

## **Oral history interview with Stefanos Dovas**

**RG-50.855\*0019**

### **Summary**

Stefanos Dovas, born in 1924 in the village of Perama outside Ioannina, in Central/Western Greece, describes his experience as a Greek Christian during the German occupation (1941 – 1943). His family was farmers. He had two brothers (Vangelis and ...) and four sisters (Athena, Eftalia, Aphrodite and ...).

He was going to Ioannina often, and did business with a Jew by the name of Naoum Matsas, who had a store with dairy products. He also knew other Jews, but he remembers only a couple of names: Samikos Matsas, Michelle (?), Samikos (?), and (?) Negrin. During the occupation, life in the village was OK, because the villagers could be sustained by their farms and animals, and the Germans did not bother them much. But in Ioannina, people suffered with hunger and a lot of them would go to the village to barter. Everybody was fearful of the Germans, but more fearful of the Greek collaborators, like Thomas Zarkalis and Athanasios Simos.

He remembers Saturday, March 25 (1943?) when the Germans captured the Jews of Ioannina and put them on open trucks. There were about 30 trucks in the village square, with smaller cars and motorcycles at the front and back of the convoy with armed German guards. The Jews were crying and calling the villagers for help. A couple, Samikos Matsas and Michelle (?), jumped out of the trucks, and the villagers saved them. Samikos Matsas stayed with the Dovas family for about 3 years, and Michelle with another family. Some other people who helped the Jews were: Thomas Arkalis, Michael Tsingas and Michael Gogos.

After the Germans took the Jews away, Christians burglarized their stores and houses. Stefanos witnessed it, but he does not remember names, other than: Telis Petelis.

After liberation, Samikos Matsas and Michelle (?) went back to Ioannina and found their belongings. Also, Samikos (?) came back from the concentration camps and was also helped by the Dovas family until he could support himself.