

Stenogram of citizen Yakov Nesterovich Karpuk-Shadrich, born in 1886, native of the village Bushmichi<sup>1</sup> of the Brest region, Vysoko-Litovskii district, witness at the trial regarding German-fascist atrocities across Ukraine, in the case of ...

Before the beginning of the war, I lived in Rovno<sup>2</sup> and worked for the railroad as a senior telegrapher over the course of 16 years.

I could not evacuate due to illness.

A month after their arrival, the German occupiers, via an order, told all Jews to gather for the ghetto with 50 kg of winter clothing and their valuables. They did not touch the Jewish specialists for now. When about 27 thousand Jews had gathered, they drove them into the ravines of the Sosniaki<sup>3</sup> grove, surrounded them, and shot them all using machine guns. Before the shooting they ordered everyone to undress, and after the shooting they removed all the clothing and valuables by car.

One Jewish man, who was able to escape, relayed that he held a child in his arms. He fell as the shots went off and was not wounded. But the child was killed. After they had shot everyone, the Germans did an additional round, and those who would show signs of life, they finished off with their rifle butts. But he pretended to be dead. [l.1] Even though they did hit him three times with a rifle butt, at night he escaped and came to me. I hid him in the hay. And after some time, I prevailed upon the director of mill No. 4 to give him a job there. He worked there as a carter.

From May 15, 1943, I worked at the household plot of Boyark on BelayaStreet<sup>4</sup> - as a brigadier-vegetable gardener.

The administration was Ukrainian under German control. They would give us 2 kg of bread for 7 days, 500 grams of groats for 7 days, 20 grams of meat for a day.

To this same place they would bring Jewish specialists to work: to weed the vegetable gardens, add soil to cover the roots of the cabbage.

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<sup>1</sup> Bushmichi/Bushmichy is a village in current-day western Belarus, close to the Polish border and about 60 km northeast of Brest.

<sup>2</sup> Rovno/Rivne is a medium-sized city in western Ukraine. It was part of the Russian Empire from 1793 to 1917, and part of Poland from 1921 to 1939 before becoming part of the Soviet Union as part of its annexation of eastern Poland in 1939 in collusion with Germany. It was also the seat of the German administration of the German-created *Reichskommissariat Ukraine*, their occupation administrative unit for Ukraine, and its capital.

<sup>3</sup> This refers to Sosnki forest, where 15,000-18,000 adult Jews and 6,000 Jewish children were killed on November 6-7, 1941. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rovno\\_Ghetto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rovno_Ghetto)

<sup>4</sup> Belaya/Bila Street lies northwest of the center of Rivne.

After some time, the Germans gathered all the ghettoites (specialists), up to 4 thousand, loaded them into railcars at the station and took them to Kostopol'.<sup>5</sup> There they shot everyone.

Not less than 20 thousand people of various nationalities were shot on Belaya Street.

First, prisoners of war dug a pit 10 meters in length, 5 meters in width, 2.5 meters in depth. They would bring a batch of people, up to 3 thousand, of various nationalities. They would undress them and 20 at a time, naked - first women and children, and then men - they would send them into the pit, where they ordered them to lie in rows. There they shot them. As part of the shooting, the Germans would drive all the people out from the vegetable gardens and surround the street with a dense patrol. I, with my friend, and from the attic of a house located in the vicinity of this street, was a witness of the following horrors: one woman, already being undressed, [1.2] was walking in front, pressing a 5-month-old child to herself, also undressed. She was leading a three-year-old boy by the hand, and two others of older age were walking behind. One of them was crying and yelling to his father, who was in line to be shot: "Father, save us, the Germans want to kill us." They brought them up to the pit, threw them in, and shot them. The same fate befell the men.

During the shooting of one group of men, one of them hit a German in the face with his fist and ran. They shot at him from machine guns but did not hit him and he was able to escape. Having run as far as the railroad, where men with shovels were working, he grabbed a shovel from one of the workers and began to shovel soil. And the Germans, who were chasing after him, ran further, having lost sight of him. In this way he was able to evade death.

One young fellow escaped from yet another batch brought to be shot. But they released dogs after him. The dogs caught up with him, ripped and gnawed his body, and the German who ran up shot him immediately.

Another man escaped, but then he got caught on wire and they shot him, and so he drooped on this wire.

In 1943 they shot 1350 people of the Rovno and Kostopol' intelligentsia.

Once, having come to the cemetery at the church, we saw a few stacks of firewood, stacked by the cubic meter. Having come closer, we saw that these were naked corpses. [1.3] They were swollen, with bruises and other signs of violence. It turns out that these were corpses from the prisoner of war camp, which were being gathered here with horse-drawn carriages. They were not burying them since the ground was frozen. There were about 400 corpses there.

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<sup>5</sup> Kostopol'/Kostopil' is a town 35 km north-northeast of Rivne. It is known as the location where the last large-scale killing of Rivne's Jews took place, before the final smaller actions inside the Rivne ghetto. More Jews were likely killed at Kostopil' than the interviewee estimates, perhaps 5 to 7 thousand.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rovno\\_Ghetto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rovno_Ghetto) ; <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kostopil>

In addition to the shootings, they would take the population away to Germany for forced labors.

So it continued until February 4, 1944, when our valorous Red Army arrived and liberated us from the German-fascist bloody atrocities.

Now I work at the same place at the household plot as a clerk and am bringing up a girl who I picked up on the street. Her parents were shot.

January 21, 1946 (signature)

Zolotareva conducted the stenogram (signature)

Zalesnaya stenographed (signature) [l.4]