

FAYE PORTER

Born 1910 as Feige Merrin in Gorodok, Poland. Father, Nachum Merrin, a teacher, mother Bella. Four brothers and four sisters (unnamed). Great grandparents Shlomo and Elka Zingerman. Spoke Yiddish and she learned some Hebrew. Just after Yom Kippur 1939, Polish army retreated to Gorodock and were bombed by the Russians also destroying their home. Moved to Mukacevo and stayed through start of German occupation in 1941. At the outset, Jewish men rounded up and killed and buried in pits they had dug. Husband, a shoemaker (last name Puchtick, later Porter), fled back to Gorodok. Ukrainians in Gorodok killed Jewish businessmen. Porter moved into ghetto in Mukacevo where Jewish stars put on clothes and houses. Nazis took valuables from Jews. Brother in law forced to haul a cart until he died. In 1942, remaining Jews gathered to be killed, but Porter and cousin Pessel fled into the forest and were briefly taken in by a Pole. As Nazis searching for Jews, Porter moved away and met up with Jewish partisans, including her husband. Partisans destroyed train tracks, police stations, bridges etc. Porter herself was a cook. Leader of a group of non Jewish partisans wanted to kill the Jewish partisans but was killed himself. Clothes and ammunition parachuted into area by Russians. Many Jews saved by Cassimir Slovic, as detailed in Jewish Partisans: A Documentary of Jewish Resistance in the Soviet Union During World War II, as compiled by her son, Jack Nisan Porter (born 1944 in Rovno). Russian army came through in 1944 and they were free. Knew whole family killed

After the war, Russians gathered Jewish and non-Jewish orphans. Porter took two, 10 and 14, and kept them until the family left Russia for Katowice. The two children were taken by Brichah to a kibbutz in Israel. Porter got false passports to go to Greece, but instead ended up in Bindermichel DP camp in Austria. Since husband's brother had been in Chicago since 1913, someone from the camp passed along their names to the Forward in New York City. After receiving paperwork from brother, HIAS helped them get to US. They lived in Chicago briefly then on to Milwaukee. Daughter lived on a kibbutz and she and brother attended yeshivas in US. She does not trust Germans and Poles and worries about intermarriage.