

Rena Shipman, interviewed March 19, 1996
Summary by: Joaeph Bradley, December 14, 2018

Rena Shipman, neé Yunets (?) b. 31 May 1934 in Mogilev-Podol'skii [Ukraine]

Family

Father: b. 1911 (?) Director of a tobacco factory in village of Serebriia, Mogilev-Podol'skii district, Vinnitskaia province [oblast'], Ukraine
Mother: Worked in a library; family lived in Mogilev
Uncle: Naiman Petrovich Markovich, beginning in 1926 was director of the "Comintern" Collective Farm, later renamed the "Stalin" Collective farm
Maternal grandfather: Lazar Perlman, a teacher and cantor
Maternal grandmother: Miriam ("Nunia") Perlman
Maternal grandfather's sister: Polia Perlman, whose 2 daughters were in US and one in Israel in 1996
Paternal grandparents from shtetl Ozarintsy
Aunt [father's sister] and uncle-in-law Katz lived in nearby Vendichany; had 2 sons
Rena's grandparents spoke Yiddish but parents graduated from Russian schools and spoke Russian
(Rena mentions an agronomist, also a Jew, Grishaibinger (?), whose children lived in the US at the time of the interview)

WWII

Father drafted in 1941 at age 30; MIA in 1942; wife informed of this in 1944
Mogilev bombed; basement of power plant was bomb shelter
Early July, Germans entered Mogilev and announced that all Jews in hiding had to appear and move to a ghetto or else they would be shot
Rena identifies 3 ghetto streets: Rybnaia, Stavitskaia, Malogrechenskaia
Describes mass killings, humiliations; Rena saw her grandfather shot; many Jews sent to Pechora concentration camp; Rena, her mother and grandmother stayed in ghetto; later mother, grandmother and Rena's younger brother sent to Pechora; maternal grandparents shot in Pechora, but a family hid Rena's mother
Ksenia Voloshina, a Ukrainian lady from Ozarintsy who knew Rena's paternal grandparents, saved Rena by taking her out of ghetto and taking her to Russian neighbors in Mogilev; then took her to Ozarintsy to her paternal grandmother
Rena lived with Ksenia Voloshina from late 1941 to early 1944
Rena describes horrible conditions and disease in Ozarintsy ghetto run by Romanians; describes getting food, executions, shameful behavior of Judenrat
Rena describes execution of 28 young Jewish men in Ozarintsy in front of villagers [also noted in Yandex.ru] as the most horrifying experience of the war
Aunt and Uncle Katz shot in Vendichany
March 1944, Romanians fled and Soviet army liberated the region
Rena and paternal grandmother returned to Mogilev and Rena's mother found them

Postwar

Rena, mother and grandmother went to Chernovtsy in October 1945, where Rena went to school, then Rena moved to Smolensk; kept in touch with Ksenia Voloshina

Rena describes Doctor's Plot of 1953 and danger to Jews; following a tip, she leaves Smolensk and returns to Mogilev to live with her aunt [wife of Naiman Markovish?]

Mother remarried, started a new family and stayed in Chernovtsy

Rena left USSR in 1991 for Melbourne, Australia

Pictures at end of interview

#1. Father and mother

#2. House where Rena lived during the war after liberation; girl in front is Rena

#3-4. Son, wife and grandsons at younger grandson's Bar Mitzvah [in Melbourne?]