

EHRI Online Course in Holocaust Studies

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The Holocaust in Ukraine – Auxiliary Administration and Police

Translation: C09 Former Policeman Vasyl Pokotylo is questioned by Soviet Interrogators about His Activities in Kiev, is Allowed to Retract Some Statements, and is Sentenced to Death, March–September 1945

[C09-A]

QUESTIONNAIRE OF ARRESTEE.

1. **Last name:** Pokotilo<sup>1</sup>
2. **First name and patronym:** Vasiliï Fedorovich
3. **Year of birth:** 1914
4. **Place of birth:** city of Kyiv, Kyiv Oblast<sup>2</sup>
5. **Place of residence:** no fixed place of residence
6. **Nationality and citizenship:** Ukrainian, citizen of the USSR
7. **Passport:** n.a.
8. **Profession:** electrician
9. **Occupation:** Private of the 239<sup>th</sup> ARRR<sup>3</sup>
10. **Social background:** from a family of clerks
11. **Social background: before the revolution:** –  
**After the revolution:** Worker
12. **Education:** secondary technical
13. **Party membership:** no member
14. **Military register category:** serviceman
15. **Service in white and other counterrevolutionary armies:** no
16. **Participation in gangs and other counterrevolutionary organizations:** no
17. **Participation in battles with the German-fascist military:** participated as member of the [illegible] unit
18. **Has been captured or encircled by the enemy:** no
19. **Family composition:** Mother Knei–Pokotilo Efrosin'ia Grigor'evna, residing in the city of Kyiv, at 4 Kudriavs'ka Street, housewife. Wife Pokotilo Anastasiia Ivanovna, born in 1932, residing in the village of Vel'ká-Lomnica (Slovakia), without a fixed occupation. Son Fedor – 2 years old, in the care of his mother.  
Brothers: Pokotilo Mikhail Fedorovich, born in 1906, residing in the city of Kharkiv, working as [illegible] at the Shevchenko Theater. Pokotilo Vladimir Fedorovich, in the Red Army from 1933. Sister Pokotilo Antonina Fedorovna, residing in the Sakhnov[shchyn]s'kyi District, Kharkiv Oblast. Working as a midwife at the district hospital.

[signature of V. Pokotylo]

<sup>1</sup> Ukr. Vasyl' Pokotylo – translator's note.

<sup>2</sup> Place and street names are given in Ukrainian if they are still used today; if they are no longer in use, the Russian spelling of the original text is maintained – translator's note.

<sup>3</sup> Army Reserve Rifle Regiment – translator's note.

**Appearance:** Of average height, skinny, brown-haired.

**Arrested when and by whom:** CID<sup>4</sup> "SMERSH", 239<sup>th</sup> ARRR  
February 25, 1945

**Location of custody:** Temporary detention facility of the CID "SMERSH" 239 ARRR

**Special comments:** -

**INQUIRY FILLED OUT BY:** Investigator of the CID "SMERSH" 239 ARRR  
Captain [*signature*]  
(Zaitsev)

February 25, 1945

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<sup>4</sup> Counterintelligence Department – translator's note.

[C09-B]

Interrogation report  
Of the accused Pokotilo Vasilii Fedorovich

Of March 11, 1945<sup>5</sup>

Start of the interrogation at 11.30  
am

Question:

You are accused of consciously, as a convinced Ukrainian nationalist, refusing service in the Red Army and remaining on the territory occupied by the Germans. In the first days after the enemy took the city of Kyiv, you voluntarily joined the police and were recruited into the bodyguard of the city's mayor. In May 1942, you travelled to the city of Poltava to be trained at an intelligence school, and upon return you were recruited into the city police. While performing the duties of a forward agent, later of an investigator and senior investigator, you carried out arrests of Soviet citizens, abused arrestees during interrogations and personally executed them by shooting. In 1943 you escaped, together with the Germans, from the territory of the Soviet Union across the border, where until recently you continued cooperating with the "SD", i.e. committing crimes under part 10 of the USSR Supreme Council Presidium's Decree of April 19, 1943.

Do you plead guilty to this charge?

Answer:

I plead guilty to this charge. Indeed, because of my hostility towards the Soviet authorities and full endorsement of the views of Ukrainian nationalists, I, in August 1941, refused service in the Red Army and hid myself in my apartment for over a month, awaiting the German arrival.

On September 19, 1941, the Germans took the city of Kyiv, by October 1-2, I was serving in the Schutz police, which I joined voluntarily, hoping to participate through my work, together with the Germans, in the destruction of Soviet power.

Almost immediately after this, I was assigned to the bodyguard of the mayor of the city administration, Bahazii. While performing this duty, I continuously accompanied Bahazii, in order to avert attempts on his life. In late November 1941, for drunkenness and rudeness towards a German officer, I was reassigned to work in the city administration's garage.

In March 1942, the garage was disbanded, and for some time I was out of work, but in May 1942 I got in contact with the German intelligence and travelled to the city of Poltava for training at an intelligence school. Because this school trained spies to be dropped in the rear of the Red Army and I was scared of such work, I left the school without finishing the training course and returned to Kyiv. Immediately after my return I joined the police, where I, first performing the duties of agent, later of investigator and senior investigator, was engaged in the exposing of Soviet citizens, partisans, communists and Jews, carried out arrests of exposed individuals, interrogated arrestees, securing the required testimonies by beating them up, and personally executed them. One Soviet citizen was executed by me.

