

GROT, Yuri  
Ukraine Witnesses Documentation Project  
Ukrainian  
RG-50.575\*0015

Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Yuri Grot, a native of Kharkov (Ukraine), talks about his life under German occupation during World War II.

**[01:] 00:00:00 – [01:] 01:30:59**

He gives his name (Yuri Ivanovich Grot), date and place of birth as February 9, 1932, Kharkov; mentions that at the start of the war his father was transferred to work in Moscow, while he and his mother stayed behind in Kharkov.

**[01:] 01:31:00 – [01:] 07:04:59**

He talks about the **Vodovozovs**, mother and son – the only Jewish family out of many from their building that did not manage to leave the city; discusses the Germans distributing leaflets which ordered all Jews to register; talks about his mother convincing the **Vodovozovs** not to register with the authorities; comments on the Jews being commanded to gather near the factory barracks; mentions spending two weeks hiding in the boiler room with the **Vodovozovs'** son; relates seeing groups of Jews with yellow stars being led on **Sumskaya Street**.

**[01:] 07:05:00 – [01:] 08:40:59**

He tells about a Jewish family acquaintance, Leonid **Klemyonov**, who once came by wearing a yellow star; he did not respond to the order to register with the Germans and later disappeared.

**[01:] 08:41:00 – [01:] 12:30:59**

He talks about how Jews were led in the streets by the Ukrainian policemen and collaborators, “politsayyi”; talks about the round-up of Jews that took two to four days; comments on the remaining Jews being sought out by Germans with the help of local authorities who had lists with names of all Jews.

**[01:] 12:31:00 – [01:] 15:20:59**

He describes how the local residents were forced to attend public hangings in the main Dzerzhinsky Square.

**[01:] 15:21:00 – [01:] 16:45:59**

He talks about the bazaar, **Sumskoy** Market, where fine things were exchanged for bits of food; discusses the “politsayyi” expropriating merchandise and beating and pushing away Jews who entered the market.

**[01:] 16:46:00 – [01:] 17:40:59**

He mentions hangings in different parts of the city; relates how his mother once ran into a body of a man who was hanged on a tree in the park.

**[01:] 17:41:00 – [01:] 18:45:59**

He depicts the Germans searching for physically-fit men to ship them to labor camps in Germany.

**[01:] 18:46:00 – [01:] 23:25:59**

He tells about the hospital near **Sumskoy** Market and the few hundred wounded Soviet soldiers who were there when the Germans returned to Kharkov in 1943; talks about the women from the neighborhood taking care of the wounded; comments on the Germans burning down the building and killing all wounded after a shooting altercation.

**[01:] 23:26:00 – [01:] 28:25:59**

He talks about how his grandfather was shot to death in the street in spring 1943, and how his mother and he were looking for his grandfather’s corpse; remembers burying him later.

**[01:] 28:26:00 – [01:] 39:19:59**

He describes seeing a Soviet plane hit and a pilot who had parachuted killed by Germans; comments on the book burnings and how the Germans dumped libraries with classics of Lenin, Marx, and Engels, and how people used these books to heat apartments; cites German pedantry; mentions the corpses in the streets and looting.

**[01:] 39:20:00 – [01:] 44:00:59**

He talks about seeing big dark-green trucks circling around Kharkov, which were later proved to be “**gasonwagens**” (death wagons).

**[01:] 44:01:00 – [01:] 46:00:59**

He mentions other occupying forces in Kharkov beside Germans, such as Italians, Hungarians, and Romanians; talks about Ukrainian “politsayyi,” their cruelty and hatred of Jews and “intelligentsia.”