

Mikhail Paramonovich Kolonchuk was born on December 12 in 1922 in the village Svitaya Volya Where he lived all his life.

He remembered that there were a lot of Jewish families in his village, people were very friendly, no fights, no violence against Jews. He went to school with a Jewish boy who was a very good student. Jews had small stores, they worked as seamstress, shoemakers, joiners, blacksmiths. He and other villages worked before the war at the wood making factory with Jews, Georgians. and other people.

Jewish people were friendly, they loved all kind of holidays and sometimes brought their matzah and other gifts to Russian families.

When the war came to the village in the summer of 1941 everybody was "like dead", everybody was scared; there was a chaos, "Moscow Kaput".

Jews got yellow stars on their backs; Jews were sitting like "mice under the broom".

Germans headquarters were in Telehanovo, the majority operations were executed by local police.

He remembered that it was in July of 1941, in 24 hours all Jews - 411 people, were gathered and locked in their synagog, they did not cry, it was quiet. Jews were convoyed by local policemen under German command early in the morning in groups of 30-40 people, men separate from women and babies to the place near the woods. Men were killed first, later they brought women; pushed everybody into the ditch, then killed. About 18 Christians, communists, were killed right on the spot even before they reached the shooting place.

50 more people; communists, other Russians were also gathered, but somebody let them go.

All together were 440 people were killed as they brought Jews from other places.

Michail remembered that his brother among other men was told to go and dig ditches that later became Jewish graves. Michail never went to see the graves, his heart was broken.

After Jews were killed their belongings were taken by policemen, later their homes were burned

He heard that one Jew, Gilda Joseph, escaped shooting, but he was betrayed and killed later.

Jews from other villages: Bobrovitch, Yano were killed in 1942.

He remembered one incident in 1941 when two German officers, grabbed a rabbi on the street and shaved a cross on his head and pushed him with their boots.

He remembered that many local people joined Germans and became policemen; one woman Anatska , she was German, was one of the first to organize people into police, Zehora Michail and his younger brother joined police, they were both inspired by their father; also Ignat and Episko, who became a police officer.

Policemen would go into homes take what ever they wanted and they were watching for partisans.

Michail, who became a partisan, remembered genocide against Russian people.

He thought that policemen were killing people, burning their homes in revenge to partisans activities, who became more active in 1942.

He remembered an incident when he with other seven young men went to Bobrovich and saw a woman with a baby laying on the ground, she was shot, somebody tried to see where the baby was alive and gave him a piece of bread; then policeman came, he put a bag on the head of the baby and shot him. He also saw three fresh graves where local Russian people were killed.

Partisans were active in Lyhovitskiy district, Kosovo, Novoselski, Zakivskoe, Bobrovich, Sporovo. When partisans ambushed German troops, policemen killed villages and burned their homes if they suspected any connections to partisans.

Policemen with their families moved with Germans; the soviet army tried to capture them, but they ran away, some people from their families came back. Some policemen were persecuted at the end of the war.

None of the Jewish people came back. He remembered that in 1939 Leizer moved to the West came back around 1960 and put fences around Jewish graves, established a monument with the Jewish names on it.