

**THE TRAGEDY
OF LITHUANIA:
1941–1944**

New documents on crimes
of Lithuanian collaborators
during the Second World War

УДК 94

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The previously unpublished materials from Russian archives shock even 60 years after the events had taken place. Death seems to be a happy deliverance when contemplating the sufferings and torture, that the innocent citizens of Lithuania had to endure during the years of the Nazi occupation. Reading the evidence of the eyewitnesses, one understands, why people would ask for death in order to stop the monstrous torture and insult they were subjected to. Not only the hated Soviet and party functionaries, who were “guilty” of establishing the Soviet regime in Lithuania, not only the Jews who are always “guilty” of everything for the mere reason of being Jewish, but also the Polish, clergy, people with mental disorders, old people, and babies – all of them were totally eliminated. Lithuania was turned into a “factory of death”. The documents in this collection constitute a tiny part of the wealth of material found in the archives of Russia, Lithuania, Germany and other countries.

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INTRODUCTION

“...In October, 1943 I was taken to the Ponar railway station and placed in a bunker. Here Germans used us for preparing firewood and burning corpses. In December, 1943 we were fettered and began burning corpses. First we piled the firewood, on top of which up to 100 corpses of people were laid, poured some kerosene and gasoline and then proceeded with another layer of corpses. Thus, we stacked about 3,000 corpses, laid firewood around them, poured the bodies with petroleum, stuck incendiary bombs on four sides of the pile and lit it up. The fire was burning for 7–8 days.

...Most of the bodies were of the Jewish people. About 2,000 corpses were laid on another fire: generally of the Red Army men and officers, and also 500 corpses of monks and priests. A total of 19 fires were made. Bodies of men, women, and children were burnt on these fires...” This is how the Ponar (Paneriai) nightmare is described by witnesses and members of those tragic events. In this world-known place of Lithuania, during the World War II, 100,000 people were killed, whose bodies were stacked and burnt. Such historic sites are numerous in Lithuania.

The previously unpublished materials from Russian archives shock even 60 years after the events had taken place. Death seems to be a happy deliverance when contemplating the sufferings and torture, that the innocent citizens of Lithuania had to endure during the years of the Nazi occupation. Reading the evidence of the eyewitnesses, one understands, why people would ask for death in order to stop the monstrous torture and insult they were subjected to. Many of those became mentally ill ...

What had the Soviet authorities done in Lithuania just for one year, from 1940 to 1941, to deserve such hatred from Lithuanians, who launched the bloody massacre at the arrival of the German troops? Repressions, arrests and deportations, nationalization of land, and confiscation of prosperous farmers' property. The sentiment of the offended party can partly be understood. But does it justify atrocities that followed? The answer seems to be clear.

What happened in Lithuania cannot be logically understood. Not only the hated Soviet and party functionaries, who were “guilty” of establishing the Soviet regime in Lithuania; not only the Jews, who are always “guilty” of everything for the mere reason of being Jewish, but also Poles, clergy, mentally ill, the elderly, and babies of the “undesirable” social stratas – were totally eliminated. Lithuania was turned into a “factory of death”. And not merely historians, but

perhaps also psychiatrists and psychoanalysts are needed to examine and understand the phenomena.

The period of the fascist German occupation of Lithuania and the crimes of local collaborators demand a responsible political appraisal. Who were the “champions of Lithuanian liberty” from among the Šaulists, members of the Lithuanian National Front, the National Labour Guards and the Lithuanian Self-Defense, who became the resourced for the police battalions? What was the position of the national intelligentsia? Some research has been done on the subject, but it is hardly sufficient. Examination of this period of Lithuanian history has advanced during the last couple of years, but mostly concerning the Holocaust.

This is what Linas Jašinauskas, an expert on the Nazi occupation, has written in *Atgiminas*: “The discussions of the problem of whether to go or not [for the president of Lithuania Valdas Adamkus] to Moscow to celebrate the Victory Day [May 9, 2005] – have revealed that our knowledge about the Nazi occupation is at best limited by the Holocaust. There is even a tendency to think that the German occupation was more favourable than the Soviet one, [because] ... physically Jews, not Lithuanians, were eliminated...” How was the Nazi “softness” repaid, and are there so few Lithuanian names in the victims lists? Judging by *Atgiminas*’s editorial staff statement that “Lithuanians know and understand little about what could have happened if Germans had won the World War II,” one could argue that an open-minded and unbiased research of all the available strata of documentary material about the tragedy of Lithuania in 1941–1944 is necessary.

The desire of Communist Party ideologists during the Soviet period to avoid the topic of mass participation of Nazi henchmen in bloody crimes against civilian population of different nationalities on the territory of Lithuania, Byelorussia, Latvia, Russia, and Poland contributed to a surge of Lithuanian nationalism since the beginning of the 1990s with clear overtones of Russophobia and anti-Semitism. At times it seemed that everything could start all over again. As Vitautas Petkjavičus – one of the founders of the Lithuanian Sąjūdis nationalist movement, writes in his book *Ship of Fools*, “...on the third Sąjūdis congress, it [the movement’s political declaration of reconstruction] fitted in one low-down phrase: “200,000 communists must be put up **against the wall** in Lithuania... and there will be order.” In 1941–1944, Lithuania had once recovered its independence, but its price was Nazism.

Compilers of this book do not claim the present documents about Nazi crimes to be exhaustive. These documents are just a small part of what is stored in the archives of Russia, Lithuania, Germany, and other countries. The work, obviously, must be continued. At least, to remind people of the sufferings and pain the previous generations had to go through because of the fanatic desire of

the nationally preoccupied leaders to create a racially and nationally “pure” country at any cost.

The documents were collected with the assistance of the Free Europe Foundation NGO.

The compilers of the book would like to express their special gratitude to the administration and officials of the State Archive of the Russian Federation, Russian State Military Archive, Central Archive of FSB (Federal Security Service) of Russia, Russian Archive, Russian State Archive of Sociopolitical History, and Central Archive of the Ministry of Defense that produced the unique archival materials.

1.

AUTOGRAPHIC TESTIMONY OF MAJOR OF LITHUANIAN ARMY PAŠKOV ŠAULIS

Not earlier than summer 1942

A regime close to a fascist one was established in Lithuania in 1926, when SMETONA and professor VOLDEMARAS came to power after the revolution. First there weren't any frictions seen between them. But in time, their views on both internal and foreign policies diametrically differed.

SMETONA was a supporter of a moderate fascist dictatorship and in internal policy wished to work together with Christian Democrats and populists, and was guided by Anglo-Saxons in foreign policy.

VOLDEMARAS stood on a platform of purely fascist dictatorship and couldn't find a common language with other parties, and orientated the foreign policy towards Germany. (Under a treaty between Lithuania and Germany, Germans could buy land in Lithuania).

SMETONA had more supporters because he was partially supported by the Lithuanian Bishop and by the older part of the population, and VOLDEMARAS relied mostly on the youth. VOLDEMARAS participated in all celebrations, had the gift of speech and was becoming more popular than SMETONA. SMETONA's supporters could not bear that, especially his wife Sofia and her sister Jadviga TUBELENE. (Some say that SMETONA's wife had a great influence on control of the country, not even one ministerial cabinet was formed without her consent. She was very power-loving and ambitious. She liked card play, wine, and spending an hour or two with men. Her constant friends were two Roman Catholic priests TAMOŠAJTIS and MIRONAS, they also liked cards, wine, and women).

VOLDEMARAS had to resign from the cabinet. SMETONA approved a new cabinet, and the party of "Tautinniks" was split. VOLDEMARAS's supporters separated from him and went to work underground. At the head of the "Voldemarniks" (Voldemarininkai) was a certain Algerdas SLIESORAITIS, a young man that very few people knew, and at the head of "Tautinniks" (Lietuvių Tautininkų Sąjunga) was Prime Minister TŪBELIS .

SMETONA changed ministers, but neither the external, nor the internal policy varied. Meanwhile, two major events were about to happen. On the one hand, the underground Voldemar's organization was preparing a revolt in Lithuania (the centre of this organization was [...]).

The Kaunas commandant's office, also known as the headquarters of "Savisavga" formations, formed three or five battalions of 400–500 men in each. While the battalions had been formed, it had been assumed that they were to remain in Lithuania for security service, but the Germans dispatched all of the formed battalions to the front. The same fate befell the formed battalions of the cities of Vilno (Vilnius), Panavėžys, Šavli (Šiauliai), and Marijampolė.

A total of about 20 of such battalions were formed. But eventually the number of these battalions was cut by half. Many soldiers and officers ran away home, and part of the soldiers and officers joined the Soviet partisans. Another part were the wounded and killed. First, at the head of forming of the battalions was colonel BOBELIS, quite a serious person. He was displaced by captain KVISZINKAS, a fiery person, quick-tempered and extremely sympathizing with the Germans. Subsequently this very KVISZINKAS was KUBILJUNAS's personal aide-de-camp.

In the end, the forces' headquarters was headed by lieutenant colonel ŠPAKEVIČUS, a person of weak will, a coward implicitly executing all German orders. Subsequently, i.e. in 1944, before the coming of the Soviet troops, this very lieutenant colonel ŠPAKEVIČUS commanded a regiment consisting of 4 battalions.

These formations were not sufficient for the Germans. They wished to muster more Lithuanian young people and thus, recruited them for all sorts of assignments.

P.S. Speaking about the "Savisavga" units, it is necessary to mention the 1st, later renamed as the 13th, battalion. This battalion excelled in mass executions of Jews. It consisted mostly of city dwellers that loved easy money, scoundrels, and people of a whatever shadowy past.

After executing a group of Jews, [the Savisavga men,] already made drunk by the Germans, loaded the clothes of the shot people on cabs, brought the clothes to the barracks, sold them, and went on a binge, spending the proceeds. The executions of Jews were commanded by the Germans. They brought vodka to the place of execution and gave it to the executioners for courage. Then it looked like the Germans themselves were afraid to keep this battalion in Kaunas and dispatched it to the Soviet-German front where it was almost entirely killed. This battalion was first commanded by major ŠIMKUS, then captain GASENAS. I do not know, who was in command after that.

One of such units were the so-called helpers "talkininkai" flunkeys. Young men were recruited there. They were to go to the front to fulfil duties at the German military transport. But there were few of such "volunteers", i.e. those who enlisted on order of the German authorities. So they caught people in the streets, in their homes and in the villages. The Germans alleged that they

gathered Lithuanian representatives and decided to form Lithuanian legions, but the Germans failed to find neither officers nor ...

Whether there were any underground parties during the German occupation, I do not know, for I have never belonged to any legal or illegal party in my life.

However, in the summer of 1942, two Lithuanian soldiers visited me. One of them was JURGELEVICH, I don't know the other one. They asked me to come to the oakwood forest at 2 o'clock in the afternoon to talk about some Lithuanian affairs, somebody was going to wait for me there. But I didn't go there, and I don't know who asked me to come and what affairs he wanted to talk about.

PAŠKOV

2.

**TELEGRAM OF SECURITY POLICE AND SD CHIEF
HEIDRICH ABOUT THE GERMAN POLICY
CONCERNING “SELF-DEFENSE GROUPS”
IN THE BALTIC COUNTRIES**

Confidential

June 29, 1941

Berlin

*To task group commander of security police and SD,
SS- Brigadeführer NEBE.*

*To task group commander of security police and SD,
SS- Standartenführer OLENDORF*

*To task group commander of security police and SD,
SS-Brigadeführer doctor RASCH*

*To task group commander of security police and SD,
SS-Brigadeführer SCHTALEHKER*

With reference of the oral statements I made on July 17 in Berlin, I am reminding:

One should not put obstacles in the way of self-sufficient aspirations of the anti-communist and anti-Jewish circles for purges on the recently occupied territories. On the contrary, they [purges] should be intensified and, where required, properly directed; however, without leaving any traces, so that later these local “circles of self-defense” could not refer to any order or political promise given to them.

As such actions, for obvious reasons, are possible only during the first time after military occupation, task groups and commands of security police and SD, in coordination with military bodies, should aspire whenever possible, even in the newly occupied areas, to create preparatory commands, which could do whatever is required.

Officers in command of such preparatory units should only select security police and SD personnel, who have the necessary political intuition.

Meanwhile, it is necessary to shun the creation of permanent self-defense units under centralized administration; for the time being, it is more expedient to watch the pogroms conducted by the local population as it has been mentioned above ...

Chief of security police and SD HEIDRICH.

Russian State Military Archive. Fund 500–k. List 1. File 2.5 Pages 391–392.
Copy. Typescript. Translated from German.

3.

