

BARISAITĖ, Ona
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In this interview, Ona Barisaitė, born in 1923 in Nemunaitis village (Alytus region), where she also spent the war years, talks about her family's tragedy: her brother, who had been working as a policeman under the Soviet rule, was executed during the German occupation; her father, her sister together, her sister's husband, and his father were killed by the Lithuanian anti-Soviet partisans after the war. Her fifteen year old brother was shot but survived. He died two years later in 1947. She names the local men – policemen and civilians – who participated in killing her brothers and her father. She also mentions that the persecution of the suspected communists was led by the “Lithuanian Gestapo” and its leader **Jurelevičius**. She recalls seeing long trenches, where – as she had heard from the local people – the Jews had been buried.

Box 1, Tape 1

[01:] 00:31:16 – [01:] 05:01:11
00:25 – 05:05

Ona Barisaitė introduces herself and says that she was born in 1923 in Nemunaitis village (Alytus region) and lived there during the German occupation; when asked whether there were Jews who lived in her village before the war, she responds negatively, but explains that on the other side of the river Nemunas there is a town that is also called Nemunaitis, and that there were Jews living there; when asked about the beginning of the war, she talks about her brother being arrested for his service as a policeman under the Soviet rule; speaks about her father being arrested together with her brother; recalls that they were first held on the premises of Miroslavas district government, but that same year (1941) they were transferred to Alytus prison; explains that her father was probably arrested because he liked to read Russian papers and sympathized with the Socialists.

[01:] 05:01:12 – [01:] 10:02:21
05:06 – 10:19

She explains that her father and her brother were arrested by the local police; mentions that the German army had already arrived in Nemunaitis village; when asked if she knew the policemen who arrested her father and her brother, she recalls that the police chief was named **Talandis**; mentions that the police was helped by local volunteers who were called “white stripers”; claims that there were a lot of them; mentions the names of three “white stripers”: **Janavičius**, **Vaitkevičius** and **Laibinis**; emphasizes that there were no “white stripers” in Nemunaitis village; says that the headman of Nemunaitis village, **Bernatavičius**, had been officially working for the Germans; describes the arrest of her brother; explains that many suspected communists were

arrested with him; says that they were held in Alytus prison until fall; adds that she and her mother would bring food to her brother and father at the prison.

[01:] 10:02:22 – [01:] 14:08:21
10:20 – 14:35

She claims that her brother and father were tortured at the prison; says that the prison guards were Lithuanians; states that there were many of them; mentions several names: **Replevičius**, Vladas **Jakubelskas**; explains that the prison guards were assisted by the representatives of the Germans who were Lithuanians – a kind of intelligence service – called simply the “Lithuanian Gestapo” by the people; says that by the order of these Lithuanian representatives of the Germans the prisoners were lined up and shot randomly on the spot; adds that the head of the “Lithuanian Gestapo” was **Jurelevičius** who later fled Lithuania, most probably to the U.S.; mentions that the chief interrogator was named **Kausteklis** and that he also managed to flee; states that her father and her brother were released but then arrested again in 1942; recalls that her father returned a while later but her brother was executed; recalls other prisoners saying that **Kausteklis** was the fiercest of the killers, together with **Simanavičius** – she cannot remember the title of the latter.

[01:] 14:08:22 – [01:] 19:29:17
14:36 – 20:09

She recalls how in 1942 her mother and her father – who had just been released from the prison a few days earlier – were bringing food to her brother, but were informed that her brother had been executed; says that **Jakubelskas** – a former prison guard who had been promoted to deputy head of the prison by that time and who was from their village – told them how, where and when her brother was killed; describes how, when her father went to the German officers to complain, he was threatened that he would be killed as well if he did not let it go; explains that her brother was executed in Vidziris (a neighborhood in Alytus) at 4 pm on the 20th of August, 1942; says that eight Lithuanians were executed with him, among them **Bernatavičius** and **Akromas**; says that they were led by twelve men; adds that she learned all this from local women; describes that, after the killers had left, these local women went over to the site of the killing and saw unburied bodies; explains that the next day Russian POWs were brought in to dig the graves; recounts that the same day that the bodies were buried, she and her sister came to the site, piled a small burial mound on top of the grave and later would often visit it and bring flowers; recalls that when they arrived, the soil was soaked with blood and there were remains of human bodies hanging on the bush nearby.

