

RG# :RG-50.378\*013  
KOIPANITZKI ; KOPEL  
DAGAN, BEN-ZION  
IVANOVICH, IVAN

The tap was filmed in Belarus in Lachva.

01;01;29       Kopel in front of his house in Lachva: The house was built in 1930. I was 4 years old when we moved from Sinkevitch. The house was from wood. We had a nice porch with colorful windows. Flowers that my mother grew surrounded the house. We had 7 rooms; we rented out 3 of them.

We were 3 sons and one daughter. My sister was very small. I remember her eating the plaster from the walls. She was murdered here, when she was 12 years old.

01;04;48       I was singing in the synagogue choir. Most of the neighbors were Jews but not all of them. We had a lot of Gentile who lived near to us.

01:06:50       We had good relations with our Belarus neighbors. We had cows. We gave the manure to them. They grew potatoes for them and for us. We were not afraid of our neighbors.

01:08:57       In 1938, my eldest brother, Moshe, was about to go to Pinsk, to hear Jabotinski speak. Suddenly we heard noise of breaking windows. It was one of our neighbors, who got drunk on Sunday. He screamed: Jews go to Palestine! My brother took a weight from the kitchen and hit him on his head. When the Germans got in, this guy joined the German police. We were afraid that he will seek revenge, but he was one of our best friends during the war. He gave us a lot of important information. Until Passover 1942 we lived in our house. Then the Jews were moved out to the Ghetto. We lived with my grandmother.

Dagan Ben-Zion:

01:13:39       We are strolling in the street where I was born. It was much wider then. We were 7 kids. Shlomo was born in 1911, after him 5 sisters and me in 1927. We lived near the river.

01:18:05       The houses looked exactly as they looked before the war. We lived on 10 Kirva st.

01:19:34       The Ghetto was divided to 2 parts. Shkolna st. was a passing place for the Belarus people to their church. Community of 2000 Jews moved to 43 houses in the ghetto. I was 15 years old when the war started.

01:21:35 My grandfather had a boat on the Pripet. My brother, Moshe, had connection with a gentile on the other side of the bank. In the night he went with the boat and brought us supplies.

01:23:24 I worked for the Germans. On 2.9.1942 we were kept till midnight in the train. One German soldier beat us. Meir Chefetz lost his conscious. We couldn't do anything, because we knew that in Mishkevitch, one Jew, Mula Zaychik, run away and the Germans killed all the Jews there.

01:27:25 We arrived back to the ghetto after midnight. We were 20 people in one room. Early in the morning we heard screams. The Germans came with machine guns and started to shoot us. Yitzhak Rochick killed a German soldier with an ax. This was the beginning of the uprising.

01:29:24 Kopel: In 2.9.1942 I worked in Mishkevitch, 20 Km. From Lachva. We heard a bomb. We knew it was the railroad between Lachva and Mishkevitch.

02:00:12 When we came back to the ghetto we saw lots of policemen. I woke-up my brother, who was one of the members in the underground. He called his friends and they decided to escape from the Ghetto. The Udenrat didn't agree to escape in the night and asked to wait till the morning. We collected cold weapons and flammable materials.

02:03:20 In the morning we heard shootings in the neighborhood. We understood that they are demolishing the Ghetto. Trucks with Germans, Lithuanians and Ukrainians entered the Ghetto. They ordered us to get out of our houses. My mother gave me my father's watch. She said she has a feeling that I'll survive. 1200 Jews were assembling in the market. They were shooting us with machines guns all over. Dov Lupatin set Chefetz's house on fire.

02:08:35 Ben-Zion: My house burned down. My mother was sick. She was in the house. I couldn't save her.

Kopel: The Germans fired everyone. The Jews started to run away. I found myself one of the last Jews to escape from the Ghetto. The houses were burning. I ran over the bodies.

02:12:17 I met a German who shot me, but missed. I reached our school and hid with 20-25 more Jews. Matrena, a gentile, helped us to cross the street for a golden watch and a pair of boots.

02:14:33 Ben-Zion: I was looking for someone of my family. I found my father. He said he couldn't run. There were pushing all over. I lost my Dad. I continued to run. I took off my coat with David Star and run out of the Ghetto. I reached the Pripet river.

02:19:35 Kopel and Ben-Zion met Ivan Ivanovitch, a friend from school days. He lived now in a village near by: Lubban. He told us in Russian what had happened. Kopel translates his story to Hebrew.

02:25:25 Ivan remembered he saw 10 wagons with bodies. His brother had to stay to bury them.

03:00:20 His brother told him, that they had to dig a hole, 2 meter in depth. The Germans told the Jews to take off their cloths and to get into the hole. Then they shot them. They continued to do so shooting 10 Jews each time. It went on all day. Then they covered the hole. During 2-3 weeks they continued this action.

03:04:00 When they covered the hole they could still hear voices. His brother told this story to all his family immediately when he came back home.

03:06:00 the Belarus people helped the Jews to run to the forest.

03:07:40 Ben-Zion: I ran away with Yerachmiel Chefetz. The Belaruses helped us. They hid us in a chicken coop. When the Germans came they asked us to run.

03:10:50 Ivan told a story he heard from his wife. She told him she saw the Germans took 2 Jewish girls to the hole. She asked the Germans if she could feed them. They agreed. Afterwards She heard 2 shoots.

Photos from a memorial monument and from the villages