REPORT OF THE TASK GROUP "A" IN RSHA

July, 1941

The attitude of the Lithuanian population is good and pro-German. The Lithuanian population does not agree with the self-proclaimed Lithuanian government led by colonel SKIRPA. The government is being called a sort of interest-based community that, first of all, seeks material profit in the present vague situation. Former Lithuanian parties attempt to establish contacts. Catholic bishop BRISGIS, who has authority among the Lithuanian clergy, is ready to cooperate. He is in close contact with general RASTIKS. [...]

Fort VII in Kovno [Kaunas] is used as a concentration camp for Jews; it is divided into 2 compartments: 1) men's; 2) women's and children's.

There are 1,500 Jews in the fort right now. The guard duty is carried out by Lithuanian security detachments.

The central prison now contains 1,869 Jews, 214 Lithuanians, 134 Russians, 1 Latvian and 16 Poles.

Creation of another concentration camp for Jews in fort IX of the Kovno [Kaunas] fortress has been planned. [...].

Lithuanian police force subordinate to the task command had been instructed to draw up nominal lists of the Vilnius Jews, first of all intelligentsia, political activists and wealthy Jews. Based on the list, searches and arrests were carried out. On July 4, 54 Jews, and on July 5, 93 Jews were liquidated, their property confiscated. With the assistance of Lithuanian police officers, capture of communists and agents of People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs is conducted; most of them, however, seem to have escaped. At the same time, searches of warehouses for weapons belonging to secret military Polish organizations are being carried out, about which information that we have been receiving from the Lithuanian police, has yet to be checked. Creation of a Jewish block has been prepared. Under a proposal of the task command, the Jewish block should be declared by the field commandant's office a restricted area for Wehrmacht soldiers.

... The situation in Kovno is stable. The Lithuanian population [...] has basically pro-German attitude and cooperates by all means with German soldiers, police and other organizations operating in this area. They help mostly to locate and capture Lithuanian communists, separate Red Army men and Jews. After the retreat of the Red Army, the population of Kovno

spontaneously destroyed more than 2,500 Jews. Another large part of them was shot by the auxiliary police service (partisans).

Task group “A” Location: Riga

1. A total of 7,800 Jews were destroyed in Kovno, part of them during pogroms and others were shot by the Lithuanian groups. All the bodies were destroyed. Further mass executions are impossible; the Jewish committee was summoned to me, and it was announced to them that so far, we have not had an occasion to interfere in the relations between Lithuanians and Jews. A precondition for an innovation: creation of a Jewish ghetto, marking all Jews with a yellow David's star 8x10 cm in size, on the left side of the chest, and accommodation by the Jewish auxiliary committee of women and children released by Lithuanians on our possible order in a new ghetto. The ghetto will be located in the city of Viliampob [...]

About 205 Lithuanian partisans were left by us as a Sonderkommando and prepared for carrying out possible executions, also in other areas [...].

The local task command in Vilnius liquidated 321 Jews by July, 8. The Lithuanian service of order maintenance, which after the cessation of Lithuanian political police activities was returned into subordination of the task command, has received an order to participate in the liquidation of Jews. For this purpose, 150 Lithuanian officials were delegated. They captured Jews and sent them into the concentration camp where, that very day, they were subjected to a special treatment. Now the work has been started, and about 500 Jews, including saboteurs, are being liquidated daily. Approximately 460,000 rubles of cash and also a large amount of valuables, which had belonged to the Jews, who were subjected to the special treatment, were confiscated as enemy property. [...]

The Lithuanian party informed the task team that during the Bolshevik rule about 12,000 Poles created a military organization and organized an armed camp. The search of this camp has been started.

Progress has been reached in the issue of the Lithuanian striving for independence in the Vilnius region, that is supervised by the task team and military authorities. [...] In any case, it should not be allowed, that a Lithuanian army or armed units be created. It is suggested that Lithuanian services be divided into 3 departments: (a) department of self-defense; (b) department of order maintenance; (c) labour department.

These departments are under the German supervision and control; weapons can be handed out to them on occasions. The title “police” for the identification of the department of order maintenance was not authorized by the task team, since the definition “police” can be used only for German units. Dissolution of the

Lithuanian political police did not cause any unrest in Vilnius; some suitable forces are carrying out instructions of the task team [...].

The work on using Byelorussians as a counterbalance to the overly active Lithuanian population will be continued. [...]

Russian State Military Archive.
Fund 500–k. List 2. File 229. Pages 3, 4, 27–28, 32, 52–53.
Copy. Typescript. Translated from German.

4.

**ORDER OF REICHSFÜHRER-SS AND CHIEF
OF GERMAN POLICE FOR THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
ON THE TASKS OF POLICE ON THE OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES**

Confidential

July 25, 1941, Berlin

Ground Forces General Headquarters #24/41. (g)

Addressed:

*to Major chief of police and SS 101, SS-Gruppenführer PRUTZMAN
(for commanding military police in Königsberg)*

*to Major chief of police and SS 103, SS-Obergruppenführer EKELN
(for commanding military police in Krakow)*

*to Major chief of police and SS 102, SS-Gruppenführer VON DEM BACH
(for commanding military police in Krakow)*

*to Superior chief of police and SS on special orders, SS-Oberführer
KORZEMAN*

To chief of police and SS, SS-Brigadeführer GLOBOCNIK (To Lublin)

The problems that the police are facing in the occupied eastern areas, cannot be carried out solely by the units of police and SS, neither those already in action, nor those who still have to be put into action. Hence the necessity to create additional security forces from the appropriate part of the population of the occupied areas, which has already partly been the case with the task groups of the security police. These security units should be first of all created from Ukrainians, residents of the Baltic countries and Byelorussians. They should be selected from the men that are still available locally and from non-communist POWs. During the selection, agreements between the security police chief and Wehrmacht command on the draft exemption for prisoners that were brought to them, are valid. Further details about the arms, regimentals, material and cash procurement of the security units will be received from chief of military police or chief of security police. Organization and action of security units should be reported on. SS-Brigadeführer GLOBOCNIK will inform you directly on the creation of a working team in the east for constructing barracks, etc.

GIMMLER

5.

**ORDER OF SS-REICHSFÜHRER AND CHIEF
OF GERMAN POLICE IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
ON CREATION OF SECURITY UNITS**

Confidential

July 31, 1941, Berlin

General Headquarters 24/II 41. (g)

To Major chief officers of police and SS 101–103.

To Major chief of police and SS Ost in Krakow,

one copy to commanders of military police and security police

To Major chief of police and SS Nord-Ost in Königsberg.

One copy to commanders of military police and security police

*For information of all superior police commanding officers and SS, and to
commanders (superintendents) of military police and security police*

With regard to: “Security forces” on the newly conquered eastern territories.

In continuation of the order of Reichsführer-SS O.–Kdo.1. 24/41. (g), dated July 25, 1941, on security forces, I order the following:

- 1) The units will be called “security groups”.
- 2) The schutzmann candidates that were considered unsuitable, should be entered in the card file, and a copy of the card should be immediately directed here for inspection by security police, if such a check has not been yet conducted on the spot. Nevertheless, waiting for results of the political check should not impede selection of men for security teams.
- 3) Security groups should wear the uniforms they had received during their service in the Russian army or during previous army service, an armband on a sleeve with the inscription “Schutzmann,” [designation] of their personal number (i.e. everyone will receive a number) and their location (city in which one carries out his service). [For those in military service in the] villages – the name of the settlement where the regional commissariat is located should be inscribed on the armband. I.e., for example, it should be written “Schutzmann 304 Riga.” All insignias, which had been used when a soldier had been in the service in the Russian army or armies of the Baltic countries, should be removed and replaced with others, including uniform buttons.

- 4) In the near future they can only be armed with rubber and wooden clubs. The security units that already require weapons to fulfil their tasks, should be especially thoroughly tested. Only handguns or rifles can be given out to them as weapons.
- 5) Officers and commanders of the police and SS, and suitable wachtleiters of the military police are instructors and, subsequently, commanders of the security units. Future commanders and junior officers should be selected from the members of the security teams and specially trained.
- 6) At the selection of schutzmanns, translators should be specially welcomed.
- 7) At the beginning, schutzmanns should receive free supplies; further incentives for special services are to follow upon a special order.
- 8) Using Volksdeutsche people in security units in the regions from which they have been displaced, is strictly forbidden, as the so-called Volksdeutsche who do not follow Führer's orders, deserve a different treatment.
- 9) If these units act as a whole (not in separate sub-units), I reserve the right to replace them with detachments of other nations.

Russian State Military Archive. Fund 1323–k. List 1. File 50. Pages 11–12.
Copy. Typescript. Translated from German.

6.

REPORT OF COMMANDER OF TASK TEAM 3 ON THE SOLUTION OF THE JEWISH ISSUE IN LITHUANIA

July, 1941

I can confirm today that the aim of solving the Jewish problem in Lithuania is accomplished by Task Team 3. There are no more Jews in Lithuania, except for those needed for work, and their families. This makes: 4,500 people in Šauliai, 15,000 in Kaunas, 15,000 in Vilnius [...] These Jews and their families should under no circumstances be executed.

The purpose of purging Lithuania of Jews has been reached only owing to the actions of a motorized police detachment comprised of select men under the command of SS-Obersturmführer HAMANN, who [...] was able to establish cooperation with Lithuanian partisans and competent civil services [...]

In Rokiskis, 3,208 people had to be convoyed for 4 km to the place, where they were liquidated. To accomplish the task in 24 hours, it was necessary to use 60 Lithuanian partisans out of 80 available. Those remaining, who had to be replaced all the time, did all the work together with my people. [...]

The action in Kaunas, where we had enough of somewhat trained partisans, should be regarded as ceremonial executions [...].

Another important task that Task Team 3 is facing [...], is inspection of overcrowded prisons in some cities and settlements. An average of up to 600 Lithuanians are imprisoned in each regional center, though there is no real reason for their arrest. They had been seized by partisans based on ordinary delations. [...] For example, girls of 13–16 years old have been put in prison only for entering Komsomol in order to get a job. [...]

7.

SPECIAL REPORT OF THE 8TH DEPARTMENT OF THE 4TH OFFICE OF NKGB USSR ON ATROCITIES IN PONAR

August 14, 1944

TO PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE USSR

10 km from Vilno, on the highway Vilno–Grodno, in a young pine forest, the Ponar settlement is located, which used to be a summer resort place for Vilno residents.

History will remember Ponar as a monument of unprecedented cruelty and inhuman sadism in which the bloody fascist aggressors exterminated civilians of the occupied areas in 1941–1944, as a symbol of the blood-thirsty essence of National Socialism.

On the left of the highway, sentinels are standing near barbed wire. On the gateway there is an inscription: “Do not approach. Life threat. Mines.”

On January 29, 1944, a “Black Raven” motor vehicle brought me with a group of Soviet POWs from the Vilnius camp to the guarded territory. In the centre, behind double barbed wire, there is a circular pit 24 m in diameter, 4 m deep. Large stones form absolutely vertical walls. At the bottom of the pit there is a wooden bunker hut in which we shall live. The only means to reach the surface of the ground is a wooden ladder, which is normally above and is dropped for a short time to the bottom of the pit only when needed. We are descending.

Instead of the first greeting, we are put into irons that tightly press on the legs a little below the knee, not allowing to take a step farther than half a meter.

After that, the chief Sturmführer makes a speech: “You will do special work of state importance, therefore in order to prevent your escape, you are chained. Do not try to run away, as no one has ever escaped from Ponar and will not escape. Everyone attempting to remove the chains – will be executed. Work well. Otherwise, you will be executed for sabotage. All orders are to be carried out implicitly, otherwise you will be executed ... ,” followed by a long list of all possible violations of the order penalized by death penalty. Involuntarily, you think: “Is there a way to get out of here alive?” The answer is obvious. If it is possible, anyway, then not by following the instructions of Sturmführer, but, on the contrary, by violating most important of them.

We go to work. An excavation of up to 100 meters in diameter is filled with sand. If you dig a couple of shovels of it, you discover... decayed human remains, “figures” in the Germans’ terminology. A fireplace is built near the excavation. It is a wooden scaffold 7x7 meters with a chimney in the middle.

Our assignment is as follows:

We have to clear the figures of sand. From the densely compressed mass of the figures we pull out one with iron hooks. Carry the figure on a stretcher to the fireplace, where the figures are stowed by fur-trees, densely one to another. When a layer is ready, it is covered by fur-tree branches, dry logs and soaked with combustible oil. Following layers are put on top of it. When the fire contains 3,500 figures, it is covered by dry Thermit bombs on every side and ignited. Figures burn for more than 72 hours, until there is a heap of ashes with overburned bones. These bones are pounded with rammers into powder. Then the powder is sifted by shovels through fine iron screens so that the ashes do not contain any large particles; the sifted ashes are mixed up with a large amount of sand so that the sand does not even change its color, and poured back into the excavation from which the figures had been extracted. The point of this special assignment of “state importance” is clear. The murderers try to conceal their crimes. The *Sturmführer* isn’t hiding it at all.

