

RG-50.226 #0012

GRINBERG, MARIYA ZOSEVNA

- 1.00 Grinberg's parents were born in Zhornishche, Illinetskiy rayon, Vinnitskaya oblast, Ukraine. Father, four sisters. Mother had 4 sisters, 2 brothers. Most of parents' families were killed by the Germans.
- 1.02 About herself, Grinberg says she was born in Zhornishche on Dec. 16, 1928. [Maiden name sounds like Palkhi.] In 1935 family went to Kiev. Father worked as a blacksmith. Grinberg attended a Ukrainian school and had finished the 5th class by the time the war had broken out. Had a younger brother and sister.
- 1.07 Father called into army immediately after outbreak of war. At the time, most Jews thought Germans would be similar to Germans who had occupied parts of Ukraine during the first WW and who had treated Jews well.
- 1.09 19 Sept. 1941 Germans entered Kiev. Within 10 days notices put up throughout town ordering Jews to gather on Menikov street with their valuables and some clothing. Jews believed they were being moved to another area. Mariya got separated from siblings and mother. As massive column approached Baby Yar, could hear shooting, but it was impossible to turn back or escape. Germans, Ukrainians police and dogs surrounded column. Stragglers were shot on the spot.
- 1.16 Mariya stood for hours and saw people being shot in groups. A local interpreter standing on sidelines noticed her and thinking she was not Jewish took her out of the column along with a friend, Genya Batashova, who Mariya claimed was her cousin, and they were allowed to go home.
- 1.24 Lived with Olya, a Ukrainian friend, and her family. But some other neighbors were suspicious and Mariya and Genya, with the help of a neighbor who was working with the underground, left Kiev. As Mariya puts it, two young girls set out on the road in a cold autumn.
- 1.27 Walked on foot 3 months and reached Kharkov. Slept in fields. Crossed river in a small boat but boat overturned. Reached other shore west - but met echilon of Soviet soldiers who took care of them.
- 1.32 Got on a civilian train which had many Jewish passengers. But none of them helped Mariya and Genya, who were sick and needed water. Helped by some Russian soldier, who gave them his coat and at a small train station traded his boots for bread and hot water, which he gave the girls.

[Break]

- 2.00 Got off train at small station and looked around for a place to go.
- 2.01 Mariya tells interviewer that genocide must never happen again. Says father was in army and captured near Poltava. Taken to camp near Umian. He and some other prisoners escaped and went to Vinnitsa. Father sick with severe dysentery, and stayed with peasant family - treated by local doctor with herbs, and after four months began to improve. He got a job as a blacksmith in a kilnhoz - passing himself off as a non-Jew.
- 2.07 When Soviets reoccupied Kiev, he returned to Kiev, as did Mariya. Discusses post-war life.
- 2.12 Mariya complains that Soviets and outside world - even Israel - initially would not talk about Baby Yar and genocide. Roosevelt, Pope, were silent during the war on issue of Baby Yar. Survivors of Baby Yar need help, sponsors.

[Break]

- 1.00 View of house. Mariya's street where she lived before the war.
- 1.01 Mariya shows area.
- 1.03 Shows house where her friend Olya lived - the girl whose family took Mariya and Genya Batashova in when they manage to survive Babiy Yar.
- 1.05 Shows where she and Genya hid in Olga's house.
- 1.07 Walks along streets on which Jews were marched toward Babiy Yar.
- 1.10 Street sign marking Turgeneuskaya Street.
- 1.11 Scenes taken from automobile proceeding along major thoroughfare.
- 1.12 Scenes of area near Babiy Yar. Mariya says that in this area, shots could be heard. People were beaten and driven forward. Camera follows Mariya as she walks toward Babiy Yar and she describes what happened and her feelings now.
- 1.22 Camera shows Babiy Yar ravine. Monument. Mariya leaves flowers at base of statue. Says ravine has been considerably leveled - was deeper at the time of the massacre. Camera shows scenes of statue.
- 1.30 Describes again how interpreter standing on the side of the column of Jews saved Mariya and Genya.

[Break]

- 2.00 Describes again to interviewer how she lost her mother in the crowd. Interviewer questions her in detail. Mariya describes again how she was taken aside by the interpreter. Camera shows another monument.
- 2.05 Mariya says that her husband was in the army and that she lived with him for 7 years in East Germany. She never lost her fearful feelings on seeing a German military uniform.
- 2.09 Mariya shows area which is a small piece of the original Babiy Yar ravine.
- 2.13 Mariya says that for many years Soviet officials would say nothing about the murder of Jews.
- 2.14 Interviewer asks about post-war experiences of Olya and those other Ukrainians who helped her. Mariya says they also were afraid to discuss what they had done. Only since Gorbachev and the advent of democratization has it bee possible to discuss these things.
- 2.14[?] Mariya describes how father kept up relations with and helped woman who helped him during war.
- 2.15 Mariya says there are 8 Jews in Kiev who survived Babiy Yar - or the march to Babiy Yar.
- 2.16 Mariya tells of shooting of POWs which took place at Babiy Yar later during the war.
- 2.17 Mariya discusses various monuments and when and under what circumstances they were established.
- 2.20 Mariya describes meeting a Jewish woman, a doctor, near Poltava when she and Genya were fleeing from Kiev after Babiy Yar. The woman feared helping Mariya would endanger herself and her children. Later, Mariya and Genya watched as Germans came, found the woman, and led her off. Mariya says fate and circumstances played a big role in life and death during the war.
- 2.29 Mariya throws a rose into deepest part of Babiy Yar.
- END OF TAPE