KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview & Readings w/AVRAHAM TORY page 1 Interviewed (7-17-97) by Sandra W. Bradley
Wentworth Films, Inc. 9400 Kendale Rd, Potomac, MD 20854
TIMECODE NOTES:

WENTWORTH FILMS - KOVNO GHETTO - ISRAEL

Interview Avraham Tory (7-17-97)
Sound rolls 35-39, part 1

SOUND ROLL 35

(This is going to be sound roll 35, Kovno ghetto. The date is July 17. 7-1/2 IPS synch, that was a minus 8db reference tone nagra)

(Slate)

(Avraham Tory, take one)

Q: In the ghetto you decided to can you tell me a little bit about that.

AT: Well, I thought that they keep us in the ghetto in order that the outside world should not know what expired inside the ghetto. So I thought it is important

to me to write down a diary and mark down what happened in the ghetto day by day.

Q: What other things did you do to keep a record.

AT: I beg your pardon.

Q: What other things did you keep as evidence.

AT: Well, I kept also documents, documents.

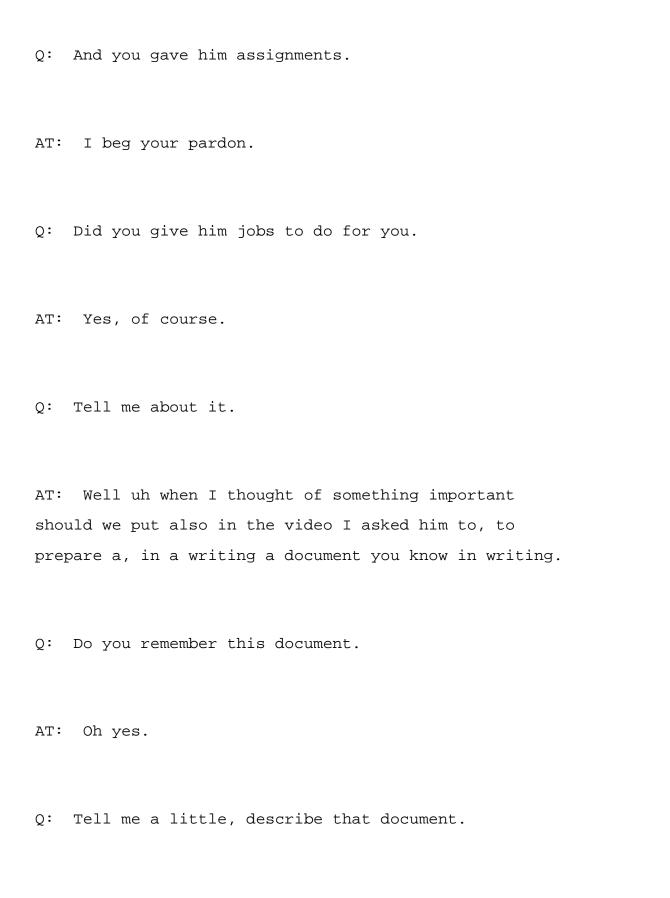
O: What kind of documents.

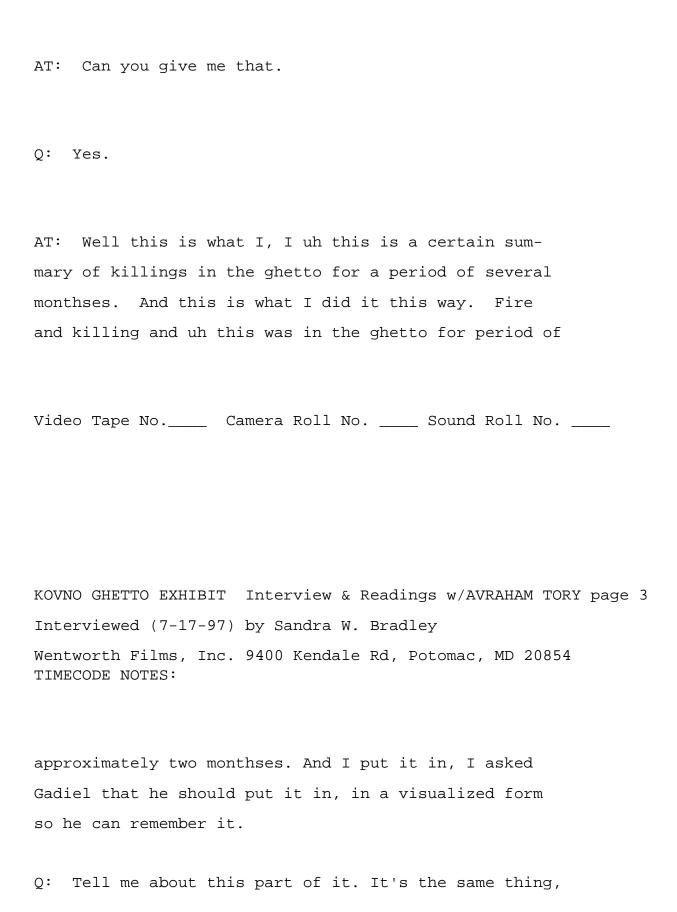
AT: Let's say the orders of the Germans. Orders. And whatever it, it come to me to be important for the future generation.

Q: When you kept track of the German orders how did you do that.

AT: I beg your pardon.

Q: How did you do that, did you have someone type the
Video Tape No Camera Roll No Sound Roll No
KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview & Readings w/AVRAHAM TORY page 2
Interviewed (7-17-97) by Sandra W. Bradley
Wentworth Films, Inc. 9400 Kendale Rd, Potomac, MD 20854 TIMECODE NOTES:
orders.
AT: I did it myself.
Q: Tell me about Gadiel's workshop.
AT: Oh Gadiel, yes. Gadiel is, was a very important
graphic. He was a master of graphics. And he had a
workshop of graphics and we were in very close contact
with him all the time.





the same document but a chart.

AT: Yes. Yes. This is the balance of two monthses of killings. Uh. And the 9th and there was September and October in 1944 in the ghetto. This is men, women, and on the twentie...the 28th of October was a very crucial day in the ghetto. There are people were killed and that's why I put it specially, specially, special (way?).

Q: I don't know if you can read any of that

AT: Yes, I can read it.

Q: You can read it. Can you read a little of that in Yiddish. Keep rolling. We'll just wait on that. Is it easier to... I'm going to hold it here. Wait just a minute, there's an airplane.

AT: Yes, this is first days of the war, some 6,000 young men were caught in the streets, were taken out of their homes. They were brought into the ghettoes, 29, 30, 64 people.

Q:	Read	l a	little	bi	Ĺt	of	the	Yido	dish	ı to	me	or	the
Hebi	cew,	wha	atever	it	is	5.	Read	d it	in	that	: la	angı	ıage.
Read	d it	in	Yiddis	sh.									

AT: (reads in Yiddish)

Q: Now I'm going to hold up another sheet in English and voice over just for And then we're going to roll picture again. I'll hold it for you.

AT: As secretary of the Altestenrat, I asked for the preparation of a summary of losses in the ghetto--a document that would be passed down as historical evidence. The Memorial tablet was created from thick sketch paper and shaped into a synagogue ark, fold,

Video Tape No.____ Camera Roll No. ____ Sound Roll No. ____

KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview & Readings w/AVRAHAM TORY page 4 Interviewed (7-17-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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folded into several parts.

In the ghetto, there was an office called in German Mal un Zeichen Werkstatt of the, or the Paint and Sketch Workshop. It was headed by a German Jew named Fritz Gadiel. In this workshops they prepared the signs and announcements for ghetto residents in German Yiddish and also Lithuanian and also statistical tables, various graphics and uh designs. Several talented young people form the ghetto worked there. Fritz Gadiel was blessed with

talents. During those terrible days—the days of aktions and on the eves before the aktions—he and the assistants sat bent over posters. They were artistic, even the work they prepared called on the population to do horrible things. The posters announced things like prohibition of pregnancy, confiscation of property for Germans, confiscation of furs.

