

RG-50.226\*0015

KLOTSMAN, GALINA IOSIFOVNA

- 1.00 Born 15 Sept 1923 in Kiev oblast, village of Pyatigory. Father was a tailor, mother a housekeeper. In 1932, in a period of famine, family moved to Crimea - to Munus [now Rogovoye], a village 50 km from Yevpatoriya. Galina went to a Jewish school. Here, her father worked taking care of horses on a Jewish run kolkhoz. Her mother worked in the kolkhoz school. Galina also had a brother and sister.
- 1.02 In 1935 family returned to Pyatigory. Galina discusses religious life of family. Galina went to a Ukrainian school. She encountered no anti-Semitism in school or in the village.
- 1.06 When war broke out for the USSR - on 22 June 1941. Galina's father was able to get a horse and wagon to evacuate the family and four others. They were able to get as far as Tarashcha [southeast of Kiev] but the Germans had already arrived there, and they turned back - on July 8.
- 1.09 Found that their house was empty. Everything stolen. On 10 July Galina's father was taken into the Soviet Army. On 16 July German troops occupied Pyatigory. Most people hid, but 9 Jews didn't and were shot by Germans and local police, two of them Galina names.
- 1.15 German killed Galina's brother - aged 16 - in front of Galina and her mother.
- 1.18 Shortly thereafter, Germans ordered all Jews able to work to gather in the schoolyard. Galina's mother told her to flee, to go to a nearby sovkhos and try to pass herself as a non-Jewish Ukrainian. She got work on the sovkhos. Galina says that she got work and that the local Ukrainians were very helpful to her and her family. One policeman, actually working for the partisans, used to warn Jews of impending 'actions' by the Germans.
- 1.20 A former classmate of Galina's reports her to the Germans and she is taken from the sovkhos. She is returned to the schoolyard where the Jews are still being held. Male specialists taken to various jobs. Women were put to farm work.
- 1.25 Continued to work until spring 1942. At that time local police announced that working men would be taken to a work camp; all the rest were to be taken to a different area to await further orders. Under heavy guard this group was marched off. Those who couldn't work were shot on the road to Zhashkov
- 1.30 All 78 persons were driven into a former prison in Zhashkov. The next day marched to Krasnyy Kut. On the way, four women were killed.
- 1.33 Taken to a sovkhos.

[Break]

- 2.00 In discussing cruelty of local police, Klotsman says that many had been in prison under the Soviets.
- 2.01 Group driven to Buki. Shootings took place at various times. Worked in a quarry near Buki.
- 2.04 Describes conditions in camp at Buki. Tells about local villagers who helped those in the camp - brought food, clothing.
- 2.12 Mother falls ill and is found dead. Klotsman does not know where she was buried.
- 2.15 Police said that young and old would be given lighter work. Those who volunteered for this work, however, were in fact killed.
- 2.21 In camp there had been about 6,000 when it was first established. By the time it was liberated by partisans there were 50 survivors.
- 2.21 Klotsman's feet had been frozen and she could not work. Police let her lie in barrack, but she received no food. Her 14 year old sister brought her some food from time to time - given her by helpful people.
- 2.23 Klotsman talks about Jews who worked for police and were cruel to prisoners.
- 2.24 Klotsman talked about those in her family who didn't survive.
- 2.26 Discusses liberation of area in fall of 1943. One of local police told surviving inmates that they would be allowed to run from camp. He gave them instructions on how to do this, saying that he would not interfere with their escape.
- 2.30 Klotsman went with her sister in the direction of Vinnitsa oblast. Arrived in village of Konela. Went to house of peasant who helped them - fed, clothed them, told them how to go to Vinnitsa.

[Break]

- 3.00 Klotsman and a few others arrived in Vinnitsa oblast, in area controlled by partisans. Stayed in a dormitory of a collective farm all winter.
- 3.04 Partisans arrive and helped them further. In spring of 1944 the area was liberated by Soviet forces. Sister was taken into army, and Klotsman joined Komsomol. She later took nursing courses. Sister died in 1949.
- 3.07 Klotsman's father returned from army in 1946. She lived with him in Kiev. Later he moved to Odessa where he died in 1976. Klotsman worked for 40 years in a printing house.

- 3.09 Klotsman was married, but divorced after 6 months. She raised a daughter alone.
- 3.10 Klotsman says she never talked about her war experiences. She never received any compensation for war difficulties.

END OF TAPE

1.20