

## **RG-50.477.0782**

### **Summary**

Tsily Radovolsky was born in 1924 in the Shtetl Ternovka near Vinnytsia, Ukraine.

Her parents: father Moises Leontievich Tuffed, born 1893, died when he was 48 years old.

Mother-Hayka Felender, born 1900, died when she was 41 years old.

Sister: Hona Tuffed, born 1928, killed when she was 13 years old.

Her parents worked in the Jewish collective farm then in 1929 they joined a Russian collective farm. Although her father didn't have a formal education he read in Russian and Ukrainian, he prayed in Hebrew. He played guitar and they all sang Jewish songs.

Tsily first attended a Jewish school, then went to the Ukrainian school.

At the beginning of the war she just graduated high school she was 17, her older sister was in Vinnytsia she was at the teachers' institute, she was 19; her younger sister was 13. Her mother was in the hospital in Kiev, because she had a serious surgery. She was discharged and sent home.

About 5.000 people lived in the village and in the Jewish shtetl. There was no direct transportation from the village to big cities.

When the war was announced all young man were immediately recruited for the Soviet Army. Her father was recruited for the working army. Tsily and her sisters with their very sick mother stayed in the shtetl, because they had no places to go.

The management of the Jewish center who had cars and horses, took their families and left the village, but Tsily's family was left behind, as well as other families who didn't have transportation. The village was 30 km from Umani.

In less then two months the Germans occupied the village. People didn't know what was happening, where was the Soviet Army.

One day Tsily saw her friend, a solder who was moving with his battalion on the main road, but he could tell her anything, they just followed the orders.

Tsily remembered that for a couple of days they heard artillery bombardment and they knew that the Germans arrived.

They knew very well about Germans' atrocities against Jews, because many Jewish people from Poland, Moldova, and other villages were coming to their shtetl.

Tsily remembered how a German solder talked to a group of women and told them that everybody will be killed, and the children will be killed.

She remember signs: " dogs and Jews are not allowed to enter"

The Germans ordered all Jews to move to one side of the shtetl, to wear yellow patches on their clothes, front and back. The area was surrounded by a fence and guarded by police. They were called dogs, they were not allowed to move out of the ghetto and had 6p.m. curfew. A family with two elderly people and their daughter with young children moved into their house. One of the children, a girl died from a disease, but they were not even allowed to have a proper burial. They didn't have even cemetery in the ghetto.

She remembered that about ten people lived in their house. The sisters were trying to hide from German soldiers all the time. After several months the police ordered all people to go to work. Tsily and her sisters ran several times into the woods, looking for connections with partisans. A few times their father, who came back to the shtetl, took them to another village and they were hiding in the attics of Russian people for several days.

Her father with other workers was captured by the German army, but he met a good Russian soldier, who used to be the teacher in the village, who helped her father to escape. On the way home, they stopped in Zaporozhie, to check on her father's family, but they didn't find anybody.

The Germans confiscated everything; they ordered Jews to rob Jewish families. Tsily remembered that she felt so hurt when people with whom she went to school and who knew her became not just strangers, but tried to take advantage of Jews and sometimes harm them. Her father was ordered to confiscate possessions from the Jews; but when he refused he was beaten so badly that his back was cut into pieces.

Tsily remembered that Jewish people were ordered to pay money to save their lives. It was nearly impossible, but when the Jews collected everything they had, it didn't help them.

People were waiting for something really bad to happen. One day Tsily, her sisters, and two other girls walked outside of the ghetto and they saw a huge pit, and they realized that it was a place for them.

The Germans made two pits, one was far from the village close to the woods.

Three days before a Jewish holiday they decided to gather at home, their father told them that the death was inevitable, and there was no place to hide. Tsily remembers that her father said, that until Jews have their own country, they will never be safe.

One day when they walked outside of ghetto, her younger sister was grabbed by a German soldier, she was sent to Lviv to the camp. The parents tried to visit her there. Later she was killed, because she was arrested and couldn't go to work anymore.

One day, on May 27th, 1942 the policemen started banging on the windows of their house. The older people went out first and Tsily with her sister hid in a small corridor and then in the basement. The Policemen and Germans didn't find them. In a couple of hours, they heard gun shots, they knew that all the Jews and their parents were killed.

The Pogrom was organized by the Germans, Estonians and local policemen.

Next morning Russian policemen came to the house to get everything that was left and they found Tsily and her sister, but they didn't shoot them, they were told to get away from the village. They started walking, they saw dead bodies everywhere. They walked into the field and they hid inside a haystack. After some time, they discovered three other people.

