How did the invasion of the Soviet Union change life for these families?

EVA KAUSHANSKAYA ITELD

Eva Kaushanskaya was born in Kishenev, Romania, in 1916. During the summer and fall of 1940, Romania lost about 30 percent of its territory and population to the Soviet Union. After King Carol II was forced to abdicate and a coalition government was formed with the fascist party, the Iron Guard, Romania joined the Axis Alliance in November 1940. Anti-Jewish measures were quickly implemented and life for Jews in Romania became increasingly dangerous.

In June 1941, Romania participated in Nazi Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union. In retaliation, Soviet forces occupied the region of Romania that included Eva's hometown. Russian citizenship was transferred to the local population and when Nazi Germany invaded Romania, Eva and her family were evacuated to the Soviet Union. They were sent to Lenger, now part of Uzbekistan. Eva worked as a night watchman at a factory.

Sholem Iteld was born in 1898 in Bransk, Poland. After the Nazi German invasion of Poland in September 1939, he and his family were forced to move into the Bialystock ghetto. Sholem escaped the ghetto but was arrested by invading Soviet forces. He was imprisoned at a labor camp in Siberia but was eventually released. Sholem ended up in Lenger, where he did business on the black market. It was there where Eva's brother introduced Sholem to his sister, Eva. The couple married and returned to Poland after the war as part of an exchange of Polish citizens initiated by the Soviet Union.

Sholem and Eva moved to Krakow, Poland where they received assistance from the Joint Distribution Committee. They were sent to Paris where they lived for 10 months before emigrating to the United States in December 1947. Sholem's brother had settled in Atlanta

before the war so the couple established new roots there as well. Without knowing a word of English, they worked hard, adapted to their new country and created a good life in America.

Their family grew to include two daughters, Judy and Louise, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Eva led a lifetime of volunteer service to the Jewish community and was recognized twice by the Atlanta Jewish Federation as a "Woman of Valor."

Sholem passed away in 1992 at the age of 94. Eva passed away on April 23, 2016, at the age of 99.

To Atlanta,

Kishinev, Romania to Lenger, Kazakhstan, 2033 miles

Lenger Kazakhstan to Krakow, Poland, 2410 miles

Krakow, Poland to Paris, France, 792 miles

Paris France to New York, USA, New York to Atlanta, Georgia, 4809 miles.

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