



The Survivor Mitzvah ProjectTM



Rita Geinikhovna was born in 1936. When she was 5 years old, her family was taken to Pechora concentration camp.

The fact that most people today are unaware of Pechora, does not diminish the horrors that awaited her there.

Shortly after arriving, it was clear to her father that Pechora was a place of certain death from starvation. He escaped, went back to their home and traded some tablecloths for loaves of bread. When he came back to the camp, he was shot, leaving Rita, her young mother and her older brother alone.

Hunger and cold consumed them. Like all good mothers, Rita's mother gave every scrap of food to her children. Soon Rita's mother, along with all the other fathers and mothers who denied themselves in order to feed their children, died of starvation and overwork. Years passed, and soon the camp was filled mostly with young children.

The Nazi guards and Ukrainian collaborators used these children for "sport", using them for target practice. They would send the children to the river to get water, and from the opposite river bank start shooting at them, as the young ones tried to dodge the bullets and bring back a pail of water. All the while the Nazi's played music and enjoyed themselves.

Rita and 6 other children clung to each other as daily life became intolerable. Then the German's decided to do medical experiments, injecting the children with typhus. On the day that it was Rita's turn to be killed in this manner, the war ended. Rita's brother was taken to the Front where he died. Alone, starved, and only 9-years-old, not knowing what to do or where to go, Rita started to walk home, back to her village. She was weak and extremely frail. Passing a farmhouse she smelled fresh baked bread. She knocked on the door and asked for one roll. The farmer's wife told Rita to go around back, her husband was chopping wood and he would give her the bread.

Rita had knocked on the wrong door. The farmer was the local Gendarme, head Nazi collaborator in the town. Instead of bread, the farmer beat the little girl with an axe and left her to die. It took Rita over a year to heal from these wounds and walk again. Eventually, the farmer became the mayor of the town. Rita knew to never tell anyone what happened to her.

After the war, Rita became a nurse and to this day, although now extremely ill, selflessly provides care to the other survivors who were children in her concentration camp group. They are all suffering and in need.

Only with your help can The Survivor Mitzvah Project continue to support them.

Thank you all for your kindness and compassion.

**To help Rita and other Holocaust survivors in need,
please make a donation by check to:**

**THE SURVIVOR MITZVAH PROJECT
2658 Griffith Park Blvd., Ste.#299
Los Angeles, CA 90039**

Or donate online at: www.survivormitzvah.org

You can make your monthly recurring donations automatic.

