KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview w/CELIA YEWLOW page 1

Interviewed (5-1-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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

(Tone)

BS: Wentworth Films, Kovno Ghetto project, interview

with Celia Yewlow, Y-E-W-L-O-W. Sound roll four, camera

roll seven, at the head.

C: Camera roll seven, marker one.

SB: Celia, why dont you first tell me when and where

you were born.

CY: I was born in Lithuania in a little town, the name

was Slavtus (SP?), in Lithuanian Slavistein (SP?).

SB: Tell me what you remember of your childhood. Tell

me when you were born and what your town was like.

CY: It was a nice little town - village, town, call it

whatever you like. But there were a lot of Jews, it was

quiet, it was nice. I had a happy home, there were five

children, I had a nice life in the house.

SB: Tell me about school and growing up and getting

married.

CY: I start in Lithuania, the school. You know Jewish

people dont eat pork, so the children start to smear

our face, the lips with pork, so my father says this

isnt good. So he send me to another town where they

have a Jewish school and the name was Annickshein (SP?)

Video Tape No.\_\_\_\_ Camera Roll No. \_\_\_\_ Sound Roll No. \_\_\_\_

KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview w/CELIA YEWLOW page 2

Interviewed (5-1-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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

SB: So you went to school there in that town?

CY: Hm? Yeah. And then I went, I was a seanist, a

scientist, how you say it? And I went Hofsherei (SP?)

to teach how to work hard and not to have enough to

eat. I should be ready to go to Israel, but then I fell

in love with a boy and I got married there.

SB: When the war began, when things started to change,

what do you remember of that?

CY: At first, nothing. I didnt realize what it will

be, and if somebody said theyll go to kill us or what,

we didnt believe it. We thought they dont know what

theyre talking about. But in a couple of days we find

out. For instance, when I went for bread, you had to

have a card. When the Germans came in and they didnt

give me a card because Im Jewish. Then they took my

husband, the Lithuanian army took my husband, they, to

the army, because they thought that theyll fight. But

he came right back. And then we had to go to the ghet-

to. The 15th of August. I dont remember exactly the

event of the ghetto, I was already pregnant then.

SB: Tell me a little more about going to the ghetto. Do

you remember how you got there?

CY: I dont remember exactly. I dont even remember how

we carried a little bit of clothes, or what to sleep. I

Video Tape No.\_\_\_\_ Camera Roll No. \_\_\_\_ Sound Roll No. \_\_\_\_

KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview w/CELIA YEWLOW page 3

Interviewed (5-1-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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

dont remember. But we stayed in one room with more

people. I was in ghetto with my husband three days and

then they took him to work. They took then 15, 500 I

think intelligent people and they never came back. And

my husband was there too. And they always used to tell

us lies. Like they send them to work, theyll finish

the work, theyll be back.

SB: Where did your husband think he was going?

CY: To work. They said they need educated people, the

Germans said, to put together a library. They took them

right away to the graves. But we didnt know.

SB: When did you figure out that he wasnt coming back?

Do you remember?

CY: I always hoped, always. I didnt see him dead. What

I think a year later, or two year, two years later, I

start to think hell never come back.

SB: So, tell me about the place where you lived in the

ghetto. Tell me about the people that you lived with.

CY: There was a kitchen with one room, and we had

money. And where we lived they were very poor, so we

paid them and they gave us the room and they stayed in

the kitchen. So I came with my husband and a cousin in

one room. But we stayed all together just three days.

Then I stayed with my cousin and I dont remember when,

Video Tape No.\_\_\_\_ Camera Roll No. \_\_\_\_ Sound Roll No. \_\_\_\_

KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview w/CELIA YEWLOW page 4

Interviewed (5-1-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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

but I took the people who took us in, they took them

and killed them too. It was a mother, a son, a daughter

and a husband.

SB: Did they, you dont remember how they took them,

did they just kill them there in the ghetto?

CY: I dont remember, but they didnt kill them in the

house. They took then a lot of Jewish people.

SB: What was life like in the house. Did you have

enough to eat?

CY: No.

SB: Tell me how you survived.

