

Interview with Batya B. Lifshits.

RG – 50.226.0018.

01.00.36.

I was born in Berdichev, on December 12, 1926. My father was a worker and my mother was a housewife. My parents had 3 children. Before the war I studied in a Russian school. My brother and sisters studied in the Jewish school. My parents were religious people and they attended synagogue very often. There were many Jews in our town. There was a Jewish theatre in our town.

01.05.01.

When the war began my sister who was a Komsomol member wanted to evacuate from the town but my father told her that he did not want to do it because he did not believe that the Germans would want to kill the Jews. He had a wrong opinion about the Germans because he remembered 1918 when there were Germans in our town and they were kind to the Jews. My father could not imagine what kind of Germans we had now but he would know about it very soon. So we did not evacuate from the town.

01.06.02.

Since the first day of the war the Germans bombed our town. The Germans entered our town and they took many Jews and killed them. The Germans ordered us to wear a distinguishing. It was a hexagon star. In case if some Jew did not want to wear a hexagon star the Germans beat him.

01.08.40.

September 15, 1941 was a first big execution of Jews. There was a ghetto in our town. Germans did not allow us to leave the ghetto, even in order to find some food. On September 15, were killed many Jews of our town. I lost my sister the same day. I was taken for the execution too but I escaped from it.

01.17.20.

On September 15 a few people and I escaped from execution and one neighbour hid us in his house. One night we spent in his house and then we left it.

01.18.30.

I went toward Raigorod. There lived my relatives and they gave me shelter in their house. I lived with them and helped them in their house. One day we listened that the Germans planned a second execution of the Jews. People hid me from the Germans and when execution was over I left the village.

01.22.00.

I entered the Sangorod and I began to work there for one family. That family had a farm and I worked there till Berdichev was liberated from the Germans.

01.26.00.

On September 15, 1941 the Germans killed the Jews with high – tension current. But not all people were killed at once and when the Germans saw it they continued to kill them with their machine – gunners.

01.32.30.

After the Red Army entered Berdichev I decided to return home. I thought that the Russian had to give me my own place for life because my parents were killed by the Germans during the war and I had an ugly life during the war. But I was mistaken because the Red Army was so much interested about my life during the war and they did not believe my true story. The reason was that I survived from the Germans but it was almost impossible and the Red Army thought that I rather helped Germans because they allowed me to survive. As I could not prove it true I had no chance to have my own place and I began to live in a rented apartment.

02.02.50.

After the Red Army entered our town I began to work. In a few years I married. My husband is a good man and we have 3 children.

02.10.50.

There is a memorial on the place where the Germans killed the Jews on September 12.

02.12.05.

I do not like to watch the movies about the war and I do not like to tell about my life during the war.

02.15.14.

Now there are about 800 Jews in Berdichev. Many Jews moved to Israel and other places after the war.

<http://collections.ushmm.org>
Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection