

Boris Kiner was born in Moldavia, Dubasari, in 1928.

He remembered that it was a typical Jewish town, he went to a Jewish school till 3d grade.

He thinks there were about 10 thousand Jews there.

His father's name was Shima, and grandfather's - was Bosh, (Boris), he was a butcher. His father worked delivering materials. Boris was raised by his father and step mother, as his mother died when he was one year old. They had a cow, chicken, big yard, vegetable garden.

His step mother was truly religious woman, his father used to go to synagogue regularly. There were several synagogues, as all different professionals had their own synagogues. Boris remembered that in 1936 synagogues were closed. His parents and siblings spoke Yiddish, he remembers that each Thursday family made challah for every child. His father wasn't educated, he only read stories from Torah.

In 1933, his father went to prison for about 6 months because, they had some gold in the family, his mother traded her inherited jewelry for money to help her husband to get out of prison.

In 1936 Soviet Government started arresting "suspicious" people. Father's friend came to warn his father, that he was on the list to be taken away. His father escaped. Soviet NKVD searched the house and interrogated his mother. At that time the older brothers lived in Kiev and in Cherkasi and worked as mechanics. So his father went to Cherkasi to his older son.

They tried to sell the house, but it wasn't allowed so they sold parts of the house and moved to Tiraspoli, where his father had a big family. Soon after they moved to Cherkasi. His father bought an old house in a very bad condition. His father rebuilt the house, started winery and was planning to build a new house.

Boris continued to attend Jewish school in Cherkasi till 1938, then the school was closed and he went to a Russian school.

Cherkasi was a big city, and there were very many Jews.

The older brother was married and lived with his wife's family. The father first helped the brother to make large files, then how to make large files, then he started making files at home and selling them in surrounding villages.

Even before the war they heard about Fascism from teachers in school. Boris felt that there were more anti-Semitic incidents in Ukraine then in Moldova, primarily calling names.

The war started on June 22, 1941 and the town was bombed that day. People didn't have radios on the streets. Boris remembered that he saw the real airplanes and sounds of bombs. One of his older brothers was recruited by the army in 1940, he was 26 years old at that time. He was sent to the city Sambr, near Poland, but in 1941 they stopped receiving any letters from him. Even after the war Boris couldn't find any trace of him.

His father was already 56 years and he wasn't recruited. In August they heard sounds of attacks. People tried to evacuate. He remembered Soviet army moving away from the front line.

Boris's cousin visited them when he was moving with the army away from the front, and offered to take the family with him, but his father refused. His father didn't want to believe that Germans were specifically killing Jews, despite everything that his nephew told him. His father didn't trust the Soviet Government.

The Germans entered the city without any resistance from the Soviet Army. Many Jews left, but very many remained in the city.

In a couple of weeks, the Germans ordered all Jews to move away from their homes, that gave them easy access to Jewish processions, which wasn't much, they were all pretty poor.

Later all Jews were ordered to work in the city. His mother worked, the father was in hiding. In September they received an order for all Jews to move to a designated street, ironically called Sholom Aleichem. His family moved to an empty house and took only necessities.

Soon after Jews were ordered to wear yellow stars. They ate food that the father was able to find: old flour, peas. They had some vegetables from their garden.

Boris remembered the day when all Jews were ordered to gather near local police station by 12:00 p.m. with their valuables, as they would be transported to Palestine. Any Jewish person seen on the street after 12:00 pm would be killed.

Boris and his parents went to the designated place, his sister was in a nearby village working for Ukrainian family.

His father gave him two packs of rubles, Boris took a couple of files, his mother had a walking stick. The policemen stood at the gate, he let everybody in, policemen took possessions from people and put bags in one pile and suitcases in another.

Boris remembered that he said to his father, that the situation didn't look like transportation to Palestine, and that he would try to run away. His father didn't say a word.

Boris walked around the place and then he many policemen getting their shot guns ready to fire. Boris remembered that his parents were absolutely lost, he told them that he will try to escape, his father asked him to keep some money. Boris was a small bit and he was able to leave the area without being seen, he "got lost "among people on the street.

All policemen were local Ukrainians, he knew a couple from his street. Then he heard people asking policemen: "where are you taking Jews?", The answer was: "to the cemetery".

Around eight o'clock the big group of people was moved out, he saw his parents, he followed them a bit and then he went to the house they used to live. His neighbor Ukrainian woman saw him and asked him to come in and told him to stay through the night.

In the morning he went to the village where his sister stayed, Russian Field. On the road he saw his sister on the wagon. He told them the story, she insisted on going to the city and they went to their old house. They stayed with the neighbor for 3 days, she gave them money in exchange for some clothes.

Boris and his sister who decided to get away from the city. They walked towards train station and went to Pervomaysk in a kettle wagon. It was about the end of November. They had to walk across the river Bug on ice. They took a train on Rumanian side, and got to Tiraspol. They didn't look like Jewish children, his sister was about 14, he was 12. In Tiraspol they went to the street where his uncle lived, but one woman told them not to look for him and not to use his last name. They stayed a night with the people they met on the train. They helped Boris to find a job washing dishes in a restaurant.

