RG-50.120 #092 8 Tapes Lidovsky, Eliezer

## Tape I

- 1.01 Eliezer Lidovsky was known as Liezer in Europe. His parents were born in the tiny village of Zhetl, in the province of Nowogrodek, today called Baranowicz. They were carpenters. The father was forced to flee Slonim in 1905, during the revolution, and settled in Zhetl where Leizer was born in 1908, on October 18. His mother passed away when he was 6 months old. The father then moved the family, Leizer and 2 older boys ages 2 and 4, to Baranowicz where he remarried. They had 2 more boys and 2 girls. Leizer related to the step-mother very negatively, and suffered his whole life. But it may also account for his rebellion, which was life-long.
- 1.03 Leizer was very young when WWI broke out, and the war's 3 year standoff between Russia, Austria and German, happened in Baranowicz, 20 km from his home. There were no pogroms, but great poverty in those years.
- 9.00 Two childhood incidents, when the father stood up for his family's rights [despite the odds against him] became important markers in Leizer's life.
- 9.50 Father died at age 48, in 1920. He had contracted typhus. Leizer was then 12.
- 10.13 Musical talent was prevalent in the family.
- 10.40 Leizer's flirt with the Bolshevik revolution from 1917 to around 1919/in the Consomol,---?], until stopped forcefully by his father.
- 16.53 Baranowice was a new city, began in 1884-5. Many Jews moved there in those 15-20 years, re-started his schooling after the war, in a Bundist school, learning both Hebrew and Yiddish.
- 19.30 Children were neglected in those years, with nothing to do after school. Until a group arrived from Russia, fleeing the Bolshevicks, and they organized the Jewish youth to be anti-communist. The group operated from the local synagogue, and promulgated settlement in Palestine.
- 21.42 It fell upon Liezer to organize the youth. But he also needed to help support the family, who was in dire straits. The two older brothers had left home.
- 24.07 Leizer became a mechanic and a locksmith, working with scales in the winter, and balconies in the summer. He joined the right-wing branch of Po'ale-Zion, and became a youth leader.
- 25.00 Digression about his aid to his family, despite the 'bad blood' between him and his stepmother.

- 30.00 All the Zionist youth organizations were established at that time, which was right after Poland conquered the city.
- 33.00 Leizer became a secular Jew at the age of 12. His reflections on religion.
- 38.00 Leizer's activities on behalf of the Dror youth movement.
- 50.00 Leizer married in 1930.
- 55.50 May 1 celebrations and local conflicts with the Poles.
- 2.07.00 Leizer's wife, Feigl.
- 12.15 There were 15,000 Jews in a total population of 60,000. There were mainly Bielo-Russian, a few Poles, and a military camp. Thanks to the way Jews organized, and the fact that they mainly lived downtown, there were no anti-Semitic incidents, but anti-Jews comments were heard all the time. The few times that Jews found themselves under attack, the Jews let the authorities know that they will defend themselves forcefully.
- 17.49 Leizer's work in the youth movement, and in the metal workshop.
- 25.36 Leizer's daughter was born in 1931, and 6 years later his son. They planned to emigrate to Israel. Leizer's step-siblings were also on their own.
- 26.00 Those were prosperous years for the Zionist movement in Poland, especially in Barabowice. There was close contact with the activists in Warsaw.
- 29.39 Tension before the outbreak of WWII.
- 31.00 Sept. 1, 1939.
- 33.54 When the German bombing started, Leizer and his family started fleeing in the direction of the Soviet border but the Russians got there first and told them to go back home. They were happy. Only later they found out about the Relsentropp[?]-Molotov pact.
- 36.00 Soviet army abuses. They arrived on Sept 17, 1939 and stayed until 22 June 1941 [over a year].
- 39.00 Leizer's personal displacement started with the arrival of the Soviet troops. He was soon identified as one of the leaders of the 'counter-revolutionary' Zionist movements [parties], his locksmith workshop was confiscated, moved to another location, and Leizer was put in charge of it [as the Soviets couldn't find other expert mechanics to run it].

