

RG-50.378 #016

German, Yuriy Izrailovich

- 1.00 Born in 21 May 1930 in Smolensk. Family moved year and a half later to Kaluga. Father worked in textile factory, later in another factory. In 1939 father was arrested. Returned just after war started. Was accused of being 'enemy of the people'. Soon after return, was drafted into army. Mother worked at home.
- 1.03 Discusses early school days in Kaluga.
- 1.06 Discusses first days of war. Some of German's relatives able to evacuate city. He and mother remained behind. Remembers that when Germans marched into Kaluga - in September or October - many people met them with flowers.
- 1.11 Moved into ghetto soon after arrival of Germans. Germans distributed ration cards to Jews, but this was only a ruse, to keep them quiet initially. No food was distributed. Children would sneak outside and glean food where they could find it.
- 1.15 Children forced to work - moving bodies in streets outside ghetto; filling in ditches.
- 1.20 Red Army counterattack in Dec. 1941. Germans began to search for valuables, killed many people. German and family sat hidden in cellar. Germans then set fire to ghetto buildings - which were an old disused monastery for nuns. Under cover of smoke and fire, German's family able to escape. Went to river.
- 1.23 Hidden by former neighbor for a few days. Then Red Army arrived, Dec. 1941. Soviet officers lived in their house with them.
- 1.26 German goes to school in Kaluga. Life difficult, but survived. In 1944 learned that father had been killed in action.
- 1.27 In 1950 he was drafted. Married 1952. Daughter now in Haifa.

[Break]

- 2.00 Interviewers ask him to discuss early life, grandparents.
- 2.08 Discusses instances of anti-Semitism in schools.
- 2.15 Discusses father's arrest in 1939. Sent to labor camp in the Baltics area. Escaped and returned to Kaluga shortly after war began.
- 2.19 Discusses area of ghetto.

- 2.26 Jewish invalids brought to ghetto from sanitarium. Each day, some of them were shot. German remembers no mass shootings of other Jews or ghetto inmates.
- 2.30 Fact that he had been in ghetto – in occupied territory - - interfered with advancement in later life.

[break]

- 3.00 Although was officer in army, he was not promoted as high as he might have been. Also, could not serve abroad.
- 3.02 Interviewer asks again about ghetto. He had no thoughts about trying to escape – he was too young -11 years – and also needed to help his mother get food.
- 3.19 Interviewer asks about ghetto survivors. German says they number only a few dozen. Most died when ghetto liquidated, most shot by machine gun fire, burned in fire set by Germans.

END OF TAPE