Q: Keep going.

(Still rolling, that was 2)

Q: I'll hold it up for you.

AT: It's all right, it's all right.

The statistical numbers, the statistical numbers were prepared in the office called Einwohner Nachweis-Amt. This office recorded births before they were forbidden, deaths, changes in the population after aktions and deportation. They also kept a record of marriages and divorces as well as numbers of workers at each work site.

This diagram "The Numbers Cry Out" was prepared a ropra for a booklet which listed a commands given by the ghetto since it had formed. I gave it to a Lithuanian for safe guarding, safe keeping—together with many other things, including Esther Lurie's works.

The first page heading says, "The numbers demand an accounting). Retribution. It gives a summer of the Jewish population in Kovno Ghetto and at the end of 1942. The text says:

Already during the first days of the war, more than 6,000 Jews were killed, especially young men. They were sketched from the streets, snatched from the streets,

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KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview & Readings w/AVRAHAM TORY page 5
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Wentworth Films, Inc. 9400 Kendale Rd, Potomac, MD 20854 TIMECODE NOTES:
dragged out of the houses and murdered at the Forts.
The beginning of 19, August 27,761 souls went into the
ghetto.
(That was 3)
Q: Want to take a rest for a minute or do you want to
keep reading.
(4)
AT: In August 534 young men and additional 91 people
were taken

from the ghetto and killed. According to the count in September 1941 ther were 29,136 souls remaining.

During the blood the spilled, the blood spilled aktions of September and october 41, 11,665 Jews were murdered, particularly women and children. After then in November 1941, only 17, 412 souls remained.

Even during the period of normal life in the ghetto, another 811 Jews were murdered. Thus from the approximately 35,000 Jews who lived in Kovno at the end of June or July 1941, only 16,601 remained by the end of December 1942.

The chart heading is "The Bloody total". Over 6000 victims in the city, 12,199 victims of aktions in the ghetto, 366 victims of individual murder, 646 deported or died slow deaths. Only 230 buried in Israeli ghetto. Total: 19,231 victims.

(pause)

The graph, the graph chart shows the population of the ghetto in September and November before and after the aktions. It is broken down by age. The bottom line reads the blood balance of two monthses in the ghetto.

Kozlovsky Aktion - September 26. Small ghetto aktion ghetto - October 4. Great Aktion October 28, 1941.

When you open the document another level, it shows a graphic panel with machine guns train, and gra, gravestones and these numbers of stoning, burning, murder and struggle, strangulations. 336 accidental murder. 646 deported form the ghetto. 240 laid to rest in a Jewish grave in the cemetery. And 12,199 murdered in aktions.

Video Tape No.____ Camera Roll No. ____ Sound Roll No. ____

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TIMECODE NOTES:

A panel called the atrocities total read, reads "From August 1941 until December 31, 1942 there disappeared from the ghetto in the back the abyss through various methods 13,421 Jews.

When the document is folded open yet another layer there is a chart that breaks down the losses of human

life by gender and age. Human figures are used as bars for the chart to show men, women and children lost.

(change rolls)

Video Tape No Camera Roll No Sound Roll No
KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview & Readings w/AVRAHAM TORY page 7
Interviewed (7-17-97) by Sandra W. Bradley
Wentworth Films, Inc. 9400 Kendale Rd, Potomac, MD 20854 TIMECODE NOTES:
(beep)

(this is sound only 5)
(roll cassette)

Q: Ok, go ahead.

AT: This was only at the end of 1942. It doesn't show the massive losses in life after that before, after uh, that before the ghetto was finally liquidated.

During the period of the occupation the forts near Kovno were the Valleys of Death of Lithuanian Jewry.

Alternates:

The period of terror is summarized in these words. "In all, the bloody total is, is greater than 6000 martyrs from the incidental shootings, 646 martyrs deported (some died during their deportation), 240 died natural deaths in the ghetto. All in all 19,421 sacrifices."

Q: Now just read from the, these two sentences once again at the top.

AT: This was only at the end of 1942. It does not

show the massive losses in life after that, before the

ghetto was finally liquidated. During the period of
occupation of the occupation, the forts near Kovno were
the valleys of death of Lithuanian Jewry.
Q: Cut. I'm just going to do some
(Speed, sync take 2 mark)
Q: Do you remember the start of the war.
AT: I beg your pardon.
Q: Do you remember when the war started.
AT: When the war started?
Video Tane No. Camera Poll No. Sound Poll No.

KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview & Readings w/AVRAHAM TORY page 8
Interviewed (7-17-97) by Sandra W. Bradley
Wentworth Films, Inc. 9400 Kendale Rd, Potomac, MD 20854
TIMECODE NOTES:

Q: Yes, what did you hear, what was it like.
AT: Well it start shooting and, and arresting of jews

in the streets and so on.

Q: What kinds of things happened to the Jews in the early days.

AT: In the early day, they used to, to catch jews on the streets. And take them to the for, to the jail.

Q: And when the ghetto was set up, how did everyone move into the ghetto.

AT: There was a note about that from the 15th of, of August everyone has to be in the ghetto. It was note there, official note of the government.

Q: How did they move there.

AT: I beg your pardon.

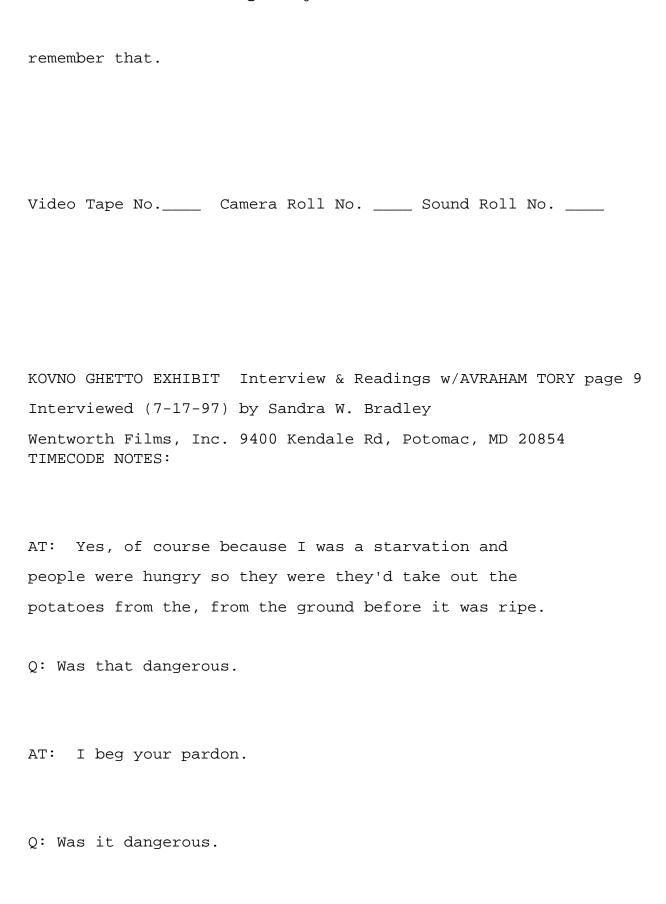
Q: How did everyone move there.

AT: First of all most of the people lived in the, in the area of the ghetto and the others had to were given a, a special date. To this date everyone has to move to the ghetto.

Q: Tell me about the aktion, the great aktion on October 28th.

AT: The day, this was the big aktion. 10,000 people were taken away from the, on all the, all the Jews from the ghetto were ordered to a, appear on the democratic square which was a great square and there they used, they, they selected, they could send thousands away and they never came back.

