

RG-50.091.0089

Summary

Abraham Lerer, born in 1914, describes growing up in Brest-Litovsk, Poland; working as a cabinet maker before the war; moving to the town of Manievich (near Kovel) after German occupation in 1941; living in the ghetto until being taken with others to be executed; leaving his wife, child, and parents behind and escaping into the woods; walking to a village and being told by the farmer where he could find "Zolanka" (Srulik Puchtik aka Irving Porter); using Zolanka's familiarity with the area to find a group of partisans made up of Christian Ukrainians and Jews that was organized and led by a Ukrainian named Kruk; obtaining a rifle, winter clothes, and food from farmers, sometimes by force; applying the experience he'd gained from two years in the Polish army in his work with other partisans to destroy railroads and communication systems; a Russian Jew named Melamed aka Mohammed who had been a captain in the Russian army and who taught younger partisans how to remove the explosives from artillery shells and then make mines; getting airdrops of weapons and medicine from the Russian army, which eventually assumed control of the partisan unit; going to look for his family in late 1944-45 and being given a document from his leader stating that he had participated in 750 actions over the past 2 ½ years; deciding to go to Israel when he could not find any surviving family; making his way to Lublin and Italy with assistance from Bricha; working with the Joint Distribution Committee in Rome where he remarried a fellow survivor; opting to immigrate to the United States in 1950, since that's where his wife preferred to settle; the book, *Jewish Partisans of the Soviet Union* (by Jack Nusan Porter), which describes numerous episodes of his life with the partisans.