

LAPKOVSKIS, Heronīms
Latvia Documentation Project
Russian
RG-50.568*0025

Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Heronīms Lapkovskis, born in 1925 and a native of Ilūkste, discusses his life in his village at the time of German occupation in World War II. He focuses on his family, the treatment of the local Jews, and mentions in particular a local Jewish doctor, **Lapinskiy**.

[01:] 00:31:06 – [01:] 08:06:02

He begins by introducing himself, gives details on the date and place of his birth as 1925 in Ilūkste, Latvia; talks about his parents and their prewar occupations; describes how he first heard about the beginning of the war; describes the first time he saw Germans; talks about the Jews who came to Ilūkste after being stopped at Daugavpils; describes the Jews, their attempts to escape their country at Daugavpils, their conversation with the Germans in Ilūkste, and the panic that followed afterward among the Jews; talks about their subsequent departure to Eglaine; mentions an episode in which men in uniform came to look for gold among the things that the Jews left behind, and supposes a local person informed them about the stay of the Jews with his family.

[01:] 08:06:03 – [01:] 18:05:18

He says his mother knew the Jews who stayed with them personally; mentions the fear of being punished for helping Jews; describes the conversation between the Jews and the Germans in further detail and the spreading panic; talks about the language of communication between his mother and the Jews, and the Germans and the Jews; says that according to the rumors, the Jews who went to Eglaine were gathered there and executed later, and shares the possible sources of this information; remembers another incident with the Germans guarding big tanks of diesel and the local Jews and party men loading those tanks onto trucks; in answer to a question, says that he believes the Jews were guarded by civilians; returns to discuss local collaborators who came to search his house after the Jews departed; discusses involvement and the postwar trial during the 1960s.

[01:] 18:05:19 – [01:] 24:09:23

He recalls a story of the execution of a local Jewish doctor **Lapinskiy** and his family; describes the place of execution as he personally viewed later: a trench along the road to Eglaine formerly used by the Soviet Army for training; mentions seeing a part of a shoe sticking out from the ground; believes that the bodies of the doctor and his family may still be in the trench, says that under Soviet rule no reburials were initiated; through rumors connects two local brothers **Vites [Vitas, Vytaas]** with **Lapinskiy's** son's death.