

RG-50.378 #010

Pyekarev, Naum Mikhelovich

- 1.00 Born 19 March 1929 in the village of Pogost [phonetic] Starobinskiy Rayon, Minsk Oblast. Father was shoemaker, mother seamstress. Had brother and sister. Also young brother who was born right after outbreak of war.
- 1.11 About a thousand people lived in Pogost, 90% were Jews. The rest were Belorussians, most of whom knew Yiddish. Relations between two groups were very friendly.
- 1.23 Some days after outbreak of war on June 22, 1941, Germans arrived in Pogost at night. German troops in first days were friendly. Gave children candy in exchange for food items like butter and eggs. Troops then moved east, and Pogost was left alone - no troops, no police – until about middle of July.
- 1.26 In July Germans came. Assembled men from Pogost in village square, separated Jews from Belorussians. Gave Jews shovels and took them by truck to forest about 10-15 kilometers away, saying they would be put to work. Forced to dig ditch and then all were shot.
- 1.27 Jewish women and children gathered in houses in one area of village. In middle of August group of SS troops took the women and children to two large ditches. Naum managed to run and hide in nearby canal and then on river bank.

[Break]

- 2.00 At night Naum returned to village; fed by [non-Jewish] neighbor. Then he set out for Slutsk where he had an aunt.
- 2.02 He went to aunt in Slutsk where she was living in ghetto. Constant ‘pogroms’. He was there for a year. Uncle worked as shoemaker for Germans. Naum often worked as laborer outside ghetto.
- 2.05 Uncle able to send wife and children to partisans. Head of Judenrat found out about this and said he would tell Germans unless uncle gave him money.
- 207 He and uncle sneak out of ghetto. Linked up with partisans.
- 2.11 Interviewer asks to return to outbreak of war.
- 2.12 Refugees fleeing Germans came through Pogost in first days after war started and told people to leave, that Germans were killing everyone. But Naum’s grandfather said that Germans had treated people well in 1914 and that they should stay.

- 2.19 After war he heard that SS troops who shot first the men and later the women from Pogost were actually Lithuanian. These were the killers in many Belorussian villages.

[Break]

- 2.21 Describes life in Pogost ghetto.
2.25 Describes circumstances of second 'pogrom' in Pogost.

[Break]

- 3.01 After escaping from shooting, Naum goes to Slutsk. Goes to relatives in Slutsk ghetto.
3.06 In Slutsk relatives dug underground hiding place in house for hiding place during police 'pogroms'.
3.08 Describes Slutsk ghetto.
3.19 He remembers hearing nothing about resistance activities in the Slutsk ghetto.
3.22 Discusses Judenrat in ghetto.
3.25 Escaped from ghetto in 1942 and joins partisans. Describes life with partisans.

[Break]

- 4.00 Continues describing partisan life. During most of 1942, 1943 his unit saw little actions. Germans left them pretty much alone. He helped his uncle who was shoemaker for unit.
4.05 In April or May [he can't remember] partisan unit linked up with advancing Soviet army.
4.08 He joins army. Stays with army unit all the way to Berlin.
4.13 Demobilized in 1951. Later worked as lathe operator for 40 years. Retired in 1989.

END OF TAPE.