Q: Tell me about raiding the potato fields, do you



AT: It was dangerous because the people were hungry.

And when you're hungry you don't think about dangerous or not dangerous.

Q: Tell me what you did with the artists. Did you send Esther Lurie and Joseph Lipshitz to take, to make pictures.

AT: I was all of the time with Esther Lurie in contact. And also Lipshitz of course, yes.

Q: What did you tell them to do.

AT: When, according to what I thought was important to tell the from the ghetto.

Q: You sent them to do pictures.

AT: Yes, I went with Esther Lurie for I was a part of the ghetto that was taken out of the framework of the ghetto so there was a to go there. But I went

with her, with Esther Lurie and she painted from a, from a hidden house.
Q: That was a house where there had been
AT: I beg your pardon.
Q: Was that the dentists house.
Video Tape No Camera Roll No Sound Roll No
KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview & Readings w/AVRAHAM TORY page 10
Interviewed (7-17-97) by Sandra W. Bradley
Wentworth Films, Inc. 9400 Kendale Rd, Potomac, MD 20854 TIMECODE NOTES:
AT: No, no.

Q: The hospital, where the hospital was burned.

AT: No, yeah this is the area.

Q: The hospital burning tell me about that.

AT: The hospital with the, with the patients with the doctors have they are just put in a fire and they didn't let (clears throat) the fire brigade from the ghetto to come closer and, and liquidate the fire.

Q: Why did they do that.

AT: The Germans wanted to kill the Jews. It's simple like that.

Q: Did they give an order they were going to set the hospital on fire.

AT: No, they just put the fire and finished. Without any notice, without any prior noticement.

Q: Did you see the fire.	
AT: Of course.	
Q: Tell me about it.	
AT: Everybody could see the fire. Fire. And the, the, the fire brigade that came close they didn't let them to, to deal with the fire.	
Q: What time of day was it.	
Video Tape No Camera Roll No Sound Roll No	-
KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview & Readings w/AVRAHAM TORY pa	age

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Interviewed (7-17-97) by Sandra W. Bradley
Wentworth Films, Inc. 9400 Kendale Rd, Potomac, MD 20854
TIMECODE NOTES:

AT: Daylight, in the morning. In the morning.

Q: We have to put another roll of film on.

Video	Tape	No	Camera	Roll	No.		Sound	Roll	No.	
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KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview & Readings w/AVRAHAM TORY page 12

Interviewed (7-17-97) by Sandra W. Bradley
Wentworth Films, Inc. 9400 Kendale Rd, Potomac, MD 20854
TIMECODE NOTES:

(This is camera roll 2, sound 3.)
(Camera roll 72)
(72, right and mark)

Q: Tell me about how people really how did they who did they have carts and horses.

AT: Yeah carts and horses but they, they ordered not to, not to serve the Jews. But nevertheless they served. And there were rows, long rows through the streets of Kovno on the way to the ghetto. I have some pictures even of that.

O: You talked about once the book aktion.

AT: Yes.

Q: Tell me about that. What was the Book aktion.

AT: There was an order of the Germans to take to give away all the books. And so we other in the clandestine to instead of giving to the Germans the books, most of the books went clandestine to certain to the, to the underground.

Q: What about the dog and cat aktion.

AT: Was

Q: Dog and cat aktion.

AT: Dog and cat aktions. Yes. They were ordered to the, to the, to the synagogue, yes in order to, to, to hurt the feelings of the jews. And they brought the in the, in the synagogue and there they were killed.

Q:	And	16	eft	there	≘.	Were	they	left.	Dr.	Elkins,	what
kind	l of	а	man	was	Dr.	Elki	ins.				

AT: He was an exceptional man. First of all, he was a famous doctor, a physician but instead but he was a

Video	Tape	No.	Camera	Roll	No.	Sound	Roll	No.	

KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview & Readings w/AVRAHAM TORY page 13

Interviewed (7-17-97) by Sandra W. Bradley
Wentworth Films, Inc. 9400 Kendale Rd, Potomac, MD 20854
TIMECODE NOTES:

great Jew, very devoted to his people and uh he didn't want to be elected as a chairman. But finally they were, were he was elected and he was the best Jews I think we ever knew. He was all the time head of the ghetto.

Q: Do you remember being forced to go to a bar mitzvah

of the Zussman. Do you remember that.

AT: Oh yes.

Q: Tell me about that day.

AT: Well you see I was in the, in the office of the ghetto and when I got a call from the ghetto werkstatten, the, the uh, the ghetto workshops. There came (Miller?) from the stadt commissar and they asked that I should come immediately to the workshops. So I went to from the, from the Altestenrat to the, to the workshops. On the way 8 men caught by the hand and he didn't let me any go. Just what happened you have to be by my, by my son has bar mitzvah and you have to be drink l'chaim and, and he didn't let me go until I sat down and made the barucha and so I did. It was very boring.

Q: Were they very religious people.

AT: They were people religious, people not religious, but bar mitzvah is not a, a matter of religious.

Q: But were those particular people
AT: Yes.
Q: And did they have, where they happy, how could they be happy in the ghetto.
AT: Nobody was happy in the ghetto. Nobody. It was a cut off from the entire world.
Q: The ghetto changed to a concentration camp. Tell me
Video Tape No Camera Roll No Sound Roll No
KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview & Readings w/AVRAHAM TORY page
Interviewed (7-17-97) by Sandra W. Bradley
Wentworth Films, Inc. 9400 Kendale Rd, Potomac, MD 20854 TIMECODE NOTES:

about that.

AT: Well this was more a stronger, close of the in evident and restriction of the movements and so on. It was a, people restrictions, stricter restrictions.

Q: And the SS came in then and they what did they do to the Jewish committee.

AT: The on the Jewish committee was, was liquidated because they had no functions. But still they, they existed.

Q: Underground.

AT: Yes.

Q: Resistance. So people thought that.

AT: Yes.

Q: And so tell me about food. Was there enough food.

AT: Food, there was never enough food in the ghetto and we always used to go to the city to work. People used to go over to work, the gates. So they used back, back food. On the gate they used to take away parts of the food that they, they didn't allow to go in the ghetto. It was a, a very hard situation.

Q: Wood, fire wood.

AT: Yes, of course. We, we uh got a load to put the fire with a certain quantity. A very, very small quantity but on the same, on the same permit we clandestinely brought in the ghetto much more firewood.

Q: Was it dangerous, could people be killed for smuggling.

AT: Of course. But we were very de, very careful. By passing the gates of the ghetto.

Video Tape No.____ Camera Roll No. ____ Sound Roll No. ____

KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview & Readings w/AVRAHAM TORY page 15

Interviewed (7-17-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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Q: Did people burn furniture to keep warm.

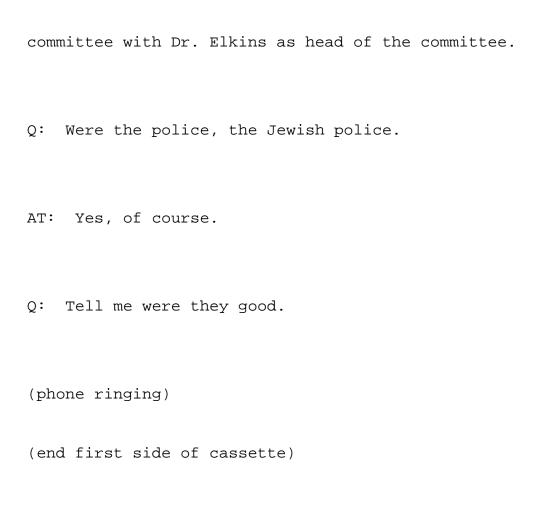
AT: Yes.

Q: Tell me about it.

