

Life History of Gerhard and Olga Hübert (née Pulmann)

Written by Ella Hübert

On January 29, 1913 twins Gerhard and Franz were born to the family of Heinrich and Blandina Hübert. The two spent their childhood in the village of Nikolaipol. When Grandfather Heinrich died in 1922, the entire burden of raising the children and caring for the farm fell onto the shoulders of Grandmother. Father completed seven classes in high school, after which he completed education as a driver, and from 1930 to 1942 he worked as a truck driver. On March 30, 1934 he married Olga Pulmann-Seifert, and seven children were born to this couple: Grischa – 1935; Erna – 1937 (both died, aged seven and one respectively); Erna – 1939; Arnold – 1941; Ella – 1947; Andrej – 1954; Wolodja – 1959.

In 1942 he was drafted into the work camps in Krasnoturinsk, in the Sverdlovsker territory. Miraculously, he survived, and returned home in 1948, sick and half dead. Without the strength even to stand, faith in an afterlife disappeared in the work camp, but then he pleaded to God for salvation. God heard his cry, and out of His great grace, saved Gerhard.

The work corp included a driver to transport the corpses from the barracks, and when the authorities learned that father was a driver, he was supported by the armpits and led to the vehicle and lifted into the driver's seat. But when he could not even depress the clutch pedal he was taken to the canteen, where the cook gave him a glass of dark liquid. (Father later explained that this was likely a broth made of grasses and fat.) When he drank it he lost consciousness and fell. But the next morning he was able to get up and a short while later he could also drive.

The corpses were placed into the truck-box in the form of scissors—alternately head down and vice-versa. Father always watched the corpses closely, noting that some might still have life. This happened periodically, and when it did, at great risk he transported them to the nomads, into their tents. These good people nursed many a person back to health. Those rescued in this manner included a distant relative of our mother.

Our father continued work as a truck driver from 1948 – 1952, and from then to 1960 he was a mechanic. He was a natural at repairing and constructing vehicles. As children we rode in the unusual automobiles constructed by him. After 1953 he also studied at the polytechnical institute in Tomsk.

In 1954 our parents took God into their hearts; they pledged their commitment to God through holy baptism one night. They served God until He took them to Himself.

In 1960 our family moved to the city of Makinsk in Kazakhstan. For eight years after this Father worked as a machinist with compressors at ZES, and finally as bus driver, until 1977. He died of lung cancer on October 19, 1980. He was buried in Makinsk.