

RG-50.120 #187
DUGIN, ITZCHAK

- Itzchak Dugin was born in Vilna (Vilnius) in 1916. His family was middle class, father owned a bar. They were 5 children. He made himself independent when he was 16, worked as a printer during the day and studied electro mechanics at night.
- He worked as a printer until 1941, when the Germans entered Vilna and pogroms and anti-Jewish laws were enforced. He got a work permit and worked on the railroad tracks.
- He and his family moved to the ghetto II in Vilna, to a small apartment shared with 10 people. He built a hide-out in the apartment. 18 people hid there during the day and came out at night when the Gestapo left.
- With his work permit, he was allowed to leave the ghetto during the day and work at a gasoline depot. He was able to get food and money.
- When ghetto I was liquidated, more people joined them in ghetto II. Others were allowed to go to work in Estonia.
- He was taken with a group of 2000, to trains supposedly to be sent to work. He escaped and returned to the ghetto.
- In 1943 ghetto II was supposed to be closed and everybody had to leave. He built 2 more hideouts for 24 people. Describes life in the hideout.
- They were caught by the Gestapo after 2 months. The men were separated from the women.
- He was taken to Ponary, a work camp run by the Gestapo. Some of the time he worked as an electrician.
- Describes work in Ponary. They were chained and made to dig up a pit with dead bodies. In one pit there were 2400 bodies. In smaller pits only hundred. They had to carry the bodies to crematoria.
- As they came to the end of the pits, they knew that their work and life would soon be over.
- He developed an escape plan. They dug a secret tunnel leading from the pit to the outside. Describes their work.

- Describes their escape in small groups and their flight until they met up with Russian partisans. He joined the partisans.