Boris and his sister decided to separate to draw less attention.

Boris stayed in a restaurant, for some time, then the owner accused him of stealing money, he felt offended and he left. Boris lived on the streets, he got some money and food by selling cigarettes, playing cards. He was hiding in different places. That winter was very cold. His sister worked and had for a corner in people's room.

One day the neighbors reported her to the police and she was taken to the prison in the spring of 1942. She stayed there for two months, the prison was like a transfer prison. There were many people of different nationalities; Greeks, Moldavians, Rumanians, Russians. One person saw a half-moon scar on her arm and suggested that she was Turkish.

(In 1940 he and his sister burned her hand with a rim of the cup and as a result she had a scar in the shape of Half moon- similar to a Muslim sign).

From that day she started telling everybody that she was Turkish. She knew that Muslim Turks undergo circumcision, so she offered to bring in her brother. When she found Boris, she told him to put on several pairs of pants and prepare for some beating, but tell policemen that he was also a Turk. He was interrogated and then they threw him into the room with metal wire, torch, and other things used for torture. People spoke Russian, they were from Moldova. One person hit him with a heavy leather belt with a buckle asked him to confess that he was a Jew. He was afraid to tell the truth, because he knew they would kill him on the spot.

After beatings they took him to the hospital to see the doctor to determine whether he was a Jew. His sister didn't know that Turks undergo circumcision at age of 13 and Jews right after the birth, so doctor easily determined that he was a Jew. However, The Romanian Government didn't order to kill Jews, but to send them to the Ghettos.

The police took Boris and his sister to the ghetto. The ghetto was created for Jewish families of Jews who served in Romanian army. There were about 40 families.

They put him in a room with bunk beds, no mattresses, no food. People were able to go around the town, they were cleaning the market and they took rotten food and vegetables. People who had money were able to buy bread. In a couple of days, the former owner of the restaurant took his sister to work for her, and she never came back. Boris worked on a farm helped to collect apricots and had some fruit to eat. He remembered that the life in the ghetto wasn't so bad, but he was afraid all the time. Meanwhile, his sister got married to a Russian man.

In the spring of 1943 he left the ghetto, because the weather was good, but in December of 1943 he returned to the ghetto. When he visited his sister's husband's house he heard that Russians took over Orel. Sister's husband rented his house as a game house to make money.

Boris decided to leave the Ghetto in March of 1944 and in April 1944 it was closed. During that month prisons and ghettos were destroyed by Germans and 'Vlasovtsy' who worked for them. Boris ended up on the streets again, he stayed in the area of the sister's house. He slept in one house and walked the streets during the day looking for food. Boris was in Tiraspol when Germans started moving away, they burned everything before leaving. All Jews were killed near Tiraspol, Jews were killed by Vlasovtsi.

When the war ended Boris was at the level of the 6th grade, he loved school and he went back to school. However, he remembered, that the Government decided to move citizens out of the town to keep it dark, so Boris went to Odessa where he learned that his oldest, brother was alive, but not in town. Boris found his brother was in Siberia at that time.

His brother was sentenced one year before the war. Boris thinks he was sentenced because he wrote a letter to their aunt who lived in Bender, the town that was in Rumania at that time. His brother worked for a secret arsenal plant, officials accused him of communicating with foreigners and sent him to Siberia. He was released after about three years. Boris found him three weeks after he was released. Boris lived with his brother for two years, he went to technical to become an electrician, then he went back to Tiraspoli.

Boris found the wife of another brother, who evacuated to Kazakhstan. However, she had a new life, new husband and a daughter.

In 1946 Boris returned to Tiraspoli. His sister was still there. She had several husbands, she never returned to Jewish life.

Boris served in the army for 4 years, then got married, he worked as an electrician. His wife is Jewish, he has one son. In 1992 they immigrated to Australia to join their son. Boris remembered 1953 as the time of escalation in antisemitism. He remembered Jews being thrown out of windows, pushed out of buses.

Boris's son was a very sensitive to people, he couldn't accept antisemitism and negative attitudes towards Jews, that's why he immigrated.

When Moldova was divided into two parts, Moldavian people were "softer" than Russians towards Jews. They hated Russians. Moldavian people treated Jews like equals, they always invited Jews to their homes.

In the areas near Dniester attitudes were very different, Russians and Ukrainians didn't like Jews, and it came from the Government level.

Boris and his family are, happy in their new country.

After the interview Boris asked a question regarding reparations from Germany to the people like he was who experienced losses and suffering and were in Ghettos and prisons.

Boris experience problems demonstrating the proof that he was in-prisoned in ghettos, because, small ghettos didn't keep good records. He suggested that people who have "papers" get reparations, while he didn't.

The interviewer suggested that International Jewish Fund is seeking more reparations for prisoners of the war from Germany. She indicated that International Jewish Fund is working on using funds found in Swiss banks for people who survived ghettos and camps.