

Nikolai Golosarski

Russian Vets

Nikolai Golosarski 1

Duration 2:09

- 00 00 (Please begin) My name is Nikolai Golosarski. I was born in 1922 in city Vinnitsa. My father was a construction worker. My mother was a home maker. Due to a number of unfortunate circumstances, as my mother told me later, my father got a cold and, because of a lung disease, died young, at the age of 31. 00 32
- 00 32 My mother and I were his only survivors. While my father was alive and sick, we moved to Odessa, looking for a better climate for him. We went to live with his parents in Odessa. 00 52
- 00 52 We lived together for some time. However my father lost his struggle with the illness. My mother and I remained leaving in Odessa at that period of time. In 1929 my mother remarried. 01 22
- 01 22 She married a businessman. In 1929 during the NEP, he worked on a number of projects, producing halavah, spices, etc. However at the end of that period of time, persecutions started. 01 56
- 01 56 Individuals in possession of some property and hired employees working for them were deprived of vote. 02 09

End of file

Nikolai Golosarski 2

Duration 1:29

- 00 00 In 1929, as per regulations at the time, I went to a Ukrainian school #50. In 1940 I graduated from that school's grade 10. After my graduation from grade 10, the conscription age was changed by the law. 00 36
- 00 36 At the age of 18 I was drafted to the Red Army. I was sent to serve in town Leninakan, Armenia where 31st detached anti-aircraft artillery division was stationed. 00 52
- 00 52 I didn't stay long in that division. I was among 10 men urgently transferred to Kirovakan where a mountain division was stationed. We had to learn to operate new artillery machinery. 01 15
- 01 15 Those were small calibre anti-aircraft artillery guns. We coped with our task at the time. I served in 326 mountain division. (Stop)

End of file

Nikolai Golosarski 3

Duration 22:25

- 00 00 (Please continue) In 1941 I was a private soldier. After 2 years of service I was supposed to retire as junior lieutenant, reserve. However it didn't turn out that way. 00 32

Nikolai Golosarski

Russian Vets

- 00 32 The war was announced. We started moving from Kirovakan in the direction of Leninakan. We took our positions at different heights waiting for further instructions. 00 53
- 00 53 Local men started being drafted to the military. Those who had secondary education, as well as those with University degrees and who had deferment of military service, were sent to Baku anti-aircraft artillery college. 01 11
- 01 11 We were to graduate the college as officers. We had to leave for Baku. In Baku we were to be admitted to the college in Baku on passing exams in Russian and math. After that we went through a comprehensive medical examination. 01 40
- 01 40 We were waiting for the decision. Colonel Artemenko was the college commander at that time. At some point in the past he had been the commander of Odessa artillery college. 01 55
- 01 55 He ordered that the candidates formed 2 lines. He talked to everyone asking "Where are you from", etc. When I said I was from Odessa, he told me to move over. 02 11
- 02 11 And so the final list of students was made. We started on the training program at Baku anti-aircraft artillery college. On graduation there was an order for all the graduates to be sent to locations all over the Soviet Union. 02 35
- 02 35 I was sent to city Rostov-on-Don before the surrender. 265 detached rifle division was being formed there at the time. Stationary guns were shipped there. 02 55
- 02 55 The commanders decided to have *Rosselmash* Plant place them on railway platforms. The platforms were designed to protect the guns and the crews against bullets. 03 20
- 03 20 With those guns we started retreating from Rostov. The retreat was followed by an assault. We were moving in the direction of the Caucasus: Issalsk, Manych, Mineralnye Vody, Mozdok, Kavkazskaya railway station, etc. 03 47
- 03 47 That way we reached as far as Kizlyar where the black market was. The batteries had to move along a one-lane road that had just been restored and had some passing tracks. 04 06
- 04 06 We were fighting cruising along those passing tracks. The aviation was striking, day and night, at the echelons running along the one-lane road. That was a very hard time. 04 26
- 04 26 If someone stroke a match to light a cigarette, his body wasn't found as a result of explosions of bombs thrown down by Junkers aircraft. We stayed there for some period of time. 04 43