He says: “Enemy propaganda spreads rumors that 80,000 bodies of shot people lie in Ponar. Nonsense! Let anyone who wants search for them in any way in a couple of months – they will not find a single figure.” No doubt about that. The capacity of the Ponar pits is hard to estimate. The Germans gave a figure of 80,000. Among them 55,000 are of Jews. Several thousand (up to 10,000) Russians, Lithuanians, and people of various nationalities. The rest are of Poles. The smaller part of the people were shot with their clothes on, more bodies are only wearing underwear. Most of them are absolutely nude.

One of the pits contained 250 corpses of absolutely naked women. Many of them were blindfold. Men’s bodies often have their hands tied behind their back. They were shot in various parts of their bodies, but mainly in the nape and almost point-blank.

Some of the figures are killed with simple bullets, others – with percussion bullets. There are some corpses with their tongues out – a sign of suffocation. There are bodies with broken legs and arms.

In one of the pits there are several hundreds of bodies of clergy in cassocks and vestments, with crosses with images of The Blessed Virgin Mary in their hands. There were several hundreds of bodies of Soviet POWs, mostly commanding officers.

Among the bodies there are those of mothers with babies in their hands. Crutches and artificial limbs can be seen here and there. With a savage thirst of blood,

Hitlerite executioners spared neither the old, nor the young, nor the cripples, nor the invalids. Small children often have their skulls totally crushed. The murderers crashed babies' heads on trees to save bullets.

The victims were killed at different times. The Ponar massacre that started in 1941, right after the Germans came, went on till as late as 1944. Executions proceeded in our presence. Execution, i.e., a mass shooting, was carried out like this: a group of unarmed people, often with their hands tied behind their back, are brought to the edge of a pit and shot from submachine guns. The survived "single individuals" were shot from handguns. In such a way, during the last week of March, 1944, there were liquidated: 450 Jews (men and women), 50 gipsies (5 men, the rest – women and children), and 15 Poles (men and women).

These corpses weren't covered by sand at all; we stacked still fresh and profusely-bleeding bodies on fires and burnt them.

During December 1942 and January 1944, 18,000 bodies were burnt. Before April 15, 1944, with the participation of the author of these lines, 38,000 figures were burnt; how many of them still remain unburnt – is unknown, but it is known for sure that all these are innocent victims of brutal bandits, all this senselessly spilled blood calls for revenge. Hitlerite sadists are to answer for every child with his head crushed. The whole world should know about the Gestapo crimes. For the sake of this, a group of Soviet people, despite the vigilant supervision, saved from burning and buried in secret places in the sand several dozens of bodies.

To be able to do this, the group of Soviet people carried out all of the orders of the Sturmführer and suffered all of this with gritted teeth. And they had to bear a lot.

A total of 80 people were working in the Ponar crematoriums lately (76 men were busy with corpses, and four women prepared food, carried water and firewood, etc.); about 50 of them were prisoners of the Vilnius Gestapo, 15 people from a small provincial town Zezmor and 15 Soviet POWs. The guards were Germans from SS units (more than 50 people). Gestapo men from the SD Department supervised the work. Sturmführer was at the head.

A Soviet person cannot imagine how Germans treated Ponar workers. A couple of facts stated below will give only a faint image of the continuous inhuman and degrading treatment that we had to bear during our work in Ponar.

Aryans are pure people and the workers are impure, therefore any contact is inadmissible. To descend into the habitation pit, there were two separate ladders: for the workers and for the Germans. The Germans did not touch ours, and it was forbidden for us to touch the Germans' ladder. If a German needs to give something to a worker, he does not hand it. The worker should take off his cap and the German will throw in it whatever it is. If a German needs to pass by, he moves the worker aside by a rod at a certain distance. Inspection of chains that

was performed several times a day was also performed with the use of a rod. Needless to mention that they also whipped workers with the same rod on the shoulders to hustle a worker who didn't move quickly enough, and to make it clear, if a worker did not understand what he was supposed to do, and in many other cases.

The main words of the chiefs' lexicon were the German "renn" – "run", Polish "prendzej" – "faster," and also Russian foul language. Sometimes, longer remarks, always with the word "sabotage" in them.

The work was extremely heavy – putting dead bodies on a stretcher and carrying them out of the pit during the whole working day, without the right to stop and rest for a second – but it was made immensely graver by the environment. The stench of several thousand decaying bodies was intolerable. Bodies executed in 1941 had decayed into a pulp.

You [try to pick up the body by] the head – the skull collapses and your hands are covered with human brains. You take it by the hand – it runs like jelly and tears off from the body. Legs are almost up to the knees in this mass of decaying remains.

Many figures had to be put together by parts, often you put a heap on a stretcher and could not determine how many bodies there were. Fresh bodies of those executed in 1943 have not decomposed as much, but they are even more awful to carry. Some of the workers recognize in the corpses their relatives and friends by their clothes or their hair. One of the active members of an escape, a Vilno worker DOGIM who is nowadays in the Nevski partisan group of the Voroshilov brigade, took out from the ground with his own hands and put on fire the bodies of his wife, mother, and two sisters. Many found wives, children, and parents. It isn't difficult to imagine what the mood in our camp was on such days, and what we felt when we looked at the chiefs.

Our work would become especially hard when the Sturmführer came. This aristocrat was always stylishly and neatly dressed. His white gloves almost reached the elbow, his boots shone. His perfume was so profuse that it abated even the smell of fetid pits. He would position himself above and watch each one of us, choosing candidates for the "infirmary".

The thing is that when a person was ill and not able to work, he would be sent to the "infirmary". Usually on Sundays a person had his chains removed and taken from the habitation pit, somewhere near, then we would hear a shot, meaning the patient "was cured". There was even a special doctor with a submachine gun for cases like this. After a couple of such "cures" people stopped being ill. The author of these lines also had to work for two days with a fever of 39 degrees Centigrade, trying to look robust.

But the *Sturmführer* would not be satisfied. To hold the workers in proper fear and obedience, he began appointing “patients” and those “for another job”. One of the “patients” was told as early as Saturday: “Tomorrow you will go to the infirmary”. The doomed stayed with us all the evening. He was calm. He wished us to live until freedom, until the Soviets came. On Sunday morning we were lined up. The fascists took their time walking along the line and then chose one more patient and two men for “another job”. All of them had their chains removed and were taken up. Four shots ceased their sufferings.

The Germans especially hated the intelligentsia. In the group of POWs there was a young talented Soviet engineer Yury GUDKIN. Unfortunately, they had mentioned this in the prisoner-of-war camp when sending GUDKIN to Ponar. The *Sturmführer* was extremely happy. “Aha! So there is an engineer here! Who’s the engineer? Step out forward! This work isn’t for you, you know! This work is too dirty, it doesn’t suit a cultural man. We shall give you work on your specialty!” GUDKIN had his chains removed and taken up. A shot. The same was the destiny of two students from among the POWs.

The *Sturmführer* also cherished special affection for Moscow. Anyway, if any inspectors were visiting, he would invariably bring them to the author of these lines saying: “And this one has arrived to us from the luxurious city of Moscow.”

It is plain that in the presence of the *Sturmführer* people who, were dead tired, made themselves race. The ghost of the “infirmary” persistently followed us. And during all the line-ups when the *Sturmführer* passed between us, everyone knew he was searching and choosing. Having passed all the rows, he affably asked: “Do you all live well here? Are you happy with everything? Is everyone healthy? Is anyone tired of his work?” And everyone should have thanked him effusively and eulogized his care for the “unworthy” workers.

Once, when we returned from work tired and exhausted, we had a similar interrogation, but the ending was unexpected: “So you live well here? So why don’t you sing songs?! Sing songs!” And we sang. Jewish and Russian songs. That was something. Above, on the surface, such a dandy is nearly euphoric, and 4 meters beneath, chained and exhausted people are singing songs.

When he was in a good mood, the *Sturmführer* consoled us: “Do not worry for yourselves. You will have enough work till the 1st of June. And if anything happens to any of you before that term, then all of us – here he pointed at the SS guards – will also be shot.”

The guards were plainer and, despite the prohibition to have any conversations with us, they occasionally blabbed and called us corpses. When one passed a guard with a dead body, the latter would encourage: “Come on, carry it, soon we will carry *you* like that.”

Certainly, all the workers clearly realized their situation. We saw the Gestapo's secret of a big political value. Gestapo men did their best to hide their crimes. Repeatedly we heard from them: "It doesn't matter what they say – there will be no witnesses."

"There is a way to Ponar, but there is no way out of Ponar" – and the leitmotif: "Nobody has left Ponar and never will." It is evident – our life will end as the works in Ponar are finished. But that's not the point. After daily walking for two months knee-deep in human corpses, one stops being afraid of death. One moves dead bodies as a bag, and does not even think that this was once a man.

The Germans absolutely simplified the very process of execution. Easier, than slaughter of cattle on a mechanized meat packing plant. And when we burned still warm, bleeding corpses of people whose shouts were heard yesterday – the transition from life to death seems a trifle. If you add to this the physical exhaustion, the poisonous effect of the miasma of the decaying flesh, and the moral condition, depressed by months of abuse and humiliation, it is necessary to point out that there was no appetite for life at all. Death often seemed to be a desired and a simple way out. Many workers, having lost the will to resist, really became living corpses. But when you looked at the glossy figure of the *Sturmführer*, your heart would start to boil with hatred. To die – let it be. But not as a ram, not in a pit with your hands tied, but shot at night, in a fight. And also: "No one will ever leave." We must leave. To tell the first passer-by, to shout to the whole world about what we saw in Ponar. To expose before all mankind the foulness of all of these *sturmführers*, so that all the Soviet people would seethe with the rage that smothered us at night, with the sacred fury of revenge, a powerful gust that will completely sweep away the Hitlerite evil. Hatred, only this hatred gave us strength not only to bare the nightmare of the Ponar existence, but also to conduct heavy and difficult work on our release.

Each of *Sturmführer's* statements fed us with more energy. If not all of us, but at least one of us has to escape to reveal the Ponar crematorium. How to leave? Four meters of vertical stones upwards. Above – there is barbed wire, mines, and guards. There is no way out upward. That means we have to go downwards.

On January 29, we arrived to Ponar, on February 1, the work on our release already started. At the bottom of our pit there was a board storage 1.5 x 1.5 meters where groceries were stored. This storage was divided into two parts. The groceries were stacked in front, and between the two back walls a box was formed, which was harboured from the Germans' eyes in every direction. Two boards that could be pulled aside, were a secret door. Under this box a 2.3 meters well was dug so that its bottom was below the basis of the stone wall encircling our bunker. And then a tunnel sideways was dug, with a 30-meter upwards slope.

It was very hard. Most of the workers considered this idea impracticable. The ground was sandy. It was easy to dig with your hands, but new and new sand showered from above. Earthwork was required.

70 cm-long boards were placed on the ceiling supported by 65cm-high pine poles. We had to prepare boards (7–8 pieces for a linear meter of the tunnel), poles (14–16 pieces for a meter of the tunnel) and carry out the sand. And all of this should be imperceptible for the Germans, who are always above at the edge of the pit, looking downwards and getting down every couple of hours to visit and check us. Provided that we were not allowed to have any instruments, with the “creeps” among us who didn’t approve of the undermining because of the animal fear of the Germans. But the hatred appeared to be stronger than any obstacles, stronger than physical exhaustion. A group of enthusiasts started to work.

Our tool warehouse was... the dead bodies. Under the vigilant supervision of the chiefs we managed to extract knives, scissors, files, candles, and cutting nippers from the pockets of not undressed figures. Under the guise of firewood we made poles, brought firewood ostensibly for repairing plank beds. In the evening, all of us sang for the sound masking, and one would saw boards and poles under plank beds.

Electric light was installed in the tunnel (one bulb was on the 13th, and the other – on the 25th meter of the tunnel). As soon as a German lowers the ladder to get down, the bulb in the tunnel starts to flash. The workers come back up. In case of a roll-call everything will be all right.

It was extremely hard to work in the tunnel. There was almost no air. Neither matches, nor lighters would burn in the tunnel. Having worked in the tunnel for an hour – hour and a half, people were about to black out; and still, having returned from the wearisome work with the corpses, the shift, without having dinner (it was impossible to eat before working in the tunnel because one would surely vomit), descended into the pit. The work proceeded day by day, from 5 to 9 and from 3 to 6 o'clock in the morning.

