

RG-50.378 #002 BDP 1 of 2 tapes

Gildiner, Tatyana Samuilovna Tape 1

- 5:00 DOB 13 Nov. 1918. Fourth of five children. Father a tailor. Grew up in a religious household, but children went to Belarussian schools, spoke Russian.
- 5:04 Discusses school. Jews experienced no anti-semitism.
- 5:07 Discusses house, father. Lived quite well. Many guests. Discusses sisters, brother.
- 5:13 Graduates from chemical/technical institute in 1939. An uncle who had been in the army was arrested and shot during the Stalin purges of 1937.
- 5:18 Worked in construction factory – in chemical laboratory.
- 5:21 After Hitler's invasion of Poland, many Polish Jews fled to Minsk. Jews in Minsk knew about the plight of Jews in Nazi-occupied Poland before Hitler invaded USSR. But confident that USSR was in no danger from any German invasion. Friends from Moscow, however, told her that Moscow was full of war rumors.
- 6:03 Gildiner was a secretary of the Komsomol organization in her factory.
- 6:12 War begins. Spies dropped by parachute on factory grounds. Arrested and shot.
- 6:17 Bombing of Minsk was frequent. Gildiner family moved from center of city. Had to keep moving because of frequent bombardments.
- 6:21 Go into woods on outskirts of Minsk. There see Germans. Told to go to nearby village. Germans think that Gildiner, who speaks some German, is not Jewish. She and her family (father was in Caucasus at the time) to return to Minsk.
- 6:25 Find home destroyed.
- 6:26 Middle of July announced that ghetto being established. Family moves to empty apartment in ghetto.
- 6:28 Germans separate workers from intellectuals among the men and shoot the latter.
- 7:00 Describes quarters in which family lived in ghetto. She and her sisters cleaned the streets.
- 7:03 Reports circulate in ghetto that next day there would be pogrom. At mother's insistence, Gildiner sneaks out of ghetto and goes to home of farmer neighbor, who reluctantly lets her in for the night.

- 7:05 Next day returns to ghetto to find it closed, surrounded by German troops. Germans didn't take her for a Jew.
- 7:08 Shooting in ghetto begins. Gildiner walks through city streets and hears shooting.
- 7:09 walks to river, considers jumping in. German officer for whom her uncle had worked as carpenter stops her and gives her work and place to live in a small factory.
- 7:11 Officer takes her back to ghetto so she might see whether any family member had survived.
- 7:12 Gildiner enters old apartment. Everything in disarray.
- 7:14 Other Germans find her in apartment and think she is a scavenger, but German officer intervenes to protect her.
- 7:15 Part of ghetto had been maintained for skilled workers. Gildiner and uncle taken there. 27 persons in 2 rooms.
- 7:16 Works for partisans in ghetto.
- 7:19 People in all ghettos dug deep holes in basement to hid in case of 'pogrom'.
- 7:20 Partisan contact tells Gildiner that next day there would be pogrom. But selection of victims took place outside ghetto as people returned from work. Gildiner remained inside apartment.
- 7:24 Works cleaning work place.
- 7:25 28(?) July 1942 another pogrom. She is at work.
- 7:28 She begins work as laundress in a German unit where some Soviet P.O.W's work.
- 8:02 Some POW's overpower and kill some guards. April 1943.
- 8:08 German guard tells Gestapo that Jews and other civilian workers had nothing to do with POW's, so they are spared reprisals.
- 8:11 Remaining ghetto had section for Hamburg and German Jews.
- 8:20 Children played in ghetto.
- 8:26 Discusses religion in ghetto. No religious holidays recognized. No schools or classes of any sort.

END OF TAPE

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Gildiner, Tatyiaana Tape 2 of 2

- 9:00 Beginning of 1943. Begins work at radio factory. Ghetto where she had been closed, inmate shot.
- 9:10 Describes life in former ghetto. Mostly (?) Belorussian police. Lithuanians in Gestapo. Pogroms carried out mainly Germans – police and (statement ends)
- 9:16 Gildener and about 50 persons from ghetto taken [to?] Poland. Taken to prison and told were now in a camp.
- 9:22 December sent to concentration camp – Bergen-Belsen in Germany. Constant bombing of rail line by Allied planes.
- 9.27 Soviet Jews were very few in camp. Describes life in Bergen-Belsen.
- 10:00 Worked in fabric workshop.
- 10:06 Month later worked carrying things.
- 10:07 Every two weeks inmates called out and those who appeared in bad shape were selected for gas chambers.
- 10:10 Germans usually didn't enter barracks. Selected inmates were "block" commanders. In Gildiner's block they were Polish Jews (women) , who treated inmates cruelly.
- 10:19 Little water or food in camp.
- 10;25 April 15 announced that inmates would receive extra soup, food rations.
- 10:26 British troops arrive.
- 10: 30 Giliner put in British field hospital, helped by Russian speaking doctor.
- 11:01 Transferred to Soviet zone.
- 11:06 Start trip back to Minsk.
- 11:07 Arrives back in Minsk. Lives with former neighbor and family. Health bad. Has tuberculosis – both in lungs and vertebrae. Spent 5 years in hospital.

- 11:17 Receives small pension as invalid but must work to supplement it. 1950's period of Stalinist anti-semitism, and she has difficulty finding job.
- 11:19 Finds job in educational institute. Gildiner says she has been a partial invalid since the war and never married.
- 11:25 Questioners return to discussion of war period. Gildiner describes conditions in camp on eve of liberation. Germans had brought inmates from other camps to Bergen-Belsen. People from Auschwitz and camps all over Germany.

END OF TAPE