- 42.00 Shortly after, he was interrogated and accused by the NKVD, of counter-revolutionary activities. Perhaps, thanks to the intervention of his communist brother-in-law, he was spared exile in Siberia together with his family. He was advised to obtain a divorce from his wife, and moved by himself to Volozhin, 200 km from Baranowice. There, in the largest yeshiva known in Poland the Soviets established a restaurant [where Leizer ate] whose waitresses worked also as prostitutes soliciting the diners. Leizer's shock and grief at the fact. He remained there until the outbreak of the war with the Germans, on June 22, 1941.
- 50.00 Communist work 'ethics'.
- 56.00 Thousands of young, single Jews began fleeing Poland then, and came to Baranowice. They came from Warsaw, Lodz and other places.
- 58.00 After these refugees settled down, worked, etc., they received the information that life in Poland was normal again. Therefore, the Russians said, all those who want to return, should register. 90% did so. The same night, the NKVD came, arrested these 'counter-revolutionaries', and sent them to Siberia. This is the only reason they survived the war!
- 3.03.03 Two days before the sudden German attack, Leizer was cleared of all charges and his passport returned.... But instead of going back home, he was forced to flee the Germans.
- 05.05 Digression on Russian anti-Semitism.
- 08.47 After fleeing, Leizer was caught by the Germans in Minsk.
- 10.30 Leizer's period he called: "On the threshold of death".
- 11.32 The entire population in Volozhin fled, including the VKVD and all the Soviet army and its support.
- 12.15 The murderous attitude of the Germans. Attack on the fleeing mass.
- 13.00 Soviets left their war machines and ammunition behind.
- 14.00 Arrival in Minsk on June 24, 1941. The city was burning. Germans had organized groups to dress like Russians; they attacked the local population, causing a lot of confusion.
- 18.00 With the completion of the destruction, the Nazis summoned all males 18-48 years of age to the Opera building. There they received orders. The punishment for not fulfilling them was death. There were about 5,000 Jews in the crowd.

- 19.00 At the completion of the day's work, the mass was sent to another location, marching in groups of 5. Leizer was sure they were marching to their death.
- 20.00 Arrived in the cemetery, where they stayed for 5 days, with no food or wather, and surrounded by tanks and cannons. This was in the hottest month of Russia: July. At one point, the Nazis brought in a barrel of water; thousands converged on it, only to be mowed down by the tanks surrounding them. Every few hours trucks would come and remove the bodies, unceremoniously. They slept on the ground. The Nazis wore red uniforms.
- 24.00 A group of 8 people from Leizer's town was formed, and they decided not to break, spiritually. They decided to fight back, armed simply with knives when the order to resume marching was given.
- after 5-6 km, they were all told to sit in silence, obviously the Nazis needed to decide whether to send them to their deaths or to a nearby prison camp.
- 26.20 They were taken to the prison camp where close to 100,000 Soviet soldiers were prisoners. They were already 30 days with no food. Water they got from the river. Then, Jews were separated to a different section, marked with a rope. Leizer and a friend [neither looked Jewish] decided to stay with the Russians. Before long, kthey decided to go with the Jews, because of the Russians attitude towards them
- 30.00 The Jews there were the Minsk 'inteilligentzia'. Nazis started, through tricks, a mini-selection and murder them. Within 6 days, the entire group of intellectuals was liquidated.
- 31.57 Leizer tried to explain to them they were being killed because they were Polish Jews...but to no avail.
- 32.33 They stayed there until the end of July.
- 34.00 Jews were taken to Minsk, to the jail, which was overtaken by lice.
- 36.39 All who had a skill were taken to a military camp outside of the city. Leizer and his friend among them. The rest was used to establish the Minsk ghetto.
- 37.50 The Nazi army was a little better to the Jews than the SS, and while still anti-Semitic gave them food.
- 38.50 Kthat same night, Leizer and his friend fled the camp [which was not fenced] in the direction of Baranowice, 150 km away.
- 40.00 They walked in daytime, and wore non-Jewish clothes, so that they were not suspected. They stopped off in Z[G?]orodishche where his friend was from to obtain some food.

