

RG-50.589.1064

Witness 198R, Zernograd, Rostov-on-Don region, Russia

Interviewed for Yahad in Unum, 28 September 2011

Summary by: Joseph Bradley

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198R was born 23 November 1923 in village of Shiintsy, Derazhianskii district, Khmel'nitsaia oblast, Ukrainian SSR. His parents worked on the local collective farm. He remembers the famine of 1932-33. When asked what caused the famine, 198R replies that they were taught that the USSR needed to sell grain in order to build factories. He remembers bandits but claims that no one in his village died during the famine. In 1939 his father was drafted and later was killed in the Soviet-Finnish War. 198R finished military school and was at the Stalingrad front in 1942-43. He describes the efforts of his 248th Rifle Division to liberate the villages of Kamenka and Mechetka, north of Stalingrad, beginning on 27 January 1943. He describes engagements with the German 11th Infantry Division and with the SS 23rd "Viking" Panzer Division. The "bestial" Germans, in 198R's words, executed Soviet prisoners and also herded villagers into a house which was then torched. 198R escaped but was later seriously wounded and almost lost a leg. He received a medal for his participation in the battle of Stalingrad.