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<sup>5</sup> Hereafter, V. Pokotylo was also interrogated on March 14 (doc. C09-C below), March 17, April 26, May 5, May 18 (doc. C09-D below), July 25, July 27; and he testified at his tribunal on September 10, 1945, of which only the verdict appears here (doc. C09-E below) – translator's note.

In September 1943, as a result of the Red Army's advance, I fled to Western Ukraine, together with the police and the "SD". At the Lviv "SD", I was assigned as a policeman to the town of Broshniv[-Osada], where I was enlisted for work as a forward timekeeper and later as a guard at a factory. Working as a timekeeper I exposed workers who smoked during their shift, and based on my denunciations they were not paid their full food ration.

In June 1944, I was evacuated together with the factory to Dobromyl', and from there to Slovakia, where I got a job working for an employer. There I was no longer in any contact with the "SD".

I will describe my crimes in detail during the next interrogation.

Truthfully transcribed from my words and read by me.

[signature of V. Pokotylo]

Interrogation finished at 11 pm.

Interrogator: Senior investigator of the CIO<sup>6</sup> "SMERSH" of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ukrainian front

Captain

[signature]

(Kurkova)

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<sup>6</sup> Counterintelligence Office – translator's note.

[C09-C]

Interrogation report  
Of the accused Pokotilo Vasilii Fedorovich

Of March 14, 1945

Pokotilo V.F., born in 1914,  
native and resident the city of Kyiv,  
Ukrainian, citizen of the USSR,  
from a family of clerks, no party  
member,  
holds secondary technical education,  
before the war worked as brigadier-  
electrician at the Dzhherzhinskii Factory  
Start of the interrogation at 10 am.

Question:

With the materials of the investigation it has been established that you, from the first days of the war, betrayed the motherland and engaged in treacherous activities. How do you explain why you, as a citizen of the Soviet Union, resorted to betrayal of the motherland?

Answer:

I consciously resorted to betrayal of the motherland and various kinds of treachery because of my hostile attitudes towards Soviet power and my nationalistic convictions. While participating, together with the Germans, in the extermination of people loyal to Soviet power, I was aware that I was bringing benefit to the enemy, who sought to destroy the Soviet Union, which was my goal as well.

Question:

Since when have you had anti-Soviet attitudes?

Answer:

For the first time my anti-Soviet attitudes appeared in 1933, under the influence of the upbringing I received in my family.

Question:

Tell about the development of your hostile attitudes towards Soviet power?

Answer: I was born in the city of Kyiv, in the family of a clerk. My father, Pokotilo Fedor Vasil'evich, worked as a treasurer at the Kyivan directorate of a grocery store. In 1923, my mother, née Moniseron Efrosinia Grigor'evna, left my father and moved to Kharkiv, where she married a teacher of Ukrainian at institutions of higher learning, Knei Mikhail Fedorovich. In 1925, my birth father was arrested for the embezzlement of a large sum of money and sentenced to five years [in prison]. After my father was convicted, my mother brought me over to live with her in Kharkiv, where I moved from Kyiv in 1926. My stepfather Knei Mikhail Fedorovich, with whom I started living, was a convinced Ukrainian nationalist and raised me in such spirit. He would constantly tell me that the Ukrainian people lived

under the yoke of the Russians, who together with the Jews had taken hold of the Soviet government, that this situation could not last much longer, etc., that soon the Ukrainian people would rise up, overthrow the Soviets and create an independent state. He became especially vehement in his rants against Soviet power with the start of the collectivization and during the following difficult years, when the harvest failed in Ukraine in 1933.

While fostering in me nationalist convictions, my stepfather constantly warned me not to share the conversations he conducted with me with anyone else, because agents of the NKVD were everywhere and they would immediately betray me.

As a result, although I initially wanted to verify my and my stepfather's anti-Soviet convictions through conversations with others, my stepfather's warning withheld me from doing so, thus my hostile views kept growing and evolving, and before the year 1933 these views of mine were fully developed. I became a convinced nationalist, who believed Ukraine should be a separate state, independent from Soviet power.

With these convictions I was drafted for service in the Red Army in 1936. I was enlisted into the 9th military school for aviators and aviator-observers, for aerial photo reconnaissance. I found my new work interesting and I had the intention to honestly fulfill my service, but in 1938, in a state of intoxication, I let my convictions slip, and in May I was arrested by the special division of the NKVD of the Kharkiv Military District. Although I during the process admitted to having conducted anti-Soviet agitation, I presented these facts in an innocuous light, and told nothing about my nationalistic convictions, nor about the upbringing I had received from Knei. As a result of this behavior during the investigation, I was able, through multiple requests to review my case, to revoke my conviction of 6 years in camps and three years of disenfranchisement, and in January 1941 I was released from custody.

The time I spent in custody from May 1938 to January 1941 did not change my convictions at all, on the contrary, it reinforced my nationalistic views. What caused my nationalistic views to be reinforced was a meeting in prison with prominent nationalists from Kolomyia and Lviv. They told me about the existence of the organization of Ukrainian nationalists, which aimed to destroy the Soviet Union, together with the Germans, and create in Ukraine an independent state. They told me about the imminent war of Germany against the Soviet Union, and that in this war Ukrainians would be on the side of the Germans. They told me that now, in the prewar period, they were waging a struggle by means of terror and sabotage.

Thus I left prison as someone with even stronger nationalistic convictions, and moreover, I was angry at the Soviet authorities who had held me in prison for almost three years.

