

IBRIĆ, Himzo
Former Yugoslavia Witnesses Documentation Project
Serbian
RG-50-586*0023

Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Himzo Ibrić, born May 21, 1924, in Falešići near **Srebrenika**, describes his war experience from 1924 to 1945. He focuses on his training in the military, battles, and time spent in jail. He describes life (spent mostly in Croatia unless otherwise noted) and his condition during World War II, especially in the camps, and other circumstances that contributed to saving his life.

[01:] 00:32:22 – [01:] 08:44:25

He gives his full name, date, and place of birth; explains when and how he was drafted into the army; speaks about his training and his first fight for two months in Tuzla; mentions that later on the soldiers moved to Doboj from Tuzla; explains how partisans were betrayed by their own superiors and were incarcerated; describes fleeing the partisans due to starvation and generally poor conditions, mentions that he went home and soon returned to the army; describes his imprisonment in Slavonski Brod by German officers with approximately a hundred other inmates; describes witnessing the murders of other inmates; explains he fled the jail during a bombing of the jail and joined a new division that was training in Bjelovar, for the Eastern Front and that he spent one year there; he mentions he cut himself [*shows the scar*] in order to avoid death and how he was hospitalized at Bjelovar.

[01:] 08:45:00 – [01:] 14:42:12

He answers the question of whether he was a witness to any murders; describes how he successfully fled from jail in Slavonski Brod thanks to a farmer who helped him cross the Sava River; mentions laying down his arms in Maribor (in present-day Slovenia) during the capitulation and that he fled to a camp near Zagreb; describes his cousin, an officer, getting him out of the camp and saving his life; mentions that afterward he spent six months in camp in Tuzla and then was released home.

[01:] 14:42:13 – [01:] 23:08:15

He answers a question about how partisans treated local people; describes partisans executing each other for injustices committed on others; describes when he was present at the execution of a partisan condemned for stealing jewelry in **Usura** near Doboj; says he was given food by a woman whose son was a member of the Ustaše in Doboj; says the same woman later saved his life when the Germans killed everyone but him and the cook; mentions again how he witnessed the murders in the jail in Slavonski Brod and how he fled; explains hiding near his home for a

month and how his mother used to bring him bread at a designated place; explains that he had to join the army again in order not to be killed as a traitor; mentions again the training in Bjelovar; [*silence till the next question*].

[01:] 23:08:16 – [01:] 31:59:18

He explains being transported as a self-wounded soldier from Bjelovar to **Drau Grad** where he surrendered to the partisans; mentions walking from **Drau Grad** to the Pakrac camp, Tuzla; says that people were dying from starvation and exhaustion and that he had to chew on grass to survive; mentions his cousin saved his life by giving him a job in a kitchen where he could eat; describes being taken to the west camp where he had to work in an industrial unit and building roads until December 1945; describes his release and his return home afterwards; mentions that after the war was over he still had to serve two years in the military in Maribor; answers the question about the conditions in Pakrac; describes how those who died of exhaustion and starvation were loaded on trucks and taken away.