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Galina Koroliova, born in 1935 in Ardavskoye, Osveyskiy region, Polotsk oblast, Belarus, describes being five years old when the war broke out; her memories of the Germans arriving in her town and how they were very friendly and joyous; growing up in a large house and their various kinds of neighbors, including Jews and Romani; the peacefulness of the Germans at first; being injured and treated by a German doctor; the partisans causing trouble for the Nazis resulting in the occupying Germans turning on the people; being kicked out of their homes by German soldiers; the roundup of everyone into a grain shed; how the Germans were very indiscriminate; escaping the shed with her brother and mother along with numerous others; hiding in a large bush in a field; how those who were unable to escape were burned alive inside the shed, including her best friend; the enormous black plume coming from the shed; the Slavic-speaking police officers who helped the Germans round up the townspeople; the survival of only 23 people from Ardavskoye; how after the young men left either to live in the woods or to join the army, the Jewish and Romani population was comprised of only children and the elderly; the destruction during the second summer of the German occupation of Belarus, including the burning of cities and villages; joining a community in the woods with her family and other survivors; a commotion one morning when the Germans were approaching and began shooting at them as they tried to flee; successfully escaping with her family; the gradual return of people to the village in the woods; how bakers made bread for the partisans with the grain they hid away in the ground; the arrival of the Romanians and being forced with her family and the small remaining population into a cellar; the good relations between the village and the freedom fighters; how her curiosity saved her because she sat to the side of an oven and when the Romanians burst in another mother and child were shot, but there were not enough bullets for Galina's mother; The soldier had to reload, so her mother was able to jump inside of the oven. The soldiers then threw a grenade inside of the cellar and landed in front of Galina. Somehow she didn't get a single scratch from the explosion. Then the soldiers threw a grenade down the pipe of the oven; the nature of her life during the war; how when the Fascists came, the partisans left and when the Fascists left, the partisans came; hiding in a swamp with others and being rounded up and sent to a concentration camp in Borkovichi (Vitebsk voblasts', Belarus); the forcing of the adults to dig trenches each morning while the children were free to do whatever they wanted, including going out into the surrounding town, where they begged for food or stole whatever they could; getting sick with typhus and not remembering how the camp was liberated; surviving villagers returning and being greeted by allied soldiers who had begun liberating Europe; seeing an enormous car by the side of the road just outside of the woods and being terrified as she nudged the bodies of dead German soldiers surrounding the car; not knowing if there were Jewish villagers from other towns in the camp; how there were no Jews left from Ardavskoye; the mass grave in her current town of Seibizh (Sebezh, Russia), where the Jews were massacred during the war; how after the war the massacred Jews were buried properly; the stories she was told about what happened during the war in Seibizh along with what she remembers seeing towards the end of the war; getting to Seibizh in 1944; the fate of the Jewish citizens of Seibizh; smaller stories from life during the war; her memories of running away from the Germans and being dropped off by her mother

right beside a large tree and nobody noticing the children by the tree and her mother's return at nightfall; and communal living during the war.