Question:

Around what time did you establish organizational contact with the "OUN"?

Answer:

My three years in prison made me even more cautious in my communication with people, therefore I was afraid to seek organizational contact with the OUN immediately after my release. The Ukrainian nationalists who were imprisoned together with me, I do not recall their surnames, did not give me any contacts, either because they did not know me well and did not fully trust me, or because they were active on the territory that before 1939

belonged to Poland, whereas I was from Kyiv. My stepfather Knei, with whom I would definitely have established contact, was arrested by the organs of Soviet power before my release, in 1940. Furthermore, the establishment by me of organizational contact with the OUN was obstructed by the start of the war.

Question:

How did your hostile attitude towards Soviet power manifest itself after the German war against the Soviet Union began?

Answer:

Right after the start of the war, which pleased me a lot, I started waiting for the arrival of the Germans in Kyiv, believing the German would come and liberate us from Soviet power. Of course, with such an attitude, I did not plan on joining the Red Army, as I, expecting and desiring the demise of Soviet power, did not want to protect it in the ranks of the Red Army.

On August 14, 1941, I was drafted into the Red Army by the Leninskii District Military Commissariat of the city of Kyiv and was supposed to leave for the front. Desiring to be of use to the Germans, and not to Soviet power, I deserted from the Red Army and hid at home for over a month, not leaving my apartment and waiting for the German arrival.

On September 19, 1941, the German took the city of Kyiv and already during the first days of October I was serving in the Schutz police, where I was enlisted voluntarily, as a Ukrainian.

After 17-18 days, I, as someone who carefully performed his duties as policeman, was assigned to the bodyguard of city mayor Bahazii.

Before [working as] Bahazii's bodyguard, I stood guard at police buildings and a prison, brought arrestees to their interrogations and carried out arrests of Soviet citizens.

My first arrest I carried out at Velyka Zhytomyrs'ka Street, I don't remember the apartment number. The police chief summoned me and told me a Jew was living at the aforementioned street and it was my duty to determine whether this person was really a Jew. Following these instructions, I went to said address and questioned the neighbors if their neighbor was a Jew, I don't remember his last name anymore, but they refused to tell me anything. I entered the apartment of the person I was after and questioned the housekeeper, who did not say anything at all. Then I waited for person I needed to come home from work. By checking his documents I established he was registered as an [ethnic] German working for a military unit. I did not trust these documents and arrested him, brought him to the police. In the cabinet of the police chief I conducted a body search on the arrestee and, after having determined he was a Jew, handed him over to the prison.

My second arrest I carried out at 13 Tereshchenkivs'ka Street. The police received a denunciation that a Jew with the last name Kozlov was living at this address. I went to the specified address together with other policemen, waited in ambush for 3 or 4 hours, and when Kozlov arrived I checked his passport and conducted a body search, I arrested Kozlov and sent him to the police. Both Jews I arrested were sent from the police to the "SD", where they were of course shot.

I remembered one other case of me arresting a Soviet citizen. Once I was getting shaved at a barbershop and overheard a conversation about a client sitting in another chair, that he used to work as a police inspector before the Germans arrived, arrested deserters. I

exited the barbershop together with this man, apprehended him and brought him to the police, where he was also arrested.

For all these cases in which I demonstrated initiative in the arrests of Soviet citizens I was assigned to the bodyguard of Bahazii. Working for Bahazii I accompanied him wherever he went, participating in the looting of Jewish property, and at the same time continued to engage in the exposing and arrest of Jews. I remember one specific case, once me and another one of Bahazii's bodyguards, policeman Borisov Nikolai, were walking outside. He coincidentally met a Jewish acquaintance, who had apparently escaped from German captivity. Nikolai apprehended him and, regardless of his pleading to not hand him over to the Germans, because he wanted to live so bad, I and Nikolai arrested him and turned him over to the police. During the same period of time, I exposed and betrayed an NKVD officer. From neighbors living in my house I learned about an NKVD officer living at 7 Pokrovs'ka Street (Podil). I don't recall his last name, but I do remember his wife was called Orlova Mariia. I made a statement about this person at the police and he was arrested, what happened with him hereinafter, I do not know, but he never left the prison.

In late November 1942, I got drunk during one of Bahazii's banquets and, on my way home, insulted a German officer, for which I was taken into custody. After 6 days, I was released, fired from my job with Bahazii and assigned to work at the garage of the city administration. There I worked until April 1942, when the garage was disbanded, not long after the Germans arrested some prominent leaders of the organization of Ukrainian nationalists, who sought to create in Ukraine an independent state. Among those arrested by the Germans was Bahazii.

After the liquidation of the garage I was out of work for some time, but on May 2, 1942, I established contact with German intelligence, which recruited me and sent me to the city of Poltava to train at a school for agents.

Question:

About your contact with the German intelligence you will be interrogated later, now tell me about the treacherous activity you employed during your subsequent work at the police?

Answer:

In June 1942, after returning from the intelligence school, I got a job at the city security police, in the undercover division. One task of the agents active in this unit was to expose partisans, Jews, Soviet parachutists and non-registered communists through communication with the city's civilian population.

