

<b>Isaak Zarembo</b>	<b>Duration: 62:58</b>	<b>Russian Vets, Interview date Nov 22/2010</b>
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- 00 00 **Isaak:** My full name is Isaak Zarembo. I was born in Latvia, town Kraslovo. I was born on June 29, 1925 in town Kraslovo, Latvian Republic. (interviewer: what was your life like when you were a child?) Please repeat (interviewer)
- 00 22 Not bad. We were not under Soviets. We lived in the Latvian Republic. (Interviewer). My parents were owners of a bakery and a shop. When we were liberated in '40 and a friendly hand was lent to us (Russia's), they took away the shop and the bakery. My father found a job in an organization.
- 01 06 He worked for the same organization as before. I finished the school in '41, rather '40. In '41 we were evacuated. (Interviewer) Every Friday I recall my mother lighting candles and saying prayers. On Saturday my father and I used to go to the synagogue.
- 01 47 We used to celebrate every Saturday, every week. On Shabat my mother used to light candles and my father and I used to go to the synagogue. We were not too religious; however my father was serious in keeping prayers at the synagogue.
- 02 15 My parents had a bakery and a shop. My father had an assistant. My mother and a shop girl used to sell whatever my father produced in the bakery. When the Soviets entered our country lending us their friendly hand, my father almost got in prison; they dragged him to KGB every 3 to 4 months. They tried to represent him as a "kulak" (a wealthy owner). But the fact was he only had one assistant.
- 03 00 Had he had 2 assistants he would have been called a "kulak" ending up in Siberia. Instead he was called a "kustarnik" (an artisan). All that lasted from '40 to '41 until the war began. After the war began my father started working for the army...
- 03 20 ...baking rye bread. When the Germans were about to enter our town Kraslovo, Latvia, the military took us with them to the city of Gorky. There my father was drafted to the army. A year later I went to the Latvian Consulate saying I was 18, while I was still 17.
- 03 47 I was born in '25. My year would only be drafted in '43. That's why in some of my papers my year of birth is indicated as '24 while my real year of birth was '25. I got to the Latvian... (Interviewer). How I came to know? When the war began the Germans came close to where we lived.
- 04 12 My father worked for Soviet soldiers baking bread in the bakery. A lieutenant colonel came to us telling us that the Germans had come close. "I am giving you a few hours and a cart to pack up and go with us".
- 04 35 They gave us a few carts for the bread and a cart for our family. We left Kraslovo, Latvia. We moved to Belarus. I remember air raids throwing bombs. We reached Veliky Luky where we were put on a train echelon loaded with machine tools...

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05 13	...	...going from Leningrad. We were put on the train to go to the city Gorky. In '42 I applied for the army. They didn't want to take me to the army as I was only 17. I went to the Latvian Consulate in Gorky. I was sent to 43 Latvian Guards Division which was being formed in Gorokhovo camps between the cities of Gorky and Moscow.
05 52	There were many units formed before being sent to the front. I was trained in '43. I hadn't spoken Russian; I learned to speak Russian in the army. I had finished a school speaking Yiddish and Latvian. Yiddish was my native language, besides I spoke Latvian.	
06 24	I learned to speak Russian in the army. In '43 I was wounded. After recovery I got to the Gorokhovo camp. At the front I was wounded again in August '44. I was hospitalized to the Belar 2752 hospital. I memorized the number. I have kept all the documents.	
07 01	There were heavy fights in Latvia. Near Kruspils, 100 km away from Riga, our division sustained a lot of casualties – my class mates. The victory found me in the hospital. It was so touchy. On the 8 <sup>th</sup> of May the soldiers learned about the negotiations and the end of the war.	
07 42	On the 9 <sup>th</sup> , in the morning I was on the second floor in the hospital, former school, when I heard a noise in the backyard "Victory! Victory!" I went out. I couldn't believe it was victory! We kissed each other, crying, dancing, and hugging each other.	
08 14	It was such a joy and sadness. Medical personnel came out and started dancing with the soldiers. Finally the hospital chief came to us; he was a Caucasus nationality, a tall and handsome major. He officially announced the end of the war.	
08 44	We won. That's how I went through the war. At first our regiment consisted of 80-85% Jewish personnel. Not just the regiment, but the division too. Why? Because the medical battalion chief, who later worked as head of department in the 1 <sup>st</sup> Municipal Hospital, professor Knokh, stated that 80-85% of our division consisted of the Jews.	
09 34	High commanders used to meet every year in town Yurmala on the eve of May 9 <sup>th</sup> . During a banquet professor Knokh said "Why was the 43 Guards Division called Latvian instead of Jewish?" All the Latvian Jews went to evacuation from Latvia. Why did all the Jews run from Latvia?	
10 08	Because in '39 Polish Jews were running via our cities telling us that the Germans were annihilating the Jews. That's why almost all the Jews ran away from Latvia. That's where the Latvian regiment was organized.	
10 33	A reserve regiment. Many died near Naro-Fominsk – my class mates and guys older than me. Later another regiment was organized in 308 division. I was sent to 319 regiment, 308 division. After the hospital I was sent to 43 Guards division, 94 artillery regiment.	

