

RG-50.226 #0022

MEDVINSKAYA, BRONIYA YAKOVLEVNA

- 1.00 Born in Lysyanka about 120 km south of Kiev on Dec. 18, 1924. Father was metalworker; had been wounded in WWI. Had two sisters, one older, one younger. Broniya finished 10 grades in Ukrainian school. Was 16 when war broke out and says she remembers events well.
- 1.03 Describes first days of war. Tried to evacuate, but did not succeed. Did not know what Germans had been doing to Jews in Europe, but wanted to leave the area rather than be left behind. Unable to arrange transportation. Germans arrived near town on 29.....
- 1.05 When Germans arrived, they established a Jewish Administration that organized Jewish work details. Broniya also worked. She worked for a month as a maid in a German officer's living quarters. She learned that the Germans living there were members of an SD punitive unit [in Russian Karatevniy Otrayao - a term which interviewees usually use to mean Einsatz gruppen] that later carried out the killings at Babiy-Yar. Jews working in dormitory were not harmed.
- 1.09 Broniya's father was beaten by one German who used to walk around with a club.
- 1.10 In August, a German cook who worked in the dormitory kitchen warned Broniya that all the Jews would be killed.
- 1.12 Later, 85 Jewish men and boys in Lysyanba were rounded up and brought to the dormitory [which had been an orphanage before the war]. They were stripped, beaten with boards which had nails driven into them, and then taken away. Broniya implies they were killed elsewhere. She says many groups - Soviet POWs and others were brought to the dormitory and then killed in a nearby woods.
- 1.15 At the end of August, the SD group left for operations in Belatserkov and Kiev.
- 1.18 Later Broniya worked as a maid in a military hospital. Germs were suffering a lot of casualties in their campaign to cross the Dnepr river.
- 1.21 Asked whether the Germans had made any sexual advances toward and her fellow female workers, Broniya says she knew of only two such cases. In general, German behavior in her experience was quite correct in this regard.
- 1.22 After some months working in the hospital, Broniya and others moved to a camp in the area. She was with her mother and younger sister.
- 1.30 In September, 1942, Germans selected out some 50 camp inmates and had them shot.
- 1.31 Germans shot all the people in the camp on 23 Aug. 1943. Broniya and some others were warned about this beforehand by a Ukrainian who told them that trenches were being dug

for bodies. Broniya was outside of camp at this time, working in a poppy field. She was thus able to avoid the shooting.

[Break]

- 2.00 Broniya, her sister and a friend manage to run to another village. Works for a family. Later makes her way to Kiev. Soviet troops approach area.
- 2.06 In answer to interviewer's question, Broniya says her sister worked for a local police officer, milking cans, doing other labor. Her mother survived, hiding with various people in Sesterytsy [phonetic].
- 2.08 Broniya wanted to join Soviet Army. Had to convince authorities that she was not a spy. After working a short time in military hospital near Poltava, Broniya went to....
- 2.11 Broniya says father and many other relatives were shot by Germans.
- 2.13 Describes post-war life. Worked as a bookkeeper. Married in 1950. Had two daughters - now living in Kiev.
- 2.15 In answer to question, Broniya describes a few contacts she had with partisans during the war; she says they were not very active in her area.

END OF TAPE