One older Jew who was helping policemen found them and ordered them to go back to the ghetto. After the pogrom only 200 people were left in the ghetto. The Germans also selected nine professional Jews and placed them in a separate house, Jews who made shoes, clothes, fixed watches and others. One of them was a father of her friend.

His wife and one of his daughters were killed. He begged the Germans to let Tsily and her sister to move with him. He was a very educated man and he protected the sisters. Then they were ordered to move back to the ghetto.

During that time Tsily and her sister wondered outside of the ghetto, trying to get away, to get some food. The old Ukrainian woman invited them to her house, she was a righteous woman. She hid them in her attic, she shared with them her own piece of bread, she was afraid that her own family would discover Jewish girls. During that time there was huge pogrom in Umani, and two people: a father with a daughter ran away and stayed in that attic with them. After 6 weeks, they had to leave. They were going from place to place and another woman Maria Sheketova hid them in her house. She told them that people who were trying to run away were hung in the ghetto. They learned from her son that their younger sister was hung in Tarasovka, the teacher who helped her father, visited them several times. He knew that they were in great danger. It was the New Year of 1943; the teacher came to the house and took them to his house for a couple of days. Although Ukrainians maintained almost a normal life, and he was able to move around freely, he put himself in grave danger. In his house they met another Jewish woman, who was carried out of the concentration camp, she happened to be her future husband's aunt.

They got hot water, food, good beds. After a couple of days, the teacher transported three of them to another village Temnoe; he left them in the house of his brother -in law and told them to hide among the local people who were going to the market in the morning. Early in the morning Tsily and her sister went to Terlovka, it was a small village, there were several Jewish families. They stayed with a family for a couple of days, and they had to leave because, the woman was a dressmaker - she had many visitors, it was dangerous for them and for her. Another man took them to his house and hid them in the attic. Tsily and her sister stayed in the attic until one Ukrainian man, who has been helping Jews to move to the Romanian territories, gathered ten Jewish people and took them to the border. At that time the river Bug was frozen, so they decided to move slowly 2 people at a time; they crossed the border. On the other side another person was waiting for them.

The teacher told them to go to Bersheti, to get to the Romanian side, away from the German side.

Tsily, her sister, and the woman started walking towards a village Bersheti. They saw many Jewish people from all over Ukraine, people were sick, hungry, cold, walked with no shoes. There was typhoid, they saw dead bodies on the streets. The sisters found a Jewish ghetto, but it was governed by the Romanians, they didn't kill Jews. Tsily felt so sad that all her family was killed.

Tsily met her old friend. She told a story that Germans killed everybody in her ghetto, but she fainted and fell on the ground. When she woke up she saw another woman and together they came to Bersheti.

In Bersheti Tsily found her relatives, parents with three sons and they helped the girls- they took them in their room. Later they moved to another room that they shared with three families, they got a corner in the room. They were starving. And they got typhoid, and they were sent to a hospital inside ghetto. She had typhoid 3 times; they were called - dead people. They heard that people were sent to working camps, especially people who came from the German territories. In the beginning of 1944 on March 6th, they saw that the Germans were placing big barrels with gasoline around the ghetto, they thought that the Germans were planning to burn the ghetto. Thanks to the battle in Umani, The Germans were pushed out of the area and the ghetto was saved. On March 12, they saw Romanian and German soldiers marching, leaving the area. Tsily remembered that they looked so bad, no uniforms, some had no guns. Next morning, they heard Russian voices.

Tsily was overwhelmed with joy when the Russian army liberated their ghetto. Although they were sick and hungry they decided to go back to Ternovka, back home. Tsily had one shoe and one boot. They walked for several days sick and hungry. On the way soldiers gave them pieces of bread, but they were no longer afraid, In their village all Jews were eliminated, all their relatives were killed. They found a Jewish family that came from another village.

Tsily and her sister went to their house, that was destroyed. The officials didn't want to let them in. The German family who lived in the village before the war survived occupation and took over their house. When Tsily and her sister came to the house the woman came out and called them beggars, and paupers. They had no papers, nothing.

The girls started crying and explained that it was the house of their parents. The man let them in, and the man from the office came and confirmed that it was their house, some people recognized them, people knew they came from the ghetto.

After some time, several Jews who survived in other villages came to their house. Tsily and her sister opened the house for everybody who needed a place to stay, they decided to start a process of writing down names of people who were killed in their village and thrown

into the pit. It became their new mission to save the names and the memory of those who perished, and to help other families to find the grave of their loved ones.