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11 09	I was appointed as a head of CTS (central telephone station). (Interviewer) I was in a Latvian Corps where there were 2 divisions: 43 Guards and 308 Suvorov divisions. In 43 division, I was in 94 regiment, while in 308 division I was in 319 regiment. Those were different divisions and different regiments.	
11 46	Our division was part of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Shock Army. Our division was in combat near Naro-Fominsk, liberating Latvia. I remember my first action. I was sent on a reconnaissance mission. We were 3. Our task was to capture a "Yazyk" (a prisoner who will talk).	
12 25	In other words a prisoner. Our scouts captured a German but the problem with him was they were not sure if what he was saying was the truth. In order to be sure, we needed to capture another prisoner. That was called a "check prisoner".	
12 53	So the 3 of us... of whom I was the youngest, 18 years old, our master sergeant was an "old man" – 30 years old. We called them "old men", another sergeant, and myself a private, an ordinary soldier. Our task was to get behind the enemy lines, crossing a small river, 1.5 meters wide and 50 cm deep...	
13 39	...walking 2 to 2,5 km behind the enemy lines where German dug-outs [underground bunkers providing shelter from enemies – Russian "zemlianka"] were located with 2 guards on each side. The dug-outs, 7 or 8 of them, were guarded by 2 guards on each side. Our task was to take down both guards. The guards were walking from side to side, meeting halfway, talking and walking to the other side.	
14 29	We agreed to take both of them down when they were on the sides. My task was to hide and watch. When the guards parted our guys attacked them with knives and took them down. After that they walked into a dug-out, where they gagged one of the Germans, and killed 2 or 3 other Germans.	
15 17	After that our guys came out of the dug-out. I had been standing and watching. I was shaking and had a feeling that every minute was an hour long. It was scarier than entering a dug-out and capturing a prisoner.	
15 33	Standing and watching for the Germans to approach was much scarier – the guys told me later that was the worst. Better walk into the dug-out and capture a prisoner. The guys captured a prisoner, taking with them biscuits and wine in a black bottle with red corks,	
15 55	... cookies, cigarettes, etc.. I scolded them a little saying that every second mattered. I was awarded with my first medal then. One more story. It was on the river Ivekste where I was wounded again in August. The fights were heavy. The Germans were fighting having nowhere to retreat.	
16 34	And in Kurland. If you have read history, you may have heard about the Kurland group – a 300,000 army was ... It was in a heavy fighting there. We took a German officer to the HQ. What happened to him later – they didn't use to report to us.	