AT: My wife she took a wonderful furniture and, and she burned it into to give warm the, a room in the ghetto.

Q: The Jewish committee, tell me how it was formed.

AT: Well the Kovno ghetto were the only one at least the , the, the Jews themselves elected the, their



Video Tape No Camera Roll No Sound Roll No
KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview & Readings w/AVRAHAM TORY page 16
Interviewed (7-17-97) by Sandra W. Bradley
Wentworth Films, Inc. 9400 Kendale Rd, Potomac, MD 20854 TIMECODE NOTES:
(Sound roll 37, set it again for the cassette)
(Sync take 4, mark)
O: Toursham was buried things in the abotto was hid
Q: Avraham, you buried things in the ghetto, you hid
things, tell me about that.
AT: Well I, I buried things in the ghetto in order to

keep from the Germans you understand. So I kept it in

the, in the clandestine and then after the ghetto, part

I found, part I didn't found.

Q: You went back how soon after the ghetto burned, when did you go back.

AT: When the ghetto was liquidated we were, were all left. The ghetto was burned in the little part of the ghetto. There were, the ghetto was the smaller part and the bigger part. And the, the burned in the smaller part of the ghetto yes.

Q: When how soon did you go and dig up the diary.

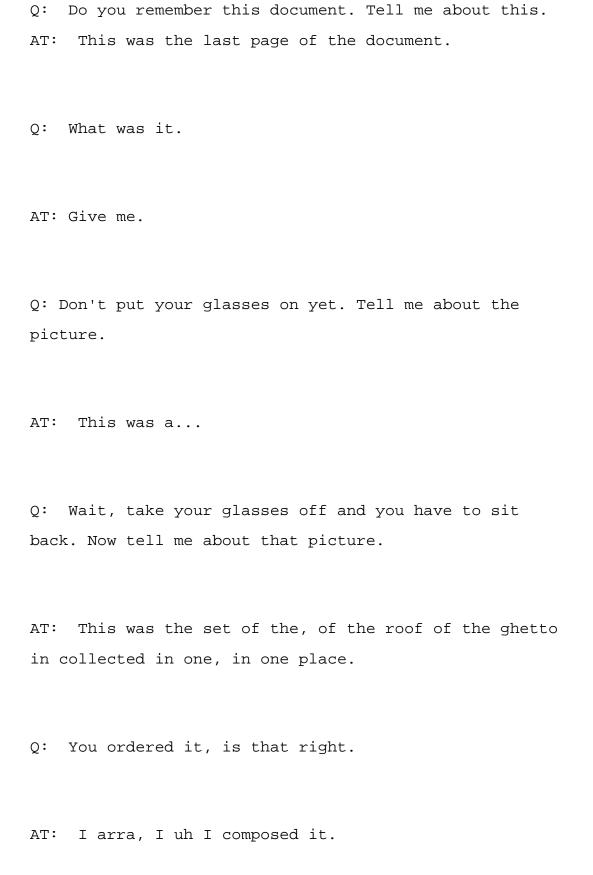
AT: As soon as I, as I the ghetto was liquidated.

Q: Tell me about digging it up.

AT: I went in the places where I, where I have was hiding it. About two meters below the uh earth and I digged it up. In four places there were diaries.

There I, I dig, I had to dig it up in five places but the two places, I couldn't reach because it was ruined so only three places I could dig it up.

Q: Did you bury it inside jars or what did you put the
diary inside. To bury it.
AT: Just plain uh, plain uh cartons.
Q: Tell me about them. Ok.
(Rolling, this is take 5, marker)
Video Tape No Camera Roll No Sound Roll No
KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview & Readings w/AVRAHAM TORY page 17
Interviewed (7-17-97) by Sandra W. Bradley
Wentworth Films, Inc. 9400 Kendale Rd, Potomac, MD 20854 TIMECODE NOTES:



Q:	How.
AT:	I collected from and then put it together.
Q:	With our own hands.
AT:	Yes.
Q:	You pasted it together.
AT:	Yes.
Q:	And tell me about the picture, the picture
Vide	eo Tape No Camera Roll No Sound Roll No

KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview & Readings w/AVRAHAM TORY page 18

Interviewed (7-17-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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AT: The picture was symbolic to show that there is no equal, equality yes, in the ghetto.

Q: Did you bury this document.

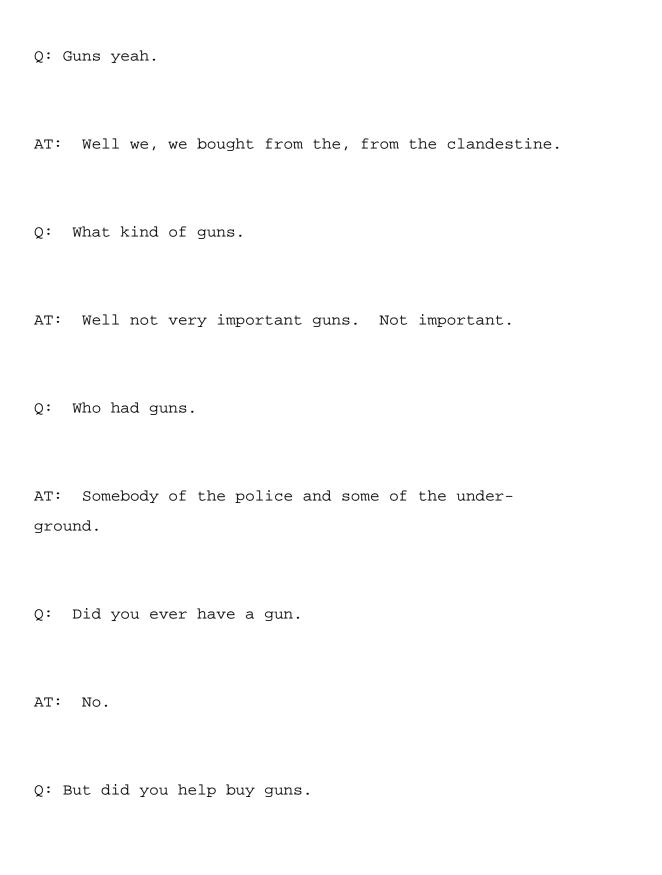
AT: Yes.

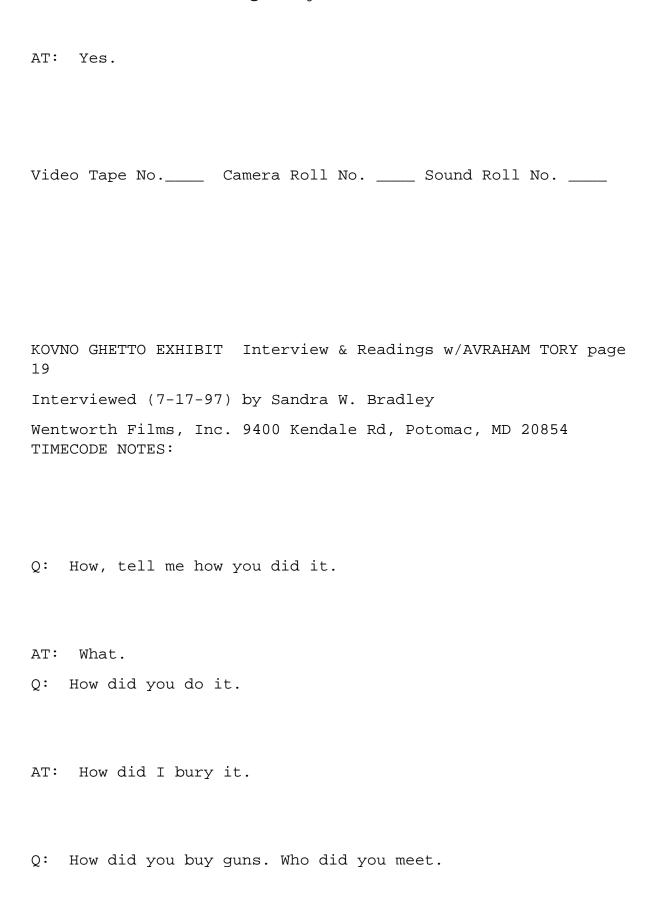
Q: Do you remember where you buried it.