I can’t say that everything went smoothly. There were times when sand fell from the top and covered a worker, so that we had to dig him out and drag him from the sand. Sometimes the boards and poles fell or sank in, and we thought that our work was gone. Sometimes workers were able to get up from the pit just a few seconds before the all-suspecting and carping guards would appear. Or the “creeps” would persuade us in panic to refuse the crazy idea. We didn’t give up. Sand was stuffed everywhere. The bottom of our pit gradually rose by 10 cm. Sand was under the plank beds, between the double walls, under the straw roof of the living bunker. We threw the sand out in the toilet and took it out with the waste. Centimeter by centimeter, at the price of undernourishment, lack of sleep,

and loss of remaining energy, we progressed. It is better to choke in the tunnel than to stand as a ram at the edge of a pit, than to go to the “infirmary”.

The difficulties were not only physical. Going to work, we determined the place of rise to the surface. The only place inconspicuous for the guards was on the slope of the mountain, behind a stub. The question was how to get into that place. Outside, the distance was determined by sight. Measured by steps that were limited by the chain. The direction was measured by a compass stolen from one of the Germans. We measured the bottom of the tunnel by a steel meter found with one of the corpses; horizontal angles were determined, of course, by the same compass, and for defining the height of the lift we constructed a water-level. The data of the external measurements were, certainly, rather approximate. That was why at the beginning of April a crisis occurred in our work. On the one hand, it became clear that the work on the corpses was coming to an end. Our turn to burn on fire was approaching. On the other hand, workers became exhausted.

Remarks were heard: “We won’t make it, we’ve been digging for 2 months and we still can’t see the end. We’re going the wrong way. The compass lies. We have to turn back.” And as a result: “We’ve had enough. We have worked, let others work.” A lot of willpower, stubbornness, and perseverance was required to overcome this crisis.

On April 9, we found the root of the destination stub. It became clear that we came precisely in the planned place. On April 12, we pierced a copper tube from the tunnel. After half a meter of sand there was air.

Builders of the tunnel shook hands. Technically, the problem was solved. Now we had to organize the exit. It is necessary to mention that there were also old men among us, and that the overwhelming majority were civilians.

All of the 80 persons were divided into tens. At the head of each ten a commander was appointed. Everyone received a detailed instruction on the technique of getting out. It is natural that the people who expressed their desire to go to the forest to the partisans were placed in the first four tens. Commanders of these tens received the route (an approximate one) to the Rudninskaya Forest, where the Soviet partisans were thought to be located.

It is necessary to note that the discipline, beyond all expectations, was excellent. People understood the gravity of the moment. And though, it was certainly, the matter of life and death, of the 80 people only 2 or 3 defended their personal egoistical interests. The general aspiration had as its point not rescuing one’s own life. “Maybe not me, let it be someone else, but someone will escape and tell about what he has seen and gone through.”

DOGIM, who put the bodies of his wife, mother, and both sisters on fire, and was leaving his old father to almost certain death, was given the right to go first.

On April 15, we removed 40 more cm of sand; there were 10 cm left, which separated us from the surface. The first twenty, having taken off their chains, entered the tunnel. In case of collision with patrol, the first men were armed with knives and 2 bottles with acetic acid that they were supposed to splash in the eyes. Besides, there were 2 pairs of cutting nippers to cut the barbed wire protecting the territory. All of these arms were obtained from the corpses. When it became dark, we cleared the exit from the rest of the sand, passing handfuls to each other. When the hole was large enough, we started to climb up. The night was absolutely dark. Against the sky background, the figures of sentinels were seen on the right and on the left. Manoeuvring between them, we managed to creep for over 100 meters in absolute silence and suddenly there was a shot and another one. And at once gunfire spread from every direction. Despite the strong fire, we crawled to the wire and cut it in two places, as it had been planned. At the light of the shots it was possible to establish that all the route from the exit up to the barbed wire was filled with creeping people. That means, at least 30 people managed to escape (this number was then acknowledged by the Germans). At the wire the mood was triumphal. It was clear that at least somebody will reach our people. And really, on April 22, our group, tired, exhausted, and hungry, but of a strong spirit, met partisans of the Nevski group of the Voroshilov's Brigade in the Zigori Village. It is easy to understand what we felt, when we saw the five-pointed red stars, shining on the field caps of the partisans.

From the former decaying bodies we turned into alive Soviet people. We received the most brotherly reception at the partisans' and, the main thing, the fulfillment of the most ardent desire – the opportunity for revenge.

There are no other desires, but there are duties. The main of them is to expose the Ponar crematorium. The present article is written to carry out this duty, so that all the Soviet people under the impression of dreadful Ponar corpses would even more actively assist the crushing defeat of Hitlerite gangs.

We lived our last days in Ponar. Gasoline and dry firewood were removed from the territory. It was clear that the work was being finished. And as the work ends – our end will come. The *Sturmführer* tried to calm us.

Once a loaded motor vehicle was passing in work hours. One of the workers was in a hurry and crossed the road right before the car. Though the *Sturmführer* was far away, he noticed this incident from afar.

With unusual speed he rushed towards us and called up the originator of the alarm. The fellow, frightened to death, stood up straight in front of the line.

And what?! The *Sturmführer*, the master of executions, the person who had tens of thousands of innocently tortured victims on his dirty conscience, the person, who whistled while watching the executions, who sent our comrades to the

“infirm” with a smile on his face, the sadist to whom no human feelings were known, this very *Sturmführer* made a fatherly reprimand to the worker: “Why! You crossed the road in front of a lorry! And what if you lingered, if you stumbled? In fact, the car could have run you over. There could have been an accident. You could have broken your hand or your leg. After all, you could even have been killed!? You are so young. That would have been an awful catastrophe. You should appreciate life, and value it...” And so on he continued for 10 minutes, loud, so that more workers could hear him. Tenderly. Convincingly. Expressively. A stranger would be absolutely convinced of the sincerity of the angel-*Sturmführer*. He seemed frightened, indignant, regretful. He played like a great actor. But to us, who knew him, it seemed to be a record, the height of hypocrisy. As it turned out later, it was no record. It turned out to be an everyday occurrence.

In a couple of days we ignited the next fire of 3,500 corpses. One of the workers left his mittens above. When the fire was only ignited on one of the sides, this worker brought a stairway to the opposite end (where the flame could reach not earlier than in 10 minutes!), as he wanted to get his mittens. The history repeated. The chief was extremely worried. He did not allow the worker to climb. He ordered to take away the stairway and talked a lot about the necessity to protect life. “How is it possible,” he spoke, “to risk your life for some trifles? Life is the most precious gift. Any attempt on life is a crime...”. This sermon proceeded until the heat from the 3,500 flaring corpses of innocent victims forced the chief to move away.

KOZLOVSKI, one of the Ponar workers, who had been a policeman of the Vilnius ghetto in the past, was not surprised at all. He told us: “In 1943 an echelon of victims arrived in Ponar. At the station the cars were opened and people were taken to pits. At the height of the execution one of the women, stepping out from one of the cars, stumbled and fell down. WEISS (one of the heads of the Vilnius Gestapo) who was standing nearby was indignant. He gathered all the people and reprimanded them: “How come you, men, allowed this woman to fall down? Why didn’t anyone support her, didn’t give her a hand, didn’t help her to get out of the car? Where is your chivalry, gallantry? Women are in fact the weaker sex; they are mothers, they are sacred all in all. One must respect women.”

When WEISS ended the ardent speech, the regular course of the execution was restored. The entire group, including the woman that fell down, was led to the pit and shot. Can a witness of such a scene, KOZLOVSKI, be surprised at all?

The same KOZLOVSKI witnessed an execution of naked women. As he said, on April 6, 1943, an echelon was sent from Vilno, ostensibly to Kovno. At the station Ponar all men were removed from cars. The remaining women were ordered to undress to underwear. The women refused. Then the executioners entered the car and beat the poor women until they were forced to obey to the

monstrous requirement of the torturers. They opened the car, and the naked women were driven from the railroad to the pit, while the Germans were standing in two rows (as long as 400 meters) and hooting. Before the pit there was a ditch where the women had their remaining underwear torn off. Not even a single piece of cloth fell in the pit.

KOZLOVSKI with comrades, under the order of WEISS, chose the best, not stained with blood clothes and shipped them to Vilno, as a gift to relatives of the killed women. “In the ditch, – KOZLOVSKI says, – it was impossible to choose anything. Everything was floating in blood. About fifty thick sticks were also thrown there. The sticks were covered with blood, hair, pieces of skin and even human flesh.” Those were the examples of the “gallant” treatment of women.

I have to admit that although the pit with the naked women was one of the last, even on us – the workers of the Ponar crematorium, the ones who had seen everything and got used to everything, this pit made an especially oppressing impression. Even the guarding SS soldiers had somehow calmed down. And only chiefs from the SD accompanied every dead body with cynical remarks and humiliating laughter.

Certainly, the beatings and all kinds of possible tortures of victims before the execution were not an exception. On the contrary, in order to prevent excesses, Gestapo men tried to drive people to the Ponar pits in such a condition when their only desire would be death that would spare them from tortures. The Germans were unsurpassed masters of driving people to such a condition. Cases of insanity among the victims were frequent, and for very particular reasons. The great majority was on the verge of becoming insane. And still there were strong, courageous people who did not give up to the end. With silent respect we carried to the fires particular bodies from the pits. A large man with his hands tied behind his back was lying at the entrance gate. The person understood where he was taken and did not want to go to the pit. Judging by the corpse, he was thoroughly beaten the Gestapo way, and still they could not get him to the pit.

There wasn't an execution that went on evenly. Unarmed and exhausted people resisted to the well-armed murderers. Bodies of the people who resisted were scattered all along the way from the cars up to the pits. Bodies of the ones who tried to escape were everywhere around the mortal path.

Undoubtedly, some managed to break through the dense chains of security guards. Someone escaped from the executioners. Partisan Michael PETRUSEVICH (Sergo Brigade) tells that a 14-year-old girl with 7 bullet wounds from a German submachine gun came to them to a village that was located near Ponar.

In 1941, Hitlerites were so blind because of their success that they had gone wild. They could not have imagined that they would have to cowardly hide their traces, what is more they didn't at all worry much about the secrecy of their crimes.

The territory of the Ponar massacre was not guarded at all. BLAZER, one of the workers, was shot in Ponar in 1941. Together with a large group of prisoners he was driven to the edge of the pit. There were no “voluntary” donations of clothes to the “Winter Help to the Front Fund” back then, and that was why people weren’t undressed before the execution. BLAZER guessed to fall down into the pit before the shooting. Killed people dropped from above. After the execution was finished, the pit was covered by some sand. There was so little sand that the air got to the bottom of the pit. BLAZER lay for more than 4 hours in the pit. After dark, he made his way through the layers of corpses lying on top of him, raked sand and went back... home in Vilno.

In 1943, BLAZER was punished for this mistake. He was directed to Ponar to burn corpses of his comrades. In 1944, BLAZER left Ponar for the second time. This time, he went towards the forest, to the partisans.

The Germans’ statement that nobody had left Ponar is a boastful, propagandist lie used to intimidate the prisoners and make them give up hope. Some witnesses did survive.

Among the neighboring peasants there are people who watched the executions, who heard moans and shouts of people being killed. There are people who covered the pits with sand and who removed the corpses of those killed on their way to the pit from the road.

Dense black smoke and disgusting stench of burning human flesh that spread for kilometers around the crematorium, also gave out the fact of incineration of the remains. Murder will out. The population of the villages near Ponar knows about the atrocities of Gestapo and has sized it up. It is no coincidence that so many men and women of different ages and different nations left these villages to join the red partisans.

But Ponar is not unique. No matter how monstrous, Ponar is a usual phenomenon, a necessary attribute of Hitlerite domination, which was based on terror and destruction of civilians. Even in the vicinities of Vilno, except Ponar, there are also communal graves in Troki.

Near every town, every borough and even in large villages of the Vilnius Oblast there are pits with different amounts of victims.

Mass executions, however, were carried out in Ponar almost every day. We always heard shots during work that obviously came from our territory, single rifle shots, bursts from submachine guns; but the sound was always heard from the same place. Occasionally they brought us some stuff. Once we were given about 20 new Lithuanian uniform jackets and the same quantity of shirts and trousers. Sometimes they would bring a bag of potatoes or a couple bags of peas, sometimes with the last name of the former owner, written in ink, distinctly visible on the bags.

Suspicions turned into certainty when on one of the last pits we discovered figures atop the sand, they weren't covered. There were about a hundred of them – men and women. In different poses, but almost everyone had their hands tied behind their back.

Most of them had no clothes on. The corpses had lain uncovered from several days to about 3 months. All of them were so well preserved that it was possible not only to recognize them, but also the agonal look on their faces was clearly seen. And only the absence of eyes pecked out by crows gave the faces a terrible look.