Nikolai Golosarski**Russian Vets**

- 04 43 Due to a number of circumstances we were part of 56 Army formed in this area. We were on missions related to its activities due to what was happening in Novorossiysk. 05 06
- 05 06 I recall a number of very complicated major events as the batteries were placed in very important spots that had to be saved: bridges, river crossings, etc. 05 26
- 05 26 I recall a railroad station named Girey where we were stationed. All through the night we were firing as continuous air strikes at echelons occurred every 15 to 20 minutes. 05 48
- 05 48 The Junkers were striking and striking. Luckily the bombs fell on the sides. There were deep shell holes everywhere. However we managed to survive at that time! 06 04
- 06 04 I recall Kavkazskaya railway station, a major railway centre and a hub with echelons moving northbound, eastbound, westbound and bound to Rostov. We needed to keep it by all means fighting off the enemy's aviation. 06 35
- 06 35 It was a very complicated task. At first they threw down flare bombs that were slowly descending on silk parachutes thus lighting up the area and making all the objects visible. 06 52
- 06 52 After that an ace threw down a terrible mix that fell near an object. The burning object near a battery became a target for diving bombers. At the time we were saved thanks to flameless shells we had been given beforehand. 07 16
- 07 16 That's why the flares weren't seen from a long distance. We managed to survive and help keep the railway hub. We didn't let the violations happen under the circumstances. 07 35
- 07 35 There were lots of episodes; the most memorable ones happened when we were in Elista's Kalmyk steppes. There were betrayals too. Some people didn't stand the pressure. 07 54
- 07 54 For example. As a communications officer I was on a mission in Grozny to solve some problems. When I returned from Grozny to Kizlyar someone told me "You know, Chernomorenko has shot himself". 08 13
- 08 13 He was found dead with a kettle on the table in front of him. This is what he wrote in his dying note: "We aren't few, but they are many more". And he killed himself. Some of the people couldn't stand the mental pressure. 08 27
- 08 27 I have many more memories. Here's one of them. The men didn't have to sit and watch the PUASO – this is what the gun-directing device was called in the army. All that had to be done was turning the handles on 4 sides of the device. 08 48

Nikolai Golosarski**Russian Vets**

- 08 48 The men were sent away from the device. Instead young girls were sent in to run it. Those were young girls from Caucasus. They had volunteered to serve in the army. 08 58
- 08 58 Here's another memorable moment. The girls were sitting turning the handle. The PUASO wasn't protected by any kind of armour plates. The commander's name was senior sergeant Malyarchuk. 09 12
- 09 12 His home village was nearby. At that horrible moment shrapnel hit him in his stomach. He fell down. There was no chance to bury him. The girls were sitting and doing their job running the device and directing the fire. 09 35
- 09 35 When the war was over and Caucasus was liberated everyone was commended and decorated with medals for liberation of Caucasus. We were sent to 2nd Belarusian Front. 10 00
- 10 00 I remember crossing the river Osh, 2nd Belarusian Front. That was the operation for liberation of city Gomel. Belarus suffered twice. There were ravages of war. 10 14
- 10 14 All that was left of buildings were the carcasses. We crossed the river over a pontoon bridge to get to the city's suburb. All that was left was a small house. We saw a lady who was crying standing near the house. 10 27
- 10 27 She told us that everything she had was taken away, including a shoemaker's stool. She was devastated, crying and greeting our soldiers. Afterwards we were sent to the river Vistula, Poland. 10 51
- 10 51 Same situation was in Warsaw. We participated in liberation of Warsaw and went on to the river Oder. I have all the photos taken at our position on the bank of the river Oder before crossing. 11 16
- 11 16 Afterwards we were sent on to the approaches of Berlin. Everyone of us was eager to get to the Nazi's den as soon as possible: Berlin, Reichstag, and the Brandenburg Gates! 11 37
- 11 37 Everyone dreamed of leaving his signature on a Berlin wall. People were being killed until the last moment of that war. At that time the Germans were using their new weapon -- the Panzefaust. 11 55
- 11 55 Besides, they used their new aircraft Junkers-252. They used them mainly for bombing London and England. Looking behind I remember all those moments of the war 12 18
- 12 18 We were nominated for war decorations. Our unit was disbanded and we parted. People were happy, nobody was thinking about the medals. All we thought about was coming back home to leave a peaceful life. 12 37
- 12 37 So this is my short story of the war. At that time I was dreaming of staying on and dedicating myself to medicine. I returned to my home town; no one had survived. 12 53

