

RG-50.378 #005

Teif, Arkadiy Sergeyeovich Tape 1 of 1

- 4 Arkady Sergeyeovich Teif, born 1928 in the town of Smilovich, Minsk oblast. Prior to war, finish 5th class. First 3 in a Yiddish school, then when Yiddish schools abolished in 1939 transferred to a Russian language school. Father was laborer in a boiler factory. Religious family. Poor. 2 older sisters, one of whom died before war.
- 4.14 Discusses life in Smilovich before the war. Nothing special, he says. Jewiosh boys got along well with Russian friends. Jews attended synagogue. No anti-Semitism. Smilovich was a small town 35 km from Minsk. It had a ten grade school, a boiler factory, an agricultural vocational school; tannery.
- 2.01 Discusses famil's Jewish customs. For holidays used local ritual slaughterers to kill a chicken. Had special set of dishes for Passover. Otherwise, family was not kosher.
- 4.14 Day that war broke out he was with his mother visiting her brother in a nearby town. They immediately returned home.
- 4.14 Before the war began for USSR, refugees from Plland had arrived in Smilovich.
- 4.15 Some people began to leave Smilovich on day war began. Teif's family remained.
- 4.14 Germans enter Smilovich on June 26. He was at aunt's house. Germans search house, barn.
- 4.15 Germans set up ghetto, consisting of two streets in the town.
- 4.16 Three bus loads of Lithuanian guards brought in.
- 4.17 Shooting of some ghetto inmates begins. Teif hears shooting, cries. Germans come for his family. He hides in small garden overgrown with nettles. Watches as relatives taken away. Hears shooting.
- 2.26 In the evening he climbs into attic of neighboring house. Next morning Russians come into area and start stealing from the empty houses.
- 4.14 Later hides in attic of town dept. [?] Many other Jews there. Guessing that they would be discovered, he leaves for another hiding place. Jews in store attic were soon found and killed.

- 4.15 Hid for 3 days in Smilovich, then left to go to Minsk. Ended up in Minsk ghetto.
- 4.16 Teif notes that his father and about 50 men had been taken from Smilovch ghetto before the shootings began.

[Break.]

- 3.00 Later found out that all 50 men had been shot on the highway.
- 4.14 After arriving in Minsk ghetto, he stayed there until 1943.
- 3.04 Worked in ghetto, hauling things, various other labor jobs. One German soldier liked him. On a number of occasions warned him about killing of inmates that were about to take place.
- 3.06 First 'pogrom' in Minsk ghetto took place 7 November 1941. Teif guessed that something was up when he saw large number s of 'polizei' approaching ghetto. He escaped and wandered through wood and other villages for 3 day.
- 3.07 Returned to ghetto. In 1943 many escaped to partisans. He also left. Joined Zhorin [or Zorin] unit.
- 3.09 Interviewers return to early days of Smilovich ghetto. Established in August 1941. 2000 persons along two streets.
- 4.14 Describes life in ghetto.
- 4.14 People in ghetto had heard about shootings in nearby towns – Dukor, Shatsk. Feared that they would also be shot.
- 4.15 Shootings in Smilovich ghetto began on Oct. 14, 1941. Lithuanians came in 3 busses. Drove people to Solomyhanka, a ravine. 'Polizei' – local people helped. Took a week to kill 2,200 persons.

[Break.]

- 4.01 Discusses decision to go to Minsk after escaping from Smilovich ghetto and 'pogrom'.
- 4.14 Teif fell ill with typhus.
- 4.15 Describes how he frequently left Minsk ghetto for food.
- 4.09 Discusses arrival in Minsk ghetto of gas vans in 1942. Teif saw young children being taken into vans.

- 4.14 Discusses foreign Jews in ghetto. They came with many belongings, well dressed.
- 4.14 Discusses work in ghetto. He worked cutting hay, various other jobs.
- 4.20 Discusses Judenmat, Jewish 'polizei'. Ghetto inmates despised the Jewish 'polizei', although they were not cruel.
- 4.25 In 1943 many people left ghetto to join partisans.

[Break.]

- 5.00 Many Jews among partisan unit outside Minsk. He was put in a fighting partisan unit. Was sent out on explosive missions – blowing up various targets.
- 5.02 Describes incident in which Polish partisans turned against Soviet partisans, capturing a small group – which included Teif – and interrogated and beat them. Later killed most of the, and Tief, wounded, played dead.
- 5.08 Describes life among partisans, who were mostly Jews.
- 5.19 Describes battle with Germans when Germans were retreating.
- 5.28 Discusses partisan relations with local population. They supported partisan actions against Germans but were uncooperative when it came to supplying partisans with food. Generally local population were people who had lived under Poland before 1939. Were not well-disposed toward Soviets. Usually regarded partisans as thieves because they took food.

[Break.]

- 6.09 Describes incident immediately after liberation of Minsk when he is accused of theft and almost shot by MVD.
- 6.14 Discusses arrival of Soviet troops and linking of partisans with army. Many partisans, including Teif went to Minsk. He went with army further west – with an artillery regiment. Went as far as Berlin. Returned to Minsk in Sept. 1945.
- 6.18 Discusses post-war life, family.

END OF TAPE