

Mazal Asael In The Guerrilla Squad Hristo Mihailov



This is a photo of the Hristo Mihailov guerrilla squad entering the town of Berkovitza in 1944. I am the second from right and my comrade-in-arms Maria Cherneva is in the far right end.

I joined the Hristo Mihailov guerrilla squad in August 1944 together with 35 people from the town. All our actions were strictly organised and disciplined as the authorities were after us and we lived underground. We had leaders who decided who was suitable to join the squad. We went 40 kilometers during the first night after we joined the squad and crossed the Serbian border. The police were chasing us the whole way. We met the local guerrillas there as our squad was in touch with them all the time. On September 5 we learned that the Soviet army was near the Danube and was about to enter Bulgarian territory. Then we came back to Bulgaria. We passed through the town of Ferdinand and on September 8-9 we were in Berkovitsa and we established the new rule of the Fatherland Front there. (September 9th 1944 was the day of the communist coup d'etat in Bulgaria. It meant the beginning of a new era in the history of Bulgaria, that of the totalitarian rule of the Bulgarian Communist Party. The Fatherland Front was the most popular anti-fascist and pro-Soviet organisation in Bulgaria that existed formally during the whole period of the Bulgarian Communist Party's rule.)