AT: Well it, you, I used to in, in, in there was a, a building and it was called block C. And below this block C we buried the, the five crates.

Q: How did you get guns.

AT: Guns.





AT: Ah, I didn't buy them. Some of our underground, members of the underground went to the city and they used to buy the guns and bring it into the ghetto.

Q: Did anyone get away from the ninth force ever and come back and tell you about it.

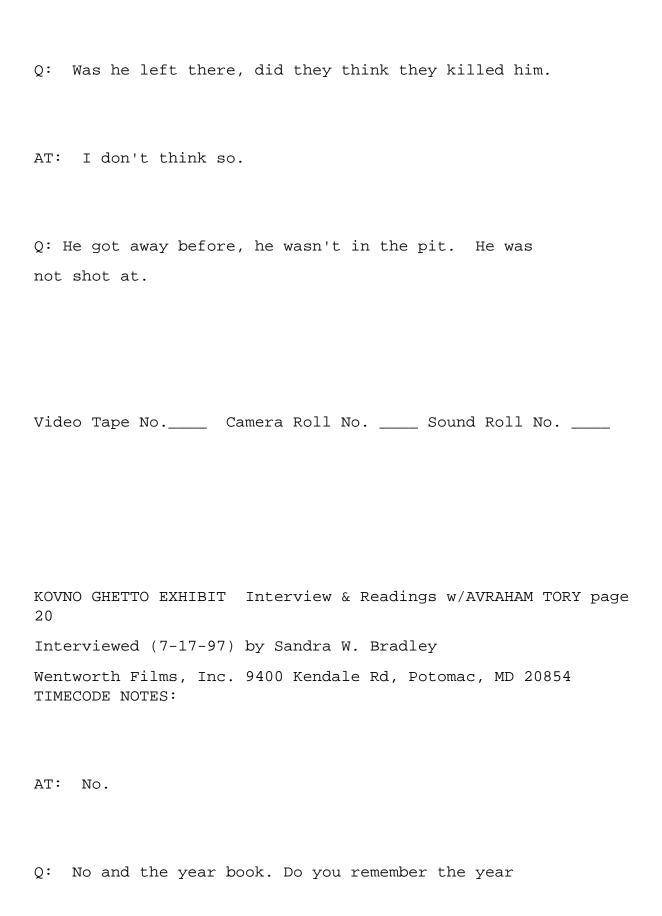
AT: No, we there was an escape from the ninth force. It's a famous escape of the ninth force.

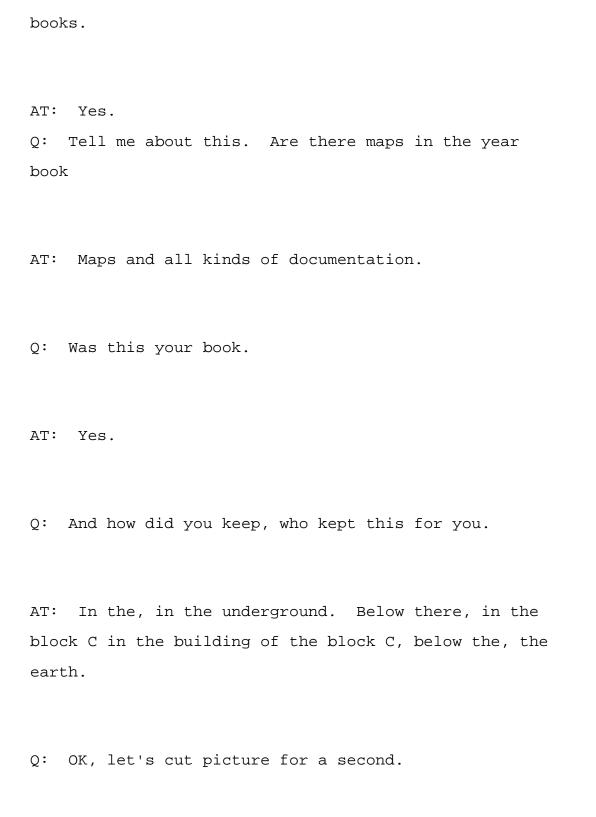
Q: But did anyone ever come out who didn't get killed, did a little boy come back to the ghetto.

AT: He came back to the ghetto yes.

Q: What did he tell you.

AT: Well it was a little boy and he there was not much to, we could learn from him. But nevertheless he was the only one, the first one that came that escaped from the ninth fortress. (sigh)





Video	Tape No	o	Camera	Roll	No	Sot	und Roll	No	
	GHETTO	EXHIBIT	I Inte	rview	& Read	lings v	√AVRAHA	M TORY	page
21									

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word. It is not the primary source, and it has not been checked for spelling or accuracy.

Interviewed (7-17-97) by Sandra W. Bradley
Wentworth Films, Inc. 9400 Kendale Rd, Potomac, MD 20854
TIMECODE NOTES:

(this is sound roll A 6)

Q: You can wear your glasses and I was going to have you read some of this. This is about the year book and I'll hold it.

AT: The yearbook. the 42 yearbook has 365 page, one for every day of 1942. The, the title page displays the logo of, of ghetto administration with the Council of Elders of the Jewish Ghetto in Vilijampole written around it. Daily entries were typed in Yiddish and posted onto a, the pages. Dates when large numbers of people were killed were marked by yortsayt candle, a flame candle on anniversary of a death.

In the book, of the book in the back of the book are descriptions and color illustrations of armbands worn by Jewish Ghetto police, Altestenrat Council members, Sanitation Service, Workshop workers, Fire fighters, Ghetto Messengers and construction workers. An armband in the ghetto was not just a badge, but part of uniform. In the days of aktions, people live, people lives were sometimes saved only thanks to the armbands. A

color life, graph chart the work at the Aerodrome.

In the back cover is a mp of Slabodke the streets named in Yiddish, with police precinct borders indicated. A series map overlays show the ghetto boundaries became smaller and smaller through 1942 with information about why--taking the small ghetto, aktion and mass murders at the Ninth fort. The remaining of the population was pressed together in great crowding in the ridiculously small area which each was given the space of, of grave 2 comma 3 square meters per person.

Q: I'm going to just show you some things. Tell me about the, the maps that were in the book.

AT: Yes.

Q: Like what did the maps show. Did they show the ghetto getting smaller and smaller.

AT: Yes, yes, yes.

Q: Tell me about it.

Video Tape No Camera Roll No Sound Roll No
KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview & Readings w/AVRAHAM TORY page 22
Interviewed (7-17-97) by Sandra W. Bradley
Wentworth Films, Inc. 9400 Kendale Rd, Potomac, MD 20854 TIMECODE NOTES:
AT: Yeah, here you can see parts of the ghetto that
they go.
Q: Now as if you didn't already read, tell me what
does this
mean. This candle, what does this mean.
AT: Yeah, this is yortach, a remember day of
special day the second of August 1941.

Q: A special day, why was it a special day.

AT: Because there was killings. Yes here is the, the how the ghetto goes smaller and smaller. You see.

This was . And here is where at what date the the ghetto was, was effect.

Q: When they cut the ghetto what did they do, how did they do that.

AT: Just simply took it out, to get out.