The pit where the fresh corpses lay, was at the edge of the territory, right near the highway Vilno–Grodno. Understandably, we weren't allowed to construct a fireplace near the pit as we had usually done. The fireplace was built in the centre of the territory, and we had to carry the corpses there, which was about 400 meters away. The Germans could not show a bonfire of 3,500 human corpses to civilians passing along the highway: it was 1944, not 1941.

Some time, back in February, the Sturmführer ordered to carry out 800 bodies a day.

Chiefs strained every nerve to accelerate the working process and to increase the productivity. Exhausted workers were continuously hurried. The working day was first extended for half an hour, then for an hour, then until darkness... all in vain. During many days the task remained outstanding. The repeated mentions of “sabotage” and “the infirmary” appeared to be insufficient. The indicated workload was too great. The Germans didn't even apply any repressions, so obvious it was that the order exceeded our capability.

But one day “fortune” smiled upon the Sturmführer. There was less sand on the corpses than usual. Almost all of the corpses were of small children, so that it was possible to put two bodies on a stretcher. Chiefs unmercifully hurried us. And soon after dinner, it became obvious that the desired number would be reached. Sturmführer was walking like a triumpher. On this day, we finished our work precisely on time. The goal was exceeded (something about 820–830 bodies). And then we saw a whole procession of commanding officers coming.

On the whole, Gestapo and SS officials liked our production. The grandiose sight of thousands of human corpses decaying in the ground and burning on fires, obviously, pleased their eyes. The horrifying stench of the pits – pleased their hearts. A corpse of an enemy smells good.

Anyway, we were often visited by inspectors, observers, and excursionists. Some of them, probably beginners, examined everything with great interest, going into the smallest details, the others, the old-timers, looked critically at what they saw, obviously comparing it with their own vast experience.

All of them were unanimous in their derision of “alive corpses” and in every case received obvious satisfaction from visiting Ponar. Visits of commanders were no wonder to us. But on the described day, the commanders were unusual. Thick bellies and gold embroidered collars pointed to their high status. They say, even HINGST the Vilnius Gebietskommissar himself was there.

We were lined in two ranks. Sturmführer made a speech. His speech was mostly devoted to self-praise, but the main thing appeared to be that, owing to the brilliant organization of the work, the number of 800 figures a day was reached, which was the best achievement for all the numerous working areas in all Lithuania. The chief fat man, listening to Sturmführer, nodded his head approvingly...

Then we sang songs. In conclusion, for the best achievement across all Lithuania, we were given each one cigarette on behalf of the chief fat man, and the officials left, possibly to triumph over establishing such a significant record. I do not know what award the Sturmführer received for the brilliant organization of the work. But that is not important. The important thing is:

First, this means that not some irresponsible people but the highest regional authorities personally take care of the issue of incineration of corpses and concealing of the traces of the German atrocities. They are engaged in, interested in, and feverishly speed up this work.

Second, it means that not only in Ponar, but across all Lithuania (Is it only in Lithuania?!) there are similar working sites. Numerous!!!

How many victims do all of these sites burn? How many innocent people were exterminated by these biped beasts?

And what will be the price that Hitler and others of his ilk will pay for these unprecedented villainies in the history of mankind!!

Chief of the 8th Department of the 4th office of NKGB USSR

[...]

8.

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF SEHNUZ S.S. ON ATROCITIES IN PONAR

August 7, 1944

I, officer of the criminal investigation Department, junior lieutenant [...] interrogated a witness who evidenced on the merits of the questions as follows:

SEHNUZ Stanislav Stepanovich, born 1904, in Vilno, now lives: in Ponar. Has lived in Ponar since 1935, Polish, education – grammar school – secondary, place of employment – the central post office – Vilnius.

Question: Tell me, what do you know about the fascist atrocities over the Soviet citizens?

Answer: I know that in Ponar, since July 11, 1941, the Germans started executing Jewish men, then women, children, and men. It lasted until the arrival of the Red Army.

Many times I personally saw enormous groups of exhausted, beaten, and covered with blood people driven somewhere; they were hurried by shouts and blows. Near my house, 300–400 meters away, there is a place in the forest fenced by barbed wire where these carnages of Soviet citizens took place. The place was strictly guarded. As soon as someone approached this place – they would shoot at him.

I saw the groups that were being driven to execution carry corpses of those killed on the road by the guards. they also supported the weak and the wounded.

Some minutes before the groups of people were taken into the place fenced by wire, harrowing shouts, cries and moans were heard, and right away came shots: bursts of fire, then single shots. Since July, 1941, the first groups of about a hundred people were brought every day and, starting from September, 1941, they started shooting groups of up to a thousand people, including men, women, children and old men, of different ages, from babies to very old. It all continued until the beginning of 1942. Except the people that were driven on foot, there were others who were brought in covered lorries. When people were brought by cars, I heard loud shouts and even the body of the car rose a little.

Since 1942, before the liberation of Vilno by the Red Army, the executions proceeded almost every day, from morning and till late at night.

I know some facts from a story told by a murderer, PARVOJADEJTIS Vlades whom I met by chance. I happened to work with him once at the post office. He told me that murders were conducted with enormous atrocity and that victims

were tortured before the execution: children had their legs attached to two bended trees and were torn when the trees were released. Pregnant women had their stomachs cut, the child dragged out of the dying mother, and executioners telling her: “Look who you would have given birth to: a girl or a boy.”

On April 5, 1943, a train of loaded cars arrived at the Ponar station, there were approximately 60 of them, loaded with people of different ages (men, women, children, and old people). In the morning, at about six thirty, when I was cycling to work to the Pokegozevo factory, I witnessed as they opened the cars, and with shouts, swearing and beatings, the doomed people were dragged out, and then I heard single shots, on second thoughts, those shots were intended for the most resisting people.

Then such shouts and cries rose from the still unopened cars that I could hear all my way for 2 km from the Ponar station. When I came back from work, at 8 o'clock in the evening, the street was covered with corpses of brutally killed people. At the gateway of my house there were 5 bodies, further, at the fence, 2, behind the house – 3. As my neighbours told me, murderers shot all of the people who managed to escape as they got out of the cars, and killed them anywhere. The bodies lay for more than a day and night.

All the others from this train were taken with a big escort to the place, where the murderers always conducted their crimes, and shot.

My friends told me that right after the Germans came, that is before July 11, 1941, a group of men was shot, I don't know how many, next to the Ponar Kopliz, near the shore of the Vili River, in the mountains, on the way to the Garun village.

I know that at the end of 1943, almost until end of May, 1944, they burnt on the places of murders: [...]

I saw the glow and smelt the suffocating stench that even got through the double window frames into my house.

This is all I can say on the merits on the subject, in witness thereof I undersignI undersign.

Officer of the Criminal Investigation Department, Junior Lieutenant

SIGNATURE

From materials of the Emergency State Commission. Case 1, page 51

Representative of the Emergency State Commission: DYMOV

9.

ACT ON ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY FASCIST AGGRESSORS IN THE PONAR DISTRICT, NEAR VILNIUS

Not earlier than August 26, 1946

Hitlerite fascist government and the German Supreme military command, pursuing annexationist imperialist plans on the temporarily occupied territories of the Lithuanian SSR, tried to eradicate residents of the enslaved Lithuania and in brutal ways to pave the way for full colonization of the Soviet Lithuania and its ultimate association with the fascist Germany. The German aggressors, guided by the cannibalistic racial theory and full of hatred to people of other nations, committed mass destruction of residents of the occupied Lithuania – men, women, old people and children, systematically and methodically committing carnages.

One of the many districts of Lithuania where Hitlerites carried out mass destruction of residents of the Soviet Lithuania, is Ponar, near Vilnius.

The Court (Commission) of Inquiry of the crimes accomplished by fascist aggressors in the Ponar district, consisting of:

Chairman – deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR – STIMBURIS J.U.

Members of the Commission:

Chairman of the Vilnius Uyezd Executive Committee VERGASA V.

Professor of the Vilnius State University – KAJRJUKSHITS I.I.

Professor, Doctor of Medicine MARBURGA S.B.

Professor of the Vilnius State University SLAVENASA P.V.

Writer KORSAKAS K.

Teacher CHIPLIS A.

Doctor of Medicine BUTKEVIČUS I.

Lieutenant Colonel MOZILEV,

having investigated the Ponar district from August, 15 till August, 26 of this year, and based on the documentary material, the results of the judicial-medical research, the conclusion of technical expert appraisal, testimonies of witnesses and evidence obtained by the Office of Public Prosecutor, has established the following:

Having occupied Vilnius, Hitlerite bandits started [...] Ponar, 8 km away from Vilnius. This district, surrounded by a pine forest, is situated on a highway leading to Alitus.

In 1940, a construction of a base for liquid fuel was started here, for which huge pits had been excavated. The construction of the base had not been completed, and the pits were used by Hitlerite murderers for burying corpses of the killed people.

Upon the inspection of this district, seven of such circular pits were revealed and three oblong ditches, in which there were corpses of shot people, clothes and what was left of them, miscellaneous things and documents of the killed people, and also bones and ashes of the burnt corpses. Around the mentioned pits and ditches ten locations were found where Hitlerite murderers burnt corpses.

The area of the whole district where German bandits carried out the carnages is 48,608 sq.m. The territory of the camp is surrounded by barbed wire; besides, during the German occupation, in accordance with the witnesses' testimony, the area was mined.

At the gateway of the camp, from the side of the highway, there was an inscription in German saying that in view of danger, entrance to the territory is strictly forbidden, for both civilians and military men, even officers. Anyone who came near the fence was, as witnesses' evidence, shot on the spot. The area was guarded by SS and SD units, and also by units of special police.

German monsters began the carnages in Ponar in July, 1941. German bandits and their assistants drove victims to Ponar in groups, a couple of thousands in each. Witness SEHNUZ Stanislav Stepanovich, born in 1904, living near the Ponar station, evidenced on the merits of the case as follows:

"I know that since July 1941, the Germans started mass executions, first men, then women and children of the Jewish nationality. Many times I personally saw that enormous groups of exhausted, covered with blood people were driven somewhere, hurried by shouts and blows. I saw the groups that were driven to death, carried corpses of those killed on the way. They also supported the weak and wounded. Some minutes after a group of people was taken to the place fenced by wire, harrowing shouts, cries and moans were heard and right away bursts of fire were heard, and then single shots. Since July, 1941, hundreds of people a day and, starting from September, 1941, groups of up to a thousand people were shot. Except the people that were driven on foot, some were also brought in covered lorries. Jews came afoot, and Poles and people of other nationalities came in the lorries. When people were brought by cars, I heard loud shouts from far away. The executions proceeded almost every day, from morning and till late at night, and continued right until the liberation of Vilno by the Red Army."

Witness PAVLOVSKI Sigizmund Dominikovich, born in 1896, lives at the Ponar resort, evidenced as follows on the merits of the case:

“I worked at an agricultural machines factory and every day after work I cycled home to Ponar. Germans, having occupied Vilnius, began to drive away from 1 to 4 thousand Jews from the city every day. People were lined up in such a way: women were ahead, in rows of 5–6 people in each, holding each other by the hand, men were behind them, with their hands on the shoulders of the person ahead. Sometimes these groups of people stretched for one and a half km. I saw a couple of such groups. The last one that I saw consisted of approximately 7 thousand people. All of them were driven to a so-called base which was in the forest at a distance of 400 m from Ponar. In the area of this base large pits were excavated. The base was encircled by two rows of barbed wire. I only know that [the ones] who were brought to this base by the Germans, did not return alive. For days, both shots from rifles and submachine guns were heard from there. Germans threw corpses of the shot people in the mentioned pits; I do not know, whether they were buried or not...”

Later the German murderers started bringing victims to Ponar by trains and by lorries.

The same witness PAVLOVSKI evidenced:

“As far as I remember, one September morning in 1941, I went by a working train to Vilnius. At that time, a cargo train arrived to the Ponar station. Windows and doors of the cars were protected by wire. Passing the train, I counted up 49 cars. I saw, [how] women of the Jewish nationality were looking at me through the slits of the cars’ walls. In the evening, when I was going back home from work, I saw a terrible sight: in the area before the base and in the ditches of the railway embankment there lay corpses of the shot people – old men, women and children. The corpses had been left there for 2–3 days, before the Germans took them away.”