- 41.50 Arrival in Baranowice. Jewish section was burned completely [wooden houses]. His family was moved to the ghetto with all the other Jews to the non-Jewish, poor section of the city.
- 42.00 Judenrat was established immediately. Leizer is sent to work in his profession.

# Tape II

- 58.44 In December, the Nazis began to organize the rules of the ghetto: in each room, there were 4-5 families.
- 4.00.00 Food and rationing.
- 02.00 Beginning of limited 'actions'. Implementation of rules.
- 03.00 Characterization of guarding force of the ghetto.
- 07.26 In a 200 X 200 m2 there were about 12,000 Jews in 60 one-story wooden houses. The ghetto was fenced in by barbed-wire.
- 09.23 Groups of Jews began working 50 km 'outside' the ghetto. It turned out they were really killed there. Infractions within the ghetto were punished by death, in public, in the ghetto.
- 10.00 After a few 'actions', in which the Judenrat had to produce different groups of Jews, Leizer decided to go out fighting. He tried to organize the underground, in December 1941. He contacted representatives of different Zionist groups; all turned him away.
- 20.00 Leizer worked with the mechanics at the airport, under horrible anti-Semitic abuse. The work was in support for the planes [trains, parts, etc.]. Leizer managed to sabotage the small trains' engines, so that only one worked at the [?] time. There were another 8 Jews, none of the mechanics.
- 27.33 Rumors reached them that in other ghettos around Jews were being killed. The Jews of Baranowice didn't believe that because they were needed!
- 30.43 Purim, 1942. 'Action', Gestapo requested from the Judenrat 6,000 work permits for professionals. Those who didn't have a work permit knew what would happen. They entered the ghetto bunkers. When Nazis requested 3,000 to execute, Judenrat refused.
- 36.55 The Jews with permits were sent to one side [on the way to work] with the families, then the Nazis searched for the others, and took them to be executed in the 'green bridge'. Also, Leizer was lined up, as the Nazis didn't fulfill the quota

- taking only those without permits. The ghetto Jewish police was forced to go with those sentenced to death, to cover the holes; then the police was also shot.
- 42.42 Leizer was convinced that now was essential to establish the underground. He started to organize it the next day. In 2 weeks, 120 youth were organized.
- 56.32 It turned out that 2 other underground organizations were already active in the ghetto, unbeknown to Leizer. He summoned their commanders and ordered their unification. [One group was from Hashomer Hatzair, and the other were Communists.]
- 58.35 Weapons they stole from the Nazis, or bought them in exchange of gold or clothes. Women brought weapons into the ghetto hidden in their clothes.
- 5.00.00 Training to use weapons.
- 02.00 The story of the smuggled ammunition by the underground.
- 12.00 Underground plans: to wait for the beginning of the liquidation of the ghetto, or to revolt before.
- 14.00 Leizer's support for the latter passed in August 1942, but a week shy of the appointed date, the majority of the underground commanders decided against it. Only 200 people remained in the underground after that, of whom only two had families.
- 20.50 The events of Yom Kippur 1942. [Connection with the non-Jewish, Polish underground and the partisans in the forest.] The slaughter. The reprehensible actions of the onlookers.
- 32.00 The action against the ghetto lasted 8 days, some Jews were killed on the spot, others were taken out of the ghetto.
- 33.00 Leizer thinks that the action came in response to the information the Nazis obtained about the underground plans to revolt.
- 35.00 The action was stopped on its fifth day, a Sunday. The Jews came out of the bunkers, and the underground came to light. It was decided that the underground wouldl leave from the work places, which the succeeded in doing for the most part. This included hundreds of Jews, which joined the different groups. Life in the forest. Reflections on the behavior of the Jews in the ghetto.

## TapeIII

6.03.00 Leizer feels he was both a participant and an observer during the war, and that is the way he also regards his own actions then.

