

Summary of Oral History: Mykola Bosyi

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Mykola Bosyi, born in 1933 in the village of Zhuravnyky. He was 9 years when the Germans came to their village in August, 1942. His father, Stepan, worked for a Jew, Ios`Toier, who took him to a small town (shtetl). He was kind, paid, promised to give his father the farm (2 shpihlers (pantries), made of zinc, covered with tin). According to his mother, they could turn to them for help, earn some money working for them, and the Jews themselves "used their heads."

The Germans brought all the Jews to the square called the ghetto, and Ukrainians and Poles gathered on the side. There were announcements to gather, but the police still had to go from house to house and take the Jews. All the Jews wore a yellow star on their backs and a round patch on their chests. The ghetto was guarded by the Ukrainian-Polish police and the Germans. The interviewee mentions the surname "Pasos'", he was a senior police officer, later he was possibly killed by guerrilla. There were also Polish-Ukrainian and German interpreters ("negotiators") in the ghetto, who spoke to the Jews and translated everything for the Germans.

First, locals were summoned and shot, then some were brought from Horokhov. It lasted for 3 days. About 30 people were taken by three cars to the pit three times a day. In total 3,000 Jews were killed. The pit, about 8 m by 10 m, was dug by the locals, including the speaker's father.

The interviewee watched the executions as he climbed a tall cherry tree growing on a hill about 500 meters from the pit. He says that three cars arrived, people were lined up in groups along the pit and shot (not undressed), the corpses immediately fell there, then the diggers sprinkled them, and put the next group. Folkdeutsche (local Germans) took part in the executions. When it was all over, the locals came to fill in the pit in order to avoid the smell.

Toier, a German, was rescued by Mykola's parents and hidden in a cellar (shuhrol); his wife did not have time to hide, she was taken away. (Their two adult children did not live with them.) Then the Jew hid at a single woman's, Varvara, for almost 8 months. But one of his people sold them out, and they were both caught and taken away, the further fate is unknown. One Jewish woman was able to get out of the pit, lived for 3-4 months, until someone sold her out.

After the shootings, the locals went into the houses of the killed Jews and took their belongings, which the Germans did not take. When the war ended, the locals settled

there or the houses were looted by bandits. Toier did not have time to transfer the promised farm to his father, so he could not protect his property from robbers.

He says that the Germans did not touch Ukrainians or Poles, though the Ukrainians and Poles were still very frightened, and when the "bandits" or guerrilla knocked the telephone poles down and burned the bridge so that no one would come from Horokhov, a German ordered its restoration within 24 hours. A local German woman defended them.

There was a case in the neighboring village of Volytsia. "Guerrilla bandit" killed a German, the Germans burned 10 houses down. There is a memorial site in the village.

In the neighboring village of Boryskovychi, a group of bandits (among them Laganovs`kyi ("Chereshn`ia")) took away men, killed people, children, and dumped them in wells. 8-10 years later they were exposed. 5 wells were excavated, people were buried in one grave.