

Interview with Charna Glibovskaya.

N 0009.

01.00.15.

My name is Glibovskaya Charna Aronovna. I was born May 20 1927 in Zhitomir. There I lived with my parents. Before war I finished seventh class in Ukrainian school. I remember very well hunger of 1933 and 1934. I was the only child who survived, my brothers and sisters died. My mom was sick from hunger too and she lay in bed all time not having strength to get up. My father tried to find job on railway station and get some money for my family but sometimes it was very difficult.

01.06.00.

June 1941 began war. My father did not go to war with Germans because he was a shell – shock case a few years ago in other war. Our relatives said we would evacuate because Germans hate and kill Jews. So we decided to move from Zhitomir. We packed our things in cart and then left town. We had few things because we lived in rent house but our own house was not ready yet.

01.07.30.

As we reached village Staraya Kotel'naya began German bombardment. We understood we could not continue our trip because was too late for evacuation. July 8 we had German Army in village and at once after it we received order to return in place where we lived before war. And we returned in Zhitomir.

01.09.00.

We did not expect Ukrainian and Russian people from our town would attack and hurt Jews. But they did. When war began we had police from Ukrainians and they attacked Jews so much. Many of our neighbours were killed by Ukrainian polices. Also was killed by them my grandmother.

01.15.12.

We were scared so much to continue to live in Zhitomir because we were Jews and so we hid in different places pretending we were Ukrainian But we could not hide more because one day all Jews of our town received order to wear special bands in order to Germans could differ Jews from others people. I did not want to wear band because I thought that without band I had more chances to survive. And it was true Germans hated Jews much more than of others people. I believed I had more chances for life because I looked like Ukrainian and also I could speak Ukrainian.

01.16.15.

One day all Jews of our town received order to gather together in special place. That place was Jewish ghetto. Our guards were Ukrainian police and German Gestapo. No Jews could leave ghetto and we did not hope we ever could leave that awful place that looked like ugly cage. We all were ready for worst time.

01.30.40.

One day my mom with her sister and other Jewish women from ghetto were taken to German war part to wash clothes for German soldiers. After two days passed we knew all women including my mom were killed.

01.34.00.

One day Germans did speech for Jews. They said all Jews would go to West for better life and it would happen soon. Some Jews believed it but I did not. More I understood Germans would want to kill us as soon as it was possible. So I decided to make escape from ghetto. I could speak Ukrainian and it helped me because I pretended I was Ukrainian child. I thought up story as I was from children's home and I wanted to look at ghetto and now I wanted to go back. Guard from ghetto believed my story and allowed me to leave ghetto.

01.35.50,

I returned in Zhitomir. There I knew lived one woman with name Manya and I asked her about shelter. Manya was good woman and she gave me shelter and food. I lived with her one month. But I understood I could not live there much time because I knew about order that each person giving shelter for Jew would be killed.

01.37.20.

So I left Zhitomir. I met other woman and she gave me advice to find children's home and to say to live there. But I could not do it because I had no documents with Ukrainian name but to say I was Jew I could not.

01.33.00.

Than I met other familiar girl and she gave me shelter in her house. I lived with her family almost month. I asked girl to give me her document with Ukrainian name in order I could have chance for children' home. And she gave me her birth certificate (metrics). I got name Larissa instead Ghenya.

02.00.15.

But even having Ukrainian metrics was not easily for me to get place in children's home. Director said I had to go to Gestapo and to get permission. I was so much scared to do it but I had no choice. So I went to police and told I was from Darnica's children's home and our train was attacked by German plane. So many children from train looking for safe places now. People from Gestapo offered me the opportunity to go to Germany for job but I told I was so much sick and I could not do it. I was really sick and I understood I would die if I went.

02.12.00.

Wartime was very hard for children's homes. Germans took children from children's homes to Germany and they all died there. Only our children's home of our area Germans did not touch. We worked in field and also we had pigs and cows for German soldiers in our children's home. Germans gave a very little food for us but we were glad so much because we were alive.

02.13.11.

I lived in children's home all winter. One day we listened children from children's home would christen and each of us would get our god – mother from village. One woman with name Katya wanted to be my god – mother. She was very kind to me and all time while I visited her house she gave me some food.

03.00.00.

All time during war I had nightmares about German soldiers and even now I have it sometimes. One day before I lived in children's home I met Jewish woman with kid. Woman knew she had only chance for her child's life to put baby in children's home. And she abandoned a baby to children's home. It was same place where I lived later. One day this baby who was 3 years old got adoption from children's home doctor who had name Ghuravskaya Lena Konstantinovna.

03.05.60.

I have been living in children's home all wartime. One day many partisans arrived in Zhitomir. They were hungry and we helped them as much as we could. Also we showed places where Germans kept their ammunition because we knew those places.

03.07.40.

First when Germans saw of partisans they decided it was regular troop but later they guessed who they were. Germans closed all exits from town with their tanks. And

partisans could not leave town. All time when we had of partisans in Zhitomir Germans wanted to kill children from children's home because Germans guessed that partisans had help from us. But our director defended us all time and he saved many times our lives.

03.10.30.

In the end of 1943 Zhitomir was free and we celebrated New Year in free town. One partisan visited our children's home and said big thanks for our help. Because with our help partisans could get ammunition from ammunition dumps and food from German store houses.

03.11.50.

In 1944 I began to work. I sewed uniform for our Army. When war finished my aunt returned from evacuation and she took me from children's home to her family. I have known Larissa survived and I returned metrics to her.

03.12.10.

In 1946 I was married and now I have 3 kids. One my daughter is living few years in Israel with her family now.

03.15.00.

I am only one person from my big family surviving after war.

03.17.00.

One day while war one woman Vera with last name Lysenko wanted to adopt me. I lived with her and her husband Ivan in their home. One day we knew our neighbour Kusmyenko and couple others wrote denunciation about Lysenko hid Jewish girl. Soon after denunciation people from police entered in our home. But Lysenko could hide me and I had opportunity to run from police.

04.07.00.

Later same neighbours wrote new denunciation that Lysenko gave out partisans during war. Of course that was not true and I knew it. Lysenko asked me if I could be his witness against neighbours. I agree. We had court and Lysenko got verdict of 'not guilty but neighbours who were really bandits got verdict. I remember names of these bandits. Musyka, Lisovskiy and Lutz. Musyka got capital punishment, Lutz was German and he ran with others Germans. As for Lisovskiy he changed his name and ran to other village. I was so sorry but court had not enough documents to prove Lisovskiy's guilt. So he was not killed and maybe he is alive now.

04.13.10.

Charna Aronovna calls names of people who helped her to survive during war. These names are Shmidt Larissa Grigorievna, before marriage having name Kostukevich, Lysenko Ivan Ivanovich and Lysenko Vera Ivanovna, director of children's home Bilkevich Anatoliy Vasilievich, doctor of children's home Ghuravskaya Elena Konstantinovna.

Charna Aronovna says she never will forget people who met her during war. She is grateful to them so much and says thanks all time.