

<b>Anna Khaliavskaya</b>	<b>Duration: 74:41</b>	<b>Russian Vets, Interview date Apr 11/2011</b>
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- 00 00 (Please state your full name, date and place of birth) **Anna:** Ok. My name is Anna Khaliavskaya. I was born in Minsk, Belarus on March 20, 1924. (please tell us how you ended up in Minsk ghetto). No wonder. (chuckling) There was no evacuation. The war began unexpectedly. 00 50
- 00 50 My father, my step mother and I walked away... we left burning Minsk. Many people walked along the road. We walked towards Minsk-Moscow highway hoping to get on a train and leave the area. 01 17
- 01 17 A lieutenant directed us to make a shortcut to a village of Kolodishche where an echelon was being formed. We walked for a long time until we reached there. We got on a train and went to Borisov. 01 47
- 01 47 The next station was Priamino. Suddenly German airplanes came flying and bombarding our echelon. Everyone rushed out. It was a low-flying attack – we could see pilots’ faces and hear them speaking and humming. 02 19
- 02 19 They were shooting people down no matter men, women, children or old people...They didn’t care. I don’t know what happened to the echelon. We went straight to Priamino where my step mother’s sister lived. We decided to wait till it was over. 02 48
- 02 48 People were saying “Why are you leaving? Minsk will never surrender with so many military units protecting the city. Everything is going to be OK.” We thought: “Why run away?” We weren’t prepared for a long trip. We stayed there for several days. 03 14
- 03 14 The sister didn’t move to leave. Eventually they were killed – she, her husband and 4 children. I have never seen them since. We left Priamino and went as far as Kholopinichi where we had to stop as the Germans had blocked our path. 03 39
- 03 39 We decided: as we were in an occupied territory, we’d better try to make it to Minsk where we had a small house – a roof over our heads. A river in Borisov divided the town into Novo-Borisov and Staro-Borisov. When we reached the bridge the Germans took away my father, despite his being 55 year old. 04 18
- 04 18 In my eyes he looked like an old man. They took him to the camp. We stayed in Borisov for a while hoping to see the father. They were walked by a German guard to a water column – only men were rounded up on the bridge. 04 47
- 04 47 The last time we saw him he said “I’m not going to survive” He knew what was in store for him. He told us to try and make it to Minsk, and he wished us that we survived. 05 08
- 05 08 We got on a freight train and made it to Minsk, in July ’41. 2 days later the German authorities published an order for all Jews to wear a yellow star on the right side of the chest and the back. 05 43

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- 05 43 At the end of July the ghetto was set up in the Yubileynaya Ploshchad area where small houses were situated. I lived there with my step mother and we never saw my father any more. 06 16
- 06 16 The first pogrom took place on November 7<sup>th</sup>. The ghetto was surrounded with a barbwire with no electrical current. The ghetto wasn't guarded while the bakery within the ghetto was. The Germans guarded the bakery because they ate the bread produced there, while we didn't. 07 03
- 07 03 I said to my step mother "You know, aunt Rasya, my uncle, my mother's brother lives at Khlebnaya Street next to the bakery". I remembered that they had a dark room without windows. 07 21
- 07 21 I said "What if they figured out... there were lots of people in the bakery...people from all over the city... what if they figured out to close the door...to block it with a wardrobe... they would remove the back wall from the wardrobe...and let people in... people would be safe..." 07 47
- 07 47 "I will come to pick you up". She stayed at another street while I went to my uncle's. My uncle was away. He was a kitchen help working for the Germans. When he came back the curfew began, no way I could go out. 08 09
- 08 09 I had to walk by the bakery. That's how we parted with my step mother. On the 7<sup>th</sup> of November everyone was pushed out in the morning. A commotion started, the dogs barking, the Germans pushing people out (speaks German) "Lous forschluchte Yuden!" whipping around with lashes. 08 38
- 08 38 There was a woman in the house, she had a 2 year old child. I had a pity for the child. The Germans pushed them out while the child was naked. It was in November, there was snow on the ground. 08 59
- 08 59 His mother and I started putting cloths on the child while we were in the column. The Germans drove up mobile gas chambers. Have you ever heard about mobile gas chambers? Those were trucks... a truck drove up... they put a chair on both sides... 09 30