As a result, they came to conclusion that about 2400 Jewish people were killed during two pogroms. Her sister went to work at the factory, then she went back to Vinnytsia teachers' institute to continue her education. Tsily stayed with her friend, who soon found relatives in Tashkent.

Tsily attended classes for accountants. In October of 1944, her childhood friend returned from the front with severe disability. They got married and moved to a new place. Her sister married a young man from their shtetl who came from the front. She with her husband moved to Umani, where his parents lived, then they all moved to Livov. She had two sons. She became a teacher of mathematics, she died in 1983.

Tsily her husband lived in Ternovka, she tried to take university courses, but it was hard to combine raising children and studying.

Tsily has a daughter, she is married and has a son who has two girls.

Her son immigrated to San Francisco in the 80s. They were separated for 10 years, and Tsily cried all the time, it was very hard on her to be away from her son. Finally, Tsily with her husband and her daughter with her family reunited in San Francisco. Tsily feels very happy and grateful to America.

The majority of young men from the village including Jewish men were sent to the front and they died there. The Jewish girls, Tsily's friends all perished in the ghetto. It was a big place before the war with electric station and radio station. Very few people survived. The Germans were eliminating exclusively Jews, Ukrainians lived almost a normal life.

She thinks that it was a miracle that they survived.

It was a horrific period in the life of the Jews in Ukraine, terrible suffering, sickness. Only Jewish people were eliminated. After a massive murder the earth was covered with blood, but Ukrainians took their cattle to that place. After the war Tsily with her husband and the relatives of people who were killed gathered money and put a fence around that common grave. Later they put a memorial stone. But there were people who vandalized that memorial. Tsily was sure it was an organized effort.

After the war Tsily visited and tried to help people who risked their lives for her.

Many Ukrainians helped Germans and the police. One incident when her aunt went to the toilet and the German soldier entered her house and grabbed all her children. And her neighbor, told the German, that she was in the toilet and he arrested them all and they were killed and thrown into the ditch.

Her aunt Rosa Diamond, children names; Fira, Munya, Tanya, her husband Benya.

Her other aunt, who came from the Far East, with her daughter to visit was also killed.

Only one grandmother, who lived in Zaporozhie, survived as she evacuated with her daughter.

The grandfather died in evacuation. The grandmother survived and after the war returned to

Zaporozhie. Her daughter died and she raised her six-year-old grandson. Then she moved to Ternovka with the boy and Tsily helped to raise the boy.

In 1953 Tsily and her family moved to Odessa to be close to her husband's family.

The grandmother died, and the boy, who was her cousin was raised by his father's family.

Now Tsily has only one relative-her younger cousin who still lives in Russia.

Names of the friends that were killed; Hona Uaskayak; Anya Schneider; Sheila Zilberman; their sisters and brothers.

One of her girlfriends evacuated, another walked to the front line and escaped, she ended up in Tashkent.

Neighbors who were killed; Sheyva Raidin; Moisha Zilberman; Haya Rudoy; Haya Guberman, many many people she doesn't remember names.

She remembers that her neighbors had a son who was very sick, Germans beaten him to death. Germans treated Jews as if they were not people, as if they didn't exist. Their cruelty had no limits. They were animals not like people. People who survived were in devastated condition, it was a pure miracle that Tsily and her sister survived.

When Soviet Army came to Bershevit, they didn't believe their yes, they saw so many Jews, hungry, sick, dying.

First pogrom was in 1942, second in 1943.

Tsily rememberd the names of her neighbor -Sasha Kolesnik

Many people immigrated, there is almost nobody to watch over the graves.

Tsily's husband's family was also killed. All his aunts and his mother and cousins were killed.

Her husband: Vladimir Rodovoliskiy.

His father Josef Rodovoskiy, his mother Livshi Isaacovna.

His sister was killed, his brother was killed at the front, grandparents killed, all aunts and uncles and all their children were eliminated by the Germans in the village.

Tsily still has dreams about being killed, haunted by the Germans. Tsily wants people to know how many good honest, talented Jewish people were eliminated, just because they were Jewish.

Old people, people who couldn't even walk towards their grave were killed.

There is nothing in history, when people who were so productive, extremely talented were eliminated, but other nationalities were allowed to live.

Tsily is very proud of her family. Her daughter is a communication engineer, her son graduated from Odessa university, department of mathematics; her son- in law is also an engineer. Her grandson is a student at the university in San Francisco.

Tsily feels that her mission is accomplished as she hopes people will learn from her story.

She remember that in the ghetto people were praying and keeping fasts to ask good for help, but help didn't come.

There is nothing that can explain those atrocities.