

CHIGER, Dmitriy
Ukraine Witnesses Documentation Project
Russian
RG-50.575*0034

Tape 1, Box 1

In this interview, Dmitriy Chiger, born in 1924 in the region of Lvov (present-day L'viv) Ukraine, talks about his experiences there with the Germans during World War II. (According to the data sheet, the interviewee filled out he was a resident of the village of Blazhiv from 1941 to 1944.) He worked for the Germans supplying food and doing manual chores, and he reflects on how his work helped his family and neighbors to be secure. In particular, he concentrates on multiple executions of the local population, both by the Germans as well as by whom he believes to be KGB forces. He witnessed two executions of Jews by the Germans and one execution of internal party members in the Komsomol (Union of Communist Youth). He discusses the dynamics of internal relations in the village throughout the occupation and after the executions.

[01:] 00:30:16 – [01:] 08:17:13

He starts by introducing himself, his date and place of birth; talks about the KGB's mass executions in the village (Blazhiv?) and the early period of German occupation; recalls the shootings of Komsomol members; talks about the establishment of the Jewish ghetto; describes the relations between his family and the family of his Jewish neighbors who were put in the ghetto; describes his visits to the ghetto; describes his work for the Germans and the type of relations he had with the residents [*of the ghetto*].

[01:] 08:17:14 – [01:] 17:38:00

He continues talking about his neighbors who hid from the Germans in his house and the reactions of his other neighbors to that; describes the behavior of the Germans in the village; mentions witnessing the shooting of two young Jewish men in a neighboring village; talks about the forest in Lazarevskoe serving as a place where the Jews were executed; describes being an eyewitness to an execution, including the machinery involved and the Jews who were killed; describes different Nazi collaborators such as Czechs and Poles; believes that his work for the Germans saved his Jewish neighbors and explains why.

[01:] 17:38:01 – [01:] 28:19:09

He elaborates on his job for the Germans, mentions stealing some food from them and the punishment for that; describes his position as one of confidants among the Germans and the feeling of security due to it; reflects on collaboration with the Germans among the locals, puts the blame on the people; reflects on the character of the people in the village and the relations among them; in answer to a question, returns to the arrival of the German troops; explains the

attitudes of the people in western Ukraine towards the Germans as a reflection of hate towards the Soviet authorities; describes Soviet practices regarding Ukrainian “kulaks”; describes opening of the basements where victims of the KGB were left dead; says that the people and the Germans commented on the bodies being the result of the work of the KGB; recalls people searching for their relatives among the dead.

[01:] 28:19:10 – [01:] 36:29:25

He returns to the public execution of the Komsomol members; elaborates on the role of the locals in providing lists with names; describes the shootings and public announcements; explains the change in relations between the people in the village after the execution; talks about the role of police collaborators in the execution; tries unsuccessfully to remember their names, but does remember the details of the post-war life of one of them.

[01:] 36:29:26 – [01:] 44:59:45

He describes the ghetto (Blazhiv?), its capacity, its construction and location, with barbed wire surrounding the ghetto; describes how the Jews were collected from different villages to live in the ghetto; talks about the perception of the Jews among the locals before the war; describes the Jews’ appearances in the ghetto; talks about getting beaten up by the Germans for going to the ghetto; describes the dismantling of the ghetto; talks about a Jewish friend and describes her arrest.

[01:] 44:59:46 – [01:] 55:16:00

He talks about the guarding at the ghetto; describes what happened to the houses of the Jews after their arrests; returns to the story about two Jewish boys shot in a neighboring village, describes the shooting and the Germans; in answer to a question, returns to the shooting at Lazarevskoe; describes the process, the trenches, and behaviors; says that according to rumors, these murdered people were from the ghetto; says he would be unable to point out the exact location of the shooting, as he stumbled upon it by accident.

[01:] 55:16:01 – [01:] 58:28:22

He answers three final questions regarding the execution of the Komsomol members; says the announcement was that everybody connected with the party would be shot; says the language used by the Jews during the execution in Lazarevskoe was Ukrainian.