

RG-50.120*058

Hadar, Ben Zion

- 1.00 Ben Zion Hadar (original name, Ficks) was born in Warsaw in 1936 to a religious family. His father was a house painter; his mother was a housewife; and he had four sisters. They lived in an area that was later incorporated into the ghetto.
- 1.01 1939, remembers walls of ghetto going up, hunger, food rationing, people lying on the street dead.
- 1.06 When he was about 5 or 6, his sister would sneak him out of the ghetto and they would go and sing in courtyards. People threw down money and food, which they smuggled back to the ghetto.
- 1.13 His older sister was a nurse in the ghetto hospital. She took him to stay at the hospital to save him. The following day, the whole street, including the family, was transported.
- 1.19 Hospital staff and sister were taken away and he escaped from the hospital.
- 1.21 He escaped the ghetto, met other Jewish children and started a life on the streets – buying and selling newspapers, cigarettes, staying overnight in different places.
- 1.28 Describes his adaptation to life in the streets. He knew where to wash, where to warm up, get disinfected, and sleep. He made his living riding on trains and singing.
- 1.49 Remembers end of war when Russians came. He befriended them. Describes riding as a child in a Russian tank through the ruins of Warsaw. The ghetto had been flattened. He ascribes his survival to the fact that he had no fear, had a sense of adventure and also emphasized that the children know what was really happening when the adults were still denying reality.