

RG-50.266 #12  
ZAHAVA SHAMIR

Then, Genia Rotenberg, born 1930 in Lodz, Zvi Hersh father. Had a brother. Describes mood in Lodz. When Germans came, was not allowed to go to school. Germans broke into house, took grandfather, tortured him. Grandparents decided to take her brother and cross the border to Russia. When she and parents wanted to do the same, the border was already closed. Describes situation in Lodz. Family moved to Warsaw, thought it would be better, but it was not. Describes dead bodies in streets. Hunger and diseases. Describes ghetto. Family had friends outside the ghetto. She and 2 friends got out the gentile friend and took them to his house, treated them badly. Saw Warsaw uprising. They escaped and went to ghetto and found her family. Family escaped to Piotrkovo to friend of mother. Mother vanished when she went out to get food. In Oct. '42 she was killed. Describes ghetto, worked as a carpenter for a firm Dietrich and Fisher. She knew they would be killed when work was finished. Describes work and conditions. Father sent to Ravensbruck, work camp for men. She dressed up as a man and went too. Describes camp. She was hiding in bed when the men went out to work. Then women arrived and she worked in the kitchen. describes work.

From Ravensbruck was transported to Bergen-Belsen. Describes conditions. She met Hadassah [Bimko] Rosensaft who took her to the children's house. Describes good conditions. Shoshana Heller was good leader. Describes Hadassah and how wonderful she was.

Describes end of war, arrival of Joint and Brigade who brought food and other supplies. Describes her mixed emotions. Did not know what to do. Was taken to a kinderheim. Describes how they were taken care of. Her father came. Then taken to Blankensee. Describes wonderful conditions. Education and social life. Father came to take her to the USA. She did not want to go, that she was going to Israel. Came to Israel with first legal aliya on boat Champolion. Ben Gurion and Golda Meir met them at port. She went to Kiryat Anavim. Describes first period. Fear and diseases. Talks about education and work. Father arrived in '46. In '48 War of Independence broke out. Became part of the Palmach who were positioned there. After the war. She and friend went to nursing school. Describes. Worked in hospital. Father went to testify in Germany, but broken down. Shows photographs. In 1951 got married to a Sabra. She has 3 children. Daughter recorded her experiences. Held very important positions. Describes.