[01:] 19:29:18 – [01:] 24:31:20
20:10 – 25:24

She explains that a memorial obelisk was later built at the site where her brother was executed; says that when she and her sister arrived at the site, the bodies had already been buried; adds that they also saw trenches six-to-seven meters long that were filled in as well; explains that Jews had been buried in those trenches and that blood was seeping through the ground; claims that she

learned from the local people that there were two concentration camps in Alytus: one of them was next to the Alytus prison, where the Jews were guarded by the German military; reports that from there the Jews were led in groups of 50 or 100 and that they were forced to run so that they would not even have time to think about escaping; says that the ones who could not run were carried by the others and if nobody could carry them, they would be shot on the spot; adds that in the beginning they were ordered to stand on the edge of the trench where they were shot, while later they were simply ordered to lie in the trench and were shot while lying down; says that the trenches would not be filled in until they were completely full; states that the Germans did the shooting together with the Lithuanians including policemen, "white strippers" and representatives of the Impulevičius battalion; says that the leader of the Impulevičius battalion in Alytus was **Ivašauskas**; recalls that its members wore uniforms and rings with skull-shaped imprints on them.

[01:] 24:31:21 – [01:] 29:06:04
25:25 – 30:10

She claims that two of the "hitmen" were from her village: Jonas **Berulis** and Viktoras **Martušis**; recalls that before her brother was arrested, **Berulis** came over to their home with a German headman to shoot him; remembers that her mother begged **Berulis** not to kill her son, but he retorted that he would shoot her if she did not stop whining; explains that **Berulis** would normally participate in the killings in Kaunas, only occasionally in Alytus; says that he had told her father that usually he did not mind shooting people but that there was one memory he could not get rid of: a young girl, standing on top of other bodies, begging him not to shoot her; says he shot her once and then again, but she rose up again and continued begging; remembers that **Martušis**, who also participated in the killings in Kaunas, would often come to visit her father; says that her father would ask him how he could shoot people, and he would respond that they were given alcohol and were "not normal"; recalls that he would talk about it without any inhibitions; says that she had only seen the concentration camp from a distance since nobody was allowed to approach it; when asked if she had seen the Jews being led to the execution, she responds negatively.

[01:] 29:06:05 – [01:] 33:48:04
30:11 – 35:04

She mentions that the site where the obelisk stands today and where her brother was killed is not the biggest massacre site of the Jewish people in the surrounding area; says that most of them were massacred next to the sewing plant where the larger concentration camp was established (in Alytus city) although that site is not marked as a massacre site today; talks about the persecution of Jews in Nemunaitis town at the beginning of the war, when they were ordered to wear stars and prohibited from walking on the sidewalk; claims to have heard this from her sister, who lived in the town; explains that her sister was killed in June of 1945 by anti-Soviet partisans, together with her (sister's) husband and his father; when asked about the fate of the collaborators, she responds that **Jakubelskas** and **Jurčiukonis** had been sentenced; adds that both of them were policemen and good acquaintances; says that **Martušis** died soon after the war before he could be tried, while **Berulis** was sentenced as well; says that **Klimavičius** from

Alytus was also sentenced; recalls that the two brothers **Kuzmickas**, also **Replevičius**, two brothers **Pranckevičius** and two brothers **Aldonis** were present when her brother was killed, but notes that she did not know all of them.

[01:] 33:48:05 – [01:] 38:31:15
35:05 – 39:59

She explains that she learned about **Ivašauskas** – the local leader of Impulevičius' battalion – from a book called “Mass Massacres in Lithuania”; talks about the deputy of the police chief named **Jėčys** (Domininkas Jėčys-Ažuolis, who was the head of the social department of Alytus municipality in 1941–1944), who had been honored by having a statue built for him; claims that he had organized massacres and deportations to Germany; says that later he commanded a group of partisans (anti-soviet Lithuanian nationalists), but was killed in an attempt to liquidate the group (1947); when asked about the sources of this information, she admits that she never met **Jėčys** herself but says that she heard these facts from other prisoners who were jailed together with her father and her brother, including teachers, neighbors, and two uncles.

[01:] 38:31:16 – [01:] 43:36:08
40:00 – 45:17

She reports that on the 2nd of January, 1945, the anti-soviet partisans from **Ramanauskas**' group (Adolfas Ramanauskas-Vanagas, Lithuanian nationalist, anti-Soviet partisan) killed her father; recalls how he was taken away from their home and shot together with her fifteen year old brother; says that the partisans were accompanied by her neighbor **Brinza**, who showed them the way; mentions that among her father's killers were the three brothers **Paršeliūnas**; says that one of them had worked as a policeman at the beginning of the war, while the other two were “white strippers”; recalls that they had come from a big landowner family from Laukinčiai village while another man, named **Nedzinskas** from the same village also participated; explains that two of the **Paršeliūnas** brothers were killed while **Pranas** survived and served his sentence after the war; recalls that she would see him in Alytus after he had come back from prison; recalls that **Stalkauskas**, who was also from Nemunaitis village, participated in killing her father as well; explains that her fifteen year-old brother survived even though he had been hit by 7 bullets and lived until 1947, so he was able to recount what happened; says that their neighbor, **Pangonis**, who was among the ones designated to be executed with her father, also survived, as he was placed at the bottom of the trench; mentions that **Brinza**, who died a week prior to the interview, was the last surviving executioner of her family.