

Oral History Interview with Anton Stryzhko

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Summary:

Anton (Antoni) Stryzhko (Strizhko in Russian), son of Leonard (Leonard in Russian), born in 1932 in Ikażń (Ikazn in Russian), Viciebsk region, Belarus; describes how two Catholic priests Władysław Mackowik, Mieczysław Pyrtek were killed in February 1941 in Hlybokaje (Glybokoye); initially Jews who were craftsmen were left in Ikażń, the rest was taken to Miory ghetto; remaining Jews were taken to be killed in Ikażń in June or July 1942; Anton was witnessing the murder of Jews in Ikażń with his two friends Mikalai Dvaretski and Mikalai Kabak; before the murder local Jews were kept for a few hours in the cellar of Itsak (Isaak) Samavar's house, Itsak himself and his family had been taken to the Miory ghetto by then; Jews killed in Ikażń in June/July 1941 were: Shender and Merka; Basia, Chaim and their son Rufka (Rafail); Kharat Rakhmil and wife Hanka, daughter Dverk attending school together and the younger son, Yutka; a couple, Chaim and Reiza; Berka, an older man, his wife, son Leyzer, daughter Basia; Brain's daughter; Leyzer had tried to escape through the rye field before being taken the cellar of Samavar's house, but Leyzer was revealed by a local drunk man; Leyzer and his sister Basia were shot first; the Nazi officer was shooting, four policemen were not shooting and one started to shoot the bodies once they were in a pit; the Nazi officer shot the bodies in the pit with an automatic gun; how Anton's father was approached by (Itsak) Samavar in the field telling him that other Jews were taken to Miory ghetto, many were later killed there but Itsak (Isaak) Samavar escaped; Anton wonders why the site where the local Jews were killed has never been marked or memorialized during Soviet times or afterwards and how a new road was built above that place even though the skulls were dug out from there; Anton also added that the Soviet Union did not like those who did not fight back and perhaps that is why the authorities did not commemorate the Jewish victims.