

IKVILDIENĖ, Stanislava  
Lithuania Documentation Project  
Lithuanian  
RG-50.473\*0060

Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Stanislava Ikvildienė, born on October 4 1921, resident of Žagarė (a city in the Joniškės region, near the Latvian border), talks about the many Jews who lived and worked in Žagarė. She relates her own experience working for the **Aizenštatas** family and talks about her understanding of Jewish observances and customs. She provides witness testimony to the rounding up of Jews into the ghettos in Žagarė and talks about her attempt to save a young Jewish girl named **Estera Lonaitė**. She also provides witness testimony about the mass killing of Jews in the market square in Žagarė in October 1941 and recounts information she was told about the mass killing and burial in the park outside of Žagarė on that same day. She talks about several isolated incidents when Jews were beaten and killed before the mass killing in the city square. Even though she knows the Lithuanian perpetrators of several of these separate crimes, she adamantly refuses to identify them by name.

**[01:] 00:41:10 – [01:] 09:16:06**  
**00:43 – 09:38**

She introduces herself as Stanislava Ikvildienė, maiden name Jonutytė, born on October 4, 1921 in Žagarė (a city in the Joniškės region, near the Latvian border), on Daukanto street; says her family included her mother, four daughters, and their father who worked as a carpenter making coffins; states that she finished the fourth grade and then went to work, first herding cows in Latvia and later in shops; talks about her experience working at a textile and fabric store owned by the **Aizenštatas** family, who were Jewish; says she worked there for more than a year and that she thought that they were wonderful bosses; mentions that Mr. **Aizenštatas** was shot during the mass killing at the park and that his wife went abroad for health reasons and then died; states that there were many Jews and Jewish shops in Žagarė and that the Jews lived in the center of the city; estimates that half of the population of Žagarė was Jewish.

**[01:] 09:16:07 – [01:] 17:00:10**  
**09:39 – 17:42**

She describes Jewish dietary practices and restrictions; talks about Jewish butchers; states that the Jewish shopkeepers would sell goods on credit; lists the Jewish doctors in Žagarė: **Frydmanas** who was a women's doctor (gynecologist), his wife who was a dentist, and **Ydersonas, Ligmanas, and Špicas**; says that the cost of a doctor's home visit at the time was five litas (Lithuanian currency); talks about the start of the war; recalls that she was living in the village with her husband at the time and that one of their neighbors was a Jewish man named **Kleinas**, a landlord whose sons made glue; names another Jewish village neighbor **Kala Mikis**;

explains that when the war began all of the Jews were rounded up into ghettos; elaborates that there were two ghettos: one on Vilniaus street and the other in the old city; says that it was difficult to give food to the Jews in the ghetto because there were local Lithuanians standing guard; states that men from other towns arrived in Žagarė to perpetrate the killing of Jews; adds that several of them wore German uniforms, but all of the men wore white arm bands (indicating that they were “white stripers”, Lithuanian Nationalists who collaborated with the Germans in the persecution and murder of Jews.)

[01:] 17:00:11 – [01:] 24:58:02  
17:43 – 25:59

She describes, as a direct witness, the mass killing of Jews in the market place square in Žagarė; recalls that the Jews were brought over from the ghetto to the city square having been told by the German officer **Manteifelis** that they were being taken to work; states that he then whistled and the “white stripers” who had been waiting in courtyards and on side streets began shooting the Jews; explains that a few Jews were able to escape but many were injured or killed; states that surviving Jews had to gather up the corpses and the injured, place them on a truck, so they could be taken to the park; describes how things like shoes and scarves were scattered around the market square; recalls that a fire truck was brought to clean the blood in the square; adds that after the killings, the “white stripers” would search for hidden Jews and beat them severely before killing them; remembers one such beating of a Jewish man named **Zagorskis**; recalls two young Jewish girls who surrendered themselves to be killed after a period in hiding; talks about a Jewish miller named **Strulis [Strulys]** who successfully emigrated abroad; specifies that the killings in the market square took place on October 2<sup>nd</sup> or October 4<sup>th</sup>, but she does not know the exact date; repeats that the Jews were brought from the ghetto; adds that before the killings in the city square several wealthy male Jews were rounded up, taken to the Jewish cemetery, forced to dig their own graves and were then killed.

[01:] 24:58:03 – [01:] 33:58:08  
26:00 – 35:22

She explains that before the killings in the city market square, several Jews were shot individually, namely, Doctor **Frydmanas** and his wife, and the rabbi, though she does not remember the rabbi's name; says that she knows about these killings second-hand; expresses her grief about how helpless she felt because she was not able to help the Jewish victims; mentions two Jewish shopkeepers named **Šmulis** and **Malamedas**; asserts that she knew all the Jews killed in the city square and names a few: **Zagorskis**, **Rebenovičienė** (wife of Mr. Rebenovičius), and a young Jewish girl who worked as a pharmacist at the pharmacy owned by Mr. **Kazlauskas**; recalls that she attempted to rescue a Jewish girl named **Estera Lonaitė**, but was unsuccessful; elaborates that **Estera Lonaitė** was hiding on the property of Mr. **Morkevičius** and that she tried to bring her food and clothing, but was not able to because a German and a “white striper” found her and took her away; says that even though she knew the “white striper,” she does not want to provide his name; mentions another man who participated in the killings, but also does not want to reveal his name, though she explains that he was sentenced to 15 years in prison and was very regretful about his participation in the killings; says that the perpetrators did not live well after

the killings; adds that she would sometimes meet them and a few would talk about what they had done.

