

Pelageja Ivanovna Dmitruchina

Pelageja remembered that she was about 10 years old when the war started, she thinks she was born in 1931 in Sporovo, where she lived all her life. She did not go to school, as nobody sent them to school, she had to work; her family had 10 children.

Pelageja remembered two Jewish families.

One family had a house connected to the store, they always helped people, everybody liked them.

Young women: Mila and Montana were teachers in the school.

They were selling everything people needed; fish, that they kept in ice bucket, tobacco, soup, candies.

Germans came to Sporovo in the summer (1941) they went straight to the Jewish hope, gathered them and killed behind the lake.

She and other villagers saw shooting from behind the fence; she remembered only women and a beautiful baby boy; 5 people all together including their service woman.

Germans knew that Jews lived there, because policemen were Russians, some young men were from the village.

We were very sad that they killed Jews, we were all crying, as they were very kind, brought food to sick, helped everybody.

One man, Kuzima Pashkevich, pushed remains into the ditch, then he took clothes of dead people; Jews had good clothes; they were clean people; She remembered a policeman Anton Prokurator, but she does not remember him being close to the place where Jews were killed.

Anton's mother used to help Jewish family.

Jewish belongings were taken away primarily by policemen, but her family did not take anything.

Germans burned down a lot of homes, men went to war, only old women and little kids were left in the village. And we lived in the dugouts (zemlyanka), near the woods.

As a child she remembered planting some flowers on the grave of Jewish people; nobody could find it now.

Germans came to our village often; some people in the village worked for Germans, some helped partisans.

Pelageja remembered that in Sporovo young people organized dances, and a group of young Jewish people came, they were told that they would be able to join partisans, who stayed near Sporovo; however, they were taken on 3 boats across the pond and killed; it was winter time; about one month later they were found; other people came and started pooling clothes off the bodies.

She thinks that dances were organized in the home of Zaharov Popatrov.

She also remembered the name Boroda, who was very dangerous, he killed people he did not like, he killed her mother's cousin; she remembered that partisans burned a guy who worked for German police; Boroda disappeared before the end of the war.