CY: Even when I am pregnant, we used to pay a Lithuani-

an who used to watch us in the ghetto. He used to watch

us. We paid him, he took us, another couple, Jewish

people, he used to took, take us out of ghetto and say

that they are taking us to work, but they really took

us to, we had clothes or something to trade for food,

for bread. So when we came back I had what to eat. Not

really. And then when I used to get somehow a loaf of

bread, I though Id eat it for a week, but I couldnt

fell asleep that I knew there was still bread there. I

used to finish the whole loaf. Then the Germans gave us

frozen potatoes that used to smell, but we used to eat

it.

Video Tape No.\_\_\_\_ Camera Roll No. \_\_\_\_ Sound Roll No. \_\_\_\_

KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview w/CELIA YEWLOW page 5

Interviewed (5-1-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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

SB: And, do you remember going in and out of the gate

and being searched? Tell me about that.

CY: When they took us to work, on the way back they

searched us. If somebody had something, if they found

something, what can they find? Bread. So they used to

hit them or shoot them. But I never had anything, so I

went right through.

SB: Do you remember at the beginning they took away the

valuable things, did they take away your jewelry and

things?

CY: Sure. They asked us to bring it in electrical

appliances. They ask us to bring in a certain place. If

not, if they come and see them, theyll kill us. So we

did. We took them to where we were supposed to.

SB: Okay. We have to reload.

TH: Tell them about how you sewed your jewelry in the

lining of your clothes.

(Cuts out)

BS: Camera roll eight, slate two.

CY: If I could say it in Jewish it would be even bet-

ter.

Video Tape No.\_\_\_\_ Camera Roll No. \_\_\_\_ Sound Roll No. \_\_\_\_

KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview w/CELIA YEWLOW page 6

Interviewed (5-1-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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

C: Marker two.

SB: Lets go back and talk about when the war actually

started, what you saw, what you heard.

CY: When we lived in Schants (SP?), the army was there.

So we thought well run from Kovno. First, the food in

the little towns was better. So my two brothers and

myself and my husband, we ran from Kovno. And I had

Stowaway (?) with me, so we beared this Stowaway (?)

and we went to his parents. But when we had to go

through a village, the Christians, Lithuanians, ran out

of, how you calls Hick?

TH: (Cant make out what she says)

CY: And they were going to kill us. We didnt go to

there village, so we went around and around and we came

to my husbands parents, but before we came it took us

a day and a night. So, we were sleeping in the forest,

and then we saw everywhere in the forest, everywhere,

its fire. We didnt have where to go. Its good we

were next to a river, so we walked by the end of the

river and we walked to where my husband was. And then

they came there, it was trouble. My husbands family

lived next to a synagogue. First of all they came in

and took my husband and two brothers to work, but they

came right away back. Then they burned the synagogue.

And there was another synagogue and they burned the

other synagogue, and they told us that we didnt live

Video Tape No.\_\_\_\_ Camera Roll No. \_\_\_\_ Sound Roll No. \_\_\_\_

KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview w/CELIA YEWLOW page 7

Interviewed (5-1-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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

there. We have to go back hone to Kovno, so we left. My

two brothers went to where I was born.

SB: Who burned the synagogue?

CY: The Lithuanians, the Germans, who knows. We just

saw the fire. And even on the way when we walked the

German army came in. And I dont know how you call

them, he walked, the German army was walking. But one

was on a horse, and he asked us if what we are, are we

Jews. We said, Yes. So with his horse he was riding

around and around, and then he said to himself in

German, Later. We have time. And he let us go.

SB: So, then the ghetto got formed and your husband

went where he thought hed help build the library.

CY: Yeah, the 15th of August and he never came back.

SB: And in those early months in the ghetto, can you

tell me other things that happened?

CY: I dont remember exactly.

SB: Okay. Lets go to October 28th, that was a couple

of months later. Tell me what happened and how you knew

to go to the big field, Democracy Place.

CY: On roupas (?). They used to drive on the street and

call us we should all go out of the house and we should

Video Tape No.\_\_\_\_ Camera Roll No. \_\_\_\_ Sound Roll No. \_\_\_\_

KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview w/CELIA YEWLOW page 8

Interviewed (5-1-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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

all go to a special place. It was like a field where

you play. All the Jews were to go there. So we went. I

was pregnant. I went with my cousin and a friend who

was a boyfriend of my cousin, he took us both. We went

one on one side, the right side, and other on the left

side. It was cold and I couldnt stay anymore on my

legs. In one side, it was going faster, so I said,

Lets go to the left side, its faster. But the Ger-

mans didnt let us and they pushed us in the right

side, and the right side was for the ghetto. On the

left side was already to kill them. It was 10,000, over

10,000 people.

