

ŠEGŽDAVIČIENĖ, Stefanija
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Lithuanian
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In this interview, Stefanija Šegždavičienė, born in 1933, a resident of Kalnujai village in Raseiniai district (central western Lithuania) discusses the mass murder of Jews in Kalnujai. She describes witnessing, on several occasions, how Jews were led down the road to the massacre site in Kalnujai. Šegždavičienė discusses at length her brother-in-law, a Jewish man named **Lazackas [Lazacka]**, who escaped the massacre site and was rescued and who then provided aid to Lithuanian partisans (anti-Soviet resistance movement; “forest brothers”) after the war. Local collaboration and involvement in the killings is only minimally addressed, though the interviewee does provide the name of one Lithuanian perpetrator and briefly mentions looted Jewish property.

Box 1, Tape 1

[01:] 00:33:04 – [01:] 04:31:13
00:00 – 04:39

She introduces herself as Stefanija Šegždavičienė, born in 1933 in Raseiniai district, Kalnujai village (central western Lithuania), where she lived before and after World War II; says that during the war, her family was evacuated to Jurbarkas; explains that Jews did not live in the village of Kalnujai, but lived in small cities such as Raseiniai, Šiluva, Vidukliai, Nėmakščiai; recalls that she did not interact with Jews but that her parents were friends with several Jews, especially when they visited Raseiniai; discusses how her sister married a Jewish man; explains that her sister’s husband was imprisoned for two years (after the war) because he aided Lithuanian (anti-Soviet) partisans who went into the forests in Lithuania; adds that he helped these Lithuanian partisans because they supported and rescued him during German occupation; recalls that at the start of the war, there was a great panic felt in Lithuania because there was talk that the Germans would first kill the Jews and then the Lithuanians, Poles, and so on.

[01:] 04:31:14 – [01:] 10:18:09
04:40 – 10:40

She explains that her home was two kilometers away from the massacre site; states that the graves had been dug in advance and that she used to see groups of Jews being taken to the massacre site along the road from Raseiniai to Kalnujai; recalls that there was a Jewish ghetto established in Raseiniai; reports that she did not see when or how the graves were dug but explains that the Germans forced local Lithuanian residents to dig and cover the graves; describes how her father avoided having to dig the graves by tying his hand up and telling the Germans that his arm was broken; admits that she does not really know who would come by to get the local residents to dig graves but remembers that the men spoke German and that her

father communicated in German with them; says that she does not know if there were any local Lithuanians among them; estimates that she saw Jews being taken to the massacre site about three or four separate times; says that she did not always see when Jews were being taken to the massacre site, but that she sometimes heard the gunshots; states that she cannot specify the types of gunshots or the type of weapons used during the mass murders; says that the killings did not take long, about a half hour; when the interviewer asks her how it came about that she would see the Jewish victims being taken to the massacre site, she says that the neighbors would tell one another when the Jews were going to be murdered; says they knew because the graves were dug in advance; adds that she was told that people who lived closer to the massacre site heard victims' cries and screams.

[01:] 10:18:10 – [01:] 14:42:08
10:41 – 15:15

She says that she does not know the number of Jewish victims in each of the groups being taken to the massacre site; says that from the top floor of her house she would see the Jews being marched but that she did not go to look at the mass graves; when the interviewer asks her who owned the land on which the mass murders were committed, she conjectures that it was the land of two men named **Mačiulaitis** and **Tverkus**; goes on to explain how her brother-in-law, a Jewish man named **Lazackas [Lazacka]**, escaped and survived the Holocaust: says he was sheltered and supported by the **Savickas** family, who were Lithuanian (anti-Soviet) partisans; says that there were two daughters in the family who were tall and fair-haired, just like **Lazackas**; reports that he would dress up in women's clothing and posed as one of the daughters when he went to walk around outside of the house; when the interviewer asks why she refers to Mr. **Savickas** as a partisan, she explains that **Savickas** joined the Lithuanian (anti-Soviet) partisan movement after the war and that he went out into the forests; states that **Lazackas** would bring him food and provide aid and support because **Savickas** rescued him during the Holocaust; says that someone informed on **Lazackas** and he was imprisoned for two years; explains that he escaped the massacre by running away from the site in Kalnujai, the same site that she witnessed victims being taken to; says that her sister also witnessed Jews being taken to the massacre site.

[01:] 14:42:09 – [01:] 20:25:19
15:16 – 21:14

She explains how her brother-in-law **Lazackas** escaped from the massacre site; recalls a conversation she had with him after the war during which she asked him why the Jews did not resist or fight back; reports that his response was that no one actually believed that so many innocent people would be killed for no reason; recounts his description of his escape: in the evening, he was taken to the massacre site and he ran away; says he reported that the murderers fired at him as he ran but that they did not chase him; repeats his description of having crawled along the ground to the Dubysa River; states that he was rescued and supported for three years; when asked by the interviewer about the perpetrators, she mentions that she knew one local Lithuanian named **Petras Savickas** who killed Jews; adds that he is not related to the aforementioned **Savickas** family who rescued **Lazackas**; explains that **Petras Savickas** was tried and sentenced to 25 years imprisonment; recalls that he served the time and then returned to

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Lithuania and died shortly thereafter; explains that she was friends with **Savickas's** daughter, who walked around wearing Jewish victims' clothes; remembers that it was clearly evident that the clothes she wore belonged to Jews because they were better quality and prettier than the homemade clothes worn by people in the villages; says that she interacted with **Savickas's** daughter more after the war; reports that **Savickas** was an alcoholic and that he would talk about the alcohol the killers were given at the massacre site; says that she did not talk to **Savickas's** daughter about her father or what he had done.