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**Interview with Yevgenia Lerner.**

01.00.40.

I was born in 1921 in Bar of Vinnitsa district. There were a lot of Jews in our town. All people from Bar were friendly to each other. My parents were the teachers. My father was a director of a school. I had an older brother and younger sister. One day my father got a new job and my family moved to the village Tepek where father worked as a director of a school. We survived and I remember those years the famine very well. They were awful years and many people died from hunger.

01.05.39.

In 1935 my family returned to Bar. We had a rented apartment and our life changed because we had enough food and we were so glad that the hunger years were finished.

01.06.30.

I finished 9<sup>th</sup> class in 1938 and then I entered the Vinnitsa teacher's training college.

01.09.35.

I studied 10 months in the institute and then I began to work as a teacher in the village Kapaigorod. Each student began to work as a teacher because each of us got orders to be teachers' substitutes while they were taken to war. It was 1939 and there was war in West Ukraine.

01.10.53.

I worked in Kapaigorod for one year. Then I got married and in 1941 I returned to Bar.

01.12.40.

In 1941 the German Army began the war against our country. My parents and I could not evacuate from town because my parents were old and sick and I could not leave them. July 16, 1941, the German Army entered in our town. Most people from town could evacuate before it.

01.19.00.

There was German occupation in our town. Our neighbour Kul'veprik was a spy before the war and since the beginning the war he worked as a burgermeister of our town.

01.22.40.

In the end of July our town had a Jewish ghetto. My father received the proposition to be a guard of a granary. He agreed to do it because he understood if he worked as a guard his family could avoid a ghetto and live in the other safe place.

01.25.20.

My father worked as a guard only a couple of months and he got pneumonia. We did not know what to do because if the Germans knew that father was sick they would kill him at once. So we tried to hide that our father was sick. As for father's job I decided to be a guard instead of him. I was very scared to do it but I had no choice. One day I asked my neighbour who was a good person to help me with my job. For his help I gave him a little grain from granary.

01.28.10.

One day there was an inspection of the granary. A Russian man who checked the granary together with the Germans guessed I was working instead of my father and also he guessed that something happened to my father. But man said nothing in front of the Germans about his guessing. In the evening a man visited our house and he said we could not stay anymore in the guard's house because our father could not work as a guard and Germans could know about it.

01.28.40.

So we had no choice but to go to ghetto. There were more than 10000 people. Our life was awful because we could not leave the ghetto in order to find some food. But we were lucky because there were Russian people in a village who helped us with food.

01.31.50.

One day the small girl from another village asked us to give her some food for her and her family. The girl cried and said her family lived in the ghetto like us and their life was more awful than ours.

01.31.50.

One person from each house had to work in ghetto. As I was the pretty young woman my parents avoided sending me to the job because Germans could hurt me as they usually did

with young women. So from our family worked my sister and she worked in the ghetto all winter.

02.04.20.

Many Jews from the ghetto were killed during the winter. One day my father was taken to jail from the ghetto as a hostage with 10 other Jews. When I knew about it I decided to go to the job hoping to have a chance to see my father. I could get permission for jail and see my father. And it was the last time in my life when I saw my father.

02.12.50.

I continued to work in ghetto. On August 19, the Germans did the first pogrom in our town. All Jews gathered at a stadium and Germans selected some of us for jobs and some people for death. All young people including my sister and me were selected for jobs but my parents were taken with the other group of people.

02.20.50.

In the evening all young people from the barracks were taken back to the ghetto. We began to live and work there again. On August 14, one man who was a friend of our family found me and said I have to go from the ghetto because the Germans prepared a second pogrom for the next morning and they were ready to kill all Jews from the ghetto.

02.27.20.

The same day, August 14, my neighbour Kul'veprik who was my teacher when I studied in the school came to my job and called me. He took my sister and me in the car and we went with him to his apartment. Kul'veprik lived with his mother and his wife. At home Kul'veprik told me Germans were going to kill all Jews the next day. Also Kul'veprik said how much he hated me since I studied at school because I always was an independent girl but he did not like it. My sister and I were lucky we could escape from Kul'veprik's house.

03.04.00.

Our neighbour from the guard's house hid us. At night we became aware about the new pogrom in town. That night were killed thousands of Jews from the ghetto and the Germans continued to look for hiding Jews. We were in the guard's house until the next night and then we went out from the village because we understood we could not stay in the village; it was very dangerous.

03.12.00.

My sister and I did not know where to go after our escape but I remembered there was a familiar woman who lived in the next village. So my sister and I went toward the woman's house. We found that woman but she could not give us shelter because she was scared to do it. All we got from her was some food. We said thanks for the food and went farther not knowing where to go.

03.21.00.

