

**RG-50.589.1066**

**Witness 200R**

**Rostov-on-Don. Interviewed for Yahad in Unum, 28 September 2011**

**Summary**

200R was born in 1934 in Rostov-on-Don. Her father, Moishe Osherovich was born in 1904. Her mother, Elena Gershovna, was also born in 1904. [No last names given.] 200R lived with her mother, father and her aunt Sonya (her mother's older sister). Her father worked on a collective farm and also was an accountant at a tobacco factory. Her mother always whispered at home after some relatives disappeared in 1937 [the peak year of the terror]. 200R mentions that in 1939-1940 many Spanish refugees came to Rostov.

200R had two cousins with two different fates after the German invasion. One cousin in Taganrog had a Russian grandmother and a Jewish grandmother. When the Germans ordered the Taganrog Jews to report to an assembly point, the Jewish grandmother took 200R's cousin, whose mother had died in 1939, with her. However, the Russian grandmother took her home, only to find a neighbor who threatened to report her to the police for harboring a Jew. So this cousin was taken to the village of Kagal'nitsakaya, where she spent the war.

The second cousin's mother [200R's aunt] tried to hide her at the steel plant where her husband worked. However, the Germans surrounded the plant, the aunt and cousin were denounced by neighbors and forced to emerge from hiding, and the Germans killed the cousin in front of her mother. .

200R recounts the story of her evacuation. Beginning in October 1941, she went to Kislovodsk, where a maternal uncle lived. After the German's second occupation of the region in 1942, 200R, along with her mother, grandmother and aunt Sonya, evacuated in cattle cars to a railroad junction named Minutka, then to Makhachkala (?) on the Caspian Sea, where they lived in a park for three months. Then they left on an oil tanker for Krasnovodsk, Kazakhstan, [the interviewee says Krasnovodsk, Kazakhstan, but it is more likely Krasnovodsk, Turkmenistan, now called Turkmenbashi, Turkmenia, on the eastern shore of the Caspian Sea] then to Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan, then to Ust-Kaminogorsk and finally by carts to the village Samarskoe and finally to the village Timofeeva, where they were refugees on the collective farm "Red Partisan" in the fall of 1943. On the farm lived kulaks [peasants exiled during Collectivization] as well as German-Russians exiled from the Volga.

In 1945, 200R began her journey back to Rostov. Her father had been in the army and in 1942-43 was at Stalingrad; he returned in 1946. Her father learned that none of his relatives in Taganrog had survived. According to 200R, some 3,000 Jews returned to Rostov, and their descendants brought about a revival of the Rostov Jewish community in the 1990s.

**Summary by: Joseph Bradley**