

Summary of Oral History: Oral history interview with Pavlo Kravets.

RG#: RG-50.575.0082

This Summary was written by a USHMM Contractor 06/2022

Pavlo Kravets, born in 1923, resident of the village of Torkanivka.

In winter, at the end of 1941 – the beginning of 1942, he witnessed about 150 Jews, then another 100 being brought by Romanian guards accompanied by the Germans to the ghetto, a pigsty outside the village. People died there often, almost every day. They were buried in 15-meter pits for beets. They stayed there all winter. The Jews came to the village and offered their services, traded their clothes for food. The guards were on the outskirts of the village. There was a Romanian named Nedilia, who was a commissioner of the German gendarmerie. Pavlo does not mention the local polizei, some were not as strict as the Germans and Romanians. The ghetto was not guarded. But if they saw that someone was going to the village or people were carrying food, they were sent back and whipped.

The interviewee brought beets from the field. His foreman ordered him to take them to the Jews, which was their main food. For this, he and the foreman were sent to the neighboring village of Tsybulivka, where the German gendarmerie was located. They were severely punished and ordered not to feed the Jews.

The interviewee also saw 3-4 columns of the Jews being driven to the villages of Obodivka and Bondurivka. Mostly they were the Jews from Bukovyna.

An interpreter, named Sosman, lived in the village, from whom the interviewee learned about the needs of the Jews.

Before the war, there were about 8 Jewish farms in Torkanivka. When the war broke out, some immediately fled, mostly to Bershat. And those who stayed there were taken away by the Germans. The SS rode through the village on motorcycles, took Jews and other people, communists, activists for interrogation or execution. Some Jews managed to hide and escape. A Jewish neighbor hid with the interviewee's family for a week, later she managed to escape to Bershat, as well as her son, who hid with another family, but her husband was taken away.

The Jews were brought to the barn of the interviewee's relative. Then they were shot in the garden, where there was a funnel from a shell. The interviewee witnessed the execution of the head of the village council and three Jews. They were shot by 2 or 3 Germans in turn, their bodies fell into a pit. Then the locals filled up the pit.

Dabrum (or Abramovych), Borukh, Yankil are the Jews shot in Torkanivka

Sydor Holub is an activist and communist