

## Bay Area Holocaust Oral History Project

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

**Name of interviewee:** Borohovski, Simeon

**Date of interview:** 11/18/1993

**Summary:** (On the same master tape as Efim Nilva-- copies of individual interviews also available)

Before the war, Simeon Borohovski finished 6 years of grade school. The town he lived in, Soroca, was mostly Jewish. He learned to speak Yiddish and attended religious school. Before the 1940's, Jews were not allowed to hold government positions or become officers in the army. His family heard about fascism in Germany and Poland, however, at the time they did not anticipate a fast Nazi advance, and therefore, did not consider immigrating.

In 1941 Simeon's father was called into the army, and left to go to the front. He later died during his service in the army. Soon after his father's departure the Nazis entered Moldavia. Since the Jewish population of Moldavia had heard about the Nazi treatment of Jews, most Jews tried to run across the border. Simeon and his family tried to run from the Nazis. However, the Nazis captured Simeon and his family. While the Nazis were leading his mother and youngest brother away, Simeon escaped with his older sister (Haya) and younger brother (Josiv). As they were running away they heard their mother and youngest brother shot.

After escaping the Nazis, Simeon and his siblings lived in the town of Tulchit for a month. After a month, a decree was issued that ordered all people of Jewish descent to gather at a nearby Jewish school. 5,000-6,000 people were gathered at the school. The Nazis rushed the Jewish population out of the town. Many of the mothers left their babies in the bushes in hopes that the child would be taken care of by a Christian family. The Jewish people were brought to a camp named Pechar located in the Vinnitsa district in Ukraine. There were 35,000 people brought to the camp, only 310-315 people survived. There was no food handed out by the guards, therefore, the people began to starve. Simeon tried to keep his family alive by sneaking out of the camp and bringing back food to the camp. He pointed out that once he was out of the camp there were Christian families that would give him food.

Simeon remained in the camp from November 1941-November 1942. One day as he was coming back to the camp, the residents of the town informed him that the Nazis had massacred the majority of the people in the camp. The Nazis killed those that were not in very good health; everyone else was taken away to work. Simeon decided that his younger brother was most likely killed and his sister was taken away to work. Therefore, he decided not to come back to the camp. Three days after leaving the camp he arrived in the Tomashpol Ghetto. The conditions in the ghetto were much better than those he experienced in the camp. In 1943, a new person arrived in the Ghetto that had information about Simeon's family. He informed Simeon that his sister was still alive and that she

## **Bay Area Holocaust Oral History Project**

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

was still in Pechar. Simon immediately set out to find her. However, he was two days late. She had been killed two days before his arrival.

On March 14, 1944 the Soviet Army came to liberate the Tomashpol Ghetto. As the Russians were approaching many people in the ghetto feared that they would be killed before the war was over. Simeon hid in a basement and waited for the Soviet Army. Luckily, the Nazis were soon defeated and everyone who lived till now survived the war.

After the war, Simeon came to his hometown. At this point there were very few people of Jewish descent left. There were about 55-60 people in Simeon's family before the war, only 5-6 people survived. After the war Simeon had many financial difficulties. He resumed his studies and later graduated from college and later a University where he studied Engineering.