

PANFILOV, Georgij  
Latvia Documentation Project  
Russian  
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Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Georgij Panfiov, talks about his childhood and about the German invasion. He talks about some of the people he knew and how the Germans tortured them. He explains that he heard about these events and also even personally witnessed them. Georgij also talks about his brother, about the local prison in Rezekne, and finally, about the camp in Latvia.

[01:] 00:52:15 – [01:] 10:15:15

Georgij Panfilov, born on April 17, 1927, talks about his childhood in the village of **Lotsugo, Pulden**, in the **Loden District**; explains that he lived there a couple of years, then he and his his family moved to the village of **Vurva, Kaldan**, in the **Redekned** district; points out that he lived too far away from the school he was going to so the Russian authorities allowed him to live in the **Kalnat** during the winter; explains that there were other Jewish people living there; explains that he helped the mistress of the house because he was young, energetic, and could do a lot of work; points out that as a reward she gave him food and sweets; explains that when the Germans invaded they burned and destroyed all the posters of Lenin and Stalin; explains that at first they were searching for Communists and policeman, and then took them away; points out that he knew some of the people that the Germans shot; explains that [they] did not search for Jewish people at the beginning; explains that later on they came to **Kalnat** and ordered the mistress to gather her belongings, and then they took her away; explains that after she left he was kicked out; explains that they took away more Jewish people from the house, including two girls who went to school with him; explains that all of the Jews were locked in the local synagogue and the two girls were locked in the cellar of the house; explains that after a while this house was turned into a police station.

[01:] 10:16:00 – [01:] 20:15:14

He recalls an incident when the Germans ordered a group of 15 people to disperse during which a German hit a boy in the head who had tried to escape, killing him; remembers how the German policemen drank and plundered shops; explains how the Germans took Jews to the cemetery, made them dig their own graves, and shot them; explains that after this people began to hide; explains that during that time his neighbor gathered information about people: where were they going and what were they doing; explains that this continued until the fall of 1943; explains that during this period of time a lot of people were taken away, shot, or taken to unknown places from which they never returned; points out that there was a German base in the area that the Russians wanted to destroy, however they were afraid they would not succeed because of the well-established security; says that he personally knew some parachutists, one of whom was a Jew, named **Iasha**; mentions two other people that he knew: **Volodya**, who was a radio operator, and **Nikolay**, who was a commander; explains that his brother was in hiding and that he arranged a meeting between his brother and **Iasha**, who was

also in hiding; explains that they went into hiding together before both moving to another place.

**[01:] 20:15:15 – [01:] 30:02:01**

He continues with the story of being in hiding; explains that after they left the base they had very little food and decided to ask **Jurij**, a very wealthy and influential person, for food; explains that his brother refused to visit **Jurij**, because he believed him to be a traitor; explains that his brother waited for them outside and asked them to bring him some food when they came out; explains that **Jurij** received them very politely and gave them plenty of food, enough that they could take some along; explains that after they left he immediately called the police; points out that that they arrived very fast and occupied the whole forest that Georgij's brother and his companions needed to cross; explains that he, his brother, and **Iasha** managed to escape; explains the circumstances of his brother's arrest after a man turned him into the police; points out that soon afterwards, he along with their neighbor, **Rudkovsky** and **Rudkovsky's** two brothers were also arrested; explains how they sent them first to Kalnat, and after that to the prison in Rezekne; explains that his brother, along with a Belorussian man, named **Soldentko**, were sent to another place, where they were both publically shot; explains that there were also Jews in that prison but later a drunk German came and shot all of the Jews in their cells.

**[01:] 30:02:02 – [01:] 36:12:06**

Georgij returns to the episode of the boy who was killed near the river; explains that the German policeman was not wearing a uniform; says he recognized this officer and that his name was **Brokan**; points out how **Brokan** hit the boy in the head with a stick; explains that people began to shout and that he and his friend ran away; explains that the people who were there were mostly men; explains that there were approximately 15–18 people; explains that after that episode, all of them were driven to the lake; he returns to the girls whom he mentioned earlier; explains that they were kept in the cellar of the house for a long period of time; explains that after that they were released, drunk German policemen, tortured them; explains that the girls were young and beautiful; says that they were released with supervision a couple of times but then were captured and raped again; explains that this process continued on for a very long period of time; explains that he never saw them again and has no idea what happened to them; explains that he met other Jews in a camp in Latvia in 1944; explains that these Jewish people were brought on a train and that they thought they were just there temporarily; explains that there were around 400–500 people at this camp and that they were guarded by Ukrainians; explains that these guards committed terrible cruelties; explains how at the camp a doctor came and asked if there were any ill people; explains that many people were deceived and told him that they feel sick and then were all shot; explains how there were attempts to escape; points out how two inmates destroyed two conveyor belts with axes.