

**SAM BOYMEL**

“My child the Partisans are 20 miles away.” I asked him how can I get over there? “I will show you” he said. He showed me and told me which village to go by and where to find them. I was walking and I saw the Partisans coming on horses. They asked me who I was. I said, “I am Jewish.” I told them that I had no papers. He told me to go over there. He was nice. It was mostly Ukrainians and Poles. It was not easy for a Jew to get into the Partisans. They had food it was nice. I could speak some Ukrainian, Polish, and Russian and they told me the Partisans would not take you without a rifle. I asked, “where I can get a rifle?” He told me to stay, and they gave me food. The commandant he was a nice guy. The next morning there was a lot of security. I told them I am Jewish. I told them I am not leaving. “You can kill me if you want, I have no place to go” I said. They fed me and I did not see any Germans. One day I was sitting around, and they said, “tonight we are going to go blow up the railroad.” “They are sending ammunition to Stalingrad on the railroad.” They always used to blow it up. He told me to come. “It is a big mission that could make or break us” he said. They gave me a horse. They were prepared and I went with them. They blew it up and I picked up two rifles and brought them back and they took me in as a Partisan.”

**LUSIA HORNSTEIN**

“But anyway, one of the things we used to do is bring messages from place to place. The other thing we did is distribute newspapers. And I remember an incident which when I think of it, I get goosebumps still. I was going on a street -- on a Polish street -- with a bag full of underground newspaper and what the Germans did very often, not to get Jews but to get Poles, they would cordon off a block or two blocks and check everybody, everybody’s bag, and everybody’s papers and everything. And one day I was on the street, and I found myself cordoned off. And there was nothing I could do. I couldn’t go into a building because they would have seen it. I just had to stand there. And that officer came and he was checking my papers and he said that’s fine and never looked into the bag. I keep saying my grandmother up there was praying. I can’t – to this day I can’t understand how it was possible. You know, there are so many instances where I could have been killed on the spot, smuggling food into the camp, doing these kinds of things, and somehow, I escaped all those little things and I’m still here.”

**BELLA OUZIEL**

*Was there any celebration of the Jewish holiday?*

"Yeah, we used to, yes, Jewish holidays, some of the Polish girls, I don't know how, but they have Bibles, prayer books, they knew the holidays and they used to tell us, you know, like, Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah, Pesach and they used to tell us and we used to celebrate-we have nothing to celebrate. The only time, when Yom Kippur came, we didn't eat that day. They used to give us something. Nobody, none of the girls, none of us, that day we want to fast, was Yom Kippur. And they really got mad. They say, "You're not gonna keep your religion. You can't keep your religion" whatever. But still, nobody was accepted what they were saying we just decided we're not gonna eat, we're not gonna eat, and we didn't eat all day till in the evening they gave us the piece of bread. And many times, I don't know how they kept those books, prayer books. I don't know how they used to keep them. They were not allowed to have prayer books in the camp."

*The Polish girls?*

"Yes, they sure had it. I don't now how they had it."

*And did this occur also on Friday night?*

"Friday night was just another night. We couldn't do anything."

*But it was put on for Rosh Hashanah?*

"Oh, yes. In the morning, we used to say prayers some of the girls that were very religious. They would, you know, say the prayers in the morning but that's all we could do, not too much."

**ROMA KALTMAN**

"So basically I was pretty much uh alone in the ghetto except that after 5 I would go out on the premises, you know, and meet with the other young people. I also was a very avid reader and sometimes if I had a very good book I would not go to work and stay in bed and read the book with-without the food, you know, and that was my gratification but you could only do it when you were young."