SB: What time of day did you go there? What was the

weather like?

CY: Cold, winter, it was very cold. And we came back,

this was in the morning, we came back it was already in

the dark.

SB: Do you remember actually passing by the man who

made the selection?

CY: Yeah, but I wouldnt recognize him.

SB: But tell me about it.

CY: He was just standing like this, you know, with a, a

couple people right, a couple people left. And he

wasnt the only one. There were a lot of Germans and

Video Tape No.\_\_\_\_ Camera Roll No. \_\_\_\_ Sound Roll No. \_\_\_\_

KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview w/CELIA YEWLOW page 9

Interviewed (5-1-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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

Lithuanians who were extras so we didnt run away.

SB: And which people went to the good side and which

people went to the bad side?

CY: I dont know if it was a difference. It was how

their mind work, I dont know. Because I was pregnant,

what could I do in the ghetto? Maybe it was from some-

where that they, that this is not my day. I dont know.

I am wondering how I am alive and then I see a Lithua-

nian who went through everything and we say to our-

selves, How come we are still normal? Because its

hard to describe when every minute from your day, every

second, you wait somebody should tell Out and shot

you. I was already by myself, and then I gave birth to

my little girl all by myself with my cousin, no doctor.

But I had a girlfriend, she had a sister-in-law, she

came and took the baby from me.

SB: Okay. Then when you had the baby you couldnt work.

How did you survive? Did your cousin take care of you?

CY: No. We went to work in the ghetto, we called in

Werkstaton (SP?) for the Germans. Clothes, I dont

know, even remember, she went to work and I stayed with

the baby. But I had money, so if I knew somebody who

went through the gate and came back with bread and used

to sell it, so I used to buy bread. And then when the

baby got older, I had to go to work, so one day my

cousin stayed with the baby, another a girlfriend,

Video Tape No.\_\_\_\_ Camera Roll No. \_\_\_\_ Sound Roll No. \_\_\_\_

KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview w/CELIA YEWLOW page 10

Interviewed (5-1-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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

another a girlfriend from the town what I was born.

Most of the time I paid somebody to take my card and,

how you say it stampel on my name that I worked that

day, and I used to pay them.

SB: I think we have to change rolls. We have a minute?

CY: When I tell you, its just a story. But to go

through these things, you dont know. And even to raise

a child, this was my bread. It happened.

TH: Breath.

CY: Breath. And to take away. I dont, I still dont

know how did I go through. And at night, day and night,

I am with my family there, and how are we together (?

Unclear) Every minute of the day, even when I go over,

when I wear something, I was with them (Previous sen-

tences unclear.)

SB: We have to put another roll of film.

TH: You should tell her about the watch8 (cuts out)

(Tone)

BS: Camera roll #9 is up, sound roll 5.

C: Three marker.

Video Tape No.\_\_\_\_ Camera Roll No. \_\_\_\_ Sound Roll No. \_\_\_\_

KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview w/CELIA YEWLOW page 11

Interviewed (5-1-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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

SB: Celia, I want to go back a little more to that day

in Democracy Square. I want you to describe for me more

what it was like.

CY: Where?

SB: In the square when they had the big selection. And

were people afraid?

CY: Some were screaming or crying, but the most were

quiet. We didnt rebel. They lied to us a lot, and no

matter what we saw or which we knew, still we couldnt

believe that people can do what they did to us.

SB: And, did you, you noticed that one side was moving

faster than the other?

CY: Yeah.

SB: Tell me about it.

CY: I dont know why what one side was moving faster,

and where I was, where we were staying was moving slow.

And I couldnt stay anymore. I was pregnant, it was

cold, and it was too much for us, so I said, Lets go

on the other side. And we tried to go on the other

side where they were moving faster, but a German or a

Lithuanian pushed us back. But you would go through the

ghetto the next day and hear the crying from the houses

because it was some families were together not anymore,

Video Tape No.\_\_\_\_ Camera Roll No. \_\_\_\_ Sound Roll No. \_\_\_\_

KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview w/CELIA YEWLOW page 12

Interviewed (5-1-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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

but some lost families, some the most, so they were

crying. Nobody, nobody can, I was in the Museum, its

okay. But for me, nothing because its hard in a museum

or a book or to tell, its hard to describe what we

went through.