- 09 30 to let the people up, as not everyone was able to climb up to the gas chamber door. A truck full of Jews went to Trostinets. There was a grave in Trostinets. Later on they erected a memorial there. Everyone was dead by the time they reached Trostinets. 09 55
- 09 55 On some occasions a child or two managed to run away. I read about it, although I never saw this happen. Nobody wanted to get on the truck. The Germans pushed the people to go on truck to get rid of the column. 10 17
- 10 17 To make the long story short, I thought to myself "I have to go, what's the difference? Father and step mother are dead, what's the point being on my own?" I walked up to the truck to climb the chair. I was whipped with a lash. 10 36

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10 36	Suddenly I stopped. I saw the women with her child leaving the column and talking to someone. I thought "What is it all about?" By the time I reached her I had figured everything out. 10 56	
10 56	I thought that my uncle would "recognize" me if need be, as I was his own niece, while the woman wasn't his family at all. She referred to my uncle, saying he was her husband and that he went to his job taking the "ausweis" with him. 11 21	
11 21	She said she was with her child on her own, not able to feed him and that now she had to be in column waiting to be killed. The German was a middle aged man. There was a policeman by his side, probably he spoke German. 11 39	
11 39	The woman, named Klara, used German and Yiddish words. She tried to convince him, not caring whether or not he understood her language. I heard the conversation.. I stepped out of the column and walked up to her. 12 01	
12 01	The German asked who I was. She said I was her husband's sister. He waved his hand letting us get out of the column. We walked into the bakery yard gates. While we were there the snow turned into slush. An SS man came... I forget his name... a tall well-groomed man...12 45	
12 45	He taunted us..."Sit down in the snow!" He whipped with a lash if one didn't sit down fast. "Lie down in mud!" But at least he didn't shoot. We weren't let go until the dark. So I was with my uncle now. He was a store manager. He had cash, a day's receipts.13 27	
13 27	Banks were closed, no way to deposit the cash. He was too honest! He put his pregnant wife and 2 children on a train. He stayed because of the money. That's that. What he pulled out - I don't know. One fine day... rather not fine... 2 SS men came and rounded him up. 13 55	
13 55	He might have... I'm not sure what he did in the German organization...it was an aviation unit... they had aviation insignia... I was on my own. I thought to myself "OK, I'll be like everyone else". 14 21	
14 21	Young guys started getting together... Am I delaying you? No?... to go to the forests. I didn't know much about the forests around Minsk - I didn't have a chance... I joined a group... we left the ghetto... a young girl, 3 men and I - all of us the Jews. 14 50	
14 50	We left Minsk. We were a group, you couldn't call us a detachment, we were 15 or 18 persons. The guide told us "Go along the road to Medvezhino. I have to drop by the Komsomol organization to clarify something". And so we went. We didn't walk together, instead we dispersed. 15 32	
15 32	We walked and walked. He didn't show up. What should we do? Nobody wanted to return to the ghetto: the guide didn't show up and we didn't know where to go. We were in the forests not knowing where to go. 15 54	

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15 54	We argued for a while, Raya didn't want to return. I had to go to the ghetto to see the commander's wife... rather he wasn't a commander, just our boss. 2 more children were with him in the ghetto... rather with her 16 21	
16 21	I came to her apartment. I told her about our situation. She told me that the guide was ordered to pick us up to lead the way. He failed to accomplish his task. "I don't know where to look for him". I had to leave the ghetto once more to show the way... 16 58	
16 58	(Tell us how you ran away from the ghetto) From the ghetto? (Chuckles) We cut and lifted the barbwire and crawled out. The Germans didn't differentiate between the Jews and the Russians. 17 30	
17 30	You could walk by them. If you didn't have the yellow patch on, they didn't pay attention. There was a chance to leave, but the problem was you had to know your way out. Most important, the Jews weren't admitted to the detachment, the real detachment. 17 51	
17 51	The small group of the Jews who managed to run away... They admitted everyone who managed to escape from the ghetto. I visited the ghetto on 2 more occasions while I was in the group... I got assignments to go to the ghetto to pick people up and guide them out of the ghetto. 18 11	
