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Interview with Tatyana Pit'kina(Shnaider)

01.00.20.

I was born on September 25, 1925, in Ol'shany of Cherkaskiy district. My parents had 4 children. My parents were not poor and they had a big house. Before the war I had studied in an Ukrainian school. When the war began I had just finished it.

01.05.00.

When the war began my family tried to evacuate but we only reached Cherkassy and discovered that there were Germans around us. It was July 1941. My father was taken to the war and my oldest brother too. My mother, my sister, my second brother and I returned to our village Ol'shany. There we discovered the Germans organized the ghetto for all Jews.

01.06.00.

We were taken to the ghetto like other Jews of our village. Every day each of us was taken to work. We were not allowed to speak with Ukrainians from the town and local villages.

01.12.16.

One day, my father returned to Ol'shany knowing that it was very dangerous because many Jews from our village were killed and if the Germans discovered our father lived in the village he would be killed. So my father was hidden while living in the village. We were forced to pay bribes and we brought to Germans a lot of stuff including gold, silver and clothes. In spite of the fact that people from the village were forbidden to help us, they were not afraid and they gave us food.

01.23.40.

On May 2, 1942, all Jews from Ol'shany were taken to the village Zvenigorodka. There we were put in a prison where we spent a few days. In a few days Jews from the prison were divided; women and small children were taken to the ghetto of Zvenigorodka and other Jews including me were taken to the village Nemorozh.

02.15.17.

Many Jews including me were taken to the village Buduzhchi. There we built roads. There were many war prisoners.

02.18.54.

In 1943, we were taken back to Nemorozh. On August 23, 1943, we heard that Kharkiv was freed at last. We guessed that the Germans were going to retreat from Ukraine and before it they were going to kill all of us. Any time we were ready to be killed. My mom told me I had to take my sister and escape with her from the camp. I did it. My mom escaped from the camp too. Very soon I lost my sister and I never saw her again. One man from the village hid my mom and me for a few days because the Germans looked for the Jews.

02.34.00.

When Kiev was freed the Germans began to retreat and destroy Ukrainian villages. Many people were killed those days. My girlfriend and I were rescued from the big execution by one kind person, and we survived. Immediately after the execution we were very sick and for a long time we could not even stand. While we were hiding in one home, we had written some warnings for people to be ready to escape from the village because the Germans destroyed everything during their retreat from Ukraine. Both my girlfriend and I were taken to the local village Khlyvnivka and one man from the village showed us the road to another village where there were no Germans.

03.17.00.

We were lucky because we found Russian soldiers and they took us with them understanding that it was very dangerous for us to stay in the village.

03.20.00.

Being with Russian soldiers we were attacked by German planes but we survived. Then we showed the direction to Zvenigorodka and we were taken there. After Zvenigorodka was freed I began to live there. After the war was over, I went to Kiev and I lived and worked there. During the war my mother and father died and of my family only my brother and I survived.