Moreover, it was our duty to participate in the arrests of the aforementioned categories of individuals, and in ambushes on them. All persons working for the undercover unit were listed as officials employees, but they were always dressed in civilian clothing. I worked for the undercover unit from June through September 1942, during this period I regularly participated in ambushes on partisans and carried out arrests. The first ambush in which I participated was organized in the Pechers'k District, near Millionnaia Street<sup>7</sup>. In an apartment there, partisans were supposed to show up. Pairs of agents were changed after spending a certain amount of time in ambush in the apartment. During my duty, no one appeared in the apartment, so I was unable to catch the partisans. But during the duty of the

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<sup>7</sup> Today Panas Myrnyi Street – translator's note.



agent who came to relieve me, a partisan showed up there, he was caught, but he threw a pitcher at an agent's head and ran off.

The second time I was in ambush on partisans was also in the Pechers'k District, but at another street the name of which I don't remember. There I was not able to apprehend anyone either.

The third time I was in ambush on partisans on 81 Krasnoarmeiskaia Street<sup>8</sup>, on the third floor, and the fourth time I was in ambush at 145 or 147 Gor'kogo Street<sup>9</sup>. Both these ambushes were without result, as the partisans did not show up.

Besides ambushes I was deployed at investigators' orders for the establishment of addresses they needed and the persons residing there, and regularly participated in arrests.

Of the arrests conducted by me I remember the arrest of 6 persons in the Demiiivka District. In a house there, the interpreter of a German military unit had been murdered. After her murder, the police conducted an operation to arrest individuals linked to the murder. I took part in this operation, 6 persons were arrested, but who these people were and what happened to them afterwards, I don't know, since I was not involved in investigations at that time.

Other cases of arrests carried out by me I don't remember now.

In September 1942, I was reassigned from the city police to work as an agent in the Bogdanovskii Police District, where I worked for 4.5 months. During this period, I was systematically employed by the investigator for the establishment of addresses of interest to him, carried out arrests of Soviet citizens, three in total as I now recall, and worked on the exposing of Jews. To which I should add that of the two Jews I exposed neither had to be arrested, because they turned out to be secret agents of the "SD".

In January 1943, I was reassigned to the Iaroslavskii Police District, where I first worked as an agent, after which I was promoted and appointed to the position of investigator. In this district a confectionery factory and a slaughterhouse were working for the Germans. The district police department was tasked with making sure the Soviet people working at these enterprises could not steal from the production for the Germans.

During the time I worked in this district I arrested 6 Soviet citizens, I conducted the investigation for these cases and, after conclusion of the investigation, handed over the cases to the city police for a decision.

In March 1943, the police chief summoned me and offered me to take up the post of senior investigator in the Zheleznodorozhnyi [Railway] District. There I was also working on the extermination of Soviet citizens. I would normally be handling up to 10 investigation files at the same time. The persons under indictment in these cases were guilty only of engaging in theft, as they lacked the means to stay alive due to the "new" German-imposed order on the occupied territory, resorting to theft.

Furthermore, in the Zheleznodorozhnyi District as in the other districts, I was engaged in the exposing of the Jewish population. I remember exposing an old Jewish man who, after his arrest, desiring to stay alive, refused to concede his nationality. I beat up this person with my fists and a rubber stick until he confessed.

Apart from this, more than once during my service in the Zheleznodorozhnyi District I carried out special orders from the police chief to arrest Soviet citizens. I carried out three arrests on the order of my chief. Who these people were and what they were accused I do

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<sup>8</sup> Today Velyka Vasyl'kivs'ka Street – translator's note.

<sup>9</sup> Today Antonovycha Street – translator's note.

not know, because they would be sent to the police immediately after arrest and did not return from there.

In August 1943 I was reassigned as senior investigator to the Vladimirskii District, where I, apart from arrests and investigations in theft cases and the exposing of Jews, was engaged in the arrest of communists.

In September 1943, in connection with the successful advance of Red Army units, the Germans arrested all communists, even those who had registered with them. I participated in this operation and I, as someone who knew the Zheleznodorozhnyi district well, was sent there to eliminate communists. In the course of this operation I personally arrested 10 or 12 Party members.

The operation to eliminate communists was headed by the "SD" and all persons who were arrested at that time were sent to the "SD", what happened to them after that I cannot say.

This operation was my final act of treachery, as I fled Kyiv together with the Germans the same month and continued my treacherous activity on the territory of Western Ukraine.

Question:

Tell me where in Kyiv were the executions of Soviet citizens conducted and about your part in these executions?

Answer:

From the very first days of the occupation of Kyiv the Germans conducted mass executions of Soviet citizens. During the last days of September 1941 alone around 50 000 Jews and Red Army commissars were shot. This mass of people was shot in the Luk'ianivka District near the Jewish cemetery, in the so-called "Babyn Yar".<sup>10</sup> Before the shootings the entire territory of "Babyn Yar" was cordoned off by "SS" units, meticulously, so that no one would be able to get through. To bury the corpses prisoners of war [hereinafter: POWs] were taken to the execution site from a camp. Those condemned to be shot had to run along the ravine in groups and were shot with machine-guns. After the shootings of the first group, the POWs were told to throw the corpses into the ravine and cover them with some earth, but, transfixed with horror, they did not move an inch. Then a part of POWs was shot dead with machine-gun fire, after which those who had stayed alive began dragging the corpses into the ravine and covering them. After the first group, other groups were shot. The only exception was made for high-ranking Soviet workers and commissars, who were undressed and forced to run along the ravine one by one. A German would meanwhile shoot them with a sniper rifle. After the shootings were finished and the POWs had covered the ravine, the earth trembled under their feet, as not everyone had been killed, some had only been wounded or had fallen down from fear.