- 04.00 Flashback to the period between Purim and Sukkot 1942, when one of the underground groups rebelled against the others, and tried to leave the ghetto to join the partisans in the forests
- 18.40 The escape from the ghetto, in a hostile environment. There were 24 in the exiting group, which left right after work. They walked 70 km, at night. The Jews were put under the command of a Russian partisan, captain Chorny.
- 37.00 The Jewish partisans numbered, after a short time, 500. Of the 299 from the underground, 140 arrived. [The others were killed in the ghetto.] There came other individuals also, and later women with children. A civil camp arose for them.
- 48.45 The great 'action' in the ghetto occurred in December of 1942. A Gestapo ma, in charge of the airport works, saved many Jews.
- 54.53 It was decided to send 3 partisans to spy on the ghetto in Woronowic and carry out some sabotage. They were killed. When the next group was sent. Liezer was amongst them. His intention was also to try to save his family.
- 57.53 They arrived on market day, to the Polish cemetery.
- 7.04.44 The grenade one of the three had to sabotage the wood working factory malfunctioned. He was caught and shot on the spot.
- 06.50 Liezer entered the ghetto together with the work detail, in the evening. But, someone informed the Gestapo of his arrival. Soon after the reunion with his wife and children, he had to hide, and soon after to leave. In the meantime, Liezer organized a group to leave with him the day of his departure, the entire youth population of the ghetto appeared, to go with him. Leizer had to persuade them that this was going to result in certain death.
- 16.18 They did not want to hear that, and remained on the spot until the evening. Only 6 left with eizer, at the end, disguised as gentiles.
- 18.46 On the way, another 14 joined the group, however only 12 continued on to the forest. This was the month of November, and tragedy was in the air. Upon their return, a group among the Leizer was given the order to blow up the minitrain that served the neighboring village, and to finish off the survivors. On the way back, after the successful completion of the mission, the group went to drink in a pub. The Gestapo almost surprised them, but they knew they would be in danger in the future.
- 30.00 Relaltionship between different partisan groups, Jewish and non-Jewish. Connection with Russia [March, April 1942].

- 8.00.15 Last slaughter in Woronowic was Dec. 17, 1941, including his wife and children. Only 300 people were chosen to go to work, and therefore saved.
- 04.32 In May, 1942, Leizer and a small group left Bielorussia, and moved to the Ukrainian section.
- 07.29 At first, when the Jewish partisans of Leizer's group were independent, the non-Jewish partisans tried to either exploit them, or turn them over to the Germans. The Jews were called the 'Jewish' bandits, and they showed the others they were strong and not to be bullied.
- 09.26 First face-to-face encounter with the Germans occurred a month or so after the Jewish partisans arrival at the forests.
- 30.00 Some of the sabotage against phone lines and railways carried out by the independent partisan Jews.
- 40.00 Arrival in Ukraine and cooperation with a group of Cossacks.
- 50.00 Discussions between communist and Zionist Jews.
- 57.00 During the 2 years in the underground [1942-44] the partisans never approached the front. Among their activities: the liquidation of Nazi collaborators.

### TAPE IV

- 9.90.40 Beginning of 1944, it was decided to liquidate the partisans, who were causing havor to the Germans.
- 31.00 In Jan. 1944, the partisans received the news that they are now considered a regular army, and therefore, close combat with the Germans became a reality. They received brand-new weapons from Russian air drops.
- 37.00 Hundreds of partisans were killed there. Advance to Rovno, 25-30 km. From there, with the Red Army. Arrival there on February 5, 1944. They found a place of destruction, with many German bodies on the ground. The Russians divided the spoils: weapons, food and clothes.
- 43.17 No Jews had been left in Rovno, out of 31,000. The houses had been taken over by Poles and Ukrainians.
- 55.00 Organization of the Jewish partisans into a movement called 'The Escape' [Habricha]
- 56.23 For 6 months, the front didn't move from Royno/Kovel.