Witness YUKHNEVICHEVA Maria Ivanovna, born in 1895, lived in Ponar, evidenced:

“On April 5, 1943, a train with Jews arrived. It is hard to tell how many cars there were. However, I saw through a window in my room that the people were driven to this German “base” in groups of 200–300, among them there were old men, women and children. There were also sick people who were carried. When these people approached the “base” and saw the pits in the forest and, understood that they weren’t driven for work but for certain death, they started shouting and running away in every direction. The Germans ruthlessly shot them. It is hard to tell whether anyone managed to escape, however, the killed were very many. Enormous heaps of clothes which had been taken off the Jews were seen at the edges of the pits. Before the execution, the Germans had removed the best clothes, and buried the killed people in the same pits.”

Citizen OSTROVSKI Edward Ivanovich, born in 1884, lived in the Ponar station area, also testifies about the murders committed on the same day by the German invaders in Ponar:

“On April 5, 1943, I was at home and looked out the attic window at the place where the Germans were shooting people. I saw the enormous dug-out pits. People were forced to undress to underwear and taken in groups to the edge of the pit where they were shot from machine and submachine guns. I witnessed such actions quite often.”

A person who was intended to be executed, who was lucky to survive and escape from the pit testifies about these carnages of innocent people in Ponar. His last name is BLYAZER [BLAZER] Abragem Pinkusovich, born in 1908, lives in Vilnius, Trokskaya street, 18, who evidenced the following:

“On October 13, 1941, I was arrested and taken to Ponar for execution. Before Ponar, I was imprisoned in Lukiski. When all the prisoners were taken out, I was also ordered to get inside a lorry where there were 20 other people with me. In the street in front of the prison there was a long chain of lorries overloaded with people. Then, on order, the cars started moving. When we got into the forest, we immediately heard voices urging us to get out of the cars. They shouted: “Hurry up, hurry up.” We walked through the forest where we saw a long ditch that led to a large pit. The pit was about 6 m deep and 25 m wide. First of all, we were ordered to lie facedown in the ditch. After that, 6 people were ordered to come up to the pit. Then all of them were put in a circle around the edges of the pit. I was also among them. The soldiers that were appointed to shoot us were drawn up in one line; on a signal they were to shoot people in groups of 6. The shot group would drop into the pit. I was among the first group, but I wasn't killed, as having heard the first shot, I fell in the pit myself. In some seconds, I felt that I was pressed down by the corpses of the shot people. I saw and heard that one by one groups of shot people fell in the pit. When it was getting dark, drunk soldiers, having accomplished their terrible activity, began to split the clothes of the killed people. Having taken advantage of the opportunity that the soldiers were drunk, and, besides, they were selecting the clothes, and although I was stiff with cold, nevertheless, I pulled myself together, dumped a heap of corpses from myself and, as I climbed from the pit, ran away to the forest.”

There are many similar evidences of witnesses in the investigatory case of the Office of Public Prosecutor which expose details of the carnages accomplished by the German predators in Ponar.

Residents of Vilnius and vicinity widely knew about the facts of carnages in Ponar even during the German occupation.

However, the German bandits carefully tried to hide their crime and remove any traces of it. For this purpose they organized incineration of corpses of the shot people late in 1943.

Witness ZEIDEL Matvei Fedorovich, born in 1925, lives in Vilnius, evidenced on the merits:

“In September, 1943, Gestapo arrested me, and I was imprisoned for 4 weeks. In October, 1943, I was taken to the Ponar railway station and placed in a bunker. Here Germans used us for preparing firewood and burning corpses. In December, 1943, we were fettered and began burning corpses. First, we put the firewood, and then up to 100 corpses of people, poured kerosene and gasoline on them, and then we laid a layer of corpses again. Thus we put together about 3,000 corpses, lay firewood around them, poured petroleum, put incendiary bombs on four sides and, ignited it. This fire was burning for 7–8 days. Among the heap of corpses I recognized the mother and the sister of my comrade KOVMAKI Lib. Most of these three thousand corpses were Jews. About 2,000 more corpses were laid on another fire, generally Red Army men and officers, and also 500 corpses of monks and priests. A total of 19 fires were made. Men, women and children were burnt on these fires. Then [we were forced] to gather up what remained from the burnt corpses, for example teeth, rings, etc.

We continued the incineration till April, 1944, when I managed to run from Ponar. For 5 months Germans had destroyed about 80–90 thousand corpses.”

The aforementioned A. BLYAZER who fortunately escaped the execution in Ponar on October 13, 1941, in November, 1943, was taken to Ponar again, this time for burning corpses. Witness A. BLYAZER testified on this case:

“After we arrived in Ponar, all of us were fettered. Our work included digging out all corpses that accumulated there from the very beginning of the executions, and burning them on the fires specially built for this purpose. The work was organized in the following manner: 15 people prepared firewood; 10 people dug out corpses from the ground, 6–8 were given special hooks 1,5 m long and 25 cm thick with sharp tips. They were to thrust this hook into a corpse to be dug out and drag the corpse from the pit using this hook. Sometimes the corpses we found were not decayed, but dried-up. In this case it was possible to distinguish the color of the hair. The strongly decayed corpses were dragged by pieces: separately the head, separately a hand, a leg, etc. We worked with a stretcher, 2 men for one stretcher. 1–2 corpses could be put on a stretcher. Two persons continuously worked at the fire on which they piled the brought corpses. Corpses were piled in rows, and a row was then poured over with fuel. One person with a two-meter poker constantly maintained the fire, adjusting the fire and clearing channels of the fire from ashes.

18,000 corpses of men, women and children were dug out from the first pit. Most of them were shot in the head. The first pit was the result of liquidation of the 2nd Vilnius ghetto. There were many Poles, whom we recognized by the crosses on their chests. There were also priests, which was proved by their clothes. Most of

the Poles had their hands tied by ropes, belts, frequently by barbed wire. Some corpses were absolutely naked, others half-naked, some only in stockings.

We dug out 8,000 corpses out of the fourth pit, exclusively young men, frequently blindfolded by towels or shirts.

In the fifth pit, 25–30 wide and 6 meters deep, there were about 25,000 corpses. In this pit we found corpses of tenants of an almshouse, and also patients who were brought together with the personnel of the hospital – we found that out by the hospital clothes. Children from the orphanage were shot in the same pit.

Thus, from 8 pits we dug out about 68,000 human corpses.”

Witnesses A. BLYAZER and M. ZEIDEL worked in Ponar at incineration of corpses until April 15, 1944, when they managed to escape from the death camp to partisans by a tunnel that was dug out under the ground, together with eleven other men who were working with them.

The burning of corpses by the Germans was also seen by people of the vicinities.

Witness M. YUKHNEVICHEVA tells about it:

“When the Germans were burning corpses of the shot people, an awful stench was spread so that it was not possible to open a window.”

Witness Anton VOYZEKHOVICH, born in 1880, worked at that time on a highway near the Ponar station, says:

“At that time, the air was so saturated by the putrid smell, that it got into houses and in the food so that it was impossible to eat it, and because of this stench people could not breathe normally.”

Witness OSTROVSKI Edward testified that he saw light from the fires on which the corpses were burnt, from October, 1943 till July, 1944.

All the evidences of witnesses and what was very widely spoken about during all the time of the German occupation among the residents of Vilnius, was proved by the examination of the Ponar district performed after the liberation of Vilnius and its vicinities by the Red Army.

The Commission made the excavation of the pits in Ponar. From the round shaped pit 1, 34–35 meters wide and more than 5 meters deep, of capacity of 4,000 cubic meters, after removing the upper layer of the ground, mixed with ashes and burnt bones of people, 486 corpses were dug out and examined. After establishing the exact reason of death of the dug-out remains, which had a common character of death, further excavation of pit 1 was ceased. On the edges of the pit sand was removed from several corpses, and they were left to lie there. Thousands of Vilnius residents have seen the corpses.

After the excavation of a round shaped pit 2, of capacity of about 2,000 cubic meters, no corpses were revealed in it, however, the ground had the odour of corpses, and particles of burnt bones were found in the sand.

The bottom of the circular pit 3, with the same capacity as pit 1, was overgrown with grass. The pit had the smell of corpses, and its sand was mixed with burnt human bones. Near the pit there was a large amount of dentures. After the excavation of the pit, 27 tightly compressed corpses were found.

In a ditch 100 meter long, 2 meters wide and 1 meter deep two corpses in military clothes were found.

A total of 515 corpses were dug out and examined.

Besides, in many places of the Ponar pine forest, in the surface layer of the sand, lots of burnt human bones were found.

Burnt bones were found in pit 5 of capacity of 8,000 cubic meters, and also on the site prepared for communal graves of the exhumed corpses.

Most of the dug-out corpses are local Soviet people.

According to the documents found in the clothes, the majority of the killed people were of the Jewish nationality, the rest were Poles, Russians and Lithuanians. On some of the corpses Catholic and Orthodox devotional articles were found. The documents and objects found in the clothes of the killed people enable to establish that among the shot people were doctors, engineers, students, drivers, mechanics, railway men, tailors, watchmakers, dealers, etc.

Some of the corpses were recognized by friends and relatives, for example, corpses of a Vilnius doctor FEHGUS, watchmaker ZALKAND, etc. Citizen SUTAN P.A. from Svencioniai recognized the corpse of his sister GRINEVA.

The condition of the majority of the exhumed corpses testifies that they were killed by shooting in the nape.

The state of the corpses and documents found in clothes of the killed people indicate that executions in Ponar were conducted on a regular basis from July, 1941 till June, 1944. Based on careful examination of the facts of annihilation of Soviet civilians, the Commission has established as follows:

1. Mass annihilation of people in Ponar was regularly conducted by the fascist aggressors from July, 1941 till June, 1944.
2. Annihilation of the population was performed in every possible brutal way: execution, tortures, beatings and burying of half-dead people in the ground.
3. In order to hide traces of their crimes, the Hitlerite bandits [...] their exhumation and subsequent incineration on fires specially arranged for it.

Incinerations began in the autumn of 1943 and proceeded till early summer 1944.

4. Considering the huge quantity of burnt human bones spread on the surface of all the camp area, the corpses found in the pits that were not yet burnt, and witnesses' testimonies, the total number of corpses is determined to be no less than one hundred thousand.

For all of these crimes the government of the Hitlerite Germany, German Supreme military command and the direct initiators are responsible:

1. Chief of Gestapo WOLF from Berlin
2. Captain GERT from Königsberg
3. Obersturmführer NOYGEBAUER
4. Obersturmführer RIHTER from Berlin
5. Obersturmführer ARTSCHWAGER from Klaipeda
6. Oberscharführer MAEHR Herman from Vienna
7. KITTEL a former film actor
8. SHCWEINBERGER from Berlin
9. Hauptscharführer WEIES Martin from Karlsruhe, chief of prisons of Vilnius. Supervised over the executions in Ponar.
10. Oberscharführer FAULGARBER from Meingehm
11. Chief of the Ponar region PERR
12. Chief of guards of the Ponar region – BINKE
13. SCHREDDER – supervised over incinerations of corpses in Ponar
14. IONDER Berta from Klaipeda

Deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR – STIMBURIS.

Chairman of the Vilnius District Executive Committee– E. VERGAS.

Professor of the Vilnius State University – A. KAYRYUKSHTIS

Professor, Doctor of Medicine – S. MARBURG

Professor of the Vilnius State University – P. SLAVENAS

Doctor of Medicine A. BUTKEVICHUS

Writer K. KORSAK.

Lieutenant Colonel VOZYLEV.

Teacher A. CHIPLIS

Central Archive of the FSB Russia.
Archive. D. N–18313. Volume. 15, Pages 171–179. Copy.

10.

**FROM PROTOCOL OF ACCEPTANCE OF STATEMENT
OF KEMZURA ANTANAS, WHO PARTICIPATED
IN EXECUTIONS OF JEWS IN VICINITIES OF VILNIUS,
INCLUDING PONAR**

January 23, 1967

Kaunas, Lithuanian SSR

Officer of the 1st Criminal Investigation Department authorized by the KGB at the Ministerial Council of the Lithuanian SSR in Kaunas Captain [...], pursuant to Clause 127 of the Procedural Criminal Law of the Lithuanian SSR, accepted at 9:00 a statement from the citizen as follows:

KEMZURA Antanas, son of Kazis, born in 1918, native of Pikcunay village, former Vilkiskiai region of the Lithuanian SSR, non-party member, 6-grade education in an elementary school, works as an assistant master of the Kaspinas factory, lives in apt. 1, 73, Spartako Street, Kaunas.

KEMZURA A.K. is warned about the responsibility for false swearing according to Clause 138 UK [Criminal Code] of the Lithuanian SSR.

/Signed by KEMZURA/

Citizen KEMZURA has stated:

My father KEMZURA Kazis had 15 hectares of land in the Pikcunay village of the former Vilkiskiai Volost, nowadays the Kaunas region, during the bourgeois regime in Lithuania. The family consisted of 7 people. I had a father, a mother, brother Stasis and sisters: Kazimira, Mariona and Marziona.

