

Bay Area Holocaust Oral History Project

P.O. Box 25506, San Mateo, CA 94402

Name of interviewee: Albukh, Tamara

Date of interview: 6/17/1992

Summary: Tamara Iosifovna Albukh was born in Minsk, on December 21, 1918. After finishing 6 classes of school she had to work to help her family. She got married and had two daughters: Sara born on May 5, 1940 and Gena born on August 31, 1942. Tamara could not evacuate once the war started since she was pregnant with her second daughter. Soon Germans were riding motorcycles all around Minsk.

Tamara's husband was taken to war and she was moved into one of the two ghettos organized in Minsk. Soon pogroms in ghettos started. While Tamara was doing forced labor in the ghetto, her daughters were killed. Soon she was moved to Trostinetskiy concentration camp and had to work for Germans there. Every day pogroms happened in the camp and in the ghetto, children were taken from their mothers and beaten to death and Jews were transported from the ghetto to the camp. On July 29, 1944 Tamara was able to escape from the camp.

Before the war Tamara did not feel much anti-Semitism, however for her it intensified during the war when she heard Russians scream the famous slogan "Kill Jews, save Russia." That continued even after the war.

After the war Tamara gave birth to a daughter on August 12, 1946 and another daughter on March 27, 1949.

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Summary Version 2

RG-50.477*0067

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Tamara Losifovna Albukh was born on December 21, 1918 in Minsk, Russia (Belarus). After completing six grades of schooling she had to work to help support her family. She eventually married, but once the war broke out she could not evacuate because she was pregnant with her second daughter. Her husband was taken to war and she was moved into one of the two ghettos created in Minsk. While Tamara was doing forced labor in the ghetto her daughters were killed, and soon she was moved to Maly Trostinets (Trostinetskiy) concentration camp where she again performed forced labor. On July 29, 1944, Tamara escaped from the camp. After the war Tamara gave birth to her third daughter on August 12, 1946, and a fourth daughter on March 27, 1949.