

That someone was behind me. And that was my father. I always felt that he is watching over me. And whenever I was in the biggest-- I came out. I came out with flying colors all right. It doesn't mean that I was always the winner, but even I was beaten up but I came out alive. A separate story about my father is written in the story that I gave about how the ghetto works which we'll see it.

I will just mention one particular instance of my father what happened in 1940. Some time in 1940, the Germans came with an order that the Jews, the coalition must supply 150 men to be sent to Biala Podlaska This is a town on the way before Brest-Litovsk which there is a work camp and they will have to work there. Of course, nobody wanted to go there as everyone already knew who the Germans are and what they are and what their stories are. But who can say no to the Germans all the way?

With all kind of work in all persuasions, my father persuaded them to take only 40, from 150 to knock them down to 40. But only 38 went there. As soon as the young boys came to Biala Podlaska, they had a very bad experience. Of course it's not a bad experience, they never had any other experience because they were young boys and there were no such things. They were forced to do certain types of labor. They were not used to it, they were not accustomed. The accommodations, the life was very hard, food was very mean and bad. From the letters that they wrote was very alarming to their parents, and of course those letters came back to you Judenrat.

My father, being that he's under practically all the arrangements, all the things to get things done, he took a trip to Biala Podlaska to see if he can bring the boys back by himself. He had to receive a permit from the county Germans to go there, as Jews were not permitted to go by train. When he came there he got all the story from the boys what they were doing. He could only see 12 of them. The other ones they were at work, they were not allowed to be seen.

And he was talking to the Germans in that camp to release them, to let them go home because we need them at home. We have industries that work for the German Wehrmacht, for the German army. For the nerve to tell the Germans to let them out, he got so beaten up that he could not do anything. And luckily he came home. He was in bed, laid in bed for about two weeks till he came back to him.

Seeing the conditions that was there at Biala Podlaska, he decided that he must do something. We cannot leave those boys there. And he went to the authorities in the county again with a story that, why don't they give us a paper that we need those boys in the factory that is producing a product for the German army like the sheepskin coats which the Germans need for winter clothing and other things?

This helped. Again he made a trip to Biala Podlaska with that letter and he brought the boys back. As you can sometimes see Moses going out of Egypt? Well Moses came back with 38 people from that camp. That was my father. And for this I believe that he stayed behind me also, all the time. Whenever I was in a jam, whatever I couldn't do, he was behind me and he brought me out.

As you can see there are two pictures. One is with a synagogue standing, and around it are bombed-out houses which was done in 1939 when the Germans fought in Kaluszyn. The synagogue remained during this time until 1941 when the Germans destroyed it and took away the bricks to make an airfield.