

**Witness 188R**, Metchetinskii district, Rostov on Don. [Metchetinskii district no longer exists; in 1960 it was incorporated into Zernogradskii district.]

188R was born 14 November 1928. Describes life before the war on the nearby collective farms (named "Bolshevik Tempo," "Path to Communism," "Dmitrova," and "Iskra" [The Spark]). Most villagers were ethnic Russians; there were a few Armenians, some Cossacks, and hardly any Jews.

However, [in 1942] Jewish refugees came through the village ahead of the advancing German armies. German occupation began in July 1942 and lasted until 3 February 1943. Many Germans came through the district [almost certainly on their way to Stalingrad]. The Germans established a 40-man local police force, consisting in large part of Cossacks who had fled abroad after the Russian Revolution and returned, many times to houses they had owned before. A Cossack Chief [Ataman] by the name of Kryzhnov became the chief of police. (188R mentions another Cossack woman by the name of Gryzhkova who came with the Germans.) The German commander, in a green uniform [suggesting regular army, not SS], established headquarters in the village; the Cossack police wore their Cossack blue and red uniform. The police caught some Jewish refugees. 188R heard that the police shot Jews but did not witness any executions. Some Jews were shot at a nearby ravine, others near a brick factory.

On 20 February 1943, after the Germans retreated, 188R and three others buried the frozen bodies of 9 Soviet soldiers. The last part of the interview takes place at this site. 188R describes the burial, the soldiers' uniforms. Nearby was a house and stables. The film crew walks in the fields and sees the remnants of a building. 188R points to another common grave [but it is not clear who is buried there].