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Summary

Polina Efimovna Sinitzina was born in 1923 in a small village Zaloshiy, Soviet Union; by the beginning of the war she had completed the 7th grade and two years of "teachers' school".

Zaloshiy was close to Jewish settlements and in late 1920s Polina's father joined a Jewish collective farm, Lubavitch, 2 kilometers from their home. She remembered that in 1932-33 her family together with Jewish families with all their belongings and animals moved to Dnepropetrovskiy area where, as she heard, "Americans" built nice village for Jews. However, in 2 years, malaria broke down and people started moving away from that place, many Jews went back and settled in Skoblo, Rudnev, Lubavitch, near her village of Zaloshiy, where they primarily worked in shops.

Jews and Russians worked together and spoke only Russian. Jews spoke their language among themselves.

War came to her region right away in July of 1941. She remembered, that her village was small and friendly; no killing, people openly talked about supporting partisans.

Prisoners of war stayed in their homes and worked with local people, but Jews were removed from their homes, all their belongings confiscated, and they were placed behind barbed wire on Shilovsky street in Lubavitch village. Polina used to go to Jewish village and she witnessed Russian policemen beating Jews with sticks when they were convoyed to the designated area.

Polina remembered that a Jewish young woman Zilya Shuba came to their home, gave her mother a piece of fabric and asked for some food, she was afraid to take anything with her, she knew it would be confiscated anyway. She also witnessed an episode when about 30, 17-20 year-old Jewish girls were transported on 12 horse Catonsville from the Jewish village Krasnoyak to Rudnev Gestapo, where they were all killed.

Polina also remembered that her Jewish teacher and his wife were killed and many little kids. In October of 1941 convoyed by Russian policemen all Jews were gathered and killed near Lubavitch; they were pushed into a ditch - a common grave, and after the war the remains were buried.

Polina remembered only one woman Basya Rome, who escaped and later in Karelia she crossed paths with her brother.

After the war "the five" Russian policemen from Lubavitch village including the notorious and vicious Nikolai Ostrahanskiy, were hung for collaborating with Germans by the war tribunal. Polina knew Klava Pernokevich and her sister, who lived in Lubavitch and who reportedly witnessed massive killing of Jews and the tribunal.