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Summary

Janina Batjanovskaja was born in 1930 in Glubokoe, Vitebskiy region (now Hlybokaye, Belarus), where she has lived all her life.

She remembered that Glubokoe was like a shtetl, 7.5 thousand Jews, some Tatar- Muslims, Catholics, and Orthodox Russians, all together 12.5 thousand people lived peacefully.

She remembers the names of Jewish people; Simon Mashonok, Yankel and Tanhel, Shapiro brothers: Kopol, Zalman and Joseph and Shumuel.

In her school she remembered two Rappoport sisters and two boys; Jews had their own school.

Jews did not work in the fields, they worked in stores, in schools, transported products on horses. Before the war several government stores opened and they put out the slogan: "don't buy from Jews"

Janina talked about the believe that Jews put human blood in matzah, it had to be Christian blood, one drop of an innocent child. She offered two stories, that she thought suggest that Jews tried to get Christian blood. Jews have separate matzah that was backed with a drop of Jewish blood, Yonkel allegedly told her one drop was enough.

She recalled stories that happened during Tzar Nikolay period. One told by her aunt about an orphaned girl who worked as a maid in a Jewish family, and supposedly felt like Jews gathered, they gave her a bath and were going to do something to her, but she ran away, and later Jews gave her money for her wedding. She also remembered that people talked about an incident in Nikolaevo when a mother sent her young boy to a Jewish store to buy bagels, but the boy did not come back, the Jewish owner said he never saw the boy and two days later the boy was found in a ditch all covered by stabs. That incident started major pogrom.

In Glubokoe before the war Jews were primarily good people, rich Jews took care of poor and even crazy people, there were no baggers among Jews. They had 6 synagog, on Moskovskaya and on Lenin's streets; they celebrated their holidays in their homes, during one holiday - Purim, Jews walked on the streets with horns and children with toy pistols, and also sometimes they built small huts.

The war started on June 2, 1941 and Germans came to the village on July 2nd. People learned about the war when bombs started falling on Glubokoe. Her first encounter with Germans happened when she was sitting on a bench with a 14 year old Jewish girl and a German in a uniform bit the girl on the head with his shut gun, because she was a Jew. Germans recognized Jews by looks as they had talk curly hair, dark eyes. Jews were prohibited to talk with others, walk on side walks. There were incidents, when Germans ran over Jews on the roads.

In October of 1941 Jews had to wear yellow bands and then yellow stars. Then Germans posted orders all over the village in Polish and in Belarus's languages for all Jews to move to the designated area-ghetto. A quarter of the village became a ghetto. People had to move to different homes, some times into the former Jewish home, they moved to Kochrginskiy's home, he had a leather store; Gotlik and Molomite moved to our home.

In May (June) of 1942 2.5 thousand Jews were shot and killed; men, women and children, were convoyed to the woods, told to undress and then shot, Jews dogged their own graves. Her father understood Jewish language as he worked for a shoemaker, saw a group of Jews with their rabbi, who was saying: "don't blame good, we didn't follow his teachings, etc.."

Jews were convoyed and killed by policemen and Vlasovtsy (special "army" organized by general Vlasov who joined Germans)

In the fall of 1942 after the first massive killing Ghetto was reduced in size, and it was fenced with barb wire. Jews were not allowed to go outside Ghetto, they worked unloading trains, cleaning streets.

Jews had their own police and judenrad, who were also bad people they hit with sticks their own people. She remembered that she used to go to the ghetto to visit Shapiro Haya, who lived in a tiny dark room with 4 adults and a baby. Janina's family wanted to take the child, but the father Pultarishitsky Hasin, who was tatarin , threatened to report them to Germans for taking a Jewish child.

Haya's father was in Bolshevik prison at that time. The baby died in the ghetto. Haya and sister Frida ran away from ghetto. The final killing of Jews in Ghetto took place on August 10,1943. Volody Hutskiy, who worked for Germans told them.

Mass shooting was planned inside ghetto yard, but Jews started running, they broke the ghetto fence, but it was surrounded by Ukrainian Vlasovtsy and policemen with shotguns and tanks. Some people tried to hide inside Russian furnaces, and then Germans burned all houses in the ghetto and people were suffocated; about thirty people went into the tunnel, they were about to run away, but one person became totally crazy started yelling, and they were found and killed.

Total elimination of the Jewish ghetto lasted two days. Bodies of dead and wounded people piled everywhere, nobody could help them; and villagers were ordered to dig ditches and put Jews into those ditches. Ghetto in Glubokoe had about 5 thousand local Jews and about 2 thousand Jews from surrounding villages, from: Sharkovshinu, Murray, Braslov, Postavi.

Janina and other people watched mass shooting through the windows in their homes.

Janina remembered several incidents of Germans' brutality; once her older sister was mistaken as a Jew and only when her father showed her passport the German officer let her and the family go; a German came to their house to wash hands that were covered by blood and full of rings pulled from the hands of Jews. During another incident a Jewish woman tried to pretend she wasn't Jewish, but Germans killed her; a young Jewish girl was put head down into a toilet and killed; a man who worked unloading potatoes from the train was shot by Check policemen, when he fell. Jews who were able to run away and hide in the woods joined partisans. However after the incident when a Jewish man betrayed the location of a large partisan group of thousand people Jewish men were sent on assignments and then killed by Belarus partisans. Jewish women were treated harshly, they were raped and beaten by partisans, according to the story that Haya told to Janina.

After the war some German collaborators were arrested and sent to prison for 10 years, Hutskiy got 10 years in prison, Janina did not know what happened to Kravichanin and Skukovskiy; Gonskiy spent 10 years in Polish prison, after his return he committed a suicide.

After Germans left Glubokoe Haya came back, she went to the woods stayed with partisans who were brutal with women. Later Haya went to Vilnius where her relative lived, but when he immigrated she had to live in the basement, only after she got married and she started working in the factory, they got an apartment, later they immigrated to Israel. Janina received parcels with winter clothes and money from her friend.

Several Jews returned to the village, they were very angry and later they left, some went to Vilnius, some to Poland; only two people stayed I Glubokoe, Yonkel survived as he served in the Red Army, he died 5 years ago.