

**RG-50.462.0179**

**Interviewed 6 June 1987 in Philadelphia**

**Summary by Joseph Bradley (JB)**

*Note that there is no sound on the recording between minutes 00:01:00 and 00:32:50.*

Yefim Bosin was born 25 March 1918 in Odessa, Ukraine, where he resided before the war. He was a painter by trade. His wife Riva was also born in Odessa. They were married in 1946 and had two children, Yakov Efimovich (b. 1947) and Polina Efimovna (b. 1954). Before the war, Yefim's family went to synagogue and observed Jewish holidays. There was some anti-Semitism before the war but nothing like that after the war. Yefim was aware of pro-German propaganda 1939-41 and witnessed grain shipments to Germany from Odessa [as provided by the Nazi-Soviet Non-aggression Pact of August 1939].

Yefim was mobilized immediately after the German invasion and remained in the Soviet army "all the way to Berlin" in 1945. In 1944 he was a radio technician on a bombing raid and was wounded by anti-aircraft fire. Yefim experienced no anti-Semitism in the army although he did hear "zhid" ["yid"] and other bad words. However, he looked like a Russian and answered to the Russian name "Timofei" [Timothy]. The Soviet population was always friendly to a soldier in a Soviet uniform.

As the Germans were retreating, Yefim witnessed the results of Nazi atrocities: mass executions of Jews, a dead soldier with the Jewish star cut on his back, and a Jew killed when his legs were attached to two tanks moving in opposite directions. He also saw Jews buried in a ravine and witnessed one boy crawling out. [JB: The suggestion is that some Jews were buried alive.] After the war, Yefim learned that his parents and brother had been killed in the bombing of Odessa.

[JB: I am inferring that Yefim did not actually witness the atrocities that he describes but rather he saw what the Germans had done earlier or as their armies were retreating.]

Yefim describes postwar life in Odessa: awareness of antisemitism and discrimination on streetcars; hearing insults such as "Dirty Yid ["Zhidovskaia morda"] go to Israel, your home!" Yefim wanted to go to Israel when Jewish emigration started [presumably the 1970s], but family members went to the United States. Yefim left the USSR in 1979 to join them.