Nikolai Golosarski**Russian Vets**

- 12 53 All of my family had been murdered in the ghetto: my mother, my little sister and my step-father, all of them! One little child had been sent from Leningrad to visit his family in Odessa. He had also been murdered, as his mother had been unable to get to Odessa to take her little son with her. 13 17
- 13 17 Those were tragedies and horrible experiences! It's hard to imagine all of those innocent people who had to be murdered just for being Jews! 13 31
- 13 31 A one-year old little girl had been agreed to be saved. Her 10-year old sister had begged "Please save me too!" "No, you're too big, we can't", she had been told. How can one forget this?! 13 51
- 13 51 It happened so that my beautiful high school sweetheart was waiting for me. Her name was Tamara Dubovaya. We got married and lived a happy life. I became a medical doctor. 14 17
- 14 17 I studied for a long time. I was lucky to have Vladimir Petrovich Filatov as my group supervising professor. He was a holder of 5 Orders of Lenin, an Honoured Scientist and a Corresponding Member of the Ukraine's and the USSR Academy of Sciences. 14 46
- 14 46 Filatov spend a lot of time teaching us; his son was among the students of my group. I have a lot of amazing memories from that period of time. I was lucky that outstanding clinicians and surgeons were among my teachers. 15 09
- 15 09 I had a great opportunity to learn my profession under their supervision. I am so grateful to them for all they did. 15 18
- 15 18 I still have a letter written by Vladimir Petrovich Filatov asking for me to be sent back to Odessa due to the state of my health. I had been sent to an evacuation hospital. 15 39
- 15 39 After the hospital I was demobilized and returned to my home town of Odessa where I lived and studied to become a doctor. On my graduation I got a job managing a clinic organized by Filatov. 16 01
- 16 01 The clinic did an amazing job in Moldova, Besarabia and Izmail. I promoted the restructuring of a number of issues. I was getting job offers but I didn't want to break off the relations with the hospital I had invested so much time and efforts. 16 25
- 16 26 My PhD dissertation was approved in which I collected all the material... However the necessity of working in the clinic, frequent travels to the outlying districts were in the way of solving my personal problems. 16 51
- 16 51 (During the war were you mistreated by command as a Jew?) 17 12
- 17 12 My son graduated from the University with a high distinction degree. His grandfather had trained a school of roentgenologists and radiologists. His mother had worked for 30 years...she worked for 30 years at a navy hospital. She was well respected by everyone. 17 43

Nikolai Golosarski**Russian Vets**

- 17 43 However they didn't even want to interview him. I approached Mr. Kononenko, manager of the navy health department. "Will your son work if he is assigned a position?" said Kononenko. "Yes, he will". 18 04
- 18 04 He knew that was not going to happen. That's why he promised...When my son was approved for the position he wasn't even given a chance to be interviewed. 18 17
- 18 17 He wasn't given a chance to start working. "I can't assign him any work except for cleaning the sea bottom, etc", said the manager. To make my story short he didn't get the job which was very upsetting to my son. He undoubtedly didn't deserve to be rejected 18 41
- 18 41 Those individuals who had that kind of credentials... on his graduation he was given excellent references for research jobs...he wasn't given a chance to start working. 18 52
- 18 52 Thanks to a number of circumstances he continued his contract work. He was able to make a number of exciting discoveries highly praised by world scientists, including France and Finland. 19 20
- 19 20 That was extremely upsetting. A talented man capable of more discoveries wasn't even given a chance to work as a researcher. He wasn't even called for an interview because the party committee didn't see it possible. 19 48
- 19 48 Definitely, that was very upsetting. (Where you mistreated during the war?) No, I wasn't. During the war I was very efficient in carrying out orders in a timely manner. 20 11
- 20 11 A major Sudnik from Belarus was the division commander. After Sekiriakov was killed who was the division's operating platoon commander, major Sudnik nominated a number of men to replace him. I won the competition and was granted the position. 20 36
- 20 36 I am quite grateful to him for recognizing my merits. Undoubtedly I worked efficiently doing my job until the war was over. There was no negativity due to the camaraderie at the front. 21 02
- 21 02 That was what caused my hurt feelings and what later lead to my emigration. I am extremely grateful to Canada, the country that proved that there may be two official languages, that every ethnic and religious group is given a chance to practice its own religion. 21 42
- 21 42 However we must remember that everyone should know the official language of the country he or she lives in. That's why there are two official languages: English and French. 21 55
- 21 55 The relationship between the groups of population is based on different foundations. It's beneficial for normal development of the society in the country. 22 15

Nikolai Golosarski

Russian Vets

22 15 Canada deserves full respect and loyalty on the part of the people who live here. (Thank you) 22:25

End of file

End of interview