

[1.1] Stenogram of conversation with comrade Petr Ivanovich Gritsenko - witness at the trial regarding the case of the atrocities of the German-fascist invaders on the territory of Ukraine.

The conversation was conducted by junior researcher T. S. Zolotareva  
[signature]

G. V. Shestopalova stenographed

January 20, 1946. Kiev.

I was born in the village Chervonaya Znamenka<sup>1</sup> (Kremenchug district) in 1886. I worked at a pumping station from 1920 to the moment the occupation began. During the occupation, I worked at the same place.

On September 9, 1941, the Germans entered Kremenchug. A few days later, I saw a car that had driven up. This was at 10 o'clock in the evening. I thought that this car had become lost and gotten knocked off its path. The car had strayed into a pine grove, where trenches for defense had been dug back by our troops. When the car drove beyond these trenches, I saw that the light had gone out and thought: the car has fallen in. But after some time, I clearly heard gunshots. I was on duty every two days<sup>2</sup> and every time I saw the same kind of cars. I became curious about what it is that these cars are doing there. In about five days I came there during the day and saw that the trenches were filled in with earth. Here I also saw traces of blood and there lay a peaked cap on the grass. I understood then what had been happening here. Later on, a car started to drive up to those same places at dawn. All of this would happen at a distance of 300 meters from the building where I worked. One time, at night, I crept in closer to see what was happening there. I laid low so that they would not see me. At dawn a car drove up, a truck and passenger car. I saw about 8 people, perhaps more, seeing as there was a commotion and I did not see everyone clearly. About 5 minutes later, they began to shoot them. I heard only one cry, and a muffled one at that. After some time, I came to this place again and saw that the trenches were already all filled in. Some sort of rags and photographs were lying about near the trenches. On these rags were six-pointed stars. I found about 50-60 such rags there. Not long after this, the shootings in this grove ended and the Germans moved their operations over, closer to our buildings, which are located on the second territory. I serviced these buildings. When the shootings moved closer, [1.2] the Germans would disembark people in a side street and drive them to the shooting site. They shot only men. Among them were villagers and city dwellers.

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<sup>1</sup> Chervonaya Znamenka/Chervona Znam'yanka) is a village in Kremenchug district, Poltava Region.

<sup>2</sup> "I was on duty every two days" (Дежурил я через двое суток) refers to working a 24-hour shift followed by 48 hours (2 days) off, and then starting the cycle again.

The Germans would drive me into the machine building so that I would not come out, because this was at a distance of 50-60 m. Through the window, I observed them carrying out the shooting. This all happened in broad daylight. I saw everything in the window. They undressed the poor people, put them on their knees before the trench, shot, and people fell. Immediately they covered them up with earth. After that our prisoners of war would come and bury them. But they buried them badly - hands and feet were visible. The Germans put the dead into one and the same trench more than once. These shootings would occur in 1942 also. The shootings were carried out only by Germans. The shootings continued through the summer of 1942.

Next to machine building no. 1, there was a big trench and shootings were carried out there often. From the machine building I, often unnoticed by them, observed the shootings, seeing as I knew that if a car drives up to this place, it means they are going to shoot people. One time they brought 4 people, undressed them, shot them, and took their things and drove away with them. Afterwards, I asked a *politsai* who guarded the station who it was that they had shot. He said that these people had hidden weapons in the 10th detachment, but somebody gave them up and they killed them. The following day it was announced that for not giving up weapons, Telukh, Boyko, and others whose last names I don't remember were shot. This was also published in the newspaper.

I saw how they drove 9 people in formation on foot to the shooting range to be shot [1.3]. These were men only. The shooting range was very deep. They undressed these people in the building, piled the clothes on the windowsills, and led them to a ravine. Suddenly I heard a German shout and saw that one person, undressed, is escaping from out of the ravine, and two Germans are chasing after him. They immediately shot and wounded him, and, having run up closer, finished him off. Immediately, *politsai* took the pants off the deceased and buried him. I saw them take people on trucks to be shot, and how they led them in formation on foot to be shot. I saw them leading a column of prisoners of war of about 400-500. One of the prisoners of war separated himself from the column with the goal of finding out whether there were people he knew here. I wanted to give him some tobacco, but the German did not allow this, and started to beat him up with a stick. The column moved past me, and suddenly I heard gunshots and saw two people from the column fall. A German came up to me and began to demand that I bury the killed prisoners of war. I refused, saying that I was on my way to work (I had a bunch of keys on me). I don't know who buried them. What they killed them for, I also don't know.

A small prisoner of war column was passing by and everyone was eating something. One of the prisoners of war was licking his sleeve, which was covered with some kind of spilled porridge. He fell behind the formation, either because he was ill or because he was licking up the kasha. A German came up to him and forced

two prisoners of war to carry him, but they did not have the strength to, seeing as all the prisoners of war were very malnourished, and they had fallen behind because of that. The German returned and immediately, in front of the public, shot this poor man who could not walk. His corpse lay outside for a long time before somebody removed it.