18 11	On one occasion I guided non-Jews. The underground Komsomol committee had me guide a policeman and 3 men from the Ukrainian battalion. I guided them to the group. (sighs) 18 30	
18 30	Well, my husband... he wasn't my husband at that time... we got married later on. Well he was in the group... he was assigned to go to Minsk all the time ... Nikitin's detachment, captain Nikitin... 18 50	
18 50	The group consisted of those who had got encircled... they didn't do anything on purpose... they wore uniforms with insignia... they were armed, carrying Mauser guns... It was our first group, close to Minsk where hard fighting had taken place with a lot of weapons left. 19 24	
19 24	Our young guys used to pick the weapons up, storing them for future occasions, so quite a lot of weapons were accumulated. A Nikitin's detachment guide came to the group. Nikitin ordered not to take women and old persons, and the more so children. 19 56	
19 56	He was a Jew with a Russian name. My future husband said to me: "don't take anything with you, go along the way and wait on us, we will come to pick you up". I listened to him. They loaded the weapons on 2 carts – ammunition in zinc boxes, cartridge belts. 20 46	
20 46	We walked all day, reaching Kolodinsky forests late at night, where Nikitin was. At that time... they had sent a man...I wouldn't have recognized him...he was seen entering the German commandant's office. 21 17	
21 17	He betrayed the detachment, letting the Germans know its location, he also told them the detachment wasn't armed, but a heavy machine gun which was	

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		out or order...The Germans would have no difficulty surrounding the group and rounding everyone up. 21 39
21 39		We arrived in the evening. They had lots of weapons, bags full of ammunition. Early in the morning, at dawn, the Germans surrounded the island where we were, and a fight started. 22 00
22 00		All the young guys took an all-round defence. We, the girls, were filling cartridge belts... they brought us used belts... we were sitting in the middle of the island, bullets swishing overhead, no way to hide – no dugouts, no trenches...22 26
22 26		It was in '42. I remember it was June 12 <sup>th</sup> , '42. The fight lasted the whole day. In the evening of the next day they decided to break through. A shock group was organized, armed with everything available. We went through swamps with water up to the waist. 23 06
23 06		The swamps were different, some were sedge swamps which were easy to go through. Some swamps were hummocks (кочки) and bog (трясина) sucking people down in the bog. We had to hold on thin branches not to get sucked down in the bog. 23 34
23 34		We left the island but we cannot move on, the Germans all around. Nikitin gathered his council: the special department commander, the staff commander, the commissar, a clerk. He decided to cross the front line to join the Soviet Army. 24 02
24 02		We roamed about the forests for a week unable to find a place for a refuge – a shelter of branches. We had injured persons – one soldier had wounds on both legs... Oy...(background conversation). 24 32
24 32		(Please tell a sentence: the fight took place in June '42, you were surrounded by the Germans... and what you were doing). What we did? (say it was in '42) We knew for sure that he had betrayed the detachment. (OK. One second. Please repeat). Yes, in '42. (Please repeat) 25 22
25 22		(Interviewer tries to have her speak full sentences). Yes, that was the first time the Germans went straight up, they were so close that I could see them putting their handkerchiefs on their heads and foreheads to protect themselves against the mosquitoes. 25 48
25 48		They weren't scared, being 100% sure to be able to destroy the group whatever its numbers... I didn't know how many men were in the group... We had gotten there in the evening, and first thing in the morning the fight started. 26 04
26 04		We, the women, were filling the cartridge belts and making sandwiches: a piece of bread with fat, as the fighters were hungry without food all day. We brought them water. That's how it was – all day, till the evening, the fight lasted from dawn till sunset. 26 30

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26 30	We had wounded men with various wounds. Nikitin didn't want to drag them while crossing the front line, as it was dangerous with the German or friendly fire possibility. 26 56	
26 56	He made a decision to make a field hospital and leave them behind. It was in the village... I forget the name... He left Lapidus as the hospital manager, who later on became a detachment commander. He left a doctor, nurses and attendants, several men to provide food for the group. There was nothing he could do. The patients needed food. 27 42	
