

RG-50.653.0045

Summary

Mikhailova, Elena Abramovna was born in 1934 in Novozibkovo. Her father was a communist and had a position in the local Government, her mother stayed at home, she had an older sister.

In June of 1941 Elena and her family lived in Dargobush, Smolenskiy district. Her mother asked her father to evacuate the family, but as a Government official he had to wait for special orders. One day when they got horses with a wagon the bombing began.

They reached Vysima, and it was already occupied by the Germans.

They had no choice, but to turn to a village Devytka, not far from Vyzima.

They're really Jewish, but the head of the village community gave her family a nice hut at the end of the village. Her father was a communist and people knew they were Jewish. Her sister looked more like a Jew, but not her. Her mother was a good seamstress and her father was a shoe maker.

Her moved walked from house to house with her suing machine working, and Lena went with her.

The Eliminating Squad was stationed not far from the village, they wanted to ship everybody to the camps, but the Head of the village tried to protect people.

One day somebody betrayed them. The policemen; two Russians and one German, came to their hut and told them: "Jew caput", and they were convoyed to the street meant for killing. But the head of the village invited the policemen and the German to his house and got them drunk, and the family was saved. She didn't know the policemen.

Elena remembered that her mother and she was called to the German administration, they were interrogated, but her mother explained that they came from Belorussia. The head of the village came and he vouched for them and explained to the interpreter that the family had nobody and were from Belorussia.

They were saved again.

All over their village and nearby places they saw slogans: "Jews caput/ death".

One night the Russian soldiers or partisans landed near their hut. They asked her father to help them to hide. The father explained that there were several barns not far away, he gave them some food and they left. Soon after they left, around 4 o'clock in the morning the gendarmes came to their place, they searched the place, but didn't find anybody.

In the morning all villagers were marched to the center, the majority were killed, but her father was let go because, he had a little girl, some women were let goats well. The Germans also burned the village.

After that incident her parents started making a dugout for the family. Her family stayed in that village till the end of the war.

She remembered the episode when they saw a group of people in white outfits coming to the village; they were the partisans, who announced the end of the war. She and her sister received a military coat and a military bag and a pair of skis.

Her father joined partisans, Belov group.

After war ended in their area, her mother started working in the repair shop and she was sent to Kondrovo, the regional center. One day her mother came across her sister, who just came from the evacuation. Mother's sister helped the family to move to Kondrovo. Her mother started working in the paper factory and she moved the family from the dugout to the commune apartment. When Smolensk was liberated, they moved to Smolensk. Her father died in 1943 at the front not far from Kiev.