

Ed Kaye

Pruzhanj, Poland

1921-2011



Meine liebe Else, ganz herzlich
keine ist die für den lieben
Zeit über den mich
du hast du zu dem gel
verlebt + hoffentlich ist dem
so, das
Königheit
Fest der
Kasse
allerding
sehr
günstig
kein
sie
und in
war sie
gegespen
Hölle
nehme keinen nützigen d. zu

1939:

At 18 years old, Ed Kaye planned to go to Palestine for college, but these plans became impossible when Nazi Germany invaded Poland in 1939.

1941-1944:

In 1941, Germany overran Soviet-occupied Poland. Ed and his family were forced into a ghetto in Pruzhany. Ed joined a resistance group in the ghetto. On work assignments outside the ghetto, they stole weapons and ammunition left by the retreating Soviet Army and stockpiled them for further use. In 1943, he and 18 others escaped the ghetto. The partisans had to scavenge for food and supplies from nearby towns and farms. Once, Ed's group found a mound of potatoes, they divided them up - one potato per person per day. One night as Ed and a few others returned to their camp, German soldiers followed them. When the Nazis attacked, the partisans who were awake escaped, but those who slept were killed by grenades.

Ed and his partisan group fought the Nazis, sabotaging their telephone lines and railroads.

1944:

By the end of the war, Ed had completed approximately 25 missions. The Soviet government honored Ed with two military decorations. Ed returned to his hometown of Pruzhany, only to find it destroyed. Ed and the few other Jewish survivors were not received well. Someone asked Ed, "Why did you live and come back?" Ed and his wife, Ann, decided to leave Poland for the United States. The couple came to Seattle in 1949.



Ed Kaye (far left) with fellow partisans, 1944.

The artifacts on display were donated by local survivors and their families.

Explore the Holocaust Center for Humanity's artifact collection to learn more about Ed's experience.

- Photo of Jewish partisan group (on hanging banner)
- Photo of Ed Kaye
- Resistance pillar

Learn more about Ed and other survivors who came to the Pacific Northwest at:

HolocaustCenterSeattle.org/Survivor-Encyclopedia


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