27 42	We didn't have medications, nobody helped us with that. He went to cross the front line. The rumours were they crossed the front line, only one company didn't join them. 28 03	
28 03	The 4 <sup>th</sup> company didn't join him, meaning that 3 did. They crossed the front line and the fighters joined the army – they were sent to the battalion of military offenders. The commander was imprisoned for taking a combat group out of action. 28 24	
28 24	Later on he was exonerated. We heard it from his daughter who lived in Minsk. Not that we were in contact, we just heard about him. We remained in the forests. We didn't build anything – no shelters of branches, nothing. 28 49	
28 49	It was dangerous to go to the village – some of the villagers were anti-Semites, some were decent people, there was nothing we could do about it. After that we got an order from the Partisan Movement HQ in Moscow to gather all the small groups and make up detachments. 29 17	
29 17	A guide came to us. We had 2 or 3 groups in our forest with some more groups in another one. Every group got an assignment: shooting down a car or a motorcyclist on the highway. 29 35	
29 35	Some of us were sent to blow up trains. Later on we were united in a brigade. Ours was 2 <sup>nd</sup> Minsk Partisan Brigade. Our group united with other groups to form detachment #5 named after Kutuzov. (Please repeat a full sentence). 30 36	
30 36	(Chuckles). I'm not sure if it was in '43 when the groups were united following Moscow's order. By that time planes started coming throwing down loads of things, like medications... sometimes they brought some scouts with them... 31 03	
31 03	We were rank and file partisans, we didn't go into details... Our brigade commander's name was Ivanov, he was a very decent man. He was with Lapidus because Lapidus was a smart guy (chuckles). 31 37	
31 37	On the 7 <sup>th</sup> of November we got together to celebrate the holiday with an amateur concert: reading poetry, singing... I was a good singer, I sang a song. (Please give more details about Lapidus). 32 08	

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32 08	Lapidus was a party functionary before the war. During the war he was a member of an underground resistance group in the ghetto. He was a very intelligent man. He organized the detachment which later on expanded. 32 34	
32 34	The detachment expanded on account of those who had got encircled and joined the villagers – single women or widows. An order was issued to mobilize everyone into the detachments to carry out military service instead of just idling their time away. 33 00	
33 00	(What did he do?) The detachment was basically Jewish. The injured Russians recovered and left for other detachments, rather other groups. We stayed with Lapidus. (What was his responsibility?) He was responsible for everything. 33 46	
33 46	I'm going to give you an example. I don't remember the exact date...the Germans decided to send a strong group to destroy the detachment. Brigade commander didn't rely on any commanders except Lapidus, whom he trusted 100%. 34 15	
34 15	Here's what Lapidus came up with. It was in the winter. We didn't have dugouts, and we couldn't stay in villages either. He detained a guide who guided the Germans. 34 31	
34 31	He found out that the Germans had been to this and that village, one after another. He decided to follow the German detachment. The brigade staff was with our detachment. 34 51	
34 51	Once the Germans left a village, we entered it, following the Germans. That's how he saved the detachment and the brigade staff. He trusted Lapidus 100% because he was very smart. 35 13	
35 13	After the war he was promoted to party regional committee's secretary in Belarus. That's how it was. After the big detachments were organized... (was his job organizing Jewish detachments?) Formally it wasn't. I'm not sure, but I think he acted on behalf of party district committee. 35 50	
35 50	He was accountable, he used to send his reports to someone...He said that a military unit needed a colours (знамя). A girl and I embroidered the detachment's colours: colour threads on satin. 36 14	
36 14	The other girl embroidered the brigade's colours. Later on those colours were on display at the WWII museum in Minsk. He wasn't a career military man, but he realized the importance thereof. 36 45	
36 45	After the detachment expanded we did everything along with the villagers: sowing, harvesting, hay mowing, flour grinding, etc. We had a base and horses in our detachment. 37 11	