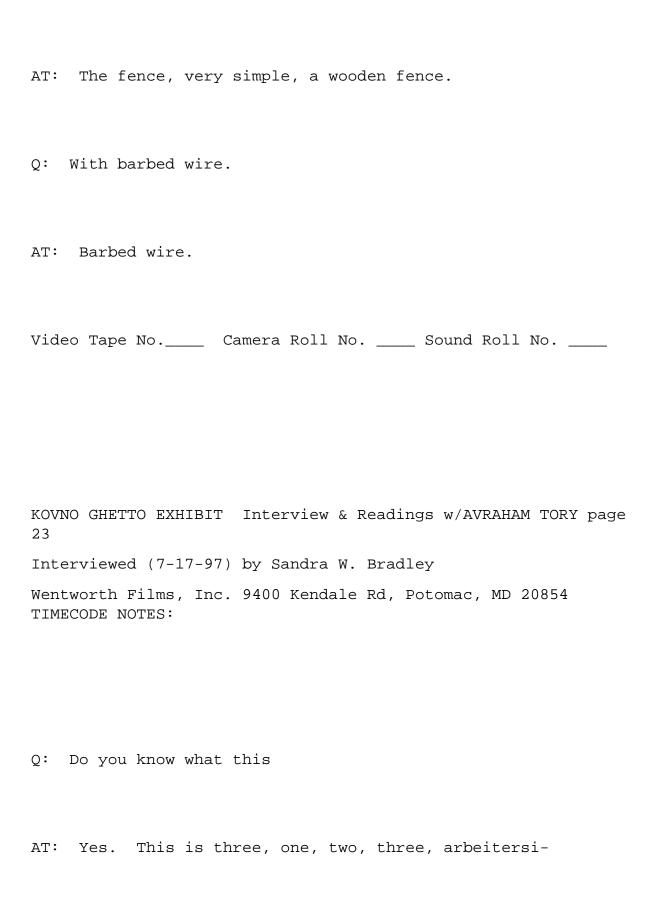
Q: Told everyone to move and then what happened.

AT: People couldn't stay there any more.

Q: What was the fence like around the ghetto, the fence what was it like.

AT: What.

Q: The fence around the ghetto, the fence.



zats, a labor, it's frequency. Your labor frequency in
the, in September and November and so on. See, yes.
Q: How many people went on hard labor, is that

AT: Oh yes it is, it's written exactly. Here is exactly written how many.

Q: And this was part of the year book.

AT: Yes.

Q: So did you make this chart.

AT: Yes. Ideo made it but I uh I gave him the numbers, the data. This was the big idea.

Q: Cut for just a second. I can't find one of the pages.

(Sound roll one seven)

Q: Do you recognize that.
AT: Front??? Yes, this is for the, front (?).
There was a place, a very hard place to walk for the
Germans. The military German where Jews work there.
Q: And is this a, I'll hold it,
AT: Ghetto police.
Q: Is this the arm band.
Video Tape No Camera Roll No Sound Roll No
KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview & Readings w/AVRAHAM TORY page 24
Interviewed (7-17-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

Wentworth Films, Inc. 9400 Kendale Rd, Potomac, MD 20854 TIMECODE NOTES:

AT: Arm band, yes.

Q: And whose is this.

AT: This is all, also kinds of for the police. Arbeitziders each one had a sign. Altestenrat this is a Jewish committee and arbeitseiders, this is the labor.

Q: ...wear this

AT: I beg pardon.

Q: Did you wear this.

AT: Yes.

Q: Tell me I wore this arm band, tell me that.

