

JAKŠIĆ, Rade
Former Yugoslavia Witnesses Documentation Project
Serbian
RG-50.587*0006

Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Rade Jakšić, born September 5, 1935 and a local resident of the village of Slunjski Moravci near Karlovac during World War II, describes life during the war years, before and after the arrival of the Yugoslav Partisans, or simply Partisans, and talks about the occasional fighting that occurred when Italian and German troops passed through the area. He names places where his family hid from the Croatian Revolutionary Movement, the “Ustaše,” and talks about crimes committed against civilians in nearby villages.

[00:] 00:30:00 – [00:] 08:23:10

He introduces himself: name and surname, date of birth, and address; describes the first assault by Italian troops, which included the pillaging of homes; explains how his father **Mile** cooperated with the priest from the village of Skakavac who had warned them about the Italians; describes returning to the village after the pillaging and living in fear; tells about a new warning from the Skakavac priest about crimes in Prkos, about 10–15 days after the first pillage, which led to a second fight; describes how the people of Prkos were taken into the Brezje woods where they were killed; explains how his family (mother, aunt, and cousins **Pero** and **Ljuban**) fled to Petrova Gora around New Year’s Eve and did not see the army.

[00:] 08:23:11 – [00:] 17:39:25

He describes hiding in Petrova Gora around the time of the Orthodox Christmas; says that they were in Utinja Vrelo on January 12 during the Ustaše retreat from Vojnić; explains how the Ustaše occupied Vojnić and surrounded Petrova Gora but had to retreat due to snow; explains how they left Petrova Gora and went to Ivanković Selo, near Slunjski Moravci, where his father’s sister and her husband **Branko** lived; describes passing by the Ustaše patrol and returning to the burned-down village of Slunjski Moravci in April 1942; says that the Ustaša had a command in Skakavac; recounts how children went to Skakavac and worked there for food; explains that they did not immediately return to Slunjski Moravci after having left Ivanković Selo, but again spent some time in Petrova Gora because of the spring offensive led by Colonel **Moškov**.

[00:] 17:40:00 – [00:] 27:09:03

He describes hiding in Petrova Gora after leaving Ivanković Selo; remembers seeing a dead family in the woods; assumes that the Ustaša received orders to retreat and allow civilians to leave Petrova Gora; talks about returning to Slunjski Moravci where they stayed until the end of

the war; describes the arrival of the Eighth Partisan Division on November 20 or 21, of 1942; talks about life under the protection of the Partisans, occasional armed conflicts between the Partisan patrols and the Ustaša on the **Kupa** Bridge; remembers a story told by a witness to the crimes committed in Prkos, the late **Mirko Stojaković**, from Utinja Vrelo, who survived one of the Ustaša attacks; says that crimes against civilians were discussed only after the war; mentions crimes in Prkos, Krnjak, and Veljun; talks about the Partisan and Ustaše drumhead court-martials; remembers a man by the surname of **Radočaj** who was spared interrogation because Rade's father had stood up for him.

[00:] 27:09:04 – [00:] 33:00:00

He says that he never witnessed any crimes, but after the war he heard witnesses' stories; explains that he heard about the crimes in Prkos from **Vaso Roklić [Roglić, Rognić, Roknić]** who survived by escaping and joined the Partisan army at the age of 13; describes the crimes in Prkos once again but does not know the exact number of victims; says that **Žarko Kotur** might know more about the victims; claims he does not know of any acts of revenge or court trials in the area; explains that the Partisans were ordered to leave the area and were not allowed to touch civilians; describes how the German troops passed through the area on their way to Bihać in 1942–1943; says that people from the village often received warnings and fled to the woods without knowing which army was coming; explains the difference between the Ustaša, whom they feared, and the Croatian Home Guard, the Domobrani, that also came to the village but did not harm anyone.