37 11	A demolition group was organized (подрывная группа). My husband was appointed its commander. They used shells... shells were this tall (shows) to melt out tolite. Before they used to carry shells in their hands. They used a fuse (shnur) like this (shows) to prepare an explosion. 37 45	

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37 45	It was very dangerous: they needed to install a shell and to get away from the railroad quickly. The horses were good. The detachment commander gave us good properly fed horses to carry them from the railroad fast. 38 13	
38 13	The group consisted of 6 men. (Who used to handle bombs – was it your husband?) He too... among other men. They derailed 13 trains! (Says in English: 10 and 3...(chuckles) 11, 12, 13...(back to Russian). We went through everything. (What was your husband's role?) Responsibility? 38 58	
38 58	Responsibility... At some point he was a commander...what... forgot...memory problems...(chuckles) after the war he was awarded for...(Was he responsible for exploding?) Exploding, yes. (Please say full sentence). My husband was a commander of demolition group. 39 36	
39 36	The group consisted of 6 men, including him. They moved on horse cart closer to Minsk to set off explosions. At first it was easier, but later on the Germans cut down the forests near the rail road so that partisans weren't able to hide. 40 06	
40 06	Every explosion was inspected afterwards, the population was interrogated. We had our intelligence. They were responsible for everything to be done properly. That's it. What else would you like me to tell you? 40 31	
40 31	(Were you with your husband?)When the war began he was a private soldier in the regular army, paratroopers. They used parachutes to take definite areas. When the war began on Sunday, they were about to go on leave: washing themselves, shining their shoes, etc. 41 19	
41 19	The war began suddenly. 2 hours later all their commanders disappeared like mice, nobody taking care of their units and soldiers. Everyone tried to find a place to hide. Where to go? He didn't know any forests. He had mother and father, 2 brothers and a sister. 41 51	
41 51	He went to the ghetto. He went to the apartment where they lived. His mother left everything she had to her Russian neighbour: a cow, Passover dishes, everything... 42 11	
42 11	His younger brother and sister had blonde hair, they didn't look Jewish. They used to get out of the ghetto and come to Verka. She gave them whatever she had: some vegetables, some milk, etc. They supported their mother. The father was in a camp on Shirokaya Street. 42 39	
42 39	That's the name of one of our streets – Shirokaya. He was in a camp. I hadn't met his parents before I met him. His mother was killed in the ghetto. He sponsored his sister, who now lives here in Toronto and his brother who now lives in Los Angeles. 43 08	
43 08	They had a middle brother. When we arrived at Nikitin's detachment he asked to be sent to a logistic operation. My husband allowed him to, which was not a big deal. (Your husband was a paratrooper before the war began, wasn't he?) Yes, he was. (Please state his name and rank before the war). 43 42	



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- 43 42 Before the war? (Yes). His name is KhOliavsky, while mine is KhAliavskaya. (chuckles) That's how the clerk spelled it. (Please say a full sentence) My husband's name was Abram Borisovich Kholiavsky, date of birth: November 18, 1920. 44 16
- 44 16 (What was his rank?) He was a private soldier. In the detachment, I just recalled, he was a platoon commander, but not all the time. When he was in the demolition group (подрывник) he didn't have subordinates, except for those 6 men. 44 45
- 44 45 Their job was very dangerous: carrying bombs, screwing off bomb heads... big milk cans were put on bonfire, water was poured into the cans... I know exactly how it worked because I was with them all the time...(chuckles) 45 18
- 45 18 (Where was he when he was a paratrooper?)Not sure where exactly... Zhitomir area. I'm not sure, we didn't discuss his past...(When was he a paratrooper?) As soon as the war began. All his commanders ran away... 45 51
- 45 51 Soldiers ran away too. He came to the ghetto. He didn't meet Nikitin, just the guides...(Say a full sentence). Ok. My husband's conspirational name was Andrey, not Abram... but Andrey. That's what he was called by everyone. 46 36
- 46 36 I called him Andrey too – all my life. When the war began he served in the army, 2 years service. When the war began, that was the end of the peaceful life. There was nobody to organize them. Nobody heard of any detachments at the time. 47 05
- 47 05 Later on rumours started appearing about groups in the forests led by Ivan Ivanovich or Popovich...Our group was called the Lapidus' group by the commander's name. Later on he retrained to work as a demolitionist. 47 30
