

RG-50.226 #00039

**YAKUBOVA, SOFIYA BORISOVNA nee Glezer**

- 1.00 Born in 1922 in village of Raygorodsk in Zhitomir Oblast. Father was a shoemaker, mother a seamstress. After finishing 4th class went to school in Yanoshpoz [phonetic] and lived there with her aunt. Had brother and sister. Brother died in famine of 30's.
- 1.02 Studied to be a teacher. Sent to work as a teacher in Novogradskiy rayon. Worked until beginning of war. On day Germans attacked USSR Sofiya. At home with family in Rayborodor. Radio urged people to remain in place. Refugees from western Ukraine told them that Germans were killing Jews and that they should flee eastward. But family unable to find transportation.
- 1.04 Germans entered town on 17 July 1941. People were put to work. Many of elderly and sick were shot, Jews and non-Jews. Within days, Jews, who numbered around 300, were ordered to wear six pointed stars. Some Jews were able to join partisans, escape east.
- 1.07 On August 9 Jews moved to few buildings - crowded in. Young Jews put to work on a Kolkhoz. Ukrainians in Kolkhoz gave them food, helped them. Many Ukrainians helped Jews.
- 1.11 People heard that Germans were digging ditches in the woods. On September 10, at 5:00 a.m., Germans surrounded houses where Jews being kept. People ordered into the street. Despite presence of many guards, Sofiya was able to run from crowd and hid in nearby building. Heard sounds of shooting. After hiding for two days, emerged to find out that parents also survived. Returned to her house.
- 1.16 Surviving Jews were put to work. Fall and winter were very cold. Jews shoveled snow. Depended on local Ukrainians for food. Germans did not feed them.
- 1.19 In Jan 1942 there was talk that Germans had dug ditches in the Jewish cemetery and that all the surviving Jews would be killed there. One day Jews were assembled to be marched to cemetery. Again, Sofiya fled from group. Hid in a hole where she knew a friend's family stored potatoes. Father also escaped, but mother was shot. Father ran and hid in haystack, on a kolkhoz. Ukrainian watchman knew he was there, but told Germans he had not seen him.
- 1.23 Sofiya and father hid in various places. Arrived after a while in Klitenka [phonetic]. Went to a friend's house where they stayed for a while. Then moved on. Went to friends in another village. Moved again - to village of Krizhanovka. Hidden by Ukrainian woman. Although there were many German troops in the area, and this woman had four children, she seemed to be less concerned about her family than about the danger to Sofiya and her father. Hidden in attic.
- 1.31 Moved to another house in village. Stayed in home for a number of months. In December left and went to a village in Alanovskiy rayon [phonetic] in Vinnitsa Oblast. Taken in by another Ukrainian family.

[Break]

- 2.00 Stayed for a while with the son of the old woman who lived separately. Sofiya praises him as their savior, a 'golden man' who helped them in every way. Keeps up friendship in 90's.
- 2.04 Describes briefly what friends told her about shooting of mother earlier.
- 2.05 December 1943 Germans driven back to Vinnitsa area. Sofiya and father went to village of Popivka in Binnitsa Oblast. Sofiya is separated from father who is taken to dig trenches. She stays with a Ukrainian family that takes her in even after she tells them she is Jewish.
- 2.08 Soviet troops arrive in Popivka. Sofiya in March, 1944 decides to go to Berdichev, which had already been liberated. Arrives in beginning of April. Soon returns to home town of Raygorodsk and meets her father there.
- 2.14 Discusses return of various Jews who had hidden in various areas - particularly around town of Yanushpol [ph], which had been largely Jewish.
- 2.18 Describes how father escaped from Germans when he was digging trenches during approach of Soviet troops.
- 2.25 Sofiya married, moved to Berdichev.
- 2.28 Complains about Soviet authorities who didn't evacuate Jews before Germans took Raygorod, who paid no attention to plight of Jews after the war. Also, Soviet regime everyone who had lived under German occupation as virtual traitors.

[Break]

- 3.00 Interviewer asks about pre-war Jews in Berdichev - In Rayzorod, synagogue had been destroyed before the war by the Soviets.
- 3.02 Sofiya again emphasizes how many Ukrainian families risked their own lives to keep her and her father.
- 3.09 Interviewer asks about the occupation police and other persons who persecuted Jews. Sofiya says there were some local residents who became 'polizei' immediately after the Germans arrived in Raygorod. They helped Germans round up Jews on Sept. 10, 1941. One was named Staskik, a neighbor.
- 3.13 Int. asks whether there were any subsequent trials of collaborators. Sofiya says there were no trials in Raygorod, but the Soviet army took some collaborators into army labor battalions, but most returned and were not further punished. There were some trials in Zhitomir, even in 1990's.
- 3.19 Int. asks about day Germans arrived in Raygorodsk

END OF TAPE