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Summary

Mark Malamud was born on January 31, 1925 in Yampil', Vinnytsia district, Ukraine. His father was born in 1897 in Velikaya Kostniza, mother, born in Yampil' in 1897.

His father died in 1955, mother-1988.

Father: Yakov (Yankel), mother Bruha Gershtovna Spector. His parents had a hard life before the war. The father and mother worked in a coop. Mother worked until 1933, then she stayed home with children, they had four children. Older brother- born in Simon 1920, next brother born in 1923, sister Frida born in 1928.

At home they spoke Yiddish and Ukrainian. His parents used to go to the synagogue, until it was closed in 1936. The family continued to celebrate Jewish holidays at home.

They survived starvation of 1932, flood of 1930-31. They had frequent floods, because of river Dnister. Life was constant suffering. The Jewish people had a very hard life in Ukraine. Before the war he went to the Jewish school for several grades, then to the Ukrainian school.

Their village was on the border with Romania.

Mark thinks that there were about 5,000 Jews in Yampil'. Some of them were able to evacuate in the beginning of the war.

Older brother served in the Soviet army after he graduated school, middle brother, Naum, became a film mechanic. When older brother returned from the army service he became a teacher and got married.

His grandfather was a shoemaker. His father was a shoe maker, then he got some education and started as a salesperson and ended up as a store manager.

On the day when they heard about the war the whole family was at home, including older brother's wife Eugenia. They heard on the radio that Germany attacked Soviet Union. In a few days both brothers and his father were drafted to the army.

Naum was very young and he was sent to Kirovograd. His father remained in the city for some time.

The rest of his family and the family of his brother's wife decided to escape to the town 40 kl. From Yampil', Tomashpil'.

They took very little. After about a week they received a call through the post office from his father to move to Teplick, but in two days the Germans occupied Teplick. After some time, the family returned to Yampil'.

Their house was partially destroyed. They looked like other Ukrainians and they didn't stand out as the Jews.

The first law was announced by a policeman Dudnik Gorbatiy. It requested all Jews to put yellow Jewish stars on clothes. Jews were allowed to live only on certain streets.

Later more Jews were coming from other parts of Ukraine to Yampil'.

They had Romanian soldiers, who were catching Jews that came from other villages and they shoot them on the spot, to prevent spread of information.

Several families came from Bessarabia, then many families were brought from Chernivtsi.

It was 1941. Jews were allowed to work: construction work, loading trucks, cleaning old houses.

Jews were allowed to go to the market on Sundays just for several months.

They lived in the ghetto until 1942. During that time his sister in law gave birth to a girl. In 1942 all Jews born in Yampil' and Jews from Bessarabia, were ordered to gather on the main square with their belongings. His sister in law was able to live the child with her parents, who apparently were able, due to bribes, stay in Yampil'. Jews from Chernivtsi also had money and stayed in Yampil' till the end of the war.

From that place Mark's family and other people were convoyed by Romanian gendarmes with dogs and guns to the train station. He remembered that the day was very cold and rainy. Those who walked slowly were shot on the spot.

They were put on the train to the next station. Policemen robbed people and were cruel.

Next day they arrived to the station Ladishin. Gendarmes convoyed them through the woods to the bank of river Bug. The place was called Carrier de Piatre. It was a concentration camp, under control of Romanians.

When they arrived there were a lot of Jews already. People were settled into the cattle barns and barracks made of wood and stone.

Every day they were sent to work in the woods, sometimes they were sent to move stones. It was winter, very cold.

Across the river Bug villages were occupied by the Germans. Sometimes Germans would take people from the camp to work for them, but nobody returned after that.

In the spring of 1942, Eugenia brought information, that there is a way to escape and go back to their town, by giving a bribe. They gathered everything they still had: watches, rings. All together they gathered 12 people including Mark's family. One day they were led out and taken to the train station, they were placed on the train towards Yampil', but in Obnyrka [PH] they were stopped and apprehended by the police. The man who was supposed to transport them to their town, disappeared.

They were all arrested and interrogated, nobody believed their story, and they didn't know real names of people involved. They were beaten, abused and held in the cold barn.

The interrogations were led by Taras and Petro Malinowsky. Mark and his family, his aunt's family, father's brother's family were sent to another camp, where they found some people they knew from the first camp.

They witnessed constant hangings of Jewish people. It was Germans' Sunday entertainment to make father hang son, or son hang sister. People who refused were shot immediately. Everybody lived in small groups.

They decided to run away, because they guessed, that once the road works completed Jews would be killed. Their relatives stayed in the camp.

Mark, his mother, sister and sister-in law walked at night and slept in the woods during the day. They reached Tzigovka [PH]. Jews in that village were protected by Ukrainians, because they worked in the collective farm producing caoutchouc. They stayed with his mother's relatives. His sister in law wanted to see her baby daughter, as they were only 12 kilometers away from Yampil'. She went to Yampil' with the help of Ivanixa, a woman whom they knew before. Somebody saw Eugenia when she visited her family and they reported her to the police, she was taken away and killed. Popesku and other Romanian policemen used to brag to people about how many Jews they were able to catch and shot. One of the first victims was doctor Rosenberg. Very many people were killed in village Krapivnitza [PH], in the woods. The majority of people from the camp were killed.

(Mark reads the names of people who were in the ghetto and in the camp with him, primarily members of Malamud family and the wife of his brother, and Krupnik family.)

At the end of the war Mark I listed in the Soviet army and was involved in the battles near Kishinev and Budapest, then he was involved in liberation Czechoslovakia and Vienna.

Mark returned to Odessa, then his brigade was transferred to the Vladivostok district.

Mark left the army, returned home and enrolled in a technical school, then at the Polytechnic institute, department of civil engineering. He ended up in Kishinev, where he worked in Philharmonia

Mark got married, he has two daughters, one engineer, another is a programmer.

They immigrated to the US in 1992. Both daughters are working, their husbands are trying to get jobs.

Mark was bitten by the German and as a result his nose was broken.