

RG-50.226 #0011 1 Tape  
GORBANOS, ALEXANDER YAKOVLICH

- 1.00 Born in Kharkov on 23 December 1933. Family lived in Novoselovka [evidently a neighborhood of Kharkov, or nearby]. Family consisted of his parents, an older sister born in 1929, and a maternal grandmother.
- 1.01 Father called into army in August 1941. Family was supposed to have been evacuated with an army unit, where his mother worked in a retail store, but the unit left suddenly, abandoning them. Germans occupied Kharkov in October 1941. In December Jews ordered to gather in area of tractor factory outside Kharkov. Crowded into barracks at the factory.
- 1.07 After some days, Germans announced that because of crowding, Jews could volunteer to move to Poltava, Kremenchug, or Rovni [phonetic]. Those people taken away. Then, Germans said all must be moved. Gorbanos and family were among last to leave. They were able to flee and went back to Kharkov. Hid with various families, waiting for what they thought would be quick liberation of the city by the Soviets. This was in January 1942. Soon realized that liberation would not come soon and they decided to cross what they thought was the front line at the time and move to Belgorod, northeast of Kharkov.
- 1.15 Reached Belgorod. Bought fake passports with the non-Jewish Ukrainian name Kochenko. Very cold, snowy winter. Went to a town called Borisovke, where all fell ill. Went into a hospital, where they stayed until spring. Says the grandmother was lost somewhere in Kharkov.
- 1.18 When they left hospital, he and his mother were arrested by Ukrainian police. Put into prison. Released after 2-3 weeks, sent to a collective farm camp near Borisovke. Stayed until February 1943 when Soviet troops liberated. But then Soviets retreated. Alexander and his family followed and landed in Voronezh oblast. Stayed and worked on collective farm.
- 1.21 Kharkov was liberated in 1944 and they returned to the city. But there was no place to live. Stayed with friends. After war, father returned from army.
- 1.23 1947 Alexander went to trade school.
- 1.24 In 1952 went to a military school and into army. Served in Belorussia. Stayed in military. Became racket engineer - served until 1975. Later worked in 'sculpture factory'. His sister now in Israel.
- 1.28 Interviewer asks about pre-war Jews of Kharlov. Alex says there were about 100,000. Many evacuated at war's outbreak

END OF TAPE