- 47 30 Over the time he was a demolition group commander there wasn't a single stoppage of work, nobody drank... no disruptions at all...When he was appointed a platoon commander, Lapidus said to him "Stop risking your life, let someone else do the job". 48 02
- 48 02 (chuckles). He was a platoon commander. (Tell us about their demolition activities). Minsk was liberated in '43 or '44... rather on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, '44. Before that time they carried out demolition activities. Only during the last half year he was a platoon commander. 48 45
- 48 45 The 2<sup>nd</sup> brigade consisted of a number of detachments. There were other brigades too: 1<sup>st</sup> Minsk brigade, West Ukrainian... They united into a formation. That was a partisan controlled area. 49 27
- 49 27 All the villages were controlled by the partisans. During the German punitive expeditions the population used to leave for the forests. The partisans moved deep in the forests and the population left for the forests too. 49 44

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49 44	The villagers took their cows, sheep, children with them...They stayed in the forests until the punitive expedition was over. (What was your husband's role in the demolition group?) He was a group commander. 50 23	
50 23	That was a prestigious position. Our group used anti-tank guns against the Germans. They were 3 men. They also made ambushes. When he wasn't a demolition group commander any more he was a platoon commander guarding the partisan controlled area 50 59	
50 59	Every detachment sent their fighters to the area borders to guard the area. Once our detachment... there was a police garrison in the village of Drazhnia. They destroyed the garrison. That's when the detachment commissar and 2 fighters were killed. 51 40	
51 40	When our regular army was getting closer we met with them... we changed our roles: this time the Germans hid in the forests, while we stayed for 2 weeks in the village. 52 14	
52 14	I was there too, rounding up the Germans, surrounding, combing the forest and exterminating the Germans. There was a major operation called the Rails War. Rails are the metal path the trains run on. 52 44	
52 44	They unscrewed... every detachment was ordered by the brigade staff to destroy a definite kilometer of the railway to disrupt railway communication the Germans used as supplies lines with armament, troops, food supplies, etc. 53 04	
53 04	That's what was called the Rails War. They unscrewed the rails taking them away from the railway lines. The Germans had to restore the lines taking as long as several days to do that. That's how we helped the Red Army. 53 26	
53 26	(What was your role in those missions?) My role? I did everything I was supposed to. First of all I was at my post. When we united we were stationed near the village Sviatoye, that was its name. 53 52	
53 52	There were dugouts there. We were at our posts at the camp approaches. There were posts at one approach, on the other side, near the HQ tent, near the logistic services with cows, horses... we were at the post ensuring nobody poisoned or made any harm... 54 21	
54 21	We stood at the posts taking our turns. (give us the details about the Rails War). What exactly? (What was your role in the Rails War?) We unscrewed the nuts, the screws...(Please explain) We unscrewed, disconnected the rails to stop the trains from running. 55 19	
55 19	That was my role. We also peeled potato if need be – all of us, all who was available. (What were your feelings?) not too good. First of all...there was a hospital with patients. The commander sent 2 women to go on reconnaissance. 56 00	

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56 00	They got caught – the 3 of them. One of them was a Jewess. The other one was a Russian, she was with her Jewish husband. She was the only one who followed her husband to the ghetto. 56 18	
56 18	The third one was a local resident from a nearby village. The two were killed – they were hung. The third one came back. She was well dressed, healthy and cheerful. They started interrogating her. She didn't own up. 56 49	
56 49	Our commander Lapidus said "I'm going to check you up". Her name was Paulina. We had to leave. He figured out that she had pointed the Germans to our place. We left – through swamps we went to another "peninsula". It wasn't surrounded by swamps on all sides, there was a path on one side and swamps on the other side. 57 21	
57 21	A girl and I were at our post. There was a hill going down to the road. The detachment was situated behind the hill. We heard the sound of motorcycles running. We changed our position. 57 49	
