

IVANOV, Afanasii
Latvia Documentation Project
Russian
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In this interview, Afanasii Ivanov, born on December 10, 1934, in Krivani, Novenska volost, a seven-year-old boy at the beginning of the World War II, discusses his experiences with Jews, German supporters, and Latvians during the war. His family home was situated several hundred meters away from a prisoner of war camp, where he saw mass graves. He also witnessed the execution of a Jewish family that came to Krivani from another village. In this interview, Ivanov concentrates on the interactions between the people in his village, the prisoners of war, and those individuals he calls "Germans," but is referring to everyone in German military uniform. He mentions three different episodes which reveal the scope of these relationships: from friendship and support to fear and betrayal. He also mentions a few instances of local collaboration with Germans and the cruel treatment of prisoners by fellow prisoners.

File 1 of 1

[01:] 00:17:09 – [01:] 07:43:20
00:15 – 08:00

He introduces himself as Afanassi Ivanov; says he is a resident of Krivani, Novenska volost, where he was born on December 10, 1934, and lived before the start of the war; remembers the arrival of the Germans; explains that Jews lived about five kilometers away from Krivani; remembers when a Jewish family came from the city and how he played with a boy in the family; talks about how a few men in German uniform took the family away and shot them in front of everyone; describes the deceased family members and provides their ages; describes the motorcyclists who shot them, the languages they spoke, and the guns they carried; explains how one hour after the shooting, they carved a cross into the dead man's naked body; says that his father secretly buried the bodies, which had been left in a field; mentions that the victims' bodies were exhumed after the war.

[01:] 07:43:21 – [01:] 16:30:06
08:01 – 17:09

He says that a camp for military prisoners was constructed near the village; describes its size and location; discusses the execution of prisoners; talks about an incident when three prisoners, together with a German guard named Koch, came to fetch water from their water tank, and the

prisoners escaped; says that two of the prisoners were caught three kilometers away, but that, according to Anatoliy, the third prisoner, Koch let him escape; talks about his interactions with the prisoners, how they made toys for him; describes his interactions with Koch, other Germans, and a German woman; mentions that both Koch and the German woman spoke Russian fluently; describes Koch in detail, how he used to drink with his father; proceeds to discuss the other two escaped prisoners, who were returned to the camp; says they were beaten to death by their fellow prisoners at the command of the Germans; talks about the execution of prisoners; describes two mass graves that were used to bury the bodies; returns to discuss details about the Jewish family; talks about burials and reburials that happened in secret after the war; says that his father may have known the man dressed in German uniform who executed the Jews, surname **Bukaško** [**Bukashko**] from **Trapetsi** [**Trapezi**] village; admits that he does not know how Germans learned about the fact that his family harbored Jews in their home; suspects that they were reported on by someone from the village.

[01:] 16:30:07 – [01:] 25:12:02
17:10 – 26:13

He continues talking about **Bukaško** [**Bukashko**]; says that he yelled at the Jews in Russian; talks about the reaction and non-resistance of the Jews, about how crowds of 50 Jews were executed by a single man dressed in German uniform; conveys his father's warning that after exterminating all of the Jews, the Germans would then begin killing Poles and Russians; says that he witnessed mass executions of groups of 60 to 100 people on several occasions; asserts that people expressed astonishment about the lack of resistance shown by the large numbers of victims against a small number of German supporters; recalls that, after the war, when he asked a rabbi about this, the rabbi responded saying that it was the destiny of the Jews; says that he saw dead prisoners at the prisoner of war camp dumped into mass graves and covered in a white substance that looked like cement; says that the surviving prisoners were forced to carry the dead bodies to the graves; explains the process of the reburials, who performed the digging, what was found in the graves; continues to discuss the relationship between Anatoliy and Koch; says that Anatoliy hid in his father's house, that Koch did not betray him, and that Anatoliy was found dead in a trench in a Latvian village.