After the first mass shootings, systematic executions began, but now of smaller groups.

The first execution in which I participated took place between October 10 and 20, 1941. The police chief told a group of policemen, including myself, to bring 20 arrested Jews to the "SD", where we would receive further instructions. When we arrived with the arrestees at the "SD" we were instructed to execute them. We transported our victims to "Babyn Yar" in a truck. There we told them to dig a pit and when it was finished, we

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<sup>10</sup> Literally: old woman's ravine – translator's note.

removed everyone's outer garments and, after making them form a line, shot everyone. As there were only 10 policemen every one of us had to shoot two people. On this occasion I personally shot a man and a woman with a revolver.

About 5 days after my first execution I participated in the execution of a new group of 35 people. This group consisted of arrested partisans, NKVD officers and Jews, and among the Jews were children aged between 3 and 10.

We transported this group from the "SD" to "Babyn Yar", forced the men and healthy women to dig a pit. When it was finished we took away the children from the women and, after making the adults stand at the edge of the ravine, shot them with handguns. After the adults we shot the children in volley fire, whereby a German shot the youngest children and we those a bit older. On this occasion I executed 3-4 people.

After I was reassigned to Bahazii's bodyguard, I started attending the executions together with him. We made three of these excursions. The first time, a 100 people were shot, among them Jews, POWs and partisans. The execution was conducted in "Babyn Yar", by Germans with machine-guns. The corpses were buried by POWs who had been brought there specifically for this purpose.

The second time, I and Bahazii attended an execution of over 200 Soviet citizens. This execution was a horrific scene. While they were shooting the men, the women and children had to stand aside and watch what was happening, they fell down, horror-struck. When it was time to shoot the women they started taking away their children, but they refused to hand them over. Then a German would rip away the child forcibly, shoot it, and then shoot at the mother. The women produced terrible cries, begged for mercy. After the execution a German walked across the ditch and finished off those who had fallen down from fear with a submachine-gun.

The third time, I and Bahazii attended an execution of over 300 people, among whom were women, children and men. The women and children were of Jewish nationality. They were shot in the same way as the previous group. I did not personally participate in these three executions, but as a bodyguard of Bahazii watched the entire scene together with him.

In July 1942, when I started working for the city police again, I once again had to attend executions and personally participate in them. I remember two such occasions. The first time, 75 Jews, partisans, parachutists and POWs were shot, among them were women too.

We transported the entire group of 75 with two trucks to "Babyn Yar", where we forced them to dig a ditch, after which we shot everyone in groups. On this occasion all "SD" police officers were equipped with submachine-guns and they conducted the execution with volley fire.

In late July 1942, while I was on duty, a squad of policemen was selected and told to bring a group of arrestees, around 25 people, to the "SD". When we brought our arrestees into the "SD" courtyard, four trucks were waiting there, onto which we loaded the arrestees. The "SD" officers loaded their own arrestees onto the same trucks. On this occasion we transported a total of 120 people to execution. Among this group were men, women and children. And among the women and children there were persons of Russian nationality as well.

We transported the entire group to "Babyn Yar" and discovered there a ditch that had not been entirely filled by the corpses of previous executions, we made our arrestees stand at the edge of the ditch and shot everyone dead with machine-gun volley fire. We shot

the women and children after the men, there were children of different ages starting from 2-3 years. The infants, which would not leave their mothers' side, were shot together with their mothers. Those who were a bit older we lined up at the edge of the ditch together with the adults. After the shootings the ditch was covered by POWs, who were held in a camp not far from the Jewish cemetery.

After I was reassigned to work in the district I no longer had to participate in mass shootings, but there were single executions.

I remember one such occasion from when I was working as a senior investigator in the Zheleznodorozhnyi District, a commissar of the city police tasked me with the arrest of a person living on a street I do not remember, in the Vladimirskii District. Together with investigator Grigor'evy I went to the designated address and we set up an ambush. After a while the person we were supposed to arrest showed up in the apartment. When he saw us he attempted to escape, but we shot him with our handguns.

I do not remember other cases where I participated in the execution of Soviet citizens.

Question:

List all police personnel you know who were engaged in the extermination of Soviet citizens?

Answer:

I worked for the Kyiv city police for almost the entire period of the occupation. During this time, the police command changed a couple of times, because the Germans during the early period of the occupation, persecuting Ukrainian nationalists from the Bandera camp, often arrested and executed the commanding officers of the police.

The following people were serving in the police during the last period:

1. Police chief Maiakovskii Vadim Viacheslavovich, 45 years old, Ukrainian, resident of the city of Kyiv, worked as a defender in the Kyiv public prosecutor's office before the war. Before his police job he was deputy of the legal department of the city administration. As police chief he was fully in charge of the conducted extermination of Soviet citizen. When the Germans evacuated from Kyiv he stayed behind in the city with a group of subordinates for a special mission from the "SD" and afterwards escaped to Poland, to the city of Litzsmanns[tad]t.

Appearance: short, skinny, light-brown, somewhat curly hair, a somewhat elongated face.

2. The commissar of the police's political department Tsalavanskyii Vadim Rodionovich, over 50 year old, resident of Kyiv, before the war, in 1922-1935, worked in the administrative department of the militia<sup>11</sup>, what he did in the years after that I do not know. He worked for the police from 1942, first as referent of the thefts department, then he was appointed commissar of the political department. He supervised work in the fight against partisans, the exposing of communists, Soviet intelligence officers and Jews. Fled from Kyiv together with the Germans in September 1943.

