

Testing, one, two, three, four.

My name is Izrail Frenkel. I was born in Odesa in 1913. My father was-- stayed in Odesa when the Second World War started. I succeeded to evacuate from Odesa and worked in Zhuravl at artillery sklad.

During the occupation of Odesa, many echelons of Jews were driven on foot through fierce cold far from the city and killed there. According to official date, 200,000 peaceful residents were killed in the area. My father met his death in the Domanivka district 150 kilometers from Odesa. I couldn't find the grave where my father lies.

In 1977, I went to that district to visit the mass graves. What I could see were flat pits covered by weeds or kitchen gardens, but the places of the graves-- there was no monuments, no fences, not even any inscriptions or whatsoever.

The local residents told me about a monument in the neighboring village, Bohdanivka on the bank of the River South Bug. The monument was-- allegedly had been built on the edge of the ravine, where more than 50,000 Jews of Odesa were killed. The single monument might concern the memory of my father also.

I went there and found the destroyed and with covered foundation of the monument which has been only begun. The residents gave me the explanation which they had got from the district functionaries of the party. The construction was stopped because the victims did not deserve the monument. They didn't fight against the executioners.

I went down to the bottom of the ravine and saw the human bones in the earth. Some of them were very small, the remains of children. Apparently, some people had dug there, looking for gold teeth. I decided to continue my examination. Each summer until 1980, I visited the sites of the mass executions in the villages Mostovoe. It is name of the village, Veseloje. This name means merry in English-- Akmachetka and others.

In the village Domanivka, a part of the terrible ghetto had been located in the cinema. Now the inhabitants of this village enjoy at the same place where many people had suffered and died before. I went along the roads where Jewish blood had poured abundantly, where the mothers who had been going towards death, desperate from grief, had left their small children hidden in attempt to rescue them.

As a result, I understood that the official slogan "Nobody is forgotten, and nothing is forgotten" holds only one-sidedly, for the military men and revolutionaries. There were indeed good monuments dedicated to them in every village.

The sites of Jewish extermination were completely deserted. Some of them were used as garbage dumps. Some were soiled by cattle dung. Some were built-up. Many sites lost or will be lost soon.

The conditions in the city of Odesa were not better. The Communist ghetto had been located in the district Slobodka. You read in the black book about the Odesa martyrs. The non-Jewish eyewitnesses told me the additional facts. At the [PLACE NAME] railway station, thousands of Jews were shot, or burned, or froze to death in the freight cars.

About 100 Jewish refugees had been burned on Alexandr Matrosov Street. There, all the adults had surrounded the children and covered them with their own bodies. They had remained human beings until the last minute. As the market Privoz, two Jewesses had been shot in 1943, and their corpses had been thrown in a garbage box.

At October Revolution Square, two Jewish women had been bound to the benches. They had been tormented to death in such a shameful manner that I cannot describe to you it. I saw two large revolutionary monuments on the same square.

There were in Odesa many more places of the execution of Jews and had not any of the memorable inscriptions. Even the location of previous artillery stores where 25,000 Jews were burned alive in October of 1941 isn't marked in any way. I heard that the situation in many other areas is the same.

The results of such conditions are first, there is a widespread and long-lasting insult to the memory of Holocaust victims. Second, many of the extermination sites-- there are material, traces of Holocaust disappearing. This promote

the belittling of the immensity of the Holocaust.

The local non-Jewish population is accustomed to the idea the Jewish victims don't deserve respect. Such an attitude promotes the growth of the antisemitism. The disregard of Jewish mass graves hurts the living Jewish generation morally.

The Jews living near Holocaust sites can do nothing. It is necessary that the survivors organizations and groups work on this problem. First, a list of the sites of the mass graves has to be composed. It is intolerable to know that the traces of the history's worst crime against humanity are being obliterated and that the victims are being killed a second time. I think that all the survivors organizations and groups have to take part in the efforts to remove the terrible injustice.

Thank you, Dr. Frankel.