

From The Testimony of Sima Katz who was taken to Ponary and escaped

...we were imprisoned there until Thursday... at 2 am, the courtyard of the prison was suddenly flooded with lights. We were loaded onto trucks, each of them had 50-60 people and several Lithuanians armed with rifles. We were thus driven in the direction of Ponary. We reached a wooden spot... lay down, tired... Not far away we heard volleys of rifles fire... The Lithuanians began marshalling us into groups of ten, and led the tens into the hillocks from which the firing was heard. Suddenly it became clear to us what this was all about. The women began pleading with the Lithuanians... to no avail... When their turn came, they rose up, quiet and despairing, without protests or pleas... thus family after family proceeded on their final journey... Our turn came at about 5:30 I set my face for the walk, my daughters with me... We were lined up and I felt how my elder daughter slipped out of my hand...

Source: Arad Yitzchak, *Ghetto in Flames*, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem 1980, pp. 115-116.