Appearance: shorter than average, grey hair, sports sideburns, 4 teeth on the upper front side missing.

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<sup>11</sup> Soviet police – translator's note.

3. Commissar of the murders department Pilipenko Nikolai Nikolaevich, approximately 30 years old, born in and resident of the city of Kyiv. Was a student of some school of higher learning before the war, repressed by the organs of the Soviet authorities under article 54. At the police he was in charge of the division investigating thefts and murders. Fled together with the Germans in September 1943.

Appearance: Taller than average, dark-blond hair, a handsome face, dark eyes, speaks with a bass.

4. Commissar of the secret service division Gorbochevskii Aleksei Fedorovich, 42-43 years old, resident of Kyiv. Worked as a locomotive driver before the war, was arrested under article 54. Supervised the secret service division of the police, which was engaged in exposing communists, partisans, Soviet intelligence officers and Jews. Fled with the Germans in September.

Appearance: Of average height, heavy build, dark-blond hair, bright eyes.

5. Commissar of the thefts division Kulish Kuz'ma, I do not remember his patronymic, 58 years old. A resident of Kharkiv, what he used to do before the war I do not know, but I do know he worked as a justice of the peace before the war of 1914. He arrived in Kyiv as a result of the evacuation of Kharkiv. Fled with the Germans in September 1943.

Appearance: Tall, grey hair, partly bald, sports a moustache.

6. Commissar of the thefts division Anisin Nikolai Fedorovich, 38-40 years old, resident of Kyiv, a lawyer by education, I do not know where he worked before the war. Fled with the Germans in September 1943.

Appearance: of average height, slim, light-brown hair, partly bald, wears glasses.

7. Petrovskii Aleksandr Kuz'mich, 30 years old, resident of Kyiv, I do not know what he used to do before the war. In the police he supervised the work of three police districts, Podil's'kyi, Sofiievskii and Kurenivs'kyi. Fled with the Germans in September 1943.

Appearance: Tall, black hair and eyes, a straight nose with a small hunch, broad-shouldered.

8. Ol'shamovskii Nikolai Vasil'evich, born in 1912, from Kyiv, worked as a driver before the war. In the police he served as senior agent, investigator of the political division and in the final period supervised the work of three district divisions of the police, Iaroslavskii, Vladimirs'kyi, Zheleznodorozhnyi and Sviatoshyns'kyi. Fled with the Germans in September 1943.

Appearance: Tall, lean, dark-blond hair, bright eyes.

9. Zhelikhovskii Vasili, 36-38 years old, from Kyiv, worked as a fire fighter before the war. In the police he served as senior commissioner of the political division, supervised all operations for the arrest and execution of Soviet citizens. Stayed in Kyiv in September 1943 with the chief's group, and later escaped.

Appearance: Of average height, skinny, black hair, dark eyes. During the retreat from Kyiv his leg was injured by tank fire.

10. Ambros'ev Vasili Nikolaevich, 40 years old, from Kyiv, played football for some team before the war. In the police he worked as senior agent of the political division, supervised the exposing of the Soviet citizens. Was awarded a medal by the

Germans. Stayed behind with the chief's group before the retreat to carry out a special mission, later escaped.

Appearance: Of average height, slim, dark hair, grey at the temples.

11. Skladnoi Nikolai, approximately 30 years old, from Kyiv, graduated from the Kyiv University before the war. In the police he worked as senior investigator of the thefts division. Fled with the Germans in September 1943.

Appearance: Tall, lean, black hair, prominent cheekbones, a rough face.

12. Savchenko Andrei, 28-30 years old, from Kyiv, taught physical education at secondary schools before the war. In the police he worked as investigator of the political division, in particular with Jewish cases. Fled in September 1943.

Appearance: Short, broad-shouldered, dark-blond hair, bright-blue eyes.

13. Kunts Ivan, born in 1912-1914, from Kyiv, worked as a driver before the war. In the police he was a senior agent, engaged in the exposing of partisans and Jews. Stayed behind with the chief's group before the retreat.

Appearance: Of average height, slim, dark-blond hair.

14. Skzhepa<sup>12</sup> Ivan Kirillovich, born in 1918, from Kyiv, worked in restaurant kitchens before the war. In the police he worked as a senior agent and was the chief's adjutant. Participated in all major operations to arrest and execute Soviet citizens. Awarded with a medal by the Germans. Stayed behind with the chief's group.

Appearance: Of average height, heavy build, dark hair and eyes.

15. Solomenko Nikolai, born in 1914, from Kyiv, worked as a teacher somewhere outside of the city before the war. Joined the police in 1942, was a senior agent, participated in operations to arrest Soviet citizens, for which he was awarded a medal by the Germans. Stayed behind with the chief's group before the evacuation.

Appearance: Of average height, light-brown hair, dark eyes.

16. Fedorov Nikolai, approximately 40 years old, from Kyiv, I do know what he used to do before the war. In the police he worked as senior investigator of the Iaroslavskii District. Fled together with the Germans in September 1943.

Appearance: Of average height, corpulent, black hair and eyes.

17. Grigor'ev Boris Dmitrievich, 40-45 years old, resident of Kyiv, worked as a mechanical engineer at some factory before the war. In the police he worked as senior investigator of the Zheleznodorozhnyi District, participated in arrests and executions of Soviet citizens. Fled together with the Germans in September 1943.