We decided to go toward Litin because that was a less dangerous road than the other toward Litin. We asked for shelter in one house and one woman took us toward the forest and hid us in the mud house there. Also that woman showed us the right route to Litin.

03.28.00.

Where we went through the forest we met one German soldier who wanted to hurt my sister. I knocked him in his face and then my sister and I escaped from him.

03.31.50.

We entered Litin. At first we pretended we were refugees but we had no success. So all we could do was to find the Jewish ghetto and to ask to live with other Jews. We found the ghetto but we could not stay there because there were a few Germans pogroms in the town and only a few Jews survived who were German workers now and Germans knew each of them. So if we began to live in ghetto Germans would have known about it very soon and they would have killed us.

People from the ghetto hid us in the basement and there were many others hiding Jews. That place was very dirty with a lot of lice. Jews told us they had lived in the basement already for 6 months and all this time they hid from Germans.

I decided to go out from the basement because it was such an ugly place and I was scared to be sick. And besides I did not know if that place was really safe for us. In the morning the owner of the house went to work and one young woman entered our house. She said we have to go out from this house as soon as it was possible because the owners of house were not very good people. The young woman also told us that Germans had hurt her and they could do the same for us if we would stay here.

So my sister and I escaped from that house. When we went through the forest we met one woman who hid us in her house. There lived also two her sisters. The women took care of my sister and me but they were crazy and I could not stay there more because I felt as if I lived in a crazy house and my brain was tired from those women. So my sister and I left that house and we decided to return to Bar. Next to Bar we met our neighbour who said we could not return to Bar because there were a lot of Germans there and they continued

to kill Jews. The neighbour said he escaped from Bar and he was going to go to the Romanian border because that was the only chance to survive.

So we went toward border. My sister and I were so happy when at last we heard Romanian speech. We asked for shelter and people from the village gave shelter and some food to us. But we even could not imagine that the owner of that house was a village headman. Woman from the house guessed we were Jews and we have understood it was very dangerous to live anymore in that place. So we left the house and the village the next day.

We continued our route toward village Luchincy. There lived my husband's father. There we lived a few months. One day a girlfriend of mine and I went to the forest to gather some brushwood. Next to the forest we met one policeman who was a very bad person. He asked me who I was and did not believe it when my girlfriend told him I was from the village. Also the policeman said he would want to visit our house in the evening. At home my girlfriend told me I had to go because she knew that the policeman was a very bad person and we could not expect any good intentions from him, but rather bad.

So we left the house and went toward Shargorod. There lived familiar people and they gave shelter to us. We could not stay a long time there and soon we went toward Jurin. There we had an accident with Romanians. I did not know why but they wanted to kill us.

05.00.40.

One woman from the village helped us to escape from the Romanians. After we escaped from the Romanians we found where our relatives lived. There we stayed one day. Then we moved toward Tomashpol'. There was a camp for captured soldiers next to Tomashpol'. One man told us it was a very dangerous to go to Tomashpol' because many Germans were guarding the bridge in front of town.

05.05.35.

I knew that all my mom's relatives with the name Drubetskie lived in the village Krihopol'. It was a very dangerous route to Krihopol' and it was a miracle we survived the Germans. We were so lucky we met a couple of very kind people who hid us from the Germans. By the way, those people were our relatives! They gave some food for us and we spent all night in their house. My sister slept but I could not sleep because I was worried so much about everything. I decided we must continue our route.

05.13.00.

So we left the house the next morning and went toward village Miaskovka. There was rain and a thunderstorm so I hoped it would be better for us to go through German observation posts in such ugly weather. We entered Miaskovka and we found our

relatives there. They gave shelter to us but we could see they were scared to keep us in their house. So very soon we left their house and went back to Tomashpol'.

05.15.45.

Soon we had an accident with the police and survived only owing to the fact that we got help from one kind Jew. We did not know who he was and he knew nothing about us but he saved our lives.

05.19.00.

Then we went toward village Jurin and began to live in our aunt's house. There we lived for 8 months and my relatives made documents for my sister and me.

05.22.40.

In winter Germans began a retreat. Before deviation our relatives as they were Romanian Jews were taken from the village by Romanian. So my sister and I lived alone at home.

05.26.20.

We decided to return to Bar. There lived our schoolteachers and we visited them. The Red Army was in our village. We could not return to our own home because there lived a woman from the village who had a few children but her husband was killed. So we began to live in our aunt Bela's house.

05.30.00.

In spring my sister and I were found by our brother. He sent some money to us so we could give a little money to Bela who took care about us.

After the war I gave birth to a few children. I finished 3 institutes.

05.31.30.

I worked until I was 70 years old and I am a very happy woman because I did many useful things in my life and many people know me and are grateful for my help.

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