AT: This was a ordered by the ...stadt and the



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KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview & Readings w/AVRAHAM TORY page
25
Interviewed (7-17-97) by Sandra W. Bradley
Wentworth Films, Inc. 9400 Kendale Rd, Potomac, MD 20854
TIMECODE NOTES:
(sound roll 38, July 17)
(July 17, 7-1/2 IPS, that was my mistake, should be
reference pilot tone sync, we're continuing wild sound,
slate number what Jim)
(Yeah it's 8)
(Sound number 8)
Q: Do you recognize this.
AT:
   Ergos, this was the major and you see the it's the
(
     )
Q: A stamp. What did this stamp mean.
```

AT: So all kinds of documents that the stadt used to use.

Q: And the official alte

AT: Yes. This was the set up of the, of the departments of the altesterrat.

Q: Tell me more about it, tell me more about that.

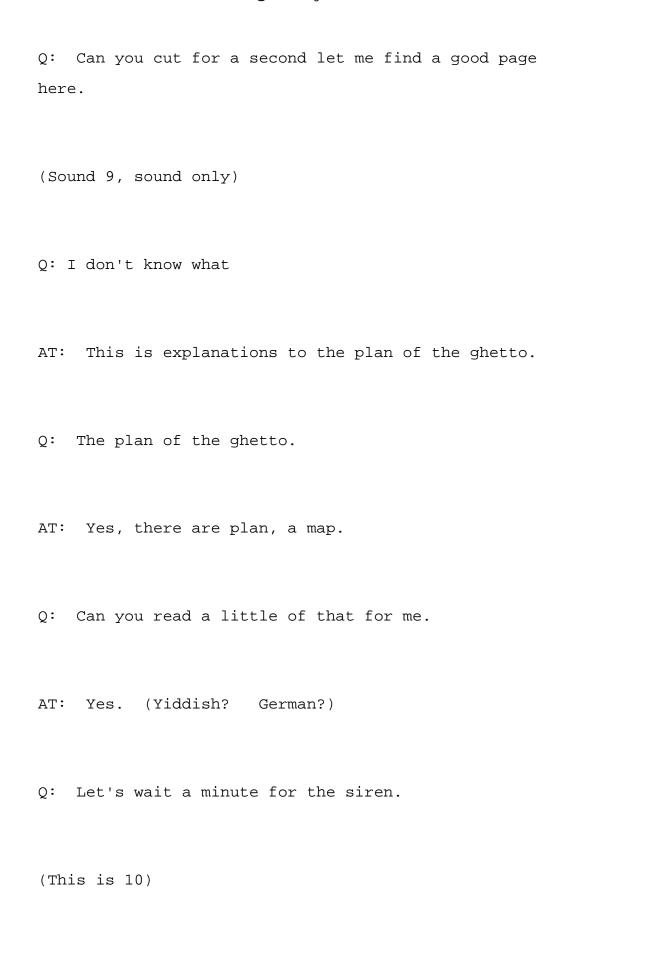
AT: There is the secretariat, this is the altestenrat and this is secretariat and this is control commission. And this is the court. And this is the police and this is a speishusund, arbeitsund. Yiddisher , welshersund, framisund, social. Aptek. Solemarkwerstad. Goethewerkstadt. Uh and the, the

O: So this shows the work shops of the ghetto.

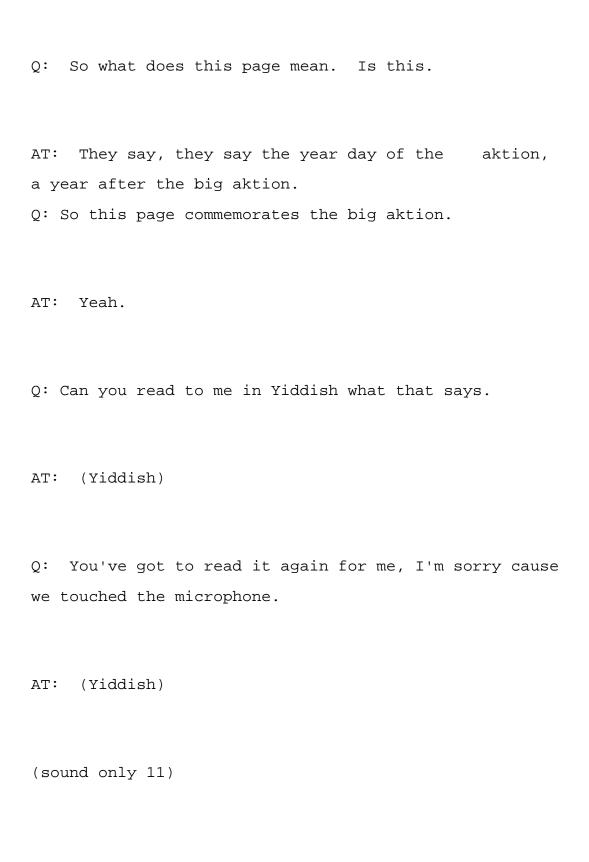
AT: Yes.

Q: And now can you, I don't know if you can read all

these pages.
AT: Oh ghetto werkstette this, this is for the
sanitet, sanitary. And this is for the ghetto werk-
stett, workshops.
Video Tape No Camera Roll No Sound Roll No
KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview & Readings w/AVRAHAM TORY page 26
Interviewed (7-17-97) by Sandra W. Bradley
Wentworth Films, Inc. 9400 Kendale Rd, Potomac, MD 20854 TIMECODE NOTES:
Q: Can you read a little of this for me in Hebrew or in Yiddish.
AT: (Yiddish? German?)



Q: Ok, go ahead, this is wild sound.
AT: Alte daily the day of the grace, of a great aktion in the ghetto. Where people were killed.
Q: Ok this is 1942.
AT: Yes, this was the same year, the day, this it was a 41.
Video Tape No Camera Roll No Sound Roll No
KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview & Readings w/AVRAHAM TORY page 27
Interviewed (7-17-97) by Sandra W. Bradley
Wentworth Films, Inc. 9400 Kendale Rd, Potomac, MD 20854 TIMECODE NOTES:



AT: In the completion of German orders. The completion of German orders.

Q: Compilation.

AT: The collection of German Laws is a collection of the oral and written orders and regulations between July 1941 and March 1943. I collected and edited the document and Fritz Gadiel did the illustration. It is ont a complete diary documenting all the events in the ghetto, but we compiled the collection of documents, the orders received by the leadership to preserve evidence for the future—evidence about the preparation, preparators who were responsible for conditions in the ghetto.

The orders are almost in all German and most are arranged chronologically. They were collected, cut off and posted on the cardboard in the early 1943. On the cover was a picture Justitia blindfolded, standing on the broken postestal and holding a bloody sword. For events that involved the death of Jews, a black paper

Video Tape No.____ Camera Roll No. ____ Sound Roll No. ____

KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview & Readings w/AVRAHAM TORY page 28

Interviewed (7-17-97) by Sandra W. Bradley
Wentworth Films, Inc. 9400 Kendale Rd, Potomac, MD 20854
TIMECODE NOTES:

frame surrounded the text--usually, not always.

There are orders to hand things over: things like horses, cows, poultry, carts and sleds, electrical items, soap, furs, books, water sport equipment, Altestenrat money, milk from the 6 cows, valuables, single shoes, gloves and, and socks.

Other prohibited things like newspapers, buying anything in the city, taking money out of the ghetto, carrying razor blades in , smoking.

There are regulations about wearing Star of David--the yellow star--and another order that they cannot be embroidered stars, but must be made of fabric.

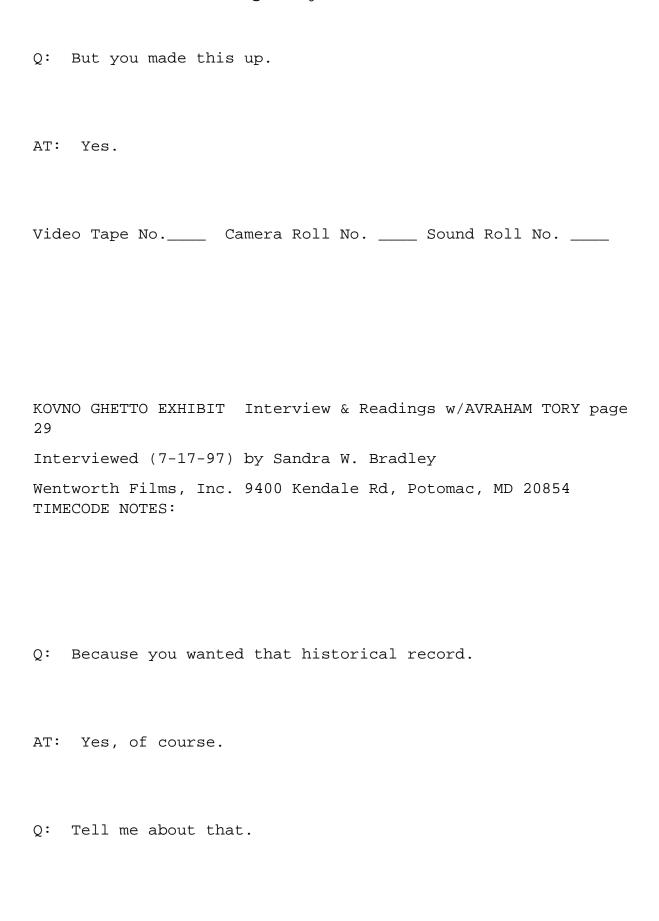
There are proclamations about work and people needed for work, regulations about the setting up and reo, reorganization of the workshops, calls for a specific numbers of people to report for various tasks at various times. For example one time a call for 2000 to

build an airfield and other time for complete list dentists.

There are orders to report for deportation. And there are orders that result in death. Such persons for September 1941 to Fort hospital burning October 4, Great Aktion October 28. There is regulations about death zone by the fence of three meters. Orders that call for executions of people for black marketing at various times, including one to take wives and children of four ghetto inmates who smuggled a truck of flour into the ghetto to the Ninth Fortress for execution and a report an 18 year old killed who wanted, for wanting to see boots to a lithuanian policeman. the hanging of Meck from gallows and remaining there are four 24 hours after the execution of Meck's another, mother and sister.

Q: Now in your own words I want you to tell me about the compilation of German orders. You, you made this document right.

AT: This is the information of the altestenrat. They in wishes and outside of of the Gestapo. Today it is not and all kinds of, all kinds of



AT: It's exactly what I saw. the commander of the SA on the 21st of July 42. Order of commandant, commandant 25th of July Order of state commissar.

Q: Why did you do this.

AT: Because to keep record for this history of the ghetto.

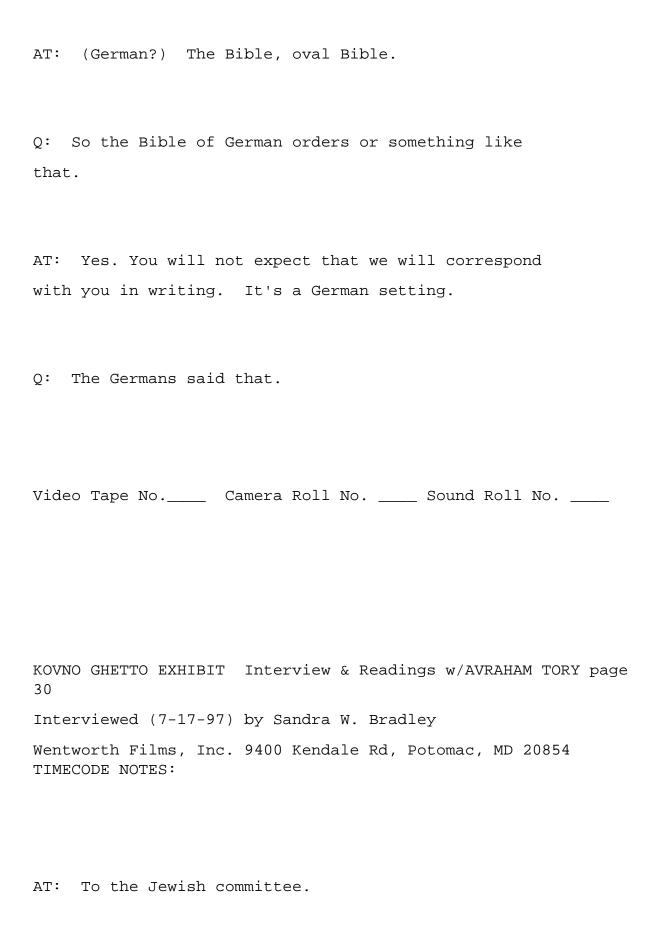
(pause)

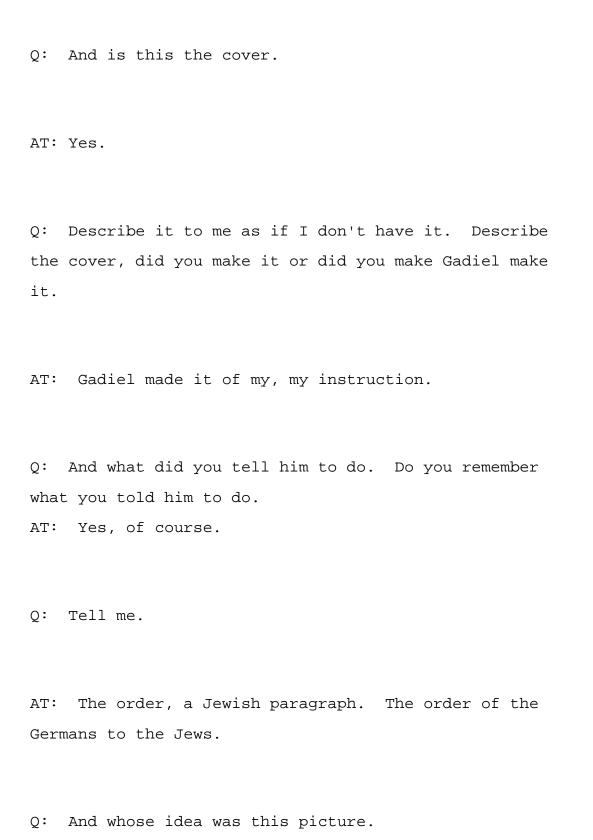
AT: On the days of a large 42, 20 soldiers were killed by . this is Ygal from the Gestapo.

Q: And is this the front or the back of it.

AT: Yes, it's the back.

Q: And what does it say, I mean what does the hand writing.





AT: And these are the laws German style and these are the laws German style. Leave the German
laws. The laws that the Germans instructed.
Q: And.
AT: We had it already.
Q: Can you read me some of this in the language that it is.
AT: You, the same think that's there. You will not expect that we should correspond with Jews in writing.
Q: What does that mean.
Video Tape No Camera Roll No Sound Roll No

KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview & Readings w/AVRAHAM TORY page 31

Interviewed (7-17-97) by Sandra W. Bradley
Wentworth Films, Inc. 9400 Kendale Rd, Potomac, MD 20854
TIMECODE NOTES:

AT: The Germans said to the Jewish committee, you will not expect that we correspond with you in writing. It is below their dignity.

Q: Can you read this to me in, is that in German there.

AT: the Jews from Eastern virtually should also call into the ghetto. People surrounding Kovno, those Jews should also go into the Ghetto, Kovno.

(Cut for a second)

(Sound only 12)
(Wild sound)

Q: The German orders, as if you had not already talked

to me and you were we telling me what they are, what kinds of orders did the Germans give.

AT: Every day there was another order, to appear before, to work to fear the more, the more labor and to, to all kinds of orders, every day we got a order.

(Six marker)

Q: So tell me that again.

AT: First when the German soldier cause there is birth is restricted. And it should not be the ghetto.

And all kinds of such restrictions.

Q: And so what did people do with that. Ere there abortions in the ghetto.

AT: Yes there were abortions.

Q: What have some people had babies in the ghetto too.

AT: Before, before they, before they, the restriction.
Video Tape No Camera Roll No Sound Roll No
KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview & Readings w/AVRAHAM TORY page 32
Interviewed (7-17-97) by Sandra W. Bradley
Wentworth Films, Inc. 9400 Kendale Rd, Potomac, MD 20854 TIMECODE NOTES: Q: What kind of orders were they, what kinds of things
did the Germans say. Tell me as if I
(change)
(Cassette rolling, ok roll 39, that was minus 8db
reference, 7-1/2 IPS, pilot tone, sync)
(Camera roll 73)

