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Summary

The interviewee was born in 1927 in Salsk, Rostov Oblast, Russia. Before the war her family lived right next to a train station.

She had a sister, a father and a mother. Her father worked in the office, her mother stayed at home. She and her younger sister went to school, she was in the seventh grade, her sister was in a first grade.

Her father joined Communist party when he was a young man. During the repression's in 1933-34, she remembered that trucks were taking people, whole families, out of the town, they were guarded by the policemen.

Before the war Salsk was like a village, buildings were made of wood, now everything is different, houses are made of bricks, new construction everywhere.

Before the war they had a brick plant, a meat plant and a garment factory.

She never went to church, they didn't have a church in Salsk. Older people were hiding in small groups in their homes where they prayed.

Russians and Jews worked in the stores, people had good relations.

In the beginning of the war very many Jewish refugees were moving from the West by trains through Salsk. Several Jewish refugee families, who had relatives, stopped in Salsk.

She remembered that several Jewish families had large beautiful luggage, some, who moved from Leningrad, looked terrible.

People on trains moved to Caucasus station, towards Baku and other Asian towns. Several villages brought food to the trains with refugees.

She remembered one day in June of 1942 in the middle of the day without any warning three big airplanes bombed a train full of Jewish refugees and products for the front.

She remembered the horrible scene of dead bodies with blood everywhere.

Her family among other families moved to Nizovka before The German occupation. Nizovka was several kilometers away from Salsk.

Nizovka was not far from partisans, the Germans usually went there during the day to collect food, but they stayed in Salsk.

She remembers that the Germans came to Salsk in the middle of a very cold winter. They were looking for food, they took everything they could find; milk, eggs, pork. They also took all warm clothes and boots.

The Germans established their local government; they had a command office, and a police station. Some people reported on their own neighbors.

During occupation Germans posted signs in Russian that they were looking for communists and Jews and promised money as a reward.

In the beginning of occupation people were afraid to go out of their homes. But children were always on the streets. She remembered that the Germans were dragging people out of their homes and arresting them. The Brick factory had a huge ditch. She heard that the Germans were shooting people on the edge of that ditch.

Overall about 3,000 people, primarily Jews were killed and thrown in that ditch. When they saw columns of people moving towards brick plant they knew that people were moved to be killed. Women with small children, old people, everybody who could walk were escorted to the place of execution.

Some people were transported on covered trucks, they used to call them: "dushegybka".

Children went to see shootings sometimes, it was horrible.

Jews were rounded up all the time. Her aunt had a Jewish girl in her house, and neighbors reported her. The girl was able to run away, but her aunt was killed.

The Germans had grey uniforms, policemen wore hand bands, white with black. The Germans guarded columns with their dogs.

There was a camp for Russians, both for civilians and Soviet soldiers, prisoners of war. It was surrounded by a barb wire.

There was a German camp, where Germans built houses.

After the war the government built a monument to victims of the war, on top of the ditch.

They had a prison during occupation. It is still in the same place.

Before liberation there were small battles, Germans left fast.