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16 58	I have no idea. Our task was to capture a prisoner and take him to the HQ. After that the command was to decide. If the second prisoner confirmed what the first prisoner said, then we knew that it was true. That's why they always made it a point to have us capture a "check prisoner".	
17 35	To make sure the first prisoner had told us the truth. No, I didn't. I didn't say and didn't know. We didn't report about that. I can't say for sure, but probably they did. Some guys wanted to kill an officer, not once.	
18 02	When I was in a hospital in Preily, Latvia, a small town, 3 Germans were coming to our hospital. They were prisoners. They were coming to our hospital for bandaging. The guys swore and spat at them. Hospital chief lined up all the walking patients, I walked on crutches at the time, and other guys had arm injuries, other mild injuries...	
18 47	...and he said "Don't touch the Germans. They are communists. They captured a German HQ with documents. They crossed the front line and gave us very valuable documents." Then we made friends with the Germans. They showed us the pictures of their wives and kids.	
19 17	I was a young guy, younger than 20 years old. I was only 20 in June, '45. And so we made friends with those Germans. They told us they were communists and they had captured valuable documents. They showed us the pictures of their wives and kids.	
19 57	Nobody touched them any more, they were respected by everyone. Germans were different. Nazis and communists. Different Germans. It was near the river Ivekste, 15 km away from town Krustpils, 120 km away from Riga. August 2 <sup>nd</sup> of 3 <sup>rd</sup> , '44, I am not sure what the exact date was.	
20 46	I don't remember where the first fight took place. A general offensive... we captured a high point, I can't recall exactly...At that time I was in the infantry. After my recovery I was sent to a training battalion where I was promoted to senior sergeant. After that I was in intelligence.	
21 21	After that I was wounded again. I can't recall my first fight. There were tanks and mortars. There were bombings, everything. During my first time I was scared when bombing started. Once I was under artillery attack. It was so heavy that the earth shook.	
21 57	I was in a hole. I was covered with sand. And that saved my life. I saw dead bodies lying around me; those who hadn't made it to a ditch or a hole. Shrapnel... lots of wounded soldiers. A heavy attack. I remember my first fights.	
22 24	Later on I got used. I could differentiate between the sounds of a grenade, a rocket or a shell. We used to recognize by the sound. Mines had their distinctive sound. Artillery shells were completely different. We could hear the difference between the shells falling short and long.	
22 57	When it's flying over your head, it makes a swishing kind of a noise. You need to lye down quickly. If is whizzes it's going to fall long. It's going to fly over	

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		far. A different whizzing means it's going to fall short. You get used to it – you are not scared as much as before.
23 25		But at first it's frightening until you get used to it. We had very little combat training. There was a reserve regiment. Reinforcement was sent from the reserve regiment to the division. I stayed in the reserve regiment for quite a while.
23 54		The reserve regiments were located near the city of Gorky, along the Moscow-Gorky highway. The reserve regiments were sending reinforcement. Our division was meant to liberate Latvia. We entered Latvia, our 2 divisions, our corps: 1 <sup>st</sup> division, 43 Guards division and 308 <sup>th</sup> division.
24 30		Both divisions were sent to Latvia to liberate Latvia as the natives of that country. The fighting there was heavy. The Germans didn't have a place to retreat. They were encircled. Riga was liberated. Kurland group too. Riga was divided into 4 parts:
24 59		...Kurzeme, Vidzeme, Ozgale and Zimgale. Those were 4 provinces. The Germans were encircled in Kurland. The only way for them to escape was by the sea. The fights were so heavy there! When we were in the defensive we watched our planes U-2 and women's regiments bombarding the German ships trying to break through the encirclement.
25 35		They had nowhere to run. They were surrounded by Latvian and other units...Soviet troops, including our corps, both our divisions, each division consisting of 3 to 4 regiments – the acting regiments. We watched our planes piloted mainly by women's battalions – women pilots – diving and bombarding the ships once a ship started the engine...
26 18		... and sinking them in the Baltic Bay. At first we couldn't figure it out...but later... Every night German Nazis and Latvian polizei and Latvian collaborators – they all were trying to escape the Soviets. They made it to run away –
26 56		...first to Sweden, then to Finland, Germany, further to Toronto. They are in Canada and America now – those traitors. Many of them were sunk by our pilots – women's regiments. That I remember very well. I can't say that, I don't know because we were not in contact.
27 23		Our higher command might have had contact with them. Our intelligence service men were on watchtowers watching... once a ship took off from the shore they informed the HQ immediately, and soon the planes arrived bombarding the ship.
27 53		Our men were sending wires informing that a ship had taken off from the shore to the sea. Whether or not they were Jews I can't say. They were very good soldiers, very good soldiers. Because, first of all they were awarded the title of "Guards" near Naro-Fominsk.
28 30		And they deserved it too! Many were killed near Naro-Fominsk, Staraya Russa and Moscow. Only bits and pieces remained of our division. When our division turned to defensive at the second front line, there were few men, the

