

## **RG-50.031.0125**

### **Summary**

Fira Krimis (née Esther Schneiderman) was born on November 7, 1931 in the Soviet Union in a village near the Dniester River; mother/father (Heim), two sisters, one brother, grandparents (grandfather a tailor), family spoke Ukrainian & Yiddish at home; discussion 1914-1921 famine, countless killings of Jews in Ukraine; pre-war, happy childhood, farm work; during German invasion, father (Heim) purchases horse/cart from people fleeing Romania to escape with his family to his parents; a little boy leads Nazis into Heim's parents' home, rounds up family, counting them (11 in all), with guns pointed, ordered not to cry, "We stood all night"; family pushed into pig sty with another family of seven, Fira's attractive mother pulled out by guards (for several hours) who Fira believes raped her mother; family lined up in wheat field, men shot first, then everyone shot, first in backs, then circular; 10-year-old Fira wounded in both legs, her family collapses on top of her; in shock, Fira eventually emerges, finds sister & mother still alive; Nazi slices mother's chest from neck to lower chest; Fira is asked by mother to have her father suffocate her, also says that soldier "had cut her because she had bitten him" (in retrospect, Fira believes mother had bitten the soldier during rape); badly wounded father, Fira, sister reach the village; villagers are concerned that Nazis might have followed their blood pools but do not turn them over because Fira's grandfather had been a respected tailor; villager Maria Shapavalova brings them into her barn, tends to wounds; Fira & sister assist father to Maria's cellar; father requests Fira & sister mute his painful outcries so his rescuer is not outed to Nazis; after month, father is better, Maria tells her refugees that she loves them but unable to continue sheltering; family enters ghetto, Fira & sister are separated.  
[The recording ends suddenly.]