57 49	The commander forbid to make campfires. We were wet, but had no chance to warm or dry ourselves up. We were sitting waiting what was going to happen. We had to make sure whether or not the Germans came to our old place. 58 11	
58 11	To make sure if she had betrayed the detachment... we couldn't punish before we knew for sure...We heard them playing harmonicas and singing songs. We stayed the night not being able to warm ourselves up. We didn't smoke and didn't talk. 58 39	
58 39	In the morning we sent out our scouts to check out our previous place. Everything was clear: they found tins and cigarette butts. She was stood in front of the detachment. She didn't confess at first, but then she did. She was executed by shooting in front of the detachment. 59 04	
59 04	That's what happened once in our detachment. What a sad story. It was hard watching her being shot. About the women... before the brigades were organized...any man or young man could approach you and ask "Would you live with me? I will protect you, you will be under my protection. It's up to you". 59 43	
59 43	When my husband and I decided to get married, we sent a report to the brigade staff that a new family was going to start... We were allowed to stay in the same dugout. 1 00 07	
1 00 07	Otherwise – no way (chuckles). The war came to an end,.. (Did you see trains falling when you had disconnected the rails?) I was present during a subversion act on one occasion. I have an archive document from Minsk archives proving the fact...1 00 45	
1 00 45	It was scary. I was scared twice as much, why? Because it was in the winter time. I had a black short sheepskin coat on, while the members of the demolition group wore white capes made of bed sheets. 1 01 05	

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1 01 05	They were hard to see on white snow, while I was like an eyesore. They used fuses to carry out an explosion, I mentioned it before. The fuse looked like a cable. It was coiled around a piece of wood. 1 01 26	
1 01 26	They coiled it around like this...A man with the fuse walked a distance away from men carrying bombs. Bombs were carried by 4 men, 2 men on each side – they were very heavy. 1 01 44	
1 01 44	They were too heavy for 1 man to carry 200 meters. They walked far ahead, while I stayed lying on the snow. (Chuckles) I was like this... like a frog... I was so scared...1 02 05	
1 02 05	I saw those... ah train cars lighted inside...I saw the train passing by with men singing, playing harmonica, having a good time inside. And suddenly: bang! and that's all. 1 02 26	
1 02 26	Once our guys... we had guys like that... later he became an actor...um in a Belarusian theatre...a scout... Mishka Lapidus... other guys like him... one of them had been in prison...he was a reckless guy...1 02 50	
1 02 50	Once he was burnt in a hayloft...hay or what it's called...horses and cows eat it... They were on a mission, my husband wasn't with them of course...he was back to his platoon commander's position... 1 03 15	
1 03 15	They went there... and before coming back to the partisan area, they got drunk with moonshine (samogon). They dispersed. He walked into a hayloft...The Germans put the hayloft on fire. 1 03 39	
1 03 39	They brought him back – black all over like a smouldering piece of wood. That's how black he was – all over: face, ears, arms and hands, legs and feet, butts and knees – black all over! 1 04 00	
1 04 00	They built a special dugout for him; nobody could sleep near him. Nobody knew how to treat...They hung him on tires... rubber... for car... They hung him because he couldn't lie the normal way... 1 04 30	
1 04 30	They found a goose (chuckles) what's the English for... I don't know... They rubbed unsalted fat... He survived, but looked ugly... He was from Penza. He had been in prison... 1 04 53	
1 04 53	The Germans let him free and he got to the partisan area and ended up in the detachment. (You have Order of Patriotic War) 2 <sup>nd</sup> class... (2 <sup>nd</sup> class. What were you awarded for?) Pardon? (Repeats)1 05 21	
1 05 21	First of all the order was given to all veterans. And second of all it's a complicated question. For example, our commander Lapidus used to say to my husband "Don't worry". When first partisan medals were issued, our detachment received 2 medals. 1 05 49	
1 05 49	My husband and a Russian guy got them. And no more awards. He said "I'll recommend you for Hero of the Soviet Union. Either he didn't recommend or he was crossed out from the list. 1 06 13	

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- 1 06 13 There was an incident: he decided to profiteer to have an easy life. He had brother and sister. I gave them refuge and we lived together. To make the long story short, he bought some yeast and went to Grodno, along with other guys... They were caught, and my husband took it upon himself... 1 06 49