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reinforcement coming from different units. They were looking for Latvians who had left during WWI. There were some Latvians from Siberia in our division.

- 29 18 One Latvian guy in our division, by the name of Bredis, same age as I, didn't speak Latvian, he had been born in Siberia, Russia. But he was an ethnic Latvian. There were many guys like him in our division, who didn't speak Latvian, only speaking Russian.
- 29 40 Some spoke broken Latvian. They could understand us but they didn't speak our language. However they were reinforcing our division with ethnic Latvians. We also had Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians, etc. because we were short of men in our division.
- 30 06 At the end of the war various nationalities were in our division, 50% made of Latvians and Latvian Jews. The Latvians were not too many because the Latvians had left Latvia before. Who? The militia, municipal workers, Central Committee members – high officials.
- 30 45 Latvians were: Brandkam, division commander; Spomberg, regiment commander; Antons, battalion commander. The Jews were mostly platoon, company and battalion commanders, also HQ staff, like one Rappoport, Head of regiment's HQ staff...
- 31 10 ... our big reserve regimens sending reinforcement to the divisions. We mostly consisted of the Jews. Many Jews had run away from Latvia on learning that the Germans were persecuting and killing the Jews. What commanders?
- 31 37 Platoon, company and division commanders. What do you mean what commanders? Oh the Jews? The Jews were mostly platoon, company and some battalion commanders. The Jews were not regiment commanders, only the Latvians were regiment commanders.
- 31 58 Latvian division commanders. Higher command and HQ staff were only Latvians. Those who had worked in the Central Committee, in district and city committees in Riga. The Jews were lower level commanders. Some of the Jews were lieutenant colonels but never generals.
- 32 27 The fact is: the Soviet authorities didn't let the Jews occupy higher command posts. There was a Jew by the name of Shapiro who was recommended to be awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, but Moscow didn't approve. Latvian commanders, general Brantons, recommended him for the Hero of the Soviet Union.
- 32 59 But instead he was awarded Order of the Red Banner. Some had deserved high commendation. One man, I don't remember his name, he had 3 orders of Glory, but the 3<sup>rd</sup> one wasn't approved. The Latvian commanders recommended, but Moscow didn't approve.
- 33 19 I had a friend – Avrom Lempert. He left for Israel. He was recommended for Hero of the Soviet Union but was not approved. Instead he was awarded Order of the Red Banner. He was refused and left for Israel right after the

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war. He was hurt. He had deserved it! My first cousin, Ziama Kozlinsky, his platoon got surrounded, they couldn't break through from the "pocket". He was a machine gunner.

