

RG – 50.226.0035

Interview with Ol'ga Svetlichnaya

01.00.00.

I was born in 1910, in Bobrinets of Elisovgradskiy district (now it is Kirovogradskiy district). My father died when I was 3 months old. Soon my mother remarried. As my step – father had 5 children, our life was very difficult and so we moved to a village hoping for a better life there. The village where we moved was located next to Bobrinets and was called Ekaterinovka.

01.01.50.

Since we moved to the village our life was very poor and I did not like it and was unhappy. I decided to live in a children's home. As soon as I got permission to live in children's home, I left Ekaterinovka. The children's home was located in Bobrinets. I was 10 years old those days and I lived in a children's home till I was 16 or 17 years old. After, I began to work. Then I moved to Kiev and began to study there. Studying there I met my future husband. He was Ukrainian. In 1929, we married. We had a very happy marriage for 58 years until my husband died.

01.18.08.

Being married I entered the institute and my husband studied to be a pilot. We lived next to Zaporozh'e. Then I began to work and my husband continued to study. In 1937, I gave birth to my son. As my son had bad health, we moved to Kiev.

01.22.30.

When the war began I was in Kiev with my son; my husband studied in Moscow. I tried to evacuate from Kiev like other people but I had some problems with documents for evacuation and I could not evacuate. As my husband and I lived on a military base, since the war began that base was disbanded and I had no place to live. My friends gave me shelter and I lived with them until the Germans entered the city.

01.26.30.

Very soon after the Germans entered the city they ordered Jews from Kiev to gather together in one place. That place was Babiy Yar and there were killed thousands of Jews during the war. The first execution was in September 1941. I did not go to Babiy Yar ut I watched people who do so. My friends worried about my life and they gave me Russian documents. Having Russian documents, I could live in Kiev like other Ukrainian and Russian people but not like Jews, because most of the Jews were killed by the Germans during the war. Having a Russian passport, I asked about a place to live because I was

already the mother of two children and I still lived in my friend's home. I was lucky to get one room when I could live with my children.

01.32.50.

As my family had to eat something, I began to work making patties at home and selling them. Selling patties I talked with many people and I knew all the news that happened in Kiev. Listening to news about sabotages against the Germans in Kiev, I understood that there was an underground organization in Kiev. I was lucky when one day I spoke with one woman who needed a place to live and who, as I had known later, was a member of the underground organization of Kiev. That woman, Petrushko, began to live in my place and soon my apartment became a secret place for the underground organization of Kiev.

02.06.30.

I was a member of the underground organization too. I worked as a liaison there. Also, as my apartment was a secret place, from time to time there lived some members of our underground organization when they needed to.

02.17.50.

One day, when the Red Army was located close to Kiev, my girlfriend and I were taken to the Germans by two Russian men. They entered in our underground organization and introduced themselves as members of another underground organization of Kiev. They asked us about some help and we believed them not having any doubts that they told us the truth. But we were mistaken because both my girlfriend and I were taken to the Germans. My girlfriend was lucky to escape from the Germans but I spent one week there and was freed when the Russian Army entered the city. It happened on November 6, in 1943.

02.27.20.

My husband's plane crashed during the war and my husband had to spend a lot of time in the hospital. But after returning from the hospital he began to work and I was at home taking care of our three children. Nowadays all my children are alive and I live in one of my son's home.