

RG-50.378 #025 1 of 1 Tape
Smirnova, Vera Vladimirovna

- 1.00 Born in Minsk, one of five children in 1928. Family name was Rozenberg, but Vera changed hers when she was arrested during the war by Germans. Father worked at train station in baggage department. Discusses early life.
- 1.14 Describes first day of war. Minsk was bombed. After Germans took Minsk, Vera and family had to move into ghetto. Vera used to sneak under barbed wire to get food in Russian part of city.
- 1.19 One day Germans came to their living quarters and took her father and two brothers away. She never saw them again.
- 1.20 Describes life in ghetto.
- 1.23 Describes one 'pogrom' [in late 1941?]. Vera was outside ghetto scrounging for food. Germans and local police surrounded ghetto. She hid in house of Russian classmate – near ghetto. She heard shots in ghetto all night. Next morning, when shooting had stopped, Vera entered ghetto. Found her sister and sister's child dead. Mother and brother managed to survive.
- 1.28 In summer of 1942, German Jews brought into ghetto. Many killed immediately.

[break]

- 2.00 Vera plans to escape from ghetto. During 1942 and much of 1943, people in ghetto die from disease and hunger.
- 2.02 Interviewer asks for details on establishment of ghetto.
- 2.12 Discusses family's life in ghetto.
- 2.26 Describes period of time in Minsk prison after arrest for having helped partisans.

[break]

- 3.00 Interviewer asks for details on ghetto and ghetto hiding places, Judenrat, underground.
- 3.05 Describes escape from ghetto in 1943 with mother and brother. Goes to partisans in area near Lipsk. Describes partisan operation during which she is arrested.
- 3.14 Describes arrest, interrogation, two months' imprisonment.
- 3.20 Vera loaded with other prisoners and taken by train to a large camp – Auschwitz.

- 3.23 Describes life in Auschwitz. She gets typhus. Recovers and is put to work.
- 3.26 With approach of Soviet army, Germans drove many prisoners west. Vera ends up in Ravensburg. Liberated in 1945 in Neustadt.
- 3.28 Interviewer asks for details on Auschwitz routine.

[break]

Tape ends abruptly. Resumes in the middle of an interview with a different person.