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Rave, Ze'ev – 2 Tapes

- 1:01 Ze'ev Rave was born Ze'ev Verbaum in 1923 in Maniewiczze (Prilesnoye), Ukraine. Out of 5,000 people, 3,000 were Jews. Ze'ev had one sister. His parents were upper middle class. Father was a wood merchant. Ze'ev went to a Polish school in town and then to a technical high school in Lvov and stayed there after he completed his schooling.
- 1:04 Tension was felt since 1933 but increased in 1939. People were afraid of an invasion. Jews knew about Hitler and anti-Semitism. Refugees from Germany told them about anti-Semitism in Germany, including beatings and closing of stores. When war broke out, Ze'ev was in Maniewiczze.
- 1:09 Describes a strong Zionist movement in the region. He was in the Hechalutz movement. He suffered a great deal from anti-Semitism in school.
- 1:14 September 1939 when Germans invaded Poland, the Polish army escaped. On September 17, the Russian army entered town. The Jews in town were happy because they were communist sympathizers. His father had to give up his business and was blacklisted. Some people were sent to Siberia. His family lost all their money. They sold their belongings to make do. Father worked as a secretary.
- 1:21 Many refugees arrived. Two families stayed with them. Ze'ev continued to go to school and did not suffer.
- Maniewiczze was under the Germans control. On June 22, 1941, Germans assembled a large army on the Russian border and attacked. The town was bombed, the Russians retreated, and the Germans surrounded the region.
- 1:34 The Ukrainian police got permission from the Germans to plunder the Jewish population. Ze'ev's house was plundered. Ukrainian neighbors helped them.

- 1:37 Ze'ev describes their life. He and sister did not go out because the Ukrainian police abused and killed people, especially the young. There was already a Judenrat.
- 1:41 In August 1941, they heard that Germans kidnapped Jewish men and sent them to work camps from which they did not return. Ze'ev hid out with Ukrainian neighbors. They heard shouts and screams from the streets. Three hundred Jews were taken away on trucks and were shot into ditches. Mostly men were taken. Women and children remained.
- 2:00 Ze'ev was 18 and decided to organize a group of Jewish friends. Describes his plans to go to the forest with nine friends and one gun. One Ukrainian promised to help them.
- 2:10 August 1942. Describes attempted escape. They were discovered by the police and returned home.
- 2:18 Rumors spread of an upcoming "action." Describes the second attempt to escape. They arrived in the forest and felt free.
- 2:24 Describes the endless forests and marshes to the north of Maniewiczze. They went north, got to a village and demanded food. They also got to a village with Jewish peasants who helped them.
- 2:28 Talks about an anti-German Ukrainian man by the name of Krug, who was given guns by the Russians and was told to organize partisans. They joined Krug who took them to a small island surrounded by marshes. Describes their life there.
- 2:39 Ze'ev went back to Maniewiczze to find out what had happened there. He learned that on September 5, 1942, all the Jews were killed, including his parents and sister.
- 2:50 Describes Ukrainian friends of the family who gave him supplies. He returned to the island. Describes incident when they heard shots and escaped into the marsh. Returned to camp when all was quiet.

- 3:00 They joined another group of Krug's partisans and moved to a new place in the forest. At night they went to surrounding villages to get food. They stole weapons from forest guards.
- 3:06 Mentions Ukrainians who were friendly and helped them with information and weapons. He learned to use a gun and went out on actions. There were 30-40 groups of partisans under the command of Krug (not his real name).
- 3:12 October, the beginning of winter, he describes an "action" against police to get weapons. They met with other groups of armed Jews, and describes how they organized.
- 3:17 Describes meeting with Russian partisan group supported by Russia. They joined them and a group from a neighboring village also joined them.
- 3:24 The first partisans in the forest were Jewish groups. Four hundred Jews lived in the forest. There was a camp for women, children, and older people.
- 3:26 Describes action to conquer German position.
- 3:30 Heard about the first Russian victory in Stalingrad and the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.
- 3:33 Describes hardship of winter in the forest.
- 3:37 They learned that the Germans planned a siege of the forest. They went north to Ukrainian villages and returned to the forest after the Germans had left.
- 3:39 Describes the mood and state of mind in the forest. Along with the Russians heavy drinking.
- 3:44 There was anti-Semitism among the Russian partisans who planned to get rid of the 300-400 civilian Jews. Krug arranged guards to protect the civilian camp. An interrogation was initiated by General Brinski (a Russian), and the anti-Semitic Russians were transferred.

3:51 The idea of revenge. Describes their own revenge actions.

Tape II

4:00 Spring of 1943, describes organization of camp in forest, including the underground camouflaged bunkers. The medical bunker headed by Dr. Mermelstein and nurses. Commander Krug had a radio in his headquarters, which enabled them to hear the news of Stalingrad and other battles. Bunkers for shoemakers, the cemetery.

4:12 Social relations and friendships in camp.

4:15 Describes the civilian camp; their activities.

4:17 Describes AKA, the Polish national army whose members killed any Jew they met.

4:24 Beginning of 1943. Talks about the group of Russians who had escaped to the forest. They received orders from Russia to destroy the railway system. Describes how they built missiles and explosives.

4:33 Describes actions demolishing trains and rails on the Kovel, Rovno, Kiev route.

4:41 Describes action destroying rails and trains on the Minsk-Pinsk route.

4:43 Talks about specific battles with Germans and the brutality on all sides.

4:48 Russian partisan commander planned to kill the Jews in the civilian camp, but Jewish partisans protected them.

4:50 Differences between Russian and German soldiers.

4:54 Describes action exploding water towers in the central city of Kamakashir (?)

5:01 Describes action of Russian and Jewish partisans to destroy a bridge that led to a large German unit.

- 5:10 Describes difficult actions he participated in and how he saved a wounded Russian partisan.
- 5:27 Describes action attacking Maniewicze, which was still occupied by Ukrainians.
- 5:30 Increased anti-Semitism in the forest. The outstanding courage and work of the Jewish unit silenced the Russian and Ukrainian anti-Semites.
- 5: 36 Explains and describes the hardship of women in the forest.
- 5:38 Talks about Berl Lorger, head of Jewish unit. Describes life in the forest, their clothes, food, and weapons.
- 5:43 The Russian unit prepared a landing area for Russian planes that landed and provided weapons.
- 5:45 Describes the personality of commander Krug.
- 5:51 Autumn 1943. Stephan Bandera and his group of Ukrainians left the Germans, who they saw as losing and joined the groups in the forest. They planned to conquer the forest and kill Jews and other nationals. There was a battle with the Jewish and other Russian groups and they were defeated.
- 6:11 January 1944. The Russians advanced to their area with General Watutin in command. They were liberated and ordered to leave the forest and go east. Describes their march towards the village Zuman where they attacked the Germans twice until they retreated.
- 6:22 The fate of prisoners of the German army who escaped and joined the partisans.
- 6:26 They got to Rovnoje, where they reorganized. Ze'ev was sent to Zabłudow and after a year went to the university in Kiev. After a short time, he went to Poland and joined an organization that helped Jews get to Palestine (Bricha). He reached Palestine, joined the Air Force, and also studied at the Technion. At the age of 45, he left the Air Force and worked in the military industry. He got married and has

two children. He participated in the Six-Day War and the Sinai War. Shows Israeli and Russian medals he received.

6:38 After the war he visited Maniewiczze and was honored as a fighter.

6:40 Describes his thoughts and feelings. Feels that there was not enough revenge. Also feels bad that he was not able to save his family.