

RG-50.378 #24

Lipitz, Sheym Itzokhovich

- 1.00 Born in January 1912 in Grodno; three sisters; he was the youngest child. Before WWI, family moved to area near Leningrad. Father worked as shoemaker. Family was poor. Father died early.
- 1.06 After World War I ended, returned with mother to Grodno. One sister died of disease. Other children hospitalized. Later sent to a children's home.
- 1.13 Begins to attend a trade school. Later works there. Subsequently works in a plywood factory.
- 1.15 Drafted into Polish army. Later demobilized. Returned to work at plywood factory.
- 1.18 At outbreak of war in 1939, he is again called into Polish army and sent to Vilno. There met Soviet troops. Taken as prisoner by Soviets. Later released. Goes to town of Skidel. Gets married.
- 1.27 When Germans attacked USSR, Lipitz drafted into Soviet army.

[break]

- 2.00 Interviewer asks for further details on early life.
- 2.20 Interviewer asks about first days of war. Lipitz in an army unit. It tries to retreat westward, bombed by Germans. German troops attack his unit. He flees. Heads for Grodno. Changes into civilian clothes. Stopped by some German troops.

[break]

- 3.00 Taken to an area with large numbers of Soviet POW's. He falls during march and is helped by German soldier he has conversed with. Taken by Germans to a POW camp in Bilostok. Jewish POWs separated out. He joins Jewish group. Many of group then shot. Day after day more prisoners shot. He escapes. Heads in the direction of Grodno.
- 3.24 Fed by local residents. Reach Grodno. He goes to his old house, meets a sister. Later moved into ghetto.

[break]

- 4.00 Begins to work while in ghetto. Describes German treatment, killing of Jews.
- 4.07 Lipitz flees from place of work. But has no place to go, so returns to ghetto.

4.13 Interviewer asks for details about Grodno ghetto. He worked on a sewing machine. Says can't remember how long he was there. Later taken to Belostok ghetto. Also doesn't remember for how long.

[break]

5.00 Lipitz is transferred back to Grodno ghetto. Put to work in auto repair shop serving Gestapo. Lived rather well, with sufficient food. Says his family taken to Treblinka and killed.

5.15 After a while, repair shop workers sent to a prison in Belostok. [Doesn't remember year.] Some in prison killed, some sent to Germany. Lipitz remained in prison along with 40 others. Works as metal worker.

[break]

6.00 Group of forty taken to woods by Germans and ordered to dig a ditch – uncovered many bodies. Buried bodies. Did this in many areas near Grodno over a period of days.

6.12 One day when group was digging ditch, many of them began to run, Lipitz among them. Hid in woods for 5 days. Wanders through various villages. At this time, Soviet troops approaching from East. He meets Soviet soldiers. They suspect him of being a deserter. Eventually sent to a reserve unit where he served as repair worker. His unit went as far as Berlin.

6.28 After war returned to Minsk area.

END OF TAPE