

JEVSTAFJEVS, Lifjeris
Latvia Documentation Project
Russian
RG-50.568*0033

Tape 1

In this interview, Lifjeris Jevstafjevs, born in 1928 and a life long resident of Daugavpils, Latvia, talks about several incidents he witnessed in his hometown. He also speaks about the extermination of the Jews during the German occupation of that city, and focuses on the first days of the occupation, the arrests and executions of the Jews. He describes in detail the first episodes of executions of Jews. He also concentrates on some of the Jewish survivors.

[01:] 00:35:19 – [01:] 10:00:02

He introduces himself and gives his date and place of birth as 1928, in Daugavpils on 16 **Bauskaya [Barskaya]** Street; reports that a large number of Jews were living in Daugavpils before the war; mentions in particular the **Fisher** family who lived in the neighborhood; recollects the first days of the German occupation; remembers the first announcements ordering the Jews to assemble in one place; mentions the order given to the Jews to sew stars on their clothes; recollects the arrival of the German Army to Daugavpils on **Bauskaya** Street; describes an episode in which he witnessed Jews being tortured; recollects two groups of Jewish prisoners; talks of the first group digging up bodies; talks about a rumor that some of the bodies were former political prisoners were shot by the NKVD (Soviet Secret Police, People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs, "Narodnyy Komissariat Vnutrennikh Del"); talks about the pedestrians being forced to witness the scene; talks about some pedestrians identifying bodies of dead relatives; mentions that his mother might have seen **Kalistratov [Kallistratov]** among the corpses; comments on the order given to the Jews to beat people into the trench at 18 **Noyabrya** Street and bury them alive; talks about the languages the policemen used among themselves; describes the distinguishing features that indentified the Jews, like stars on clothing and their language.

[01:] 10:00:03 – [01:] 20:05:20

He continues to describe the same episode; corrects himself and says there were three groups of 8 to 12 Jews; mentions **Kalistratov** again and his two sons **Gleb** and **Aleksey**; states the number of the bodies identified; discusses the mass arrests of Jewish men that followed; talks about the first executions of Jews performed in **Zheleznodorozhny** Park; talks about a Jewish ghetto he saw located where the **Brilevsky (Grilevsky)** Prison now is; talks about the absence of Jewish men in the ghetto; describes that the Jews were taken to a new place of execution called **Pogulyanka** instead of **Zolotaya Gorka**; states that approximately 300 Jews were marched in a single file line; states that 15 policemen supervised the procession and that none of them were German; says that processions of Jews took place often.

[01:] 20:05:21 – [01:] 30:12:16

He cannot recollect the age of the Jews in the procession; talks of a rumor that the Jews were ordered to dig their own graves; talks about policemen confiscating their clothes; speaks about

the locals burying dead Jewish bodies in the graves located in **Staroforshtadt**; talks about the locals also possibly being killed; talks about a tribunal in the 1970s concerning the locals that had escaped; explains that he was unacquainted with Jews in the processions; comments on the general knowledge that the Jews were being led to their execution; talks about bringing the Jews from the Belarussian districts of Braslavsky and Postavsky and to Daugavpils to be executed; says that more than 100,000 Jews were executed in Daugavpils; talks about the diversity of the population in Daugavpils before the war; states that 18,000 inhabitants of the total population of 44,000 were Jewish; remembers the arrest of the **Fisher** family; mentions a policeman with the last name **Mihailov**; recollects the bombing of Daugavpils by the Soviets in 1944; talks about the closing of all enterprises in Daugavpils except for the Locomotive Repair Plant, "Lokomotivoremontnyy zavod," (LRZ); talks about the residents of Daugavpils moving into rural areas to work for landowners.

[01:] 30:12:17 – [01:] 40:22:03

He states that his family and the residents of Daugavpils fled to the village of **Krivinka** [**Klivinka**] after Daugavpils was bombed; talks about a policeman named **Fyodr** who was hiding a 30-year-old Jewish woman in his cellar; tries to remember the date that the Russians arrived in **Krivinka**; talks about how the German Army failed to defend **Razvilka** and the village of **Malinovka** from the Soviets; says the Soviets took political power in **Krivinka**; remembers the election of the village leader and how Officer **Fyodr** appeared at the elections together with the Jewish woman he had protected; talks about **Fyodr**'s sons; says that he does not know what ended up happening to the Jewish woman; recollects that the Jewish survivors gave their testimonies in court later; talks about the ease of escaping from execution due to the few number of guards; states his amazement at how obedient the Jews were in following orders; mentions a rich, Jewish doctor that the Germans kept alive and gave work to until the end of war; says that he does not know what ended up happening to the Jewish doctor; remembers plundering abandoned houses left by the residents of Daugavpils; talks about the homes of the executed Jews being reoccupied by the locals; remembers a fire in the city the first night after the Germans arrived; talks about the population size in Daugavpils before and after the war.