**[01:] 33:58:09 – [01:] 35:56:00**  
**35:23 – 37:26**

She talks about a Jewish man named **Brauda** who together with his two sons was killed, and that the perpetrators slashed an incision into his wife's back while she was home alone; talks about a Lithuanian man who took in two Jewish brothers, surname **Tapka**, who had been owners of a clothing store, and then took their wealth and betrayed them; refuses to give the Lithuanian man's name.

Box 1, Tape 2

**[02:] 00:49:17 – [02:] 09:49:17**  
**00:53 – 10:15**

She describes the killings at the market square in Žagarė; says that **Manteifelis** was the German in charge in Žagarė, and that he spoke German and did not know Lithuanian; says that on the day of the killings he was wearing a uniform, that he whistled after giving a speech and then the “white strippers” ran up and started killing the Jews; states that she did not actually hear **Manteifelis's** speech, but that she did hear the whistle; adds that she was hiding at her sister's hairdresser shop, and that the “white strippers” were Lithuanians from Žagarė and from other areas; explains that the Jews who escaped the killings in the square were later found and killed; reflects that people were afraid of hiding Jews and that there were no Jews left in the ghetto except for a few invalids or sick people; discusses her understanding of Jewish families, religious customs, dietary restrictions, prayer and so forth.

**[02:] 09:49:18 – [02:] 17:56:00**  
**10:16 – 18:41**

She continues talking about Jewish families stating that they had many children; talks about the economic situation in Žagarė at the time stating that there were very few customers in the shops and that Lithuanian men had to go to find work in Latvia; expresses her opinion that the “white strippers” beat and killed the Jews not out of anger or hate, but in order to steal their goods; mentions that after the killings, the “white strippers” stored a lot of Jewish-owned property at the home of two elderly men in her neighborhood; recalls that the house burned down after the war; says that several neighbors took some of the belongings, as did the Germans; states that she saw Jewish goods being sold at auction in the city and that people bought the goods though she did not buy anything because she did not want to buy the clothes of murdered people.

**[02:] 17:56:01 – [02:] 29:00:10**  
**18:42 – 30:14**

08/17/2010

She explains that she found out the following information about the killings in the park from the gravediggers; says that the victims were undressed before being shot and that there was a German stationed with a machine gun near the grave but he did not shoot; specifies that only the Lithuanian “white stripers” shot victims; recalls a photograph that appeared in the local newspaper after the war of a man she knew, now deceased, using pliers to rip the gold teeth out of the corpses of Jewish victims; resumes account of the murders as she heard them from the gravediggers; says that the rabbi refused to undress and was severely beaten and then shot and that the situation at the killing site was incredibly violent; says that the victims were shot at the edge of the grave and then fell in; says that there was no order and that the graves were dug up after the killings; alleges that the gravediggers were made to dig the graves by force and that the perpetrators of the killings did not become wealthy or live better after the killings; at the same time, adds that she did see people wearing the clothes of the Jewish victims; asserts that in Žagarė, before the war, everyone got along well with the Jews, but then everything changed; talks about a particular incident she witnessed in which a Jewish man named **Leizeris** was driving his horses down the road when a man came up and beat him with his own whip; explains that there were Jews from Poland who had asked to be transported across the border to Latvia and that these Polish Jews described the dire situation in Poland; says she thinks that the Jews in Žagarė were aware of what was to come.

**[02:] 29:00:11 – [02:] 35:59:14  
30:15 – 37:31**

She states that there were instances when several Lithuanians were killed without due process by Germans as soon as the Germans arrived; explains that two separate killings occurred in Žagarė on the same day: first, the shooting on the city market square and then the shootings at the mass grave site; expresses her opinion that the Jews were very timid and that they were not aggressive; describes how Jews from other areas were rounded up and brought to the ghetto in Žagarė; recalls that they all walked and carried their belongings on wagons, surrounded by armed guards who were not wearing uniforms, but did wear white arm bands (“white stripers”); estimates that the Jews were rounded up into the ghetto in a matter of a few weeks and that they lived there for a few more weeks and were then killed.

### Box 1, Tape 3

**[03:] 00:42:00 – [03:] 04:30:17  
00:43 – 04:41**

She describes the ghetto in Žagarė; recalls that the Jews asked people to bring or buy food for them; says that she brought bread and buns to the ghetto and threw them over the fence; adds that Mrs. **Tiesnesienė**, a survivor of the ghetto, currently living, told her that food was scarce in the ghetto; states that she saw the guards standing outside of the ghetto but does not know if they went inside; explains that the Jews were driven from the ghetto to the market square in Žagarė and killed on that same day; alleges that she does not know if people stole Jewish belongings

after they were taken to the market square to be killed, but then she talks about a woman who, after the killings, wore a red sweater around town that had belonged to the wife of **Kremelis**.

