

RG.50.120*0237 1 Tape
BERENSHTEYN, LEOMO YEFIKOVICH

- 1.00 Born 1921 in 'Jewish village of Shpikovo, Vinnitsa oblast. Father was watchmaker. Grandfather was rabbi. Father died when he was 6. Mother remarried. Family moved to Kiev in about 1936. Entered military school. Assigned to Rostov before outbreak of war. Then assigned to border unit.
- 1.04 Germans bypassed his unit in opening days of war. His unit later recalled to HG in Korosten. Retreated through Belorussia, Ukraine. Reached Poltava oblast. Wounded near Poltava, in a swamp. Made his way to a nearby settlement. Occupant of a house treats his minor leg wound. Gives him fake ID and hides him in attic of local school.
- 1.13 Decides to leave attic and headed to Cherkasi. Old lady helps. Arrested by police. Was supposed to be shot, but he escaped. Went to another village Balakleya [phonetic]. Helped by local family.
- 1.18 Went to Smila. Then to Ternovka, where he was helped by a woman who got him local occupation documents. Began to work carrying rails at the railroad station in Shevchenko. At the same time, tried to get in touch with local partisans. Tried organizing underground group at station. Gradually had cooperation from people in all kinds of railroad work.
- 1.27 Goes to Kirovgrad oblast looking for partisans. Found partisan unit and were given training and explosives to make mines. Told to blow up trains. Blew up two trains.
- 1.34 Joined partisan. Designated as intelligence officer. Describes battle in August 1943.
- 1.41 B becomes chief of staff of the Poznarskiy Partisan Unit in the Sunchanskiy forest. B is arrested during partisan operation at Shevchenko station. Escapes.
- 1.47 Resumes partisan activities. Describes one during period that Soviet troops were approaching dnepr River from east. Partisans destroyed bridg used by fleeing germans. Also describes how several Jews, working under assumed names, for Germans joined partisans, bringing valuable information and maps.
- 1.56 Describes how partisan units helped Soviet troops as the crossed Dneper.
- 1.57 Armyu offered B command of a partisan parachute group to carry out intelligence gathering activities.
- [Break.]
- 2.02 Groups of 11 given training for 1 1/2 months near Melitopol. Sent to city of Slovota on the 1st Ukrainian front.

- 2.05 Prepared for operations behind german lines. Issued german uniforms, weapons - 2 of group spoke perfect German. On May 4, 1944 left to parachute behind german lines. Near area P. Sanok Polish territory. Shows photograph.
- 2.18 Describes blowing up of German troop, other operations.
- 2.26 Began operations in Slovakia, near town of Lipovets.
- 2.31 Names Jew who were partisans - those he knew.
- 2.34 Describes books he has written.
- 2.37 Describes post-war years. Was director of a factory in Kiev for more than 35 years.
- 2.38 Describes activities in Israel.