

Yefim Feldman	Duration: 21:07	Russian Vets, Interview date Mar 01/2011
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- 00 00 b/g conversation. (Please state your full name. **Yefim**: Yefim Yakovlevich Feldman. (Your date of birth) June 27th, 1923. B/g conversation. (Please say full sentence). I was born on June 27th, 1923. 00 49
- 00 49 (what was your rank?) Senior lieutenant, medical service. (Say a full sentence). My rank was senior lieutenant, medical service. (What did you do in the army?) 01 10
- 01 10 In the army I was a military paramedic with the light-gun artillery regiment. (Tell us about the time the war began). The war began...Before the war I enrolled in Kharkov Military Medical College. 01 41
- 01 41 Two months later the college was bombarded by the Germans. The college was immediately evacuated to Ashkhabad. (Did you finish the college there?)I finished the college 1 year and 1 month later. I was given the rank of lieutenant, medical service. 02 16
- 02 16 (Where were you sent on graduation?) They dispatched 10 men to each destination. I was among 10 men sent to Moscow. We stayed in Moscow overnight, just 1 night before being sent to units. 02 38
- 02 38 I was assigned to a unit going to Dukhovshchina, Smolensk Region. (What happened to you in Dukhovshchina?) The Germans... (Tell us your story from the very beginning). 03 18
- 03 18 The war was going on there... very indefinitely... I was with a group going... 2 battery commanders...we... the Germans bombarded heavily... heavily bombarded... 03 45
- 03 45 We ran away and got surrounded. We were getting out of encirclement one by one, one by one. (Did you give first aid to the wounded soldiers?) By all means, (Say a full sentence). I gave first aid to the wounded soldiers...gave...04 13
- 04 13 My first combat medal was Medal for Combat Merits, I was awarded for Dukhovshchina, for Dukhovshchina. b/g conversation. A brigade came from the Far East to reinforce our troops. 04 54
- 04 54 Brigade commander's name was colonel Frolov. I joined the brigade. (What did you do there? Did you remove wounded soldiers from the battle field?) The wounded soldiers were there... heavy bombing by the Germans...bombing... 05 26
- 05 26 We picked up the wounded men, just picked them up...we delivered them to the medical train...the wounded men...(What did you do?) I gave first aid... First aid. Train cars...They were put on the train cars...06 01
- 06 01 The train cars were overloaded with wounded men. (did you give first aid to them?)... gave first aid before putting them on the train cars... so they could be loaded on the train. 06 24

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06 24	Many of the wounded men were very bad. German air raids were endless. There weren't enough Soviet medical planes, not enough. (You, the paramedics were overloaded with work, weren't you). 06 50	
06 50	There were 3 paramedics. Two more paramedics came from the Far East. (Did you give first aid to the wounded men?) Yes. (say...) I had to give first aid to the wounded men before putting them on the train cars. 07 19	
07 19	So that their condition allowed us to put them on the train. (Where did it take place, was it near Moscow?) No, it wasn't near Moscow. (Where?) It was near Dukhovshchina. 07 39	
07 39	(in Ukraine?) Dukhovshchina was in Smolensk Region, Smolensk Region. (That's where you received your first medal?) There, in Dukhovshchina... signed by commander of 66 th Artillery Brigade. 08 06	
08 06	(Where were you sent after Dukhovshchina?) We advanced to the Baltics (Pribaltika). After Dukhovshchina. (Where in the Baltics? Latvia?) Latvia. Latvia. 08 32	
08 32	b/g conversation. We weren't involved in Estonia. b/g conversation. A little of Lithuania, Kaunas. I was wounded with shrapnel near Kaunas. I was hospitalized to a Moscow hospital. 09 14	
09 14	Moscow...(Where were you wounded – were you wounded in the battle field?) A heavy bombing by the Germans...heavy bombing... a shrapnel...I still have scars...here... the wound... 09 35	
09 35	(Were you near Daugavpils, Latvia?) I remember the city very well but... I'm having some memory problems... I remember Daugavpils very well. (do you remember your intelligence commander, and how you went to do some reconnaissance?) 10 03	
10 03	I remember... (please say a full sentence). Reconnaissance with senior lieutenant (name inaudible). After the war he visited me in Riga just to see me. (do you remember the details?) I remember that we went away...with the battery commander, I can't recall his name... 10 37	
10 37	We walked far away, 50 something km, we left behind... (do you remember you almost got captured by the Germans?) I got almost captured by the Germans...along with the battery commander. 11 03	
11 03	(How did you manage to get away?) We hid without being noticed. There was a real mess there. (did the Germans shoot at you?) The Germans bombed...The Germans bombed terribly. 11 25	
11 25	I have a shrapnel scar on my leg... on my leg. (were you awarded Order of the Red Star for getting away from being captured?) No, I was awarded Medal for Courage. (Say a full sentence) I was awarded Medal for Courage for getting out of encirclement. 12 05	

