

APUTIENĖ, Bronė  
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Tape 1 of 1

In this interview Bronė Aputienė remembers her childhood and persecution of Jews during the World War II in her hometown Raseiniai, talks about the fate of her Jewish neighbors and friends.

[01:] 00:17:00 – [01:] 00:30:59

Interview data.

[01:] 00:31:00 – [01:] 04:42:21  
00:28 – 04:50

She introduces herself; says that her maiden name is Doveikaitė; tells that she was born on the November 11<sup>th</sup> 1926 in Raseiniai; remembers that before the WWII in Raseiniai lived many Jews, they made about one half of the entire population, and she knew some of them very well; tells that the parents of her two friends were Jews and owned a candy shop, so children went there to get some sweets; remembers that her best friend was a Jewish girl **Sonia** [**Sonė**], her father was Lithuanian, and he took his daughter to Jurbarkas after her mother was shot; says that Sonia searched for her after the war, but the family of Bronė moved to village, and Sonia did not find her, and Bronė did not search for Sonia, so their contact broke off; tells how Jews were mistreated, they had to wear yellow badge, treated rudely, taken to works; remembers how their neighbors were ostensibly taken to works, the neighbor asked Bronė's mother, if she could shut the shutters, but they did not come back; says that they heard the machine-gun shots near Raseiniai, she did not go to watch, but other children did.

[01:] 04:42:22 – [01:] 12:39:04  
04:50 – 13:06

She tells that collaborators persecuted Jews on the streets, they were Lithuanian Germans, but there were Lithuanians among them too; says that they wore brown shirts, that is why they were called "rudmarškiniai", they spoke Lithuanian, lived in Lithuania, there were not so many Germans among those who persecuted Jews in Raseiniai; remembers that collaborators were Lithuanian Germans, but not from Raseiniai, tells some surnames: Kuteckis, Jablonskis, Kaupas, Grigaravičius; tells that these surnames and information about the mistreating of Jews were known from children who went everywhere; tells that at that time she was twelve or thirteen

years old; remembers that it was possible to hear the shot from the hill where the school was; says that Jews had to dig graves themselves, and then they were shot, some of them had to take their clothes off, other were shot dressed; tells that there was about seven or eight kilometers between that hill and the shooting place, and that the shooting place was near Kalnujai, but still nearer to Raseiniai; remembers that children told that apart of shots they heard people screaming on the way to Kalnujai; remembers how people told her that very little children were not shot, just stroked with their heads and thrown in the grave; says that she heard shootings over a period of two weeks, not every day, and they lasted about one hour or less; remembers that two cars took people to the shooting place and that shooting found place about 12 p.m.; says that she saw how Jews were taken to the shooting place by car; remembers that her mother saw, how Jews were brought to Kalnujai, and she told always about it; says that she saw some cars, it was plain open (without top) trucks, men, women and children were taken together, women held babies in their arms; remembers that people were dressed, but had to things with them, or she did not see any.

[01:] 12:39:05 – [01:] 19:33:09  
13:07 – 20:17

She remembers that the cars came back empty; says that some Jews were told to undress themselves, but she does not know where their clothes were put; tells that those cars that came back stood in the Arbeitsamt, gendarmerie yard; precise that shootings started ten or fifteen minutes after they saw the car with Jews going away, and that she could hear shots very well; remembers that she knew personally many Jews that were taken with those cars away; tells how their neighbors Blokai, two old Jews, were taken away, they were told that they would be taken to works; specifies that there were already some people in that car; says that she heard that in Vidūklė, where she lived at the moment of interview, Jews were also shot, but she did not see it, she came to Vidūklė after it happened; says that young people were still taken to works; emphasizes that Jews were shot only in one place near the way to Kalnujai, but still nearer to Raseiniai, Blokai were also taken there; remembers that there was no guards near those cars, only two or three person who came with this car, and Blokienė understood that they will be taken to the shooting place, and told it her mother; remembers how one week later German solders burgled the Blokai shop of household things; remembers that her mother hoped that Blokai will come back, but when after one week thez did not came back, they understood, that Blokai were shot.

[01:] 19:33:10 – [01:] 21:59:22  
20:18 – 22:50

She talks once more about her friend Sonia; specifies that her mother was a Jew married a Lithuanian, worked as nurse at Jewish hospital and was shot; mentions that the girl also would be shot, but her father took her away; says that she did not see how Sonia was taken from her mother, but people told her, that it was awful; remembers that when Sonia came to Raseiniai, she told one woman that her father died and strange people helped her; says that she would try to

found Sonia if she knew at which place exactly she lived; remembers that priests did not comment the murder of Jews; tells that priests in Raseiniai at that time were Dominicans.

[01:] 21:59:23 – [01:] 24:00:59  
22:51 – 24:56

She says that all collaborators died long time ago; remembers how at the time of Soviet regime one chairperson of the cooperative went to Raseiniai to witness in the process, and the collaborator that was under that process asked him where was he during the shooting, why do they did not see him, where does he hide himself; says that some collaborators escaped to the USA, other died; specifies that there were just two young collaborators, other were quite old and died already; mentions that there were “rudmarškiniai” also in Vidūklė.

[01:] 24:01:00 – [01:] 30:26:01  
24:57 – 31:38

She remembers how strange people came to leave in Jewish houses, and does not know if these houses were sold them; says that at the beginning of the war their house in Raseiniai, Žemaičių Str. exploded, and they moved to their relatives to Užuomedis near Alėjai; says that she lived there for some years, then moved to Vidūklė and worked 33 years at school; [silence] returns to her narrative about the persecution of Jews; repeats that Jews dig the graves themselves, boys from the town who went by bicycle or by feet to the execution place saw it; points out that she knows where the shooting place was, it was near Kalnūjai; talks about how children saw younger Jews digging graves; specifies that she does not know if Jews' things were brought from the shooting place, thinks it was also put in the graves; says that Jews put the worst clothes on when they heard, that they will have to go to works; remembers how one woman told that people used Jews' things and that after the WWII, in November, two bad-dressed Jewish girls came back and people unwillingly brought them their better clothes; specifies that massacre on Jews lasted for about two weeks, during that time Jews were not held in one place, they were taken to shooting directly from their houses, in Raseiniai there was no place where they would be put to.