

UŽDAVINYS, Vytautas
Lithuania Documentation Project
Lithuanian
RG-50.473*0202

Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Vytautas Uždaviny, born in 1931 and a resident of Pirčiupis, talks about witnessing his entire village, including members of his family, being destroyed by fire by the Germans during World War II.

[01:] 00:33:00 – [01:] 10:16:24
00:00 – 10:38

Vytautas Uždaviny begins by explaining he was born in 1931 in Pirčiupis; says that at the time of the Germans arrival, he and his family were residing in Pašaltis, about nine kilometers away; points out that the Germans burned his two brothers and mother, and that he witnessed Pirčiupis burn to the ground; says at this time he was about a kilometer from home, so when he saw the Germans coming into the village, he hid; recalls Germans coming with tanks and points out that there were a lot of Germans; remembers seeing the Germans surround the village, and after about an hour, they set the village on fire; remembers hearing tanks shooting and estimates that the village burned all night; says that after few weeks, he returned to Pirčiupis, but all that remained were ashes; emphasizes that everything in Pirčiupis, including the houses, was destroyed; comments that his mother's burned body was lying on the driveway by his house, and notes that he could see that she had been shot; says his two brothers lay dead in the house as a result of the fire; notes that the Germans burned the village's contents for an entire week; remembers that when the Germans surrounded Pirčiupis, they would stay from morning through the evening but would not stay overnight; recalls that the Germans let him return to the village, and when they were burying his mother and brothers, the Germans were walking around; notes that at that time he was 12 years old and that his brothers who were murdered were aged 7 and about 4 or 5; says he does not recall why they were not buried in the village cemetery, but rather by the three crosses in the village.

[01:] 10:16:25 – [01:] 14:00:24
10:39 – 14:31

Uždaviny describes the funeral; says the priest took the ashes, and that his mother had a coffin; says that because the other people were burned entirely with only ashes left nobody else had a coffin; says that no one was from his immediate family and that he alone was the only survivor; says his maternal grandmother came and took him with her; remembers that his mother's name was **Ieva**, and that his brother's names were **Juozas** and **Stasys**; estimates that there were about 119 people living in the village, who all of them were burned alive; says he cannot recall the exact year this occurred; when asked why the village was burned, he responds that he is not sure

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because at that time he was a child and did not understand much; guesses that since many Partisans were gone, that may have been reason enough for the Germans to have burned Pirčiupis.