SB: Where did those people go, those people on the bad

side, where did those people go?

CY: They took them to the fort.

SB: How do you know?

CY: Because this is what we heard. And they shot, the

graves was ready. See they used to come in the ghetto

say, We heard theyre digging graves again. So we

knew already for what it is the graves. I used to say,

Dont tell me, I dont want to hear. When Ill be

there, then Ill know its me. Right now I dont want

to know. So we used to tell the jokes, you know, our

mind to take away. There wasnt a day, a day didnt

went though when they didnt shot somebody or by the

gate. Or people used to work out where the planes were

coming.

TH: Airport.

CY: Airport. So, one plane came over a lot of Jewish

people, over the Jewish people, and killed them. Every

day it was something, every day, every minute. I had my

Video Tape No.\_\_\_\_ Camera Roll No. \_\_\_\_ Sound Roll No. \_\_\_\_

KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview w/CELIA YEWLOW page 13

Interviewed (5-1-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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

child there. She was my bread. I dont know if I would

live too if I wouldnt have her. And I always used to

look at her and see how the blood from the veins are

running and I used to think, This theyll stop? I

couldnt believe it. And then they took the children

from insance (?) from the camp, I came in with my child

and she got scared, and I said, Dont cry my child,

dont cry. Im with you. Ill be with you. And when I

came into the bus, some German took a stick with a

handle and the handle put over my neck and he start to

pull me, so I went with my chilled, with my child. And

he run in, he took the child and threw her away from

me, he pushed me out, and this is why I am alive, I

didnt go with my child. Some of mothers, most of the

mothers did. And I am always, when I see a stick like

this, I always remember. And I dont know who he was or

why he did it, I dont know. I always think of that, I

am always wondering, who was he.

SB: That day was much later. Lets go back a little bit

to life in the ghetto before then. In the years after

the Great Action and before the Kinder Action, did you

ever have good times in the ghetto?

CY: How can you? How can you have good times? You were

just waiting. First of all, you thought where can I get

a little piece of bread, Im hungry. And then, some

people who I know used to come in and they were swollen

from hunger. We were just waiting, waiting to be

killed. What still, I dont know how to explain it, we

Video Tape No.\_\_\_\_ Camera Roll No. \_\_\_\_ Sound Roll No. \_\_\_\_

KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview w/CELIA YEWLOW page 14

Interviewed (5-1-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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

have, we had a feeling that it cannot be. Maybe it will

still be all right, you know.

SB: What about working? What sort of work did you do?

CY: I didnt work a lot. Once, where they, they from

the killed chicken, how do you say the feathers?

TH: Pluck the feathers.

CY: Pluck the feathers, and I came back with lice. And

once in the woods, and we saw there it was a tree

cutting off, and it was left there a little piece, and

under the piece was written, We are Jews from France.

Please, Juden, Please Jews, take care, how you say it,

Nokoma?

TH: Revenge.

CY: Revenge.

SB: Tell me that whole story again, how you came on

that stump in the woods.

CY: They took us with a dog (?) to the woods to work

there to cut wood for them and to send it to Germany.

So we saw a piece of wood, a piece of tree, what it

was cut. On the top was written, Jews, take revenge.

We are Jews from France. And it was written with

blood. I think we saw it in Kovno. Did we? I dont

Video Tape No.\_\_\_\_ Camera Roll No. \_\_\_\_ Sound Roll No. \_\_\_\_

KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview w/CELIA YEWLOW page 15

Interviewed (5-1-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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

remember.

SB: What did you do with your little daughter. Did you

ever have a good time with her in the ghetto?

CY: Well, I was never out with her, just in the house.

We were just waiting, thats all, waiting all to be

killed or to the war should be over. Thats all.

TH: Tell how shed react to men.

SB: How did your daughter react to men?

CY: Oh, shed, wed a friend, me and my cousin, he

took us from the 10,000 and hew used to come to me

sometimes to, if I have something, and he used to play

with her, she used to tremble because she never saw a

man.

SB: We have to put up another roll of film.

BS: Camera roll 10, slate 4 is up.

SB: So, tell me about the incident where you went to

scrub the floors. Why did you go there?

