

PIROŽOKS, Antons
Latvia Documentation Project
Russian
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Disk 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Antons Pirožoks, local resident of Daugavpils, talks about the killing of the local Jews by Germans and their collaborators, which he witnessed in 1941.

[01:] 00:46:00 – [01:] 03:19:59

He gives his name (Antons/Anton Pirožoks), date and place of birth (June 15, 1928, Daugavpils, Latvia); talks about his family; father originally from Belorussia, educated in Leningrad, served in the military, worked in a hospital after that time; his mother did not work but kept a cow; his sisters went to Latvian gymnasia; describes family as well-to-do; mentions that at home they spoke Polish and Russian.

[01:] 03:20:00 – [01:] 04:29:59

He talks about his Jewish neighbors, **Mostya**, a store-keeper, and **Chaim**; describes them as very good people; relates how shopping at **Mostya**'s store was done: items were bought on credit, recorded in a special book and paid on the day his father received his salary; mentions that both **Mostya** and **Chaim** were killed during World War II on Zolotaya Gora (Golden Mountain) in the Forshtadt area of Daugavpils.

[01:] 04:30:00 – [01:] 13:09:59

He tells how Jews of Daugavpils were massacred after the start of war; the shootings were done by local collaborators of the Germans who were put on trial after the war; remembers seeing columns of Jews led in the direction of Zolotaya Gora; the group included men, women, and children who walked quietly; neither onlookers nor Jews expected the ensuing massacre; recalls watching from a distance how Jews were being killed, going to the killing sites shortly afterwards and finding a child's skull with curly hair; talks about how the ground over the buried Jews was still "moving;" tells that a second group of Jews was later shot at Pogulyanka area; mentions that Jews were made to undress before being shot; local people (including a neighbor named **Shpak**) took away and collected the Jews' clothes.

[01:] 13:10:00 – [01:] 16:59:59

He describes Zolotaya Gora as a large open hilly area; mentions that in preparation for the shootings Germans employed men from the city to dig trenches to use for the subsequent burial of the Jews; relates how someone working there saw their neighbor **Chaim** beg for help.

[01:] 17:00:00 – [01:] 21:09:59

He says that no one at home could believe that such a killing had happened; mentions German informers eavesdropping on people's conversations; relates how he was arrested and sent to work, first to a village and then to POW camp no. 207; describes the work at the camp; relates how he once tried to give a POW a pair of trousers and was beaten up by Germans.

[01:] 21:10:00 – [01:] 30:29:59

He talks about numerous refugees in Daugavpils, some of whom took apartments which were left by Jews; surmises that only those Jews who had run away survived; talks about Jews who returned after war; lists a few of his Jewish teachers and friends; cites absence of publications about events on Zolotaya Gora after the war; mentions extensive construction on Zolotaya Gora after the war, and the uprooting and relocation of the Jewish cemetery to another part of the city due to the new construction.

[01:] 30:30:00 – [01:] 36:29:59

He talks more about going to Pogulyanka on the day the Jews were shot there.

Disk 1, Tape 2

[02:] 00:40:00 – [02:] 06:44:59

[Filming from Pogulyanka area of Daugavpils where Jews were killed during the war, with commentary by Antons Pirožoks: At present, the place is marked with a memorial stone; there is a small forest nearby; public ceremonies in commemoration of the massacre of the local Jews in 1941 are occasionally held at the place.]