- 10.00.00 A house was 'Kolhoz Lidowsky'. Their business was conducted under the guise of helping the Jews to adapt.
- 02.50 Leizer worked again with scales, and thus he could obtain food. A soup kitchen was started, which served hundreds in its time.
- 07.27 After a few months, mid 1940s, the commander decided to send the young, among the partisans, to the army. They were sent to Keiv, for conscription.
- 09.16 Leizer's brother was sent to Kiev, but Leizer reminded him to escape from the army. He did so, and returned with 8 of his friends. The ones who stayed in Kiev were sent to the front, and six months later they were attacked by the Nazis in Kovel. 50 of the partisans perished there.
- 13.42 Reminiscences of Rovno, and Leizer's first encounter with the Red Army. Decision for the partisans to wear a piece of red on their hats to identify with, but be separated from, the Red Army. [The army had accepted the partisans as their partners.] Dismay at hearing anti-semitic songs from the lips of the Russian soldiers [who didn't imagine there would be Jews among the partisans].
- 22.00 Leizer's efforts to combat the apathy and depression of the surviving Jews who were giving up. Visits to the little villages near Rovno, like sarde and Rokitno, where there were very few survivors. Leizer's plans were to continue establishing little farms [Kolnoz] closer and closer to the front, and to Germany, with the objective to make it to the Mediterranean and eventually to Israel. Everyone thought him to be crazy.
- 28.00 Their lack of faith started at the beginnings of the ghetto, even if they had been committed to the ideals of the Zionist youth movements.
- 32.00 Leizer formed a little committee to organize the Jewish lives of the partisans. He gave them the duty to marry, to find refuge and food for the orphans and the destitute, and to renew the efforts of the 'Bricha' [escape] movement. It was hard to believe that Leizer began such a movement. Witnesses to his doing still live in Israel, and tell the story.
- 49.25 Arrival of Jewish officers of the Red Army, in Rovno.[There were 31,000 Jews in that city before the war.] Leizer left Rovno in December 1944.
- 51.25 In his job fixing scales, Leizer had freedom to travel to other villages, and meet Jews to lift their spirits and to start preparing to go to Israel.
- 54.30 Rescue of the big synagogue in Rovno, where a big soup kitchen opened.

- 11.05.00 The execution of Rovno's Jeews in 1941, and then 1942. In May 1944, Leizer and his brother took upon themselves to find out how they were killed. It happened in Socenka [?], 5 km outside Rovno.
- 09.00 The buria, initiated by Leizer and his brother, with the participation of all the Jews in the army and among the partisans, about 500 people.
- 10.34 Leizer's organization sent about 300 children to Israel. They were orphans who had been entrusted to the care of non-Jews during the time of the ghetto.
- 20.24 Leizer got married to a widow with a child. He did for 'political' reasons, since he was encouraging marriage. The marriage dissolved after a few months.
- 30.00 Negotiations to obtain food and other needs for the community.
- 12.03.00 Leizer's name, and fame, reached Moscow and Vilna. The fact that Jews were helping other Jews, in Rovno, became news. Moscow decided to send two Jewish journalists to Rovno, on behalf of the anti-fascist committee. They arrived in April. Connection with the great Jewish theatre director in Moscow, Mikhails.
- 09.05 Return to Woronovice, with the liberation of Rovno. Ceremony in memory of the victims.

### TAPE V

- 09.00[?] Reflections on the Madrid conference, taking place at the time of Leizer's interview on October 30, 1991.
- 20.00 Ruth Halperin and Rina, Hebrew teachers, in whose house the underground met.
- 24.29 The case of the grandson of the Yiddish writer Mendele Mocher-Sforim, a sergeant in the Red Army, who wanted to defect in order to go to Eretz Israel.
- 28.00 Visit from a Jew from Vilna, Nissan [?], who had been part of the underground there, in which all the political parties participated. By initiative of Leizer, his groups were apolitical, with only one item on the agenda: to reach Eretz Israel. [Nissan [?] was the leader of the underground in Vilna.]
- 35.00 In September, Leizer received and invitation from Mihaels, from the anti-Fascist committee, to come to Moscow. The arrangements for travel.
- 13.00.00 Arrival in Moscow and encounter with Mikhaels, Ilya Ehrenberg, Ytsik Feffer, Kwitko, and others who were among the greatest writers, journalists and theatre people in Russia.
- 12.00 Visit to Mikhaels Yiddish theatre to see the play 'Two Kuni-lemels' [two clowns].

