33 Returns to Tulchin.

[Break]

4.00 Discusses how 8 cousins died in Pechora.

4.03 Says local population helped save those who survived in Pechora - giving food and sometimes a hiding place.

4.08 In answer to questions, Bartik says there were no children's games or other forms of recreation in the Pechora camp. There were no romances among young.

4.14 Discusses his work after returned to Tulchin in 1944.

4.15 Interviewer asks about relations among inmates - how they reacted to each other.

4.17 Interviewer asks about inmates' belief in God. Older people claimed that somehow Jews had sinned before God.

- 4.20 Discusses anti-semitism after war.
- 4.23 Interviewer asks about Bartik's post-war life. Married in 1952. Worked 42 years in shoe factory. Had two sons.
- 4.29 Describes efforts to establish monuments to victims in Tulchin and Pechora - and other places.

TAPE II

- 5.00 Scene on road in rural area. No sound.
- 5.02 Scene in park-like area behind fence. Voice describes building where people driven during winter. Larger building. Area is grounds of Pechora concentration camp. [Bartik on screen, speaking] Many local people helped inmates. Estimates 25,000 Jews in camp at various time.
- 5.07 Introduces other visitors to site - people who had been in camp during war. Visitors describe how people could survive only because inmates could get food from time to time from surrounding area.
- 5.16 Another visitor tells about experiences in Letichivo [phonetic] ghetto. Describes killing of inmates. Mass shootings began in 1942. Along with a number of others, he ran from killing site, which was a wooded area.. Describes wandering from Zhmerinica, on a freight train of Odessa. Ukrainian family took him in - he was 15 years old.

[Break]

- 6.00 [Group is on wooded path.] Hillside.
- 6.08 [Back near Pechora camp building.]
- 6.16 [Another camp building] Bartik describes how building was full of camp inmates.
- 6.24 Scenes of stone wall. Old iron gate. Inside grounds, a small stone church-like building.

[Break]

- 6.28 Narrow unpaved road in forest. Bartik show area where ditch dug and Jews shot. Small memorial shown. Stone memorial with Russian and Hebrew lettering.

END OF TAPES