CY: This was a (?) because it was by the guards, and

they had bread. So I used to go there, me and a couple

of women, they took me in there, and we used to get

bread there, I used to get bread for my friends there,

Video Tape No.\_\_\_\_ Camera Roll No. \_\_\_\_ Sound Roll No. \_\_\_\_

KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview w/CELIA YEWLOW page 16

Interviewed (5-1-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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

too. But one Lithuanian came, a guard, and I think he

was a little bit of drunk, and he told me he was in

Wilkomere (SP?), its another town. They took from

Kovno to shoot the Jews in Wilkomere, so he said, Some

girls were so beautiful, and so young. And he starts

to cry. He said they used to give them whiskey to make

them drunk, they should be able to do it.

SB: What did you say to him?

CY: I was afraid. My nature is not rebellious, quiet.

And I never say anything, I was afraid.

SB: How long did he talk with you?

CY: Not too long, because theyre dont supposed to

talk to Jews. What he told, and this I remember he told

me, what he told me, and he cried. Not a young Lithua-

nian, he was maybe 40 years old in this age.

SB: And you think he was one of the ones who did the

killing?

CY: He told me in Wolkomere he did. He told me. He and

the rest of them.

SB: Tell me this whole story, Celia, as if you havent

told it to me before.

CY: I used to work, to wash the floors by the guards

Video Tape No.\_\_\_\_ Camera Roll No. \_\_\_\_ Sound Roll No. \_\_\_\_

KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview w/CELIA YEWLOW page 17

Interviewed (5-1-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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

from Lithuania. There were our guards, the Jews

guards, and one Lithuanian start to talk to me and he

told me that he was in Wilkomere when they shot there

the Jewish people. When he called some of them so young

or so beautiful he started to cry, so I asked him how

he could do it, he said that They gave us whiskey

that they should be able to do it. And they did.

SB: Now I want you to tell me again about that day in

March, later, in 1994, when the buses came, or the

trucks came.

CY: Buses for the children? Buses. They asked that we

should bring out all the children and the mothers with

the children used to go in the bus and I went with my

child, and she started cry, see, she got scared. And I

always have this on my mind. I lied to her. I said,

Rena, Renala, dont cry. I am with you, Ill be with

you. Dont cry. So she stopped crying, and then from

outside, a guard called me, so I didnt go. Then he

took a stick from around my neck and started to pull

me, so I started to go with my child. He said, Leave

the child away. I didnt, so he run in and hit with

the child and threw her I dont know where and he

pulled me out. Thats why Im alive then, because the

rest of the mothers went with the children and they

were all killed. And some cried, Let me out, someone,

trough the door, let me out! You know, they got crazy.

SB: Did you know what was happening that day?

Video Tape No.\_\_\_\_ Camera Roll No. \_\_\_\_ Sound Roll No. \_\_\_\_

KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview w/CELIA YEWLOW page 18

Interviewed (5-1-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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

CY: Sure.

SB: How did you know?

CY: Because there was a mine (?). What did they chil-

dren? And then we heard what they did in the other

ghettos. And I remember, one was, he had a little boy,

he was standing by the barrack, he was looking, I dont

remember his name, and he was looking how they took his

son (?), he was stolen, he fell on the ground, he

fainted. At night, at night, at night and by day I know

everything. I can (?)8 Aronofska, Aronofska was his

name

SB: Tell me about the ghetto police. Were the Jewish

police in the ghetto good or were they not good?

CY: I never had anything bad to talk about them and if

they did something wrong, you know, you cant get

crazy. You wont believe how you lose your mind. Some-

one strong, they cant take it, or some, just let them

leave if they did something. (?)

SB: Tell me about your friend Yannina. Tell me about

how you ended up leaving.

CY: When they took us out, all of us, from the Sanserl-

ager (?), we went 4 or 5 in a row, there were a lot of

people. The guards with the, how do you call it?

Video Tape No.\_\_\_\_ Camera Roll No. \_\_\_\_ Sound Roll No. \_\_\_\_

KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview w/CELIA YEWLOW page 19

Interviewed (5-1-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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

TH: Guns.

CY: With the guns from one to another and you couldnt

go though. But meanwhile, on the whole time what I was

working I told them they were taking us to the IXth

Fort to shot us, so I thought Ill try to run away,

because let them shot me in the back. Then they (?)

everybody, you know, I should fall first in the grave

and be still alive. Then the army, the German army,

pulled back and there was a big dust and there was no8

TH: Order, organization.