- 13.00 Connection with Ilya Ehrenberg, who was totally opposed to a Jewish country.
- 15.00 Leizer received an ID as a correspondent from the anti-Fascist committee.
- 16.00 Leizer's mission: to collect money to help children. First station: leave their non-Jewish homes in Rovno. Moscow's great synagogue, confrontation with the caretaker.
- 32.00 Shachne Epstein, the secretary general of the anti-Fascist committee.
- 34.00 Encounter with Dernister, another Jewish writer, and Leizer's conversation about Zionism.
- 36.00 Exiting Moscow.
- 38.00 Visit to Lenin's mausoleum.
- 46.00 Return to Rovno.
- 47.25 November 1944, Russia decided to execute all those who were imprisoned as Nazi collaborators, in Ukraine. [about 200]. They needed the proofs of their deeds, and asked the Jews to sign their eyewitness testimonies. Leizer's intervention after Jews refused.
- 14.00.00 Arrival in Lublin. Encounter with Abba Kovner.
- 09.00 Meeting with Menachem Rieger. Efforts to convince Zionists to contribute funds to send Jews to Israel.
- 13.00 Mention of the Jewish 'Avengers', ['NAKAM'] the discussion prior to the organizing and outcome. Leizer was a facilitator in the group.
- 14.51 First encounter with survivors in January 1945, in Lublin. Decision to close operations in Lublin.
- 57.56 The Warsaw group. Arrival of Antek Fiekerman, Tzivia Lubestsky and others, after the liberation of Warshaw. Debriefing for 2 days and 2 nights. The debate between reestablishing life in Europe and settling in Eretz Israel.
- 15.13.00 Exiting Lublin, via Sanok. Krosno.
- 23.08 Meeting his future wife, Rachel.
- 26.00 The responsibility for the 'bricha' [escape] movement was given to Mordechai Rozeman, in Lublin.

- 37.00 Continuation of the trip to the Czech border, then to Bucharest, where they stayed from March to August. First experience of freedom.
- 40.00 Leizer's resistance to fall into the division by political parties [where it was more imperative to move Jews, in general, to Eretz Israel.]
- 50.07 April 19, 1945, the group declared its intention to settle in eretz Israel, after the destruction of the Shoah. They also formed the 'ghetto fighters' group, different from the survivors. The specialness of the fighter's conscience.
- 56.40 The formation of PACHAH, acronym that stood for 'pioneer partisan soldiers'.

### TAPE VI

- 16.00 Activities in Romania, until August, when Russia will take over. Wealth of Rumanian Jews. Arrival of Israeli leaders.
- 11.19 1,000 certificates to go to Israel were distributed in Romania to 3 different groups: orphans, handicapped partisans and pregnant women.
- 16.00 Leizer was entitled to go in a group of 3 leaders, which the Israeli envoys had requested to immigrate to Israel. He gave his right to another leader, and stayed in Europe another 3 years, until 1948.
- 16.56 The new enterprise became: to move the 1,200 refugees to italy before August, in order for them to be on the way to Palestine.
- 18.41 Train from Bucharest to Alba Iulia to move the people to Hungary and then Italy.

### TAPE VII

- 22.26 Main problem to move the partisan-refugees to Italy, was the fact that they were dispersed into 6 or 7 'kibbutzim', some of them in Bucharest, others not. Bribes paved the way.
- 26.18 15% of the Jeews didn't want to leave. Leizer forced them . Leizer, among the last to leave, arrives in Villach, Austria, on the border with Italy. Encounter with the Jewish Brigade, and with Isareli envoys. Abba Kovner preceded him. In Sept-Oct the Brigade was dispersed, some of them joined the 'Haganah'.
- 47.17 Beginning of 1946, change of plans for NAKAM. More about NAKAM and the poisoning of the Berlin waters which failed.
- 17.03.02 Leizer was in Italy for a year and 8 months. Italy served as a gathering point to the survivors, to get organized for the illegal immigration to Israel. [The central place was Milan.]

