

Witness191R, Rostov-on-Don.

The interviewee, born 9 October 1935 in Rostov-on-Don, the only child of Mikhail Markovich and Dara Leopoldovna Kopstein. Her father, born in 1898, was the chief bookkeeper at the local OSOAVIAKHIM, a citizens' defense organization. Her mother was born in 1908.

On 10 October 1941, the Germans bombed Rostov and the family, along with her cousin Aleksandr and maternal grandparents, Leopold Borisovich and Rakhail [Rachel] Semyonovna Panders [last name not clear], was evacuated. They stopped at Minutka, a station near Piatigorsk and Kislovodsk in the Stavropol region; then to Tbilisi, Georgia, for several months, and finally to Krasnoyarsk. (The family went to Krasnoyarsk because her mother's sister's husband [name not given] was evacuated there.) They remained in Krasnoyarsk until July 1944. Her father was drafted in 1942 and was killed in November 1943 when the Soviet armies recaptured Kiev.

In Krasnoyarsk the family lived in wooden barracks among locals and other refugees. They all had ration cards for food. She started school in Krasnoyarsk. She remembers a girl Gilda [Hilda], of German ethnicity and a violin player, from Leningrad.

She also remembers a family by the name of Alphonse(?) that did not want to leave Rostov during the war; they, along with Adolf Borisovich Ries (?) and his family were all killed at Snake Ravine. On the other hand, she tells the story of two Jewish children hiding in Rostov who were apprehended in a round-up and taken to Snake Ravine. However, on the way, the truck broke down and the guard told them to run away. [Not clear whether the guard was a German or a local.]

In July 1944 the family returned to Rostov. Their old apartment was occupied, but they received another one. Her grandfather took her to the synagogue, even though her mother was a member of the Communist Party and frowned on religious life. She describes Victory Day in 1945.

At 1:05 in the film, she shows an album containing a photograph of herself and her parents as well as her father's letters from the Kursk front in 1943.