CY: Yeah. You know, so I saw that my girlfriend Yannina

run out from the, so I thought I would wait until I had

a chance and on the side there was the8

TH: Ditches.

CY: The ditch, so I fell into there and was waiting

until they left and I thought Ill go somewhere, you

know, maybe someone will take me in. It was already 4

oclock, I dont remember, late, so I thought I would

sleep over and then Ill go to look for somebody. So I

heard two Lithuanians talking that they are looking for

Jews, Jedews, so I got scared they would find me, and

I took off my yellow mogondovit (?) from the front and

the back and walked over this, it was not a street, it

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KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview w/CELIA YEWLOW page 20

Interviewed (5-1-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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

was a road, and saw a house, So I thought Id go there,

maybe theyd help me, but they had dogs so I got

scared. There was like a little, its wet, how you cal

it, around with little trees8

TH: A swamp.

CY; Yeah, a little swamp. So I hid in there and staid

overnight and the next day I went to Kovno. I was

wondering if Jews could be recognized. Nobody recog-

nized me. So first, I went to one girl from Lithuania,

I know her from school, so I rang the bell and another

lady from the building came out and she asked me what

Im looking for. I told her so she said theyd left for

home. So then I thought Id go to another lady, I used

to work with her. I went there, she took me in, and

she said I am very afraid because we are very close,

the neighbors, like a row home, like I told you before,

one room with one kitchen. And she said, You go in my

bed and hold your face to the wall or make believe you

are asleep, my children shouldnt recognize that you

are Jewish and Ill go to my mother. She has a bigger

apartment, maybe shell be able to take you. So she

went to her mother, its about half an hour walking.

And she came back and she said shed heard that in this

neighborhood thered be an ablavah (SP?). An ablavah

means that they for a couple of blocks they dont let

out people, they dont let in people, and they look for

Jews. So she couldnt do it. So she talked with her

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KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview w/CELIA YEWLOW page 21

Interviewed (5-1-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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

husband, and across the street there was8

(Cassette rolls out)

CY: 8so I used to see them how he takes his out little

boys and take them to the German soldiers for bread.

The other time I saw him doing, I dont know (?) but he

didnt. After three and a half weeks, they said that

somebody told them that in Kovno they saw Jews in the

garden and then where they meet, I can go there. So, I

go down I also saw (?) and they want to know whats

going on with the Russians, and they ask me, how do

they treat the other Jews, and he said wait until after

the war. So I told him to go out again. The next day I

went to Kovno, I saw some people who came back, and

then I saw my friends husbands boyfriend and he was

my second husband. And the Lithuanian family that moved

into the apartment before the war, she was very good to

me. They want to take me on the farm, and the Germans

came in, they had a farm, so I didnt want to go with-

out my brothers, and she said I can not take too many,

just you, so I didnt go, but she was a nice lady.

SB: Lets cut for minute.

(Tone)

BS: This is Wentworth Films interview continued with

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KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview w/CELIA YEWLOW page 22

Interviewed (5-1-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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

Celia Yewlow, Kovno Ghetto project, sound roll 6,

camera roll 11.

C: Five marker.

CY: This would look better if you would hold it on my

face. No matter how bad it is, I make a joke. If not I

would not be alive. But thanks to her husband and

family, nothing would be worth. I lost interest in

everything, I live just within death (?)

SB: Tell me about the hospital burning.

CY: We had a hospital in the ghetto. I dont remember

when it was, but on Yom Kippur they burned the hospital

with the doctors with the mothers with the children,

everybody. Everybody who was in Kovno in the ghetto

knows it. We saw the fire, and this was Yom Kippur.

They knew the day was for us the best.

TH: Tell about your friend who had the baby in the

hospital.

CY: Its better that I dont think. I never talked, I

never mentioned nothing. My cousins, I had here uncles,

aunts, cousins, my cousin said you know, you dont tell

nothing. Now I start to tell everybody who listens,

especially not Jewish people. I dont think even a lot

of American Jews who want to hear and want to know.

Thats my feeling.

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KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview w/CELIA YEWLOW page 23

Interviewed (5-1-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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

SB: Did you have a friend in the hospital with a baby?

