

Regina Plawner

March 2, 2017

RG-50.030.0922

Abstract

Regina Plawner (née Rivka Rosenberg) was born on September 5, 1931 in the small town of Ulanów (Subcarpathian Voivodeship), Poland. She was called Regina once she started school. She had three brothers and she was the youngest of three sisters: Charles (Chaye born in 1920), Leon, Mina, Sudek, Esther and Regina. Her mother was Clara Graf and her father Moishe (Moses) Rosenberg. Her father's business consisted of delivering wheat and fruit to the Polish Army. Her mother helped and there were no employees. Though she felt close to her mother, Mina usually took care of her. Regina attended first grade public school where her brothers protected her from anti-Semitism and Bais Yaakov Hebrew School in the afternoon. Her mother wore a sheitel (wig) as they were religious. On September 1, 1939 their house was bombed out so lived with the grandmother. Regina got scared when she heard the Germans robbing and killing people and heard people screaming so stayed indoors. The Russians came in and said the Germans kill men but not women so her father and brothers went over to the Russians. Around December '39 her brother Leon missed the family so hired a buggy and took the family plus the aunt and uncle and their two children to the Russian side. The Russians said they were illegal and they were placed in jail for 24 hours until her brother said that they will work hard. They were reunited with the rest of their family in Horetshitsa (?) near Lvov where they rented an apartment. The Russians gave them a choice to remain or return to Poland. One brother wanted to return so the family was treated as traitors and placed in a cattle car saying, "You are going home." They arrived in the city of Novosibirsk (?) in Siberia and placed in a camp on the outskirts. They were with other families in a large cold barracks and got insufficient rations. Her father and the three oldest siblings had to cut down trees. After about six months, they were all transferred to Sferlos (?) in the Urals which was slightly warmer but life was the same. Soon all the Poles were liberated but could not leave Russia. They decided to settle in Stanilbad (?), the capital of Turkestan. Her father, sister and brother worked and she attended school 2nd grade and was skipped to 5th grade. They learned of concentration camps at the end of 1944. After the war ended, they took a cattle car to Stateen (?), Poland and found no one left at home. Their cousin at the Poking DP camp in Passau asked them to come to his camp. The camp was liberated and in early '48 a sister got engaged to a man in Nuremberg so Regina went there and her parents went to Israel. She married Carl Plawner who was in the toy business and they had to wait for a visa until 1956 to come to the US. She had a daughter, Renee, in Germany and a son, Jacob, in the US. Her oldest brother got married and his wife's relatives sponsored them so they went to the US around '48. She never returned to Poland or Russia but frequently visited her parents and still has her older sister there. When Regina's children studied the Holocaust in school as teenagers, she told them her story. She knows that no place is safe and no one knows what will happen tomorrow.