

DOMAŠOV, Sergei
Latvia Documentation Project
Russian
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Tape 1

In this interview, Sergei Domašov, born in 1914 in the city of Daugavpils, recalls incidents that occurred in the village of Vishki during World War II and speaks about the fate of the Jews from Dagda and Vishki after the German occupation of Latvia. He focuses on the execution of the Jews from Dagda. He also talks about the participation of locals in the executions and talks about the attitude of the locals towards the Jews and the Russians before the war.

[01:] 00:31:23 – [01:] 10:05:00

He introduces himself and talks about his birth date and place as May 1914 in the city of Daugavpils; notes that he resided in Dagda before the war; talks about the occupations of his parents; says he was living in Vishki when the war began; remembers joining the Soviet army; talks about the first days after the German occupation of Daugavpils; reports that some of the locals sympathized with the Germans and others remained indifferent towards them; reports that Jews were also living in Vishki; discusses the German attitude towards Jews in the first days of occupation; remembers the persecution of Jews not long after the occupation of Daugavpils by the Germans; reports on the plundering of Jewish homes by locals; describes how Jews were driven from Dagda to Daugavpils; says that Jews from Dagda stayed for a few days in Vishki while on their way to Daugavpils; says he was acquainted with Jews from Dagda that were taking part in this procedure; talks about a Jewish doctor from Dagda, **Slanevskiy [Slanimskiy]** with whom he was acquainted; says he was punished by an Aizsargi for greeting **Slanevskiy**; mentions that the traveling Jews stayed in the streets of Vishki; comments on an order for Jews to put their clothes in a carriage; talks about the execution of Jews in a shed near Gorka (Zolotaya Gorka); says that the shed belonged to **Lyalin**; says he heard shots; reports that the Jews were buried in a trench; remembers how the locals went to the place of execution a day and a half later; remembers that he saw children's hands at the execution site, because they were sticking out from the ground; reports that the ground at the execution place was swaying; talks about the size of the trench; supposes that the trench was about four meters deep and roughly 20 to 30 meters long; reports that there were from 96 to 99 Jews at the execution.

[01:] 10:05:01 – [01:] 20:00:19

He remembers that a Jew was killed on the way to Vishki; says many locals visited the execution site; notes he cannot say if the Jews knew they were being driven to the site to be executed; says there were Jews of all ages; remembers the return of the Germans, to burn the remnants of the executed Jews, but cannot recall the specific date of the burnings; reports that Jews from Vishki also disappeared; remembers and describes the arrests of Jews by the Aizsargis in Vishki; reports on his acquaintances that were Aizsargis; talks about one in particular—an Aizsargi called **Svyatin**; reports that he did not meet any Jew in Vishki after having returned from the army; talks about the good attitude by the locals towards the Jews;

reports about the Jews' occupations before the war; remembers a Jewish pharmacist **Lazer Gordon**; talks about the relationship between the Latvians and the Russians before the war; sings a prewar song with an antisemitic tinge; talks about the Jewish concerts in Dagda before the war; reports that in Dagda they spoke both Latvian and Russian; remembers that the Jews spoke Yiddish among themselves.

[01:] 20:00:20 – [01:] 27:47:20

He reports how the Jews went into hiding with the help of their friends after the war began; talks about his Jewish friend **Abram Semyonovich**, and explains he was in hiding with the aid of a friend; says **Semyonovich** sometimes came to him in order to take some food; says he cannot say exactly where **Semyonovich** was concealing himself; reports that **Semyonovich** died after the war; explains that the Gypsies (Roma), typically aged 18–29 that were permitted to grab baggage from the Jews while they were going to Daugavpils; remembers the crying heard by the locals during the executions; says that they did not find any Jews remaining alive at the execution place; reports that the executions had taken place in the afternoon; says that the executions were performed by the locals; mentions the Latvians **Saulish** and **Polush** that took a part in the executions; reports that the Aizsargis called **Svyatin [Svetinch]** and **Saulish** retreated with the Germans; reports that the wife of **Svyatin** stayed in Latvia.