- 34 12 The other machine gunner who was 30 meters away from him got wounded, he started shooting back and was killed. Ziama was left with 2 machine guns. The rest of the crew were either wounded or killed. Ziama deserved to be awarded Hero of the Soviet Union. He was recommended and was refused approval. Instead he was awarded the Red Star.
- 34 47 Our units came to his rescue. They realized he couldn't go on with 2 machine guns. He was shooting one machine gun at a time. Our soldiers came to his rescue. They captured the high point. He was wounded in that combat. But still Moscow didn't approve him to be awarded Hero of the Soviet Union which he really deserved.
- 35 27 He was mildly wounded, and got to the hospital. His father came to see me in the hospital asking me "Is my son still here?" I say "Yesterday he was sent to the reserve regiment". He recovered and was discharged from the hospital. A month later he was killed.
- 36 00 He was my first cousin. He was killed in Latvia during the liberation of Latvia, end of August, '44. \_( Pause). (Interviewer) I'm not sure which regiment, he was in the infantry. At that time I was in the artillery. I can't say which regiment, not sure.
- 36 46 (Interviewer) I have told you everything about my first cousin. They were holding the defences. The Germans attacked. His platoon was holding the line. One machine gunner was killed by a shell. My cousin was moving from one machine gun to the other, shooting from 2 machine guns.
- 37 21 He wanted to make the Germans think that both machine guns were active, that they were alive, both of them. He held until our men came to his rescue. They eventually captured that high point. A month or 1.5 months later he was killed.
- 37 43 To beat the Germans? What can I say? All I can tell you is that on the Victory Day I was in the hospital. That was a fairy tale. (Interviewer). He won because he committed such heroism. He didn't give in, didn't give up. He made a trick, making the Germans believe that all were alive...
- 38 29 ...2 machine guns firing the Germans. To hold the high point, he ran from one machine gun to the other, back and forth to make the Germans believe that 2 machine guns were active. Our units got to his rescue just in time.
- 38 57 A little longer and he wouldn't have survived....I said I am not sure which regiment, all I remember is he was in 43<sup>rd</sup> Guards division. His name was Ziama Kozlinsky. My late mother's family name. He was my first cousin. His father was also in our division, in another regiment.
- 39 38 As far as I remember his father was in the building battalion. We had one in our division. They cut the wood and laid beams for the heavy artillery guns to

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run on. He was doing that for the tanks and heavy artillery guns to run on through swamps. That's what the building battalion was for. His father was told that his son was wounded and stayed in the hospital.

- 40 13 He was in our hospital for mildly wounded. The hospital changed its location when the front line was moving forward. It was always 15-20 km away from the front line, always following us. The mildly wounded. His father found where the hospital was and came to see his son.
- 40 48 The father missed him because he had left for the reserve regiment. (Interviewer). No, I don't know. He was not in our regiment. The rumours were that he had committed heroism but wasn't awarded what he deserved.
- 41 05 (Interviewer)No, I don't. I don't think everyone was a hero. However many of us were honest good soldiers. First of all, it was a matter of conscience. Second, the fear. Third, they were Jews, that's why they were honest soldiers.
- 41 39 We all knew that the Germans were annihilating Jews in the first place. Not just prisoners, but the Jews. Mostly Jews were being annihilated. Our political instructors carried out propaganda. The regiment was lined up. 2 or 3 prisoners were brought – they were Russians – and they told us how the Germans mistreated the prisoners.
- 42 17 "In front of us a prisoner's foot was tied up to a tank, and the other foot to the other tank. He was torn to pieces. That was a tragedy to watch". I don't know whether this story was made up by the political instructors or it was true. But we knew for sure that the Germans mistreated and abused the prisoners.
- 42 55 Besides, the Jews were suffering the most. The Jewish POWs were shot right on the spot. That's why we were good soldiers: we advanced forward, nowhere to retreat. The Jews were very good soldiers. I wouldn't say so. In other divisions the Jews were quiet that they were Jews.
- 43 35 They were afraid to say the "J" word. Because of the teasing, because they used to say that the Jews "fought" in Tashkent or that the Jews didn't fight at all. In our regiment the Jews were the majority. That's why we were not shy to speak Yiddish...
- 44 01 ... or Latvian. The Jews were the majority. A different story in other units. I can't say that I know how many Jews were in the army. We were not given enough information – the lower level commanders. We didn't have enough information.
- 44 31 Higher level commanders may have known... I can't say... In artillery I was a CTS chief – Central telephone station. I had 3 batteries – an artillery battalion. 122 mm heavy artillery gun called "howitzer". I had communication with each battery.
- 45 07 Sometimes the fighting was so heavy that communications men had to fix the line during the fight. The lines were broken by shrapnel. Every line was taken



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care of by a communications soldier. They would get wounded. Sometimes I had to get to the lines myself.

