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Witness 202R, Village of Aleksandrovka, Rostov-on-Don. Interviewed for Yahad in Unum, 30 September 2011

Summary by: Joseph Bradley

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The interviewee was born in 1929 on a farm near the town of Shakhty in Rostov-on-Don region. Shakhty means mine, and the large “Artyom” coalmine dominated the town. Her mother was a clerk in a store, and her father was a cook at a nearby power plant. Her father was born in Czechoslovakia and later became a Soviet citizen.

The German occupation of the town lasted from 27 July 1942 to 12 February 1943. No battle accompanied the German arrival. Some Germans were quartered on the farm but most moved on. The interviewee says she witnessed no ethnic violence during the occupation. The Germans shot Yuri, the 17-year-old son of the radio operator, but to the interviewee this seemed random, not premeditated. The interviewee did hear about the execution of some 20 communists near the mine; a memorial obelisk stands there now.

A German mounted detachment brought prisoners of different nationalities, many of whom were women, who rebuilt a rail spur to the mine that the Soviet army had destroyed in advance of the German invasion. The interviewee remembers a POW camp nearby. However, the mine was closed during the occupation.

[The interview ends abruptly.]