More than once, I saw Germans hit people in the face. For what - I don't know.

[1.4] In the same building as me, in the second apartment, lived a family: the husband was Russian, the wife was Jewish. His name is Fedotov. The Germans shot her.

One time this one acquaintance came to me to find out whether one could live in this village. I did not recommend it to him, because his wife was a Jew. The Germans found out about this and shot her. She left her husband 250 rubles. His name is Bukharkin.

In Kremenchug they drove all the Jews together to the settlement Novaya Ivanovka.<sup>3</sup> They were not there for long. When they left their homes, they took their most valuable things with them. At some point, they were ordered to leave this settlement, and to leave behind all their things. They drove them all to Peschanaya Hill<sup>4</sup> near Kochegury and shot them. I did not see this myself, but I heard about the shootings from *politsai*. Here, too, the Germans themselves carried out the shootings, and the *politsai* only drove people to Kochegury. Three thousand people died there.<sup>5</sup> The *politsai* told me about how this would happen. The German officer Gergel', from the village Nedogarki<sup>6</sup> of Kremenchug district - a former emigrant, who joined the German army - stood on a plank that spanned the pit. He would force people to walk on this plank and would shoot them in the head. The people would fall into the pit. A *politsai* from Nedogarki told me about this.

After that, another batch of three thousand people were shot. They took children in wagons to be shot. If somebody refused to go, they would throw them into the cart like rags.

In 1942, in May, the Germans began to deport the population to Germany. They would do this through the labor exchange. In 4 go-arounds, they took 11

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<sup>3</sup> Novaya Ivanovka: an industrial area on the outskirts of Kremenchug at the time. Jews were moved there to live in unheated barracks in late September 1941 before they would be executed. [Kremenchug\(yadvashem.org\)](http://Kremenchug(yadvashem.org)); [Где в Кременчуге людей расстреливали тысячами » Всі новини Кременчука на сайті Кременчуцький ТелеграфЪ \(telegraf.in.ua\)](http://Где в Кременчуге людей расстреливали тысячами » Всі новини Кременчука на сайті Кременчуцький ТелеграфЪ (telegraf.in.ua))

<sup>4</sup> Kremenchug's Peschanaya Hill is a major site of mass shootings of Jews from October 1941 to January 1942. [Где в Кременчуге людей расстреливали тысячами » Всі новини Кременчука на сайті Кременчуцький ТелеграфЪ \(telegraf.in.ua\)](http://Где в Кременчуге людей расстреливали тысячами » Всі новини Кременчука на сайті Кременчуцький ТелеграфЪ (telegraf.in.ua)); [Kremenchug\(yadvashem.org\)](http://Kremenchug(yadvashem.org))

<sup>5</sup> Another source claims twenty thousand dead, including five thousand prisoners of war, buried in the area of Peschanaya Hill. [Где в Кременчуге людей расстреливали тысячами » Всі новини Кременчука на сайті Кременчуцький ТелеграфЪ \(telegraf.in.ua\)](http://Где в Кременчуге людей расстреливали тысячами » Всі новини Кременчука на сайті Кременчуцький ТелеграфЪ (telegraf.in.ua))

<sup>6</sup> Nedogarki/Nedoharky is a village about 20 km northwest of Kremenchuk.

thousand people away from Kremenchug. The population of Kremenchug at that time was no more than 30,000 people. People hid from the rounding up, fearing German forced labor, especially [l.5] after they began to receive letters from Germany.

I saw how they would grab people on the road and throw them into cars like objects. They even took women who have kids. The women screamed and cried but nobody listened to them. Many fled and many hid, but of course this was very hard to do and not everyone was able to flee. There was a terrible hunt for the youth. They would grab people in the streets during the day as well as at night, and drag them to the circus.<sup>7</sup> From there they would take them away.

About three weeks before the withdrawal, the Germans began to burn the city. They blew up the concrete factory, plants, synagogues, the cathedral, railroad buildings, and bridges. Houses they simply burned. The inhabitants of Kremenchug rushed around the city and would gather there, where the fire raged less. The entire city was burning. There was no place not only for people, but for animals too. Cats and dogs burned.

(P.I. Gritsenko) [signature]

Kremenchug. Pumping station.

Stenographer [signature] (G.V. Shestopalova) [l.6]

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<sup>7</sup> The circus in Kremenchuk was built in 1933-1934. During the German occupation, it was used as a collection point for Soviet youth to be sent to Germany. It was burned down by retreating German troops in 1943 and not restored. [Кременчуцький цирк історія з 1934 по 1943 рік \(okrain.net.ua\)](http://okrain.net.ua)