In about 1927 I went to elementary school which I finished in about 1933 – 1934. In 1939, I was drafted to the Lithuanian bourgeois army, I served as a private of the 4th squadron of the 2nd Ulanski regiment in Taurage. In 1940, our unit was moved to Vilnius, and we got under the command of the national army. In spring 1941, the sonic division where I served, was moved to the Varensky range. I do not remember who was the battalion commander. Among the soldiers I remember: JANAVIČUS, VARNJALIS, RUDAJTIS, RAZLJUKAS, I do not know their first names or where they come from [...]

... SJURNA, KIZIS, JVIBLIS, VILEITA, TERLJAČKIS, PRAKOPAVIČUS. All of the officers and sergeants had pistols, and soldiers, as I have indicated above, had rifles.

I do not know the soldiers or officers of other companies. The commander of the battalion when we were in Novo-Vilna was officer MEČLUS. I do not remember who was his aide-de-camp. We were for about one month in the barracks in Novo-Vilna, and then the battalion moved to Vilnius. There we stayed in the barracks near the Gediminas tower. I don't remember the street where we were located.

We were in Vilnius till autumn 1941, and then left for Lublin. We lived in the buildings of a grammar school in Lublin. Then we guarded the Majdanek concentration camp. In late 1942 or early 1943, our battalion returned to Kaunas for rest. After the arrival to Kaunas I deserted from the battalion and was hiding at my friends' in my native land.

When in Novo-Vilno, I had to participate twice in the action on annihilation of Soviet people from among the Jewish citizens.

One morning, I don't remember the exact date, in August, 1941, lieutenant RAČKUS ordered the whole 3rd company to draw up in the court yard of the barracks. When we drew up, RAČKUS said that it was necessary to carry out a task. It was necessary to bring a column of Jews to the place of their execution. Then we were all given additional ball-cartridges. After that, our third company went to the ghetto, which was at a distance of 400–500 m from the barracks. At this time the ghetto was guarded by the soldiers of other companies. We all stopped at the ghetto gateway. After a while, the soldiers of other companies brought out a column of Jews of about 200–300 people from the ghetto. There were men, women, and children. There were young and old people. All of them had some stuff with them: a suitcase, bags, etc.

We encircled the column of the Jews and at gunpoint they were led aside to bushes 1–2 km from a ghetto.

When we were leading these people to execution, we – soldiers – were at a distance of 5–6 meters from each other. I remember soldiers VILEITA, TARLJAČKIS, VARNJALIS, who went with me. We stopped the column of Jews at a distance of about 30–35 m from the pit dug out in advance. Then RAČKUS ordered all of the people to put their things on the ground, and to lie facedown. After that, 10 soldiers of our company would approach the doomed, take groups of 10–15 people to the pit and shoot them. Before the execution near the pit, everyone was ordered to undress to underwear. Soldiers shot from rifles, and officers RAČKUS, MEČLUS, DEVEJKIS from pistols. Victims were shot standing. RAČKUS gave the command to shoot. When those who were shooting were drawn up, he gave the command: "Fire.." I personally saw how RAČKUS, MEČLUS, DEVEJKIS, ASMINAS were shooting the people. I don't remember who was shooting from among the soldiers of the battalion now, but when I remember, I shall tell. During the execution, vodka was given to the shooting soldiers. The shootings lasted till dinner, and then the whole

company went to the barracks to have dinner. After dinner, all of us, soldiers of the third company, went to the ghetto again and proceeded bringing columns of people to execution. So on this day, hundreds of people were shot before the evening. Among the victims, as I've already said, there were women and men of different ages. There were children and even babies.

I remember that when men were shot they were commanded to lower their underpants down to their knees. It was done so that nobody could run away from the place of execution.

In the evening after the execution our company returned to the barracks. I do not know who buried the corpses and who picked up all of the things that were left.

Almost a week passed after that execution. One morning, officers RAČKUS, DEVEJKIS, MEČLUS, ASMINAS again had all of our company drawn up and said that it would be necessary to carry out a task. Extra cartridges were given to us. Then we already knew that we were to go to the executions. So we went in a formation to the same ghetto. We stood at the gateway and received a column of about 200–300 Jews. There were also men, women, old people and small children. We drove this whole column to the same bushes, 1–2 km from the ghetto where we stopped at 10–15 m from another dug-out pit 20 m long, 15 m wide and about 3 m deep. People were shot in the same way. Officers RAČKUS, DEVEJKIS, MEČLUS, ASMINAS shot the victims from pistols. The people were shot in the head, in the nape.

The soldiers also tried to shoot the victims in the head. If a victim fell at the edge, the soldiers would push him into the pit. About 15–20 people from the third company were shooting but I do not remember now who exactly. Officers gave the command to shoot people. The execution was completed by the evening. We didn't go to dinner then. After the execution everyone returned to the barracks. I don't know who buried the corpses this time and took their things. I did not receive anything from the stolen things for participating in the executions.

A month passed after the execution, our company moved to Vilnius and stopped in barracks at the Gediminas tower. Some days later after arriving to Vilnius, early in the morning, under the command of officers RAČKUS, DEVEJKIS, MEČLUS, ASMINAS the whole company was drawn up in the court yard of the barracks. The company commander RAČKUS told us that we would go to Lukiskiai prison, where we would receive a column of Jews. All of us were armed with rifles. We had many ball cartridges. The whole formation went to the Lukiskiai prison and stopped at the gate. This time, the column of Jews was taken from prison. There were men, women of different ages and small children. All of them had things with them. We, soldiers of the third company, encircled this column and drove them. We held rifles in our hands

then. Soldiers were at a distance of 5–6 m from each other. RUDAITIS and ŠERMUKŠNIS went with me. We took this whole column of about five hundred people to Paneriai [Ponar]. There we stopped the column at a distance of 50–60 m from the dug-out pit. As I remember, the pit was 30–50 m long, 3–4 m wide and about 3 m deep. When we brought the Jews to the place of the execution, all of them were ordered to leave their things on the ground, and to lie facedown. When they lay down, soldiers in German uniforms approached them, armed with submachine guns. There were about 10 submachine gunners. All of the people were lined up near those pits and the submachine gunners immediately shot them. All the Jews were undressed before the execution. They stood at the edge of the pit, facing it. Children were by their parents. Weeping and damnations towards the executors were heard. Executions continued for two hours. When all the Jews were shot, we went back to our barracks in a formation, I do not remember, whether our officers participated in the executions. This time, soldiers of the company did not participate in the executions. Maybe one or another was shooting, but I did not notice it. Both in Novo-Vilno, and in Paneriai [Ponar] I personally did not shoot people, but guarded the place of the execution. I didn't participate in other executions of Soviet citizens.

In autumn 1941, as I have already stated above, we left for Lublin where we guarded the Majdanek concentration camp. When in Lublin, I did not participate in the actions against the Soviet citizens.

In 1943, I deserted from the battalion. I had been hiding at my relatives' up to the liberation of the Lithuanian SSR territory from the Germans by the Soviet units. In September, 1944, I was mobilized to the Soviet Army. I was in the 208th reserve regiment in Pabrad. In 1945 our unit left for Prussia where we collected German trophies.

In 1945, I was demobilized from the Soviet Army. After demobilization I arrived to Kaunas and began working at the city enterprises. Since 1947, I have worked at the Kaspinas factory.

I've received some awards: the medal "For victory over Germany" and ... [the ending is not available]

11.

**A DYING LETTER OF TWO WOMEN WRITTEN BY THEM
ON THEIR WAY TO THE PONAR PLACE OF EXECUTION
AND THROWN OUT ON THE ROAD
TO BE DELIVERED TO JEWS**

*Was delivered to the founders of the Jewish Museum in Vilnius after the defeat
of German aggressors in August, 1944*

June 26 [...]

APPEAL TO BROTHERS AND SISTERS-JEWS!

My kind sisters and brothers! We appeal to you with a big request. First of all, forgive us for all the evil that we have ever caused you during our life; that we perhaps did and said. We do not know for what such a severe punishment has befallen us: we are being killed. But death is nothing, the main thing is our children, who are being tortured in brutal ways, for example: 8-year-old girls were taken for sexual intercourse. These babies were ordered to take genitals in their mouths and to suck them as if they were mother's breast, and to swallow the secretion that the men sheds, saying, imagine that that is honey or milk. Or a 12-year-old girl was attached to a bench and until 6 Germans and 5 Lithuanians had copulated two times each, the poor girl was not released. And her mother was forced to stand and see to her child not to shout. Then mothers got undressed, put against a wall with their hands tied upwards, all their hair on the naked places plucked; and they ordered to pull out their tongues and set them with needles. Then everyone would come up and piss, and smear eyes with excrements.

Oh! And men were ordered to take out their genitals and thrust heated rods there, holding them until the rod turned black. Thus telling them: enough of living, Jew, we shall exterminate every one of you, it's not a hard job to kill you, it is necessary to torture you so that you won't want to live any more or see Stalin.

They cut off our fingers and toes, we were forbidden to tie up the wounds, thus the wounds would bleed for four days. Every day we were tortured in such a way, and then we were thrown in a vehicle for Ponar.

With a group of 45 people we were hiding in a shelter, but we kept in touch with another group through a tunnel. The other group had 67 adults and children. We were linked with the outside world via a Pole who was called "widow Marysja". Marysja had three children. This woman took men's clothes,

ladies' furs, men's fur coats, silk clothes from us, everything, that we had, she took and supplied us with food, and then when she became rich, having made a fortune of 40 thousand – 50, 60 thousand marks, she started going to Sirvinti and brought from there 3–4 hogs, two pounds of bacon, 5 centners of wheat flour, butter – 20 kg, eggs, all this with our money, with our money she bought alcohol to the Germans, and ordered us to give 5 kg of gold, or else I shall hand you over to the German Gestapo – and set the time. Not being able to collect enough, we sent an 8-year-old Jewish girl to this Marysja with the request to extend the term and to wait a little. So the child never returned. She took everything that we sent her: gold, watches, rings, brooches, etc., and the girl was killed and burnt. And then, 2 days later Lithuanians and Germans found us. And then we had been tortured for 5 days the ways described above, and then we were sent to Ponar. I am throwing out this letter on the road to Ponar – for kind people to hand it over to Jews, so that when the truth is restored, they would kill at least one for the 112 of us, doing a good deed for their people.

With tears in our eyes we ask for revenge. Revenge! And I am writing in Polish because if someone finds a letter in Jewish he will burn it, and if it is a letter in Polish, a kind and noble person will read it and hand it to the Jewish police to do something to that cruel woman who made herself and her children accountable for so much blood. We ask: we lost 30 of our children, let her lose at least three of hers – two boys and one girl together with her.

Kind brothers, plaintively we all ask, do not forgive this woman. Her last name is unknown. She is called “Widow MARYSJA,” has 3 children: 2 boys and one girl, lives at 34, Bolshaja Poguljanka street , in the court yard on the left. Everyone knows this speculator near the Heart of Jesus church, the yard keeper RYNKEVICH.

Farewell, farewell. We call the whole world for revenge.

This is written by GURVICH and ASS.

12.

REPORT OF LITHUANIA TASK GROUP "A" FOR OCTOBER 1941 – JANUARY, 1942

Not earlier than January 1942

Before the arrival of the Bolsheviks, 153,743 Jews lived in Lithuania (in accordance with the census of 1923), i.e. 7,58% of the population [...]. Jews of both sexes especially supported the activity of People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs. The exile of 40,000 Lithuanians to Siberia was prepared by the Jews.

As the German armies entered, the hatred of Lithuanians against Jews led to active massacres, particularly because the Jewish-communistic youth had burned many cities that had suffered very little from the German tanks passing through by means of use of gasoline canisters that had been prepared in advance.

During the massacres caused by Lithuanians, 3,800 Jews were destroyed in Kaunas, and about 1,200 Jews in smaller cities, with the effective help of the security police and SD.

If Jews managed to escape, they were often given away to the authorities by peasants. Those spontaneous actions were not enough to stabilize the rear section of the front, given that the eagerness of the local population soon faded. Therefore special groups in Lithuania – usually by forces of 1:8 – started eliminating Jews of both sexes, first the prisons, and then systematically, district by district. All in all, 136,421 Jews were liquidated in those actions. It's remarkable that many of the Jews attacked the officials and Lithuanian auxiliary forces that were conducting the actions, and declared their Bolshevik position before execution, glorifying Stalin and cursing Germans. [...]

13.

