

Obituaries

Eugene Revitch, 87, ex-psychiatrist

By Jere Downs

INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Eugene Revitch, 87, a retired psychiatrist, died of heart failure Saturday at Martin's Run Life Care Community in Media.

Born in Latvia and educated in Paris, Dr. Revitch became a U.S. citizen and joined the Army in 1943.

Before the war was over, he would learn that his father, Samuel, who owned a textile factory in what was then Riga, Latvia, and his mother, Yetta, had been executed during a massacre of Jews in Latvia in 1941.

His younger brothers, Kolya and Max, also died, fighting the Germans as members of the Red Army.

"Although his own family perished horribly, it never left him bitter," said Dr. Revitch's daughter, Ju-

dith D. Porter, of Ardmore.

"It left him with a resolve that something like that should never happen to anybody again."

In 1935, Dr. Revitch received his medical degree from the University of Paris and joined the Latvian army as a private in the ski-and-bicycle infantry unit on the Russian border.

In 1938, he joined relatives in Philadelphia. He volunteered at the Phipps Institute and did research on tuberculosis at the University of Pennsylvania until his medical credentials arrived from Latvia.

He then established a private practice and joined the staffs of Muhlenberg Hospital in Plainfield, N.J., and John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Edison, N.J.

He joined the U.S. Army in 1943,

attaining the rank of captain in the Medical Corps and working in several military hospitals in the United States.

When his younger sister, Adele Honnigwill, now of New York, was liberated by the U.S. Army from the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1945, she came to Philadelphia and told her brother of their family's fate.

"He coped with it through his service in the U.S. Army," said Esther Tuchinsky Revitch, his wife of 57 years.

After the war, Dr. Revitch worked at Veterans Hospital in Lyons, N.J., until the early 1950s, when he opened a private psychiatric practice that lasted until he retired in 1987.

While in private practice, Dr. Re-

vitch was on the staff of the New Jersey State Diagnostic Center in Menlo Park, N.J., evaluating suspects for the possibility that their criminal behavior was psychologically motivated.

He later became a clinical professor of psychiatry at the Robert Wood Johnson School of Medicine in Piscataway, N.J., and director emeritus of the department of psychiatry at John F. Kennedy Medical Center.

Among the books written by Dr. Revitch and his coauthor, Louis Schlesinger, were the *Sexual Dynamics of Anti-Social Behaviour* and *The Psychopathology of Homicide*.

Beside his wife, daughter and sister, he is survived by three grandchildren.

Services will be held at noon today at Martin's Run Life Care Center.

A graveside service will follow at 3 p.m. at Beth Israel Cemetery, Woodbridge, N.J.

The family requests that contributions be forwarded to The Alzheimer's Association, 100 N. 17th St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19103.