

RG-50/378 #026 Tape 1 of 2
Sorkin, Nakhim Gershkovits

1.00 Born in Mogilev in 1923. Had one brother and two sisters. Brother went into the army in 1939 and served in Brest. Father was ordinary worker.

1.10 Describes schools, house, city of Mogilev. Says no anti-Semitism during his youth.

1.18 Talks about rumors and reports of war after 1939. Many Jewish refugees from Poland in Mogilev.

1.26 Discusses first days of war.

[break]

2.00 Germans arrived in Mogilev on July 24. Brother also arrives back in Mogilev from army in Brest. Persecution of Jews begins.

2.05 22 Sept. 1941. Jews rounded up and sent to a prison in Mogilev. Germans separated out specialist – tailors, drivers, shoemakers, etc. – and sent them to a camp. Sorkin, brother among them. Never saw his father, mother or older sister again. [Younger sister – 13 or 14 years of age – had run away before column of Jews taken to prison.

2.10 Sorkin works in smith shop – for 2 years from Sept. 1941 to Sept. 1943. Describes food, routine in work camp.

2.15 Interviewer returns to first days of war.

2.25 Describes arrival of Germans in Mogilev.

[break]

3.00 Immediately, orders on Jews issued. Wearing of yellow stars, no walking on sidewalks. Individual shootings took place.

3.15 Describes events of Sept. 22, when Jews rounded up, and all but specialists shot.

[break]

4.00 Still describing life in work camp. Camp was bombed in May 1943. Camp disbanded in September of 1943. Describes German selection of persons to be shot for one reason or another. Describes various instances of shooting. There were several outbreaks of typhus. There were many instances of escapes from the camp.

- 4.09 Describes disbanding of camp in Sept. 1943. Only about 120 or original 1,000 or so persons had survived by this time.
- 4.10 Remaining prisoners put on train and taken to Minsk, where they stayed about 10 days. Then taken by train to Lublin, near Maidaulk camp. Separated from brother and never saw him again. Taken with other metal workers to town of Budin. His work involved airplane company, Henkel. Remained there until about Aug. 1944.

[break]

- 5.00 Budin had Ukrainian police as well as SS.
- 5.07 In August 1944 taken to Velichka where they worked in salt mines.
- 5.17 Subsequently, Sorkin taken with other prisoners to a camp in Flossenburg. Remained a few weeks. Then sent to Lagmeritsy [phonetic] near Prague where he worked in metal shop.

[break]

- 6.03 From Lagmeritsy sent to Dachau, where they sorted 'millions' of shoes, eye glasses, umbrellas, briefcases, etc. Stayed about a week. Treatment was relatively good. Camp was mixed: Italians, French, Jews and non-Jews.
- 6.11 Moved to Ausburg [as heard]. Camp also mixed nationalities.
- 6.18 Next, moved to Lyonberg [phonetic], near Stuttgart. Frequently bombed by Allied planes.

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- 7.00 His work in Lyenburg involved with making airplane wings.
- 7.10 Describes bombing of camp by Allied planes and prisoners' reactions.
- 7.12 Later transferred to Landau – towards end of March. Worked on airfield. Stayed about a month and then moved again. Marched to various places over a period of three or four days. Finally told they free. Sorkin and some comrades asked for and received food from various German houses. Soon met approaching American troops. Stayed about 2 months with American unit. Then went to Soviet zone.
- 7.24 Soviets interrogated – treated as possible spy. When cleared, crafted into Army. Describes post-war life.

END OF TAPE