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12 05	Order of the Red Star... after the discharge from the hospital I was in a different brigade... a different one. The brigade commander's name was Guards colonel Ponomarev. 12 24	
12 24	He handed Order of the Red Star to me. (For what?) for... despite the situation...I didn't leave the combat for a single second, giving medical aid. His wife was our medical commander. She took me to her unit right away. 13 02	
13 02	(Tell us about your combat responsibilities). We crawled up to the soldiers. If the injury was not too serious we gave first aid, put on dressings, gave pain killers, and injections. I had got a proper training to be able to give first medical aid. 13 53	
13 53	More than enough training at the military college! I gave first medical aid to many soldiers, many! (any heroic stories?) It was very difficult during the war. We took Riga, there was hard fighting in the Riga area, too hard! 14 35	
14 35	Our brigade participated in liberation of Riga. (did you give medical aid there?) I gave medical aid to soldiers and officers who were injured during the Battle of Riga. 15 03	
15 03	The hardest fighting I went through was in Dukhovshchina, Smolensk Region where huge numbers of German troops and technical equipment were concentrated. 15 35	
15 35	Our division was given the title of 21 st Dukhovshchina Breakthrough Division. (Why breakthrough?) (Len talking in the b/g). Breakthrough? (Yes) We broke through the enemy defences. 16 02	
16 02	We broke through the enemy defences. (Len talking in the b/g). (Please say a full sentence). We broke through the enemy defences. 2 days later the Supreme Commander in Chief issued an order giving our division the title of Dukhovshchina Division. 16 31	
16 31	(About the Jews) Our regiment commander was a Jew. His name was Guards Colonel Akodis. (Was he a courageous man?) Yes, he was. He was a very courageous military man. (Other Jewish names?) A commander of an artillery brigade. 17 20	
17 20	I was the only Jew among the medical professionals. We were 8 members of the medical company. I was the only Jew among the medical professionals. The only one among the military medical staff. 17 48	
17 48	They were experienced medical workers and graduates of civilian medical schools. (Was your colonel awarded with many medals?) He was awarded with many medals. 18 11	
18 11	I don't know where... His name was colonel Akodis. (Say a full sentence). Colonel Akodis was awarded medals for combat merits. Commander...(b/g conversation)18 35	

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- 18 35 Our chief commander's name was general Chapayev...why? Because they had gone through living under the German authority. (Say a full sentence). The Jews fought heroically because they had gone through living under the German authority. 19 06
- 19 06 In my home town of Kharkov so many people who hadn't been evacuated were murdered - all to a man. They [the Germans]set up a big gas chamber in the park. They let the gas in and the people died immediately. Thousands of people were murdered in my home town of Kharkov. 19 40
- 19 40 They were murdered. (anything to add?) I did whatever in my power, I didn't let anyone down. I gave all the help I could. After the war, I met many [of my comrades] in Riga. 20 25
- 20 25 Everyone said words of appreciation. Colonel Frolov... he was told about me... he gave me Order of the Red Star for giving help to the wounded men. (Say again). For giving help... (Say again). I was given Order of the Red Star by colonel Frolov for giving medical aid to the wounded men. 21 07
- 21 07 End of Interview.