REPORT OF THE MEDICO-LEGAL EXAMINATION OF THE MASS GRAVE IN THE VICINITY OF THE TOWN OF ŽAGARE

September 24, 1944

Commission including assistant chief medico-legal expert of the 1st Baltic front, captain of medical service – PRIKHODKO and medico-legal expert of the 51st army, captain of medical service – FILYAKOV on request of military public prosecutor of the 8th Vitebsk holding the Order of the Red Banner gun artillery division, major of justice NIKITIN, on September 20 and 24 of this year in the area of Žagare (Lithuanian SSR) has performed examination of a mass grave of corpses – victims of crimes of fascist aggressors, exhumation of corpses and medico-legal examination of the corpses.

Brief data of preliminary investigation:

On September 3, 1941, fascist aggressors with the participation of local residents – members of fascist and profascist organizations, drove approximately 800 Jews (men, women and children) together in the city market square. Besides, over 1,500 Jews were confined in a special temporary camp, which was in the north-western of Žagare: on September 4, 1941, all the Jews were shot in the city park. The execution was carried out in such a way:

1. Three cars loaded with Jews approached the grave one after another. People got down into the ditch, and undressed at gunpoint, there they were then shot.
2. In the second half of August, 1941, an execution of 47 Jews took place at a Jewish cemetery, 2 km south-west of Žagare. Those Jews had been in a special camp for two weeks. And then they were selected according to a special list and shot.
3. In August, 1941, 8 communists were shot 2 km north-east of Žagare. Communists had been arrested early in July, 1941 and most of them were local residents of Žagare.

Exhumation of corpses

Exhumation of corpses from three tombs was performed.

The 1st tomb is situated in the north-eastern part of the Žagare city park. The park is surrounded by a stone wall. A sandy mound rises 30 cm above the tomb. The oats on the territory of the park and on the tomb were cut down and thrown away

before the beginning of exhumation of corpses. The size of the tomb: length – 122 m, width – 4 m, depth – 2 m. The tomb has the shape of the letter “L”. In the south-eastern part – a tomb sized 42 x 4 m, and in the north-western – 80 x 4 m. The soil is black, loamy and moist. The corpses in the tomb are placed without order: they lie facedown; some of them prone. Among the corpses of men and women scattered in every directions one can see children of different ages. Most of the corpses are without clothes and shoes on. On some corpses one can only see underwear. Some of the children’s corpses have their clothes on. Many corpses have a cardboard six-pointed star on their clothes, sewn or pinned to the left side of their chest. Most of the corpses are in the condition of grave wax, and their shape has preserved. A comparably small part of the corpses turned into a shapeless grave wax mass that falls into peaces if you touch it. Eight corpses are discovered skeletonized with grave wax on their extremities and in areas of location of chest and stomach cavities. Between separate corpses one can see a thin interlayer.

The second tomb is located at the Jewish cemetery to the west of Žagare. The tomb has a conical bank raised 40 cm above the surface. The tomb is: in length – 5 m, in width – 4,0 m, in depth – 1,5 m. The soil is sandy, a little stony. The corpses in the tomb lie disorderly. Almost all of the corpses don’t have any clothes or shoes on. Some of the corpses are only dressed in underwear. Corpses are in the condition of grave wax. 4 corpses are skeletonized. All of the corpses in the tomb are male.

The third tomb is in the outskirts of the city, 2 km north-east of Žagare. The tomb has a trapezoidal shape with a deepening of 10–20 cm; in size the tomb is: length – 3 m, width – 2 m. [...] Soil is loamy, boggy. Corpses are dressed in civil clothes and are in the condition of grave wax; all of the corpses have their hands tied up with a rope.

Corpses from the above-mentioned graves were extracted and subjected to a medico-legal research (see Appendix: 1. A two-page report of the visual examination of corpses. 2. Acts of the medico-legal examination of corpses on 7 pages).

Attached: valuables: golden teeth and dentures that were found during the post-mortem examination.

*Assistant chief medico-legal expert of the 1st Baltic front,
captain of medical service – PRIKHODKO*

Medico-legal expert of the 51st army, captain of medical service FILYAKOV

14.

REPORT OF MEDICO-LEGAL VISUAL EXAMINATION OF THE SITE OF THE MASS GRAVE IN THE VICINITY OF ŽAGARE

September 24, 1944

On September 24, 1944, we, the medico-legal expert committee, performed a medico-legal examination of corpses exhumed from tombs 1, 2, 3, and found the following:

Tomb 1 – a total of 2,402 corpses (two thousand four hundred and two) were exhumed, among them: 20 (twenty) corpses were subjected to full medico-legal examination, 2,382 corpses (two thousand eight hundred and two) were subjected to medical-legal visual examination.

During the medical-legal visual examination of the 2,382 corpses, the Committee has determined the following:

1. Female corpses- 1,213

Among them having:

Gunshot wounds in the head – 584 corpses

“ – “ – neck – 70

“ – “ – chest – 274

“ – “ – abdomen – 51

“ – “ – lower extremities – 15

Multiple wounds (gunshot) in the head and neck – 121.

Multiple gunshot wounds in the neck and the chest – 23

“ – “ – chest and abdomen – 43

“ – “ – wounds (gunshot) in all of the body – 14

Gunshot wounds in the shoulder – 1

No injuries revealed – 17

2. Men's corpses – 524

Among them having:

Gunshot wounds in the head – 231

“ -- “ – neck – 18

“ -- “ – chest – 115

“ -- “ – abdomen – 24

“ -- “ – lower extremities – 12

“ -- “ – upper extremities – 2

Multiple wounds (gunshot) in the head and the neck – 74

“ -- “ – chest and abdomen – 37

No injuries revealed – 11

3. Children's corpses not older than 15 years – 622 corpses

Among them having:

Gunshot wounds in the head – 54

“ -- “ – neck – 8

“ -- “ – breast – 206

“ -- “ – abdomen – 185

“ -- “ – shin – 1

Multiple gunshot wounds in the head and the neck – 32 corpses

“ -- “ – neck and chest – 44

“ -- “ – chest and abdomen – 78

No injuries revealed – 14

4. Corpses of babies – 23

Among them having:

Gunshot wounds to the chest – 1

Multiple “ -- “ in the chest and head – 3

“ -- “ – chest and abdomen – 12

No injuries revealed – 7

Tomb 2 – a total of 38 (thirty-eight) corpses were exhumed, all of the 38 (thirty eight) corpses were examined.

During medico-legal inspection of the 38 corpses the Committee has established the following.

All of the 38 male corpses have perforating bullet wounds in the skull with the inlet wounds in the occipital area and the outlet wounds in the forehead area.

Tomb 3 – a total of 8 (eight) corpses were exhumed, among them 8 (eight) corpses were examined, during medico-legal inspection of the 8 corpses the Committee has established the following.

Female corpses – 2, male corpses – 6. All of the corpses have perforating gunshot wounds in the head with the inlet wound in the occipital area and the outlet wound in the forehead area. All of the corpses have their hands tied up behind their backs.

*Assistant chief medico-legal expert of the 1 Baltic front,
captain of medical service – PRIHODKO*

*Judicial medical examiner of the 51st army,
captain of medical services – FILYAKOV*

15.

**SPECIAL REPORT ABOUT THE DISCLOSURE
OF THE SO-CALLED GROUP OF GERMAN ACTIVISTS
IN ŽAGARE OF THE LITHUANIAN SSR AND ARREST
OF ITS MEMBERS PLEKAVIČUS, JANICKSKAS,
GERIKAS AND STOCHKUS**

Top secret

September 2, 1944

To chief of Headquarters of Counterespionage "Smersh"

Commissioner of State Security of the 2 rank

comrade ABAKUMOV

to Moscow

On September 7, 1944, DCI "Smersh" of the 8th gun battalion of the 51st army arrested an active accomplice of German invaders, Lithuanian nationalist –

PLEKAVIČUS Antonas Ionosovich, born in 1904, native and resident of Žagare, Lithuanian SSR, Lithuanian, non-party member.

After the interrogation of the arrested and by evidences of witnesses it is established that in May, 1941 PLEKAVIČUS was arrested by the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs for illegally carrying of weapons across the border for the purpose of organizing an armed strife against the Soviet power. In July, 1941 PLEKAVIČUS was released from prison by the German troops, and returned to Žagare where he entered the so-called organization of German activists, as a member of which he actively participated in the executions of Soviet activists and those loyal to the Soviet power.

In accordance with the testimonies of PLEKAVIČUS, other members of the mentioned organization were arrested on September 17, 1944:

1. JANICKSKAS Jonas Simonovich, born in 1908, native of Riga, non-party member, elementary education.
2. GERIKAS Stanislav Antonasovich, born in 1906, native of Kruopai of Šiaulai Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR, non-party member.
3. STOČKUS Domenikas Vikentyevich, born in 1898, native of manor Manumi, Grudziai Volost, Šiaulai UUyezd, Lithuanian SSR.

The investigation has established that on June 30, 1941 in Žagare local residents KAČKIS Stasis and KAUNAS Simonas created the so-called

organization of German activists, based on the sanction of the German command, from among the persons who were most hostile to the Soviet power, whose primary goals were:

1. To collect weapons and ammunition left by the retreating Red Army units and arm the members of the organization.
2. To guard all public places and carry patrol service.
3. To detect, seize and arrest communists, Soviet functionaries, soldiers of the Red Army and Soviet activists.

The headquarters of the organization, the so-called “Five,” included:

KAČKIS – chief of the headquarters

KAUNAS – assistant chief of the headquarters

KASPERAVIČUS – member of the headquarters

GEDMINAS – member of the headquarters

JANIČKIS – member of the headquarters.

All of these persons, except JANIČKIS who was arrested, escaped with the Germans, secretary of the headquarters was a Lithuanian BOLTOKAS Vincas Kazimirovich, born in 1906, higher education, resident of Žagare.

A total of about 60 people were involved in the organization of the German activists. Joining the organization was formalized by a personal application from the one who wishes to enter about his desire to serve the Germans.

The organization of the German activists had a prison in the Market square in Žagare at their disposal, guarded by the members of the organization.

Early in July, 1941 the headquarters of organization imposed a contribution of 10 thousand rubles on Soviet citizens of Žagare, and in August – 20 thousand rubles which was collected and spent for the needs of members of the organization.

Active punitive activity of the German activists began in August, 1941, when 8 communists were shot, and also a number of raids took place to seize Soviet activists. The arrested PLEKAVIČUS JANICKSKAS, GERIKAS and STOČKUS took part in the execution.

Since August, 1941, KRUPŠAS Ludwig, a Lithuanian, native of Žagare, a representative of the Šaulists who was sent from Šauliai, started supervising the organization of German activists. Under the direction of German authorities, he conducted the registration of Jews, collected up to 3,500 of them in the “ghetto” camp, some of the Jews were brought from Šauliai.

Under direction of KRUPŠAS and under direct management of chief of the Žagare police KRUTULIS Iozasa, who later escapes with the Germans, from September 4 till September 6, 1941 a mass execution of 3.5 thousand Soviet citizens was carried out in the Žagare city park. The execution was conducted by 25 Lithuanian soldiers and persons arrested with regard to this case under the command of lieutenant KOLOKŠ.

Soviet citizens were brought in hundreds to the graves that were prepared in advance, made them undress and then killed them. Then the next group of people, brought for the execution, were pushed down alive into the same pit, and the killed were dumped atop of them. Among the victims there were old men, women and children.

Murderers divided the belongings and valuables of the shot people among themselves.

Except this mass execution, at the end of August, 1941, a group of the organization of German activists, including all the persons arrested with regard to this case, shot 47 Soviet citizens in the western suburbs of Žagare, and the arrested JANIČKAS prepared in advance the list of persons who were to be executed.

In the presence of people expecting the execution, the murderers dug a tomb, forced them to strip and started to shoot the people by 4. Those who begged for mercy were shot on the spot. Right after the execution, its members distributed the belongings of the killed Soviet citizens.

Investigation on this case is coming to an end, then it will be submitted for consideration to the court-martial. The medical-legal examination expert committee is excavating tombs and exhuming corpses.

*Head of Department of Counterespionage "Smersh"
of the 1st Baltic Front, General-Lieutenant HANNIKOV
20175/2*

16.

ACT ON CRIMES OF FASCIST AGGRESSORS AND THEIR ACCOMPLICES IN THE VICINITY OF THE CITY OF ŽAGARE

October 5, 1944

On September 20–24, 1944 a commission including:

Chairman – Military public prosecutor of the 8th gun artillery of the Vitebsk holding the Order of the Red Banner division, major of justice NIKITIN;

inspector of the “Smersh” Counterespionage of the 8th gun artillery of the Vitebsk holding the Order of the Red Banner division, junior lieutenant SERGEEV;

medico-legal experts: Assistant medico-legal chief expert of the 1st Baltic front captain of medical service PRIKHODKO and medico-legal expert of the 51st army captain of medical service – FILYAKOV;

members of the commission