- 45 39 No communication with batteries was no good. I could get a scolding for that. Once I got targeted by a sniper. The snipers were targeting a clearing. I had to go around through the bushes. I had been warned that I needed to find a roundabout way, as going through the clearing was not safe.
- 46 11 Once I was hit by a shrapnel. I had to go to the medical battalion. I got mildly wounded. I didn't go to the hospital though. Anything could happen. It depended on the combat intensity. You can't remember everything (laughs). The infantry and artillery were different.
- 46 42 The infantry attacks the enemy in the field. Their task was to capture a section indicated by the commander – a city, a hill or an area. Artillery was different. Artillery stays in the same place, not moving. Artillery was to target an object indicated by reconnaissance –
- 47 25 ...enemy tanks, infantry or artillery guns. Artillery targets those objects. Artillery fires at those objects. Artillery is not moving until the infantry captures an area. The infantry is in the front. Both the infantry and artillery are the most important troops.
- 47 59 Because without artillery... if artillery does not fire volley at enemy pillboxes, tanks or gun installations, that's what the infantry does with the help of scouts. The scouts reconnoitre the location of enemy guns and fortified points, or tanks and ordnance.
- 48 36 Artillery opens fire by a signal from the reconnaissance party. The infantry moves forward after the artillery destroys fortified points. That's the difference. First I served in the infantry, but after the recovery from the wound I was sent to the artillery.
- 48 56 After the hospital... I got to the artillery in '44. In the first half of '44 I got to the artillery. At the beginning of the war I was in the reserve Latvian regiment in Gorokhovets located 60-70 km away from Gorky. While in that regiment I was trained for several months until I got to the front.
- 49 43 After that I was sent to the draft company at the front. That's how it all started. In '39 when I was 14, we learned that the Germans attacked Poland. My father was a baker. My mother worked in our shop selling what my father baked. We had a servant at home.
- 50 22 I remember my mother telling our homemaker to prepare 25 packages instead of 20 for the next day, because the Polish Jews were running with their families and kids, hungry and barefooted asking for some food.
- 50 49 I remember my mother preparing packages for the Polish refugees. Every day she prepared 5 to 10 packages more. I remember that very well. When the war began we learned that the Polish Jews were running from Poland to Russia...

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51 17	...via our cities. That's why most of the Latvian Jews ran to Russia, seeking the refuge in Russia. Those who remained were killed; there was a ghetto in Riga at Moskovsky Forstadt. Also there was a concentration camp in Salaspils. We learned that the Germans were annihilating the Jews, that's why most of the Jews ran away to Russia.	
51 53	At the end of '41 Latvian division was organized and the Latvian corps, with 2 divisions. The division consisted mostly of the Jews, because they knew that the Germans were annihilating the Jews. The Germans didn't have a place to retreat...	
52 20	...because half of Latvia was occupied by the Soviet Army. There was Ivekste river near Kruspils, 10-15 km away, I don't remember exactly...The Germans fortified the right bank with trenches, pillboxes, etc. to turn to defensive... because behind them was the Baltic Sea... that's why the combat there was very heavy.	
53 01	At that time our command was given an order to capture the place crossing river Ivekste to advance to Riga. We were 100 km away from Riga... 100 or 110. The river in front of us was Ivekste. Lots of people from our division drowned in that river!	
53 36	I don't remember how many, but I remember that water was red with blood. Many of our boys fell there! Lots and lots! We received reinforcement, Russian troops pulled up, some Russian regiments, artillery was set in motion, Katyusha's, etc..	
54 01	The Germans were destroyed with aviation, their fortifications were bombed down, and eventually we crossed Ivekste river. Major combat action was there. That was in August '44. Early August.	
54 19	I have Medal for Courage (kept), Order of Glory 3 <sup>rd</sup> class (lost), and Order of Patriotic War 1 <sup>st</sup> class (kept). I have kept the documents too. 3 major decorations. They are Medal for Courage, Order of Glory 3 <sup>rd</sup> class, and Order of Patriotic War 1 <sup>st</sup> class. The rest are just medals.	
54 52	Yes, I do think it played its role. I can't say whether it played a significant or an insignificant role. But definitely it played its role, because a lot of our guys were distinguished and decorated. I have a strong feeling that our guys well deserved the decorations they were awarded, especially our division.	
55 21	It's difficult to say. I think we would have won anyway because he mistreated POWs, civilians, Gypsies, and communists. I think we would have won the war, maybe later, more casualties, but eventually we would have won...	
55 53	...because he mistreated civilian population. (Laughs) It's difficult to say. I got my Medal for Courage for capturing a POW. Not just one, but one of them was an important person who provided us with valuable information. The commanders obtained what they needed, he confirmed it, and all of us were awarded Medals for Courage.	