CY: Yes. Yes, I knew her, I knew her husband they had a

little boy. You know, for so many years, every day was

something new. One, his name was Macke. I dont remem-

ber if he shot a Jew, a German, or he wanted to shot

and wanted to, how do you call it, go out.

TH: The gate

CY: Yeah. And they caught him. And they hanged him, and

they asked all the Jews to come and see it how he was

hanged. His name was Macke. When I see here the trucks

Mack, always remember.

SB: Tell me the story of marching out of the ghetto

when you thought you were going to the IXth Fort and

you saw Yannina get away.

CY: Yeah, I wanted to go out but I couldnt decide.

SB: Start in the ghetto. Start with they made us line

up in fives and march and we thought we were going to

the IXth Fort.

CY: Yeah. They took us, it wasnt from the ghetto, it

was from the camp in Chantz. They took us out and we

were walking and we thought they would take us to the

IXth Fort to kill us. And I thought to myself I would

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KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview w/CELIA YEWLOW page 24

Interviewed (5-1-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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

not like to be killed with everybody, and tried to run

away and if they see me and kill me in the back, I will

not see it. Then I saw my girlfriend Yannina run out,

and so I thought to myself, If she can, shes plain

blind, Ill do it too. So I did, and I was in the8 in

the ditch and I was waiting until the rest had passed

me and Ill stay overnight in the ditch or in the woods

and then Ill go back in Kovno. So two Lithuanians was

walking in the woods looking for Jews, and they was

talking to me, to themselves if theyll find somebody,

you know, a Jew. So I thought that this is not a place

for me and I took off my star from front and back, and

I walked over the road and I thought I saw from far

away a house, I thought Id ask because they see al-

ready the Russians come here and the Germans arent

here anymore, so I hoped theyd let me in, but a dog

start to bark so I got scared. There was a little8

TH: Gazebo

CY: Anyway, it was wet. A little swamp, so I went into

the swamp under the little trees and stayed there

overnight, and then I went back to Kovno. I was so

surprised nobody recognized me, because Jewish people

you could recognize. And I went to a friend, I thought

maybe she would try to help me, anyway she wasnt

there. I rang the bell anyway, she wasnt there. She

went to her parents because there was more to eat where

I was born. So went another family and she took me in

with her husband and she had two boys and she said I

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KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview w/CELIA YEWLOW page 25

Interviewed (5-1-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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

dont know if I can keep you here because there are a

lot8

SB: This part weve got. Lets go to, did you see the

ghetto after it was liquidated. Tell me about that.

CY: I went with my second husband, he wasnt then my

husband, with my friend. The bridge wasnt there from

Kovno in Slobodka, we had to go with a boat, a little

boat, and he went to his house, and he thought maybe he

can find his wife. There was a dead woman, and he

pulled out the clothes because the top was burnt and

maybe hed recognize her, but he didnt. And there was

families from the ghetto burned there because friends

of mine, a mother and two sons and my girlfriends

mother, they made a placement in the wall there, and

they died from the smoke. A lot of people burned. They

burned in there. And if somebody were to run out, they

shot him. But I was there. I was there.

SB: Tell me how you thought if Yannina whos big and

tall and half blind can get away, then so can I.

CY: Yeah. I saw her running out of the, where we were

working, so I thought, if she can, if shed doing it,

Ill do it too. And I saw the ditch, and right away I

came down (?). But they took her in to the camps in

Germany and she came back and I saw her in Annapolis,

and she went to Israel, now shes passed away.

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KOVNO GHETTO EXHIBIT Interview w/CELIA YEWLOW page 26

Interviewed (5-1-97) by Sandra W. Bradley

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

SB: Okay, lets cut for a second.

(Cut)

SB: You saw her get away and you thought I can try to

get away too. Just that little bit.

CY: Yeah.

C: Six marker.

CY: I saw my girlfriend Yannina run away, she was tall

and blond, and she couldnt see, so I thought, If she

can do it, Ill do it too. And I did.

SB: Okay. Cut Jim.

(Cut)

C: Seven marker.

CY: When I thought Ill go out, I went out, run away.

We thought they were taking us to kill is, so I wasnt

sure if I should do it, but then I saw my girlfriend

Yannina. She was tall, she was blond, and she couldnt

see and she did it. So I thought, If she can did it,

Ill be able to. And I did. And Im here.

SB: Okay. Now we do one more8 End of Interview

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