

**RG-50.653.01.0039**

**Zinaida Malashonok interviewed 16 October 2015**

**Summary by Joseph Bradley 22 February 2020**

Zinaida Pavlovna Malashonok (Leontieva), born 12 July 1929 in Sebezh, Russia [in Pskov Oblast and near the Latvian border], discusses her memories of life before the war; how the Jewish and Russian families lived on the same street, and all the children went to the same school and played together; Jews usually working in small shops; the beginning of the war at which time many families including younger Jewish families evacuated, while older Jews and one family with pregnant wife stayed in the village; Jews forced to wear yellow armbands; her memories of villagers, including children, being forced to do hard physical jobs, such as digging trenches and clearing snow; Jews being forced to clean the ice on the lake, which was very dangerous; the massacre of all the Jews one day in the winter of 1942 (this included 20 people from her street); the gathering of the Jews, some of whom she recognized, by the local Russian policemen and Estonian auxiliaries across the frozen lake, near the Jewish cemetery, where the Jews were shot; the burial of the Jews, whether alive or dead, in a freshly dug pit after which the area was set on fire, this was to prevent anyone from counting the dead; hearing rumors that a young boy named Boris hid inside a chimney during the roundup and ran across the lake to the neighboring village, but then Germans found him and killed him; the plundering of the Jews' homes after the massacre by Russian police and Estonian auxiliaries; the Germans publicly hanging partisans and their contacts, after which they burned their houses; being arrested at age 12 and sent to the basement full of other people; being sent to a slaughterhouse; hiding in the nearby forest because her father had contacts with the partisans; experiencing starvation and sometimes they had nothing else but dirty potatoes to eat; liberation, after which the policemen who worked for the Germans were charged and sent to prison for 15-20 years, though some of the Estonians from the "death squads" and a few Russian policemen escaped.