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56 36	When we were crossing the front line, our artillery fired at us thinking we were Germans. We were 1.5 hours late. We had been given a deadline to be back, but we had difficulty crossing the front line. We walked extra 2 km on the left flank. Initially we had walked on the right flank, but later we were spotted, so we had to walk to the left flank.	
57 08	We walked extra 1-1.5 km on the left flank with our prisoner. We were 3 plus the German prisoner. We got to another unit. We didn't know the password. We started shouting "We are Friends!!" They stopped firing at us.	
57 29	At first we were surrounded and taken as prisoners. Then they found out that we were friends, and took the prisoner to HQ. That's how we were awarded. Medal for Courage. I don't know why.	
57 54	The fights were different intensity...I don't know, I was awarded for what I deserved. First days at the front line you feel frightened. Some say they weren't scared. I felt frightened. I would say experience is what mattered, when you get used to firing...	
58 29	... and when you learn to recognize the sound of a shell overhead, then you can take proper action. When you hear a bullet or a shell swishing overhead, then you hide from it if you can. Mines...when the mortars shot the sound was totally different.	
58 51	The artillery produces a different sound. I was frightened, yes I was. There was a shell hole near me made by a large diameter shell. The hole was deep, about 1 meter deep. Then I heard a shell flying closer to me, it fell about 3 meters away from where I was hiding in a hole.	
59 22	Those who didn't make it to a hole were killed or wounded. Of course my first days at the front I was frightened until I got used to it. Senior soldiers used to explain everything to the rookies. That was nice.	
59 41	I knew a soldier who had worked as a driver for the regiment commander, driving a Dodge <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> , an American car. He used to teach me about the way a shell was flying. His name was Gutkin.	
1 00 08	He had had a business in Riga making matzos for Passover. I met his son here in Toronto, his look-alike. I came up to him, saying "Are you Gutkin?" He says "How do you know my name?" I say "This is the first time I see you". He says "Then how do you know my name?" I say "Was you father in 43 <sup>rd</sup> Latvian division?"	
1 00 40	He says "Yes, he was". "Did he drive the regiment commander?" "Yes". "Your father taught me how to hide from shells". Gutkin lives here in Toronto. He has a business, selling cars. He has a salon. So yes, at first you feel frightened until you get used to the shells and mines and explosions.	
1 01 12	It's difficult and scary. I wouldn't say it's not frightening, it is. But later when you get used to it you feel like it's nothing to do with you. I wish our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren would never see the horrors of war our generation went through.	

<b>Isaak Zarembo</b>	<b>Duration: 62:58</b>	<b>Russian Vets, Interview date Nov 22/2010</b>
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- 1 01 40 I wish they wouldn't know the suffering our brothers, sisters and friends went through, those who fought and defended the world against the Nazis, I wish the young generation wouldn't know that. I am for world piece. (shots of the medals)
- 1 02 48 (Interviewer thanking the vet for the interview)
- 1 02 58 End of interview