- 1 06 49 Those 2 were let free, while he was imprisoned for 6 years. I stayed with a baby and with his brother and sister. That was my life, not easy... In '52 he was let free... it was only in '52 when we started to set things going little by little... 1 07 19
- 1 07 19 After the life in partisans we came... first of all in July, when Minsk was liberated the Partisan Parade took place. The Belarusian Partisan Parade took place on the 20 of July. Minsk was liberated on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July, '44, the war was still going on at that time. 1 07 43
- 1 07 43 He wasn't drafted – got an exemption because he had orphans on his hands. He couldn't leave them. There was no speaking about myself, only about the orphans. He got exempted from the army. 1 08 00
- 1 08 00 He didn't go to the army. That's how it was! (chuckles) There was an incident in the ghetto: on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March... (interrupts: do you know of any Jewish partisan heroes?) We didn't have any... They were few... Nobody lived long...I look at the photo... 1 08 34
- 1 08 34 It looks like I'm the only one who survived or the burnt guy who left for Penza. I don't know how he ended up. I'm not aware whether or not he's alive. We haven't been in touch. 1 08 48
- 1 08 48 Otherwise...everyone... (Could you recall names of your comrades or their stories? I mean the Jews?) I had a good girlfriend. She was in a nursing home in Israel. She passed away in December. We were in touch. We were very close. 1 09 18
- 1 09 18 And one more girlfriend. She's in Baltimore. I don't know about her. I visited her in Baltimore. My friend from Israel came... (interrupts. Please state their names). Here they are: Esther Charny. She was 1 year older than me. 1 09 47
- 1 09 47 She finished her 1<sup>st</sup> year at the University when the war began. She passed away in the ghetto, rather in Israel. She had been sick. Everything had its effect... we used to... frozen potato... we didn't know how to handle it. 1 10 16
- 1 10 16 We put it into water, it was frozen... we took the ice out and peeled it. No wonder our fingers are deformed and hurt now – arthritis all over! (chuckles). That's how she went away. She's not in this photo. 1 10 43
- 1 10 43 Her husband had a heart disease. She probably isn't... I've been in touch with her sons. One of them lives in Israel, the other one in Baltimore. (Was there anti-Semitism in the Partisan detachment?) It was discernible sometimes. 1 11 08

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- 1 11 08 We had a Korean, and another Korean... He used to say half in jest: Our friends little Kikes (Zhidiki). When my husband heard that he was ready... he had his submachine gun with him all the time... 1 11 32
- 1 11 32 He used to put his submachine gun at full cock...(chuckles) That guy put his hand in the air "I was just joking!". That's how it was. There was some. When he joined the detachment... it happened so that commander Lapidus sent a partisan to Minsk to bring his sister with her husband. 1 11 58
- 1 11 58 He was supposed to take them from the ghetto secretly without letting anyone know and without taking anyone with him. My husband begged him to meet and say what district we were in. 1 12 13
- 1 12 13 Which villages: Rudinsky District, Pukhovichsky District, village Omelnaya, Porechye, Peschanoye – lots of villages. Just to have an idea... to make my story short, they came back apart. 1 12 32
- 1 12 32 First came the brother who was 1 year older than his sister. They didn't want to let him join the detachment. There was a rumor that the Germans send young children to poison the wells. 1 12 51
- 1 12 51 He said that his brother was in the detachment and eventually he was let to join the detachment. Same happened to the sister. She managed to find the detachments thanks to her knowledge of the villages in the district. 1 13 10
- 1 13 10 She met people. She even met partisans. But she told nobody that she was looking for her brother. Told nobody! When she was in a village... she came from the ghetto lice-ridden all over... her mother had been dead and there was nobody to take care of her. 1 13 37
- 1 13 37 She was 13 at that time. Partisans asked her "Where are you heading?" She said "I am looking for my brother". "Who's your brother?" She goes "Andrey Khaliavsky". They told her to stay in the village, they would pick her up on their way back to the detachment. 1 14 10
- 1 14 10 that's how she got to the detachment, a young girl. We were there together to the end. (Chuckles) My story is too long...(I wait for the next question). 1 14 41
- 1 14 41 End of interview.