

GIRDO, Stanislav  
Latvia Documentation Project  
Russian  
RG-50.568\*0020

In this interview, Stanislav Girdo, born September 25, 1929 talks about his life and experiences before and during the occupation of his native town of Krāslava (in eastern Latvia) first by the Red Army and then by the Wehrmacht (German) forces. He recalls episodes from everyday life in his town, including early measures against the Jewish population, and describes the preparations for and the mass execution of Jewish civilians by the Nazis. He mentions several collaborators and describes the Nazis' attempts to hide evidence of the murders. He recounts the murder of Catholic clergy by the Soviet forces.

Box 1, Tape 1

**[01:] 00:31:01 – [01:] 10:14:22**  
**00:00 – 10:31**

Stanislav Girdo introduces himself; mentions his life at school in the pre-war years; describes the typical businesses of the local Jews before the Nazi occupation; describes life in the town during the first days of WWII; recounts the events of the Soviet occupation of the town in 1940; describes the soldiers of the Red Army.

**[01:] 10:14:23 – [01:] 19:09:15**  
**10:32 – 19:45**

Girdo describes the beginning of the Nazi occupation; talks about the situation in the town during the first days; talks about lootings of abandoned shops in the town; recounts how the Nazis began to recruit local men to work in police; talks about the executions of the Catholic priests by the Soviets before they left the town.

**[01:] 19:09:16 – [01:] 29:30:05**  
**19:46 – 30:34**

Girdo describes the new rules of the occupying regime; tells about the policy towards the local Jews beginning with gradual segregation and ending with mass murder; tells about the convoy-guards, who were newly-recruited policemen who often knew personally those who they transported; mentions as examples a policeman named **Matvej Lukjanov** and a shop owner named **Butin**; speculates on how many were executed; describes the details of the preparation and procedure for mass execution; describes the place, which he visited shortly after the execution took place.

**[01:] 29:30:06 – [01:] 36:04:22**  
**30:35 – 37:16**

Girido tells the story about a former Nazi collaborator named **Tarletskij**; describes the public execution of a non-Jewish local man who was accused of hiding a Russian spy; describes the peculiarities of the Nazi propaganda machine.

Box 1, Tape 2

[02:] 00:31:07 – [02:] 11:01:16  
00:24 – 11:19

Girido describes a situation, which he witnessed in 1942 and which **might picture** *[interviewee's meaning is unclear]* the life of those Jews who were still alive in the town at that time; describes the murder of a man of unknown nationality by a policeman; describes the mass execution and the preparation for it; tells about a person named **Vainovski** who managed the mass execution of Jews in the town.

[02:] 11:01:17 – [02:] 20:02:21  
11:20 – 20:43

Girido tells about the attempts of the German troops to eradicate the evidences of the mass executions by setting the bodies on fire in 1944; describes the execution site; tells about one collaborator named **Matvej Lukjanov** and his behavior at the time when the Nazis were about to leave the town; further describes **Lukjanov's** life after the war; gives some background information about his family.

[02:] 20:02:22 – [02:] 22:12:11  
20:44 – 22:59

Girido tells about a former Nazi-collaborator still living in the town.