- 10.00 Leizer believed wholeheartedly that the effort to save Jews did have nothing to do with political affiliation. In this, he went counter the other organizers of the immigrations, who worked [perhaps in secret] to beef up the numbers of their supporters.
- 15.47 Activities in Italy, to organize Jewish cultural life there until the time arrived to emigrate.
- 16.21 Leizer's wife, Rachel. Their wedding in 1946.
- 39.00 The illegal immigration.
- 40.00 The liquidation of the few Jews [4 or 5] who were accomplices of the Nazis.
- 53.00 The demonstration against the English at the site of the Arch of titus.
- 17.00.00 The 22<sup>nd</sup> Zionist Congress in Nov., 1946 in Basel.
- 02.15 Leizer meets with Ben Gurion. Their discussion about the political affiliation of the partisans organizations in Israel, which Leizer wanted to be official and apolitical. [As it is now, Yad Mordechai is supported by Hashomer Hatzair-Mapam; Jabotinsky, by Herut, the Ghetto Fighters House, liberal Zionists, etc. except for Mapai.]

## TAPE 8

- 38.00 Leizer's attempt to go back to Austria and Germany, to kill Goering. Leizer's participation in the NAKAM group [the Jewish Avengers]. This happened in mid-1946.
- 42.00 The defense of the NAKAM group.
- 50.00 The Catholic church in Italy offered 40,000 lire to the Jews who would convert. Many Jews went from city to city or village to village in order to collect the stipend. That way, they had some income to eat and live.
- 18.00.00 The organization of life in Italy, while awaiting immigration to Israel. Jewish Brigade was very active in the organization of the Jewish cultural life there, even after its dispersal.
- 04.00 Not many of the survivors were Zionists. Efforts to convince them of immigration to Palestine.
- 08.23 Leizer was the secretary general of the partisan organization in Italy.

- 15.00 Leizer's wife, Rachel, was active in organizing the handicapped Jewish refugees' lives in Palestine.
- 21.12 1947 Leizer and Rachel decide to immigrate to Palestine and become role models among the leaders of the community to the people.
- 24.04 The Lidovskys left Italy on May 7, 1947.
- 31.24 Leizer's immigration group was 1,435 strong. The departure. The trip.
- 42.43 The discovery by the British and their \_\_\_\_\_\_ British destroyers. They were expecting the attack at dusk. The ship's name was Hatikvah. The attack came earlier than expected, with water jets and tear gas. The refugees defended themselves with wooden sticks. Leizer, in charge of the ship, was also attacked and injured. The refugees gave up. While the refugees sang Hatkivah, the British stood at attention. The ship was towed to Haifa, where the refugees were transferred to another ship, and sent to Cyprus.
- 51.04 Leizer is sent to 'summer' camp No. 64 in Cyprus.
- 52.00 The organization of the camp, according to Israeli political groups.
- 19.00.00 Leizer affiliates with Labor and is appointed and officer of the party.
- 03.00 May 1947 February 1948 was the time that Leizer spent in Cyprus.
- 04.00 Underground work in the camp.
- O5.00 The celebration after the vote at the UN to partition Palestine and a state to the Jews.
- 15.00 Golda Meier's visit to Cyprus.
- 19.00 The birth of Leizer and Rachel's baby.
- 24.00 Leizer's daughter, Aliza received upon her birth automatic British citizenship, which allowed her parents to immigrate, immediately, to Eretz Israel.
- 25.04 Arrival in Israel, aboard the ship Kedima, during Arab attacks on the Jews in Haifa.
- 26.31 Travel to kibbutz Ashdot Yaakov, on an armored bus.
- 28.00 Leizer's opinion about those who were in the Jewish council of the ghettos, in general, Kovno in particular. Three of them cam together with him to Israel:

Garvinkel, Brik and Golub. [That was also the opinion of the Nakam group, the Brigade and the other partisans.]