```
(Camera...)
(Speed and this is sync take 7, mark)
(Camera roll 73, sound roll 39)
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Q: What so tell me about those German work, what kinds of Germans what kinds of things did the Germans order.

AT: says they ordered to, to submit all the, all the electric equipment that we had yes. All kinds, all kinds of things. Whatever they have in their head.

Q: How often did they give orders.

AT: All the time.

Q: How did they do it, who would they tell, would they tell you.

AT: They don't tell the Jewish committee.

Q: And then what would you do, how would you tell the people.

AT:	Announce, a written	announcement, public announce-
ment	in, on the walls of	the ghetto. And there were
place	es where announcement	s, special pronouncements.

Q: Did the Germans give you the orders in writing or did they, they just tell you what they were and then you had to

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KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview & Readings w/AVRAHAM TORY page 33

Interviewed (7-17-97) by Sandra W. Bradley
Wentworth Films, Inc. 9400 Kendale Rd, Potomac, MD 20854
TIMECODE NOTES:

AT: Mostly, mostly they gave it in oral but some things also writing.

Q: And then what did you do.

AT: We used to proclaim in writing to the Jewish population in the ghetto.

Q: So every day you would go to Gadiel and you would say ok now make a poster about this.

AT: Not every day but more or less frequently.

Q: They took away milk from the ghetto.

AT: Yes, the cows they took away. There were six cows in the ghetto, they took them away.

Q: What else did they take away. They took away valuables. What did they make you hand over.

AT: All kinds of things that happened, they used to say all kinds has .

Q: Let's cut. Just keep rolling Jim.

(Sound 13, wild sound)
(This is going to be room tone)
(room tone)
(Let's cut for a second)
(This is sync take 8, mark)
Q: Avraham, when the German gave you the order by word and you had to give it out in writing, how did you have
to write it yourself.
AT: Of course. Write it Secretariat, the Jewish
committee of the Secretariat. And Secretary printers,
typewrite, typists.
Video Tape No Camera Roll No Sound Roll No
video rape No Camera Roii No Bound Roii No
KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview & Readings w/AVRAHAM TORY page

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Interviewed (7-17-97) by Sandra W. Bradley Wentworth Films, Inc. 9400 Kendale Rd, Potomac, MD 20854 TIMECODE NOTES: Who put the verbal order into writing. If the Germans told you orally. AT: Yeah. Q: Who wrote the order down. AT: I over my assistant, the Secretariat. Q: Did you ever get in trouble for writing for how you wrote the order. AT: No.

The Germans never got angry that you did it wrong.

Q:

AT: No.

Q: that it wasn't tough enough.

AT: I don't think so. I don't remember anything.

Q: Tell me how many different kinds of orders. Were they, did you think they were all the same or did you think they were, were you surprised.

AT: There was no surprise because German orders is, we lived on it, on it. This is every day were all, all kinds of orders. Economically uh spiritually, family all kinds.

Q: You knew what to expect.

AT: Yes.

Q: Was there a sense of irony.

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KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview & Readings w/AVRAHAM TORY page 35
Interviewed (7-17-97) by Sandra W. Bradley
Wentworth Films, Inc. 9400 Kendale Rd, Potomac, MD 20854 TIMECODE NOTES:
(end first cassette)
(end interview Avraham)

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