

Summary of Oral History: Iefrosyniia Shynhlier

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Iefrosyniia Shynhlier, born in 1926 in the village of Parkhilovka, Myroslav district. When it was time to go to school, Iefrosyniia's family moved to Bratslav. They were neighbors with Jews and lived in harmony. The whole street, where the family lived, consisted of houses of Jews. When the war broke out, her father was sent off to war, she stayed with her mother and grandmother.

The day (the year she can't remember) Iefrosyniia witnessed the shooting was in winter. It was evening, her mother came running and told that the Jews were being led away. Iefrosyniia and her mother went to see. A column of Jews was moving down the street shouting and crying, people were holding pillows, blankets, knots, and carrying children. They were bundled up, it was impossible to recognize anyone, although the distance from the fence to the column was only 2-3 meters. According to the interviewee, they were led by local polizei [Police.] She heard there were several such columns, but she only saw one.

Their house was at the far end of the village, about 50 meters away from the Bug River. There was a huge ice-hole, the entire width of the Bug and 50 meters long (ice was crushed for the brewery.) The Jews were brought there, shot in groups and pushed into the ice-hole with ice hooks.

It was said that the local Jews, who escaped, were then taken to Pechory, from where a local woman named Tsipa made her way along the Bug through reeds to the village and met Iefrosyniia's mother who provided food and clothes. It was also said that people from other places were also taken to Pechory. In Bratslav, the Jews were kept temporarily in a Russian school. Most were not held long; many Jews were brought from neighboring villages such as Haisyn and Tul' chyn.

Some locals survived. She knows the barber's family personally, but she can't say how they managed to do it.

The houses of the Jews were demolished, looted, inhabited (she cannot say who did it).

The interviewee also witnessed as Jews were forced to clear and make the road to Haisyn. She saw columns 5 times, and locals tried to give them bread, potatoes, and apples. In these columns there were men, women and children, among them there were locals with whom they were friends. As they said, there were also the Jews from Moldova (Bessarabia), Romania. She remembers the hexagonal star on their clothes, which she may have seen in these columns.