**[03:] 04:30:18 – [03:] 10:11:13**  
**04:42 – 10:36**

*[New setting: the market square in Žagarė; the camera shows a street and then turns to show the interviewer and Ikvildienė; they are walking toward the building that housed her sister's hairdressing shop from where she witnessed the killings in the city square]* She explains that at the time her sister was renting the hairdresser's shop and an apartment from a Jewish man; states that a shoe store owned by a Jewish man names **Kremelis** was next door *[they walk up to the building]*; explains how it looked at the time, which is different from the way it currently looks; *[noise of cars driving past]*; says that on the day of the killing she had arrived at her sister's house early in the morning and that the Jews were not yet rounded up in the city market square; explains that the German **Manteifelis** was standing on the balcony of **Frydmanas's** home and he gave a speech, then whistled and the shooting began; *[camera moves, shows the street, the city square, and then the interviewer and the interviewee]*; explains that the "white stripers" ran out from the surrounding courtyards and side streets yelling for the Jews to get down on the ground and then shot the ones standing; repeats that the surviving Jews had to place the corpses and injured victims onto a truck and then everyone was taken to the mass grave in the park; *[noise of cars driving past, the sound quality diminishes, the interviewer asks Ikvildienė to repeat what she said]*; repeats that the "white stripers" ran out of the courtyards, told the Jews to get down, shot those standing, and then the surviving Jews had to help transport the corpses and the injured to the mass grave in the park; *[points the location of the window through which she witnessed the killings though the window is no longer there; the camera shows the building]*; asserts that the "white stripers" who committed the killings were local Lithuanians and some men who had arrived from other cities; *[the camera turns to show the market square]*; recounts that after the killings one "white striper" came to her sister's hairdresser shop and asked them the following question: "How did you like this comedy?"

**[03:] 10:11:14 – [03:] 20:02:22**  
**10:37 – 20:52**

*[camera moves; cameramen are talking]* She asserts that the "white stripers" were in position before the killings began, but admits that she knows about this only through hearsay; says that there were no trees in the city square at the time and that it was formerly an outdoor market and that everything was clearly visible; *[the camera shows the square; people walk past; a truck in the scene]*; explains that a truck transported the dead and injured victims over several trips to the grave site; recalls that the uninjured victims were made to walk; estimates that the Jews were rounded up in the market square after eight o'clock in the morning and then the shooting began at nine or ten o'clock in the morning; *[a car drives past; scene changes: the camera shows the interviewer and Ikvildienė at a distance in front of a building across the street; they approach the camera, talking]*; explains that at the time of the killings there were two rows of shops in the square; recalls that the shops and homes were empty; adds that the square was full of Jews who were carrying bundles because they had been told they would be taken to work; describes how the victim's bundles were scattered all over the square after the shooting; *[camera moves and*

*shows the building from which Ikvildienė witnessed the shooting*]; states that she did not leave the building to take a closer look after the shooting but that she remained at her sister's home through the night; states that all of the shooters were drunk; names a few of the Jews she saw still alive in the market square after the shooting: **Rabinovičienė** (wife of Mr. **Rabinovičius**), **Aizenštatas**, and a young Jewish woman who worked as a pharmacist at the pharmacy owned by Mr. **Kazlauskas**; maintains that she cannot identify any of the Jews who were shot on the market square because she was too far away from the scene to recognize their faces and because she was so distressed; *[the camera moves, shows the square]*; explains that before the shooting Jewish women were brought from the ghetto to weed the square and that they were guarded by "white strippers" from Žagarė; refuses to name any of the "white strippers"; *[wind blowing, cameramen talking; new scene; the camera shows Ikvildienė walking with the interviewer]*; talks again about the shooting; states that she saw one truck sitting by her sister's hairdresser shop; *[it is difficult to hear the conversation, they walk past a group of people whose conversation is audible, though unclear]*; repeats that the Jews were forced to place the dead and the injured victims onto the truck; *[the camera moves, again we hear other people speaking; the scene is being filmed at a distance, through trees; the interviewer and Ikvildienė continue walking]*; alleges that the perpetrators changed their surnames upon returning (probably from exile in Siberia); *[conversation among the cameramen.]*

**[03:] 20:02:23 – [03:] 25:55:11**  
**20:53 – 27:00**

*[The camera moves, then shows Ikvildienė and the interviewer; the conversation of the camera crew is audible]*; She states that Lithuanians do not think that Jews are people; *[they walk out of the scene; the camera jolts and moves, then shows them again, standing]*; talks again about the truck; *[scene cuts and changes, the filming is taking place in a different location, though still in the market square]*; talks about an incident that occurred before the killings in which a Jewish woman named Mrs. **Nokumienė** [**Norkumienė**], who lived in and owned a shop in Žagarė, went into hiding with her daughter and then someone found them, killed them, and cut off their heads; refuses to name the accused man, though reveals that he was attacked in the street and then died; *[scene cuts, same location]*; talks about another episode when she witnessed a group of "white strippers" beat up a young Jewish man who was sweeping the street.