

RG-50.120 #0246
TSILA PINUS

- 1.01 Born 1905 near Chernovtsy. There were five children in the family. Went to the city of Iasi in Romania to enter a school which trained medical assistants and midwives.
- 1.02 Married in Iasi. Moved to town of Kaatin [phonetic] in Romania. In 1940 Soviets came to area. Interviewer asks about childhood and family. Family was quite religious. Didn't mix with Russians. In 1928 bandits broke into parents' bakery and killed Tsila's mother. Discusses childhood: Languages she used. Celebration of Jewish holidays.
- 1.18 Discusses meeting husband for first time. She was 23. Her husband was a photographer - had his own studio. Had 3 children.
- 1.24 Talks about beginning of war. July 1 bombing of Khatyr by Germans. July 7 German and Romanian troops entered city. Tsila and family driven from home. Residents of area put in school. After spending night under guard in a school house, Tsila and children told to return home.
- 1.29 Husband sent to a different group. She later went to where he was being held. Was able to talk briefly to him, but then was sent home by a Romanian officer. She never saw him again. She later heard he was shot. He was shot together with 55 other men, on July 8 1941.
- 1.34 On Aug 1, all Jews were sent to camps in Transnistria - in Ukraine. People forced to walk, guarded by Romanian and German troops on horseback - 4 days. Local Moldovan peasants along the way gave them food - particularly to the children.
- 1.40 Made a two-week stop in Sokuryany - stayed in houses evacuated by local Jews. Tsila and others got food by exchanging items in local bazaar. Also made later stop in town of Ataki. Later traveled to Podolsk. Tsila fell sick with Typhus - got better. This was in early November, 1941.
- 1.45 Walked for 5-6 days. Met some relatives in one town and were able to leave the marching column and stay with them. Nothing to eat. Essentially a ghetto in Popovtsy. In spring, 1942 people in ghetto began to work - digging on roads. Later worked collecting potatoes - got some food that way. Also got food by knitting for a peasant family that had wool. Then worked on a kalkbog [?]. Russian woman also gave them food.

[Break]

- 2.00 Tsila says that if had not been for the various local peasants who helped her and

her children, they would not have survived.

- 2.05 Describes how ghetto was surrounded by barbed wire, but inmates often went outside to work or get food.
- 2.10 Tsila says ghetto received funds from Joint Distribution Committee via Romania - but little of it seen by ghetto inmates.
- 2.23 Tsila says she does not know of any killings or 'pogroms' in her ghetto.
- 2.27 April 1944 - liberation. Returned to Khatyn. Her home was undamaged - but no furniture. She began to work as midwife. Three years later moved to Chernovtsy. Lived there until 1975 - when immigrated to Israel.