Appearance: Of average height, grey hair, bright eyes, slim.

18. Terpilo Andrei, born in 1912, resident of the city of Trypillia, his father served in the gang of [otaman] "Zelenyi"<sup>13</sup>, he himself was in prison under article 54 before the war. In the police he worked as senior investigator of the Kureniv'skyi District. Fled from Kyiv in September 1943.

Appearance: Of average height, stocky, dark hair, eyes and complexion.

19. Korbut Ivan, 55 years old, resident of the city of Kyiv, worked at some military construction facility before the war, an officer of the Petliura gang. In the police he worked first as a senior investigator of the Bogdanovskii District, later as a senior

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<sup>12</sup> Probably the Russian rendition of Skrzepa, a name used in Poland – translator's note.

<sup>13</sup> In fact, otaman "Zelenyi", the pseudonym of Danylo Il'kovych Terpylo, was probably his father – translator's note.

investigator of the “murders” division, participated in all operations conducted by the Germans. Fled with the Germans in September 1943.

Appearance: Of average height, corpulent, black eyes and hair.

20. Korbut Mikhail Antonovich, 62 years old, resident of Kyiv, what he was doing before the war I do not know, in the police he worked as investigator, I do not remember for which division. Married to a German woman, he was transported to Germany in September 1943.

Appearance: Shorter than average, brown-haired, bow-backed, bright eyes.

21. Malov, his first name I do not know, 52-54 years old, resident of Kharkiv, he was a lieutenant of Denikin’s army, worked as a building custodian until 1938, then he was imprisoned on the charge of participation in some officers’ organization, released in 1940. In the police he worked as an investigator in the city of Kharkiv, evacuated to Kyiv where he continued working as an investigator. Fled from Kyiv in September 1943.

Appearance: Of average height, slim, sagging, uses false teeth, talks with a nasal voice, has a scar on his cheek which never heals.

I do not remember the surnames of other policemen.

Question:

Name people who worked as secret agents of the police?

Answer:

Apart from the official secret service the police made use of an entire informants’ network. As a rule, all building custodians and small traders worked as informants. I cannot mention any informant by their surnames, because I do not remember these. While working as a senior investigator in the Zheleznodorozhnyi District I personally recruited a woman as informant. The surname of this woman seems to have been Petrenko, her name Evdokiia, 23-25 years old. Under the Germans she traded bread and moonshine at the market and at the same time, at my request, was engaged in the exposing of partisans and Jews. At first she visited me regularly, once a week, later our meetings became less frequent and when I was reassigned to another district my contact with her stopped. During the period we maintained contact I was unable to expose any partisans or Jews through her.

Appearance: Of average height, skinny, black hair and eyes. She had a 6-year-old daughter, lived in the Solom’ianka District, 7 or 9 Bolshaia Street.

Apart from this woman I was in contact with an old moonshining informant, Kuz’ma Il’ich Lisinskii, he lived at 48 Bolshaia Street in a brick building. He owned a booth with vegetables and small goods on the same street at No.4. Since he had lived on Bolshaia Street for over 40 years and knew the residents of the district well, I tasked him with eavesdropping on conversations of his clients, to find out if there were Jews among them and people with links to the partisans. I was not able to expose through this informant any people relevant to me.

Appearance: Short, slim, an elongated face, sharp nose, sports a moustache and a small beard, grey hair.

At this moment I cannot recall the surnames of other agent-informants, I know they were building custodians.

Question:  
Which "SD" agents do you know?

Answer:

From the words of the police chief's adjutant Ivan Skzhepa I know all restaurant owners and major traders in Kyiv were secret agents of the "SD", but I cannot mention any surnames from this category of persons.

Furthermore, during my time with the police, I twice encountered "SD" agents.

In October 1942, while working in the Bogdanovskii District, I received a denunciation that a Jew was living at 5 Shevchenko Boulevard, on the second floor. I went to the house to detain the Jew, I do not remember his surname, and took him with me to the local police station. There he showed us documents saying he was a baptized Jew, but we refused to believe him and brought him to the "SD". When this Jew appeared at the "SD" I was kicked out, while he stayed. Some days later I met this Jew again in the street, whereby he greeted me as if nothing had happened. Officially this Jew worked as a tailor in his own flat, what kind of work he did for the "SD" I do not know.

Appearance: Shorter than average, redheaded, he looked approximately 50 years old, his face was wrinkled and reddish. His family consisted of only him and his wife.

The second time I happened to encounter an "SD" agent was in the winter of 1942, when a Jew was brought to the police station of the Bogdanovskii District, I do not know his surname. According his documents he was registered as a Jew and worked as a German supply agent at some firm. He lived near Kyiv.

At the police station this Jew refused to talk to us and demanded to be brought to the "SD". At the "SD" the Jew immediately addressed the officer on duty in German, after their conversation they took his documents from me and told me to leave.

I never met this Jew again.

Appearance: Tall, he looked 50 years old, black, partly grey hair, heavy-build.

Больше я этого еврея не встречал.

There were no other occasions where I met "SD" agents.

Truthfully transcribed from my words and read by me.

[signature of V. Pokotylo]

Interrogation concluded at 2 am.

Interrogator: senior investigator of the CIO "SMERSH" of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ukrainian Front

Captain [signature]  
(Kurkova)



[C09-D]

Testimony of the defendant Pokotilo Vasilii Fedorovich

May 18, 1945

Interrogation started at 8.40 pm

Question:

You have filed a statement declaring that, during an interrogation in the investigational process at the Counterintelligence Office of "SMERSH" of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ukrainian Front, you, under physical pressure – beating – gave a false testimony. Give the investigation an exhaustive testimony on the substance of said statement?

Answer:

On March 14, 1945, during my interrogation by a female investigator with the rank of captain, I do not know her surname, an officer with the rank of colonel entered the room and started participating in the interrogation. In the course of the interrogation the colonel stated he was aware of my participation in the mass shootings of Soviet citizens in the city of Kyiv at "Babyn Yar", and told me to give a testimony on this matter. When I refused and declared to him I did not participate in the shooting of Soviet citizens in the city of Kyiv at "Babyn Yar", the colonel started beating me up, hitting me with his fists in the face and on the head, and also kicked me with the nose of his boot in the stomach twice. Under said physical pressure I was forced to give the investigator a false testimony about my personal participation in the mass shootings of Soviet citizens in the city of Kyiv at "Babyn Yar", as well as about my presence at such occasions together with the mayor of Kyiv – the German protégé Bahazii. In reality I did not participate at all in the shooting of Soviet citizens at "Babyn Yar" and also did not attend any shootings with Bahazii. All other statements I gave during this investigation are truthful and correspond to the reality. I know of the details about the mass shootings – the destruction of Soviet citizens at "Babyn Yar" in the city of Kyiv – that I described during the interrogation of March 14 of this year from one of the guards of the city Administration named Fedor, his surname I do not know.

Interrogation concluded at 11.00 pm.

Testimony transcribed correctly from my words, read by me for which I am signing.

[signature]

Interrogator: Deputy Head of the 1<sup>st</sup> office of the 1<sup>st</sup> department  
of the GUBB of the NKVD of the USSR, lieutenant

[illegible signature]

[C09-E]

CASE No. 0855      Resol. – 4 Nov. 45      Insti[tuted] 10 Mar 45  
    11 Mar – 7 Nov 45      Cr[ime] comm[itted] August 1941

### VERDICT No. 667

#### In the name of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

On September 10, 1945, the Military Tribunal of the Kyiv Garrison composed of presiding Major of Justice Parasun'ko and members Major Pinchuk and student Nekrasova and with secretary and Senior Lieutenant of Justice [illegible] with

in the closed court session at [illegible] [illegible] review[ing] the case accusing Pokotilo Vasilii Fedorovich, born 1914, native of the city of Kyiv, serviceman, Ukrainian, not Party member, secondary technical education, married, no prior conviction, – of perpetrating [acts] stipulated by Part I of the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of April 19, 1943, through the data of the preliminary and judicial investigation, determined:

The accused Pokotilo, being hostile toward the Soviet authority, in August 1941 evaded mobilization into the Red Army and hid until the occupation of Kyiv by the German armed forces. After the arrival of the German armed forces, he, betraying the motherland, voluntarily began service in the police as a police officer, first as a protective [officer]<sup>14</sup>, and then from June 1942 in the Ukrainian security police.

While in police service, Pokotilo in 1941 guarded arrestees, took them to interrogations and [illegible] [illegible]. At this moment in time he personally apprehended two citizens of Jewish nationality and handed them over to the police, betrayed an NKVD officer and arrested a former militia inspector – their fate is unknown.

In 1942 Pokotilo began service at the security police of the city of Kyiv with the function of agent, where he repeatedly participated in the detention of Soviet citizens, the establishing of persons living [illegible], the exposure of persons living without a residence permit, and also in ambushes on Soviet activists – partisans and communists. At the time of service as agent of the police Pokotilo betrayed more than nine Soviet activists. In July 1942 Pokotilo agreed in writing to work for German military intelligence, [and] in this connection he was sent to the city of Poltava to the intelligence school, but after some time was dismissed.

In January 1943, for his good service in the police, Pokotilo was appointed as investigator, and two months later as senior investigator of the police of city districts, where he personally processed more than 16 cases on Soviet citizens.

In this period in time Pokotilo, while taking part in an ambush, himself personally killed a Soviet citizen and activist.

In September 1943 Pokotilo with other police officers arrested 12 Party members and took them to the German political police. In this way, Pokotilo during his service in the police betrayed and arrested more than 30 Soviet citizens, whose fate is unknown.

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<sup>14</sup> In German this would be a Schutzmann – translators' note.

Fearing accountability for his treason, Pokotilo evacuated to the west with the Germans but was arrested in the territory of Czechoslovakia. Based on the above the Military Tribunal has found Pokotilo guilty of perpetrating the crimes stipulated by Part I of the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of April 19, 1943 [and] guided by articles 296 and 297 of the CPC<sup>15</sup> of the UkrSSR  
sentenced

Pokotilo Vasilii Fedorovich, based on Part I of the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of April 19, 1943, to the supreme measure of criminal punishment of execution, without confiscation of property because of lack of such with the condemned.

The verdict is final and not subject to appeal.

|           |                                    |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| Presiding | [ <i>signature of Parasun'ko</i> ] |
| Members   | 1. m. Pinchuk <sup>16</sup>        |
|           | 2. [ <i>illegible signature</i> ]  |

*C09-A, C09-B, C09-C and C09-D: translated by Tobias Wals  
C09-E: translated by Tobias Wals and Karel Berkhoff*

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<sup>15</sup> Criminal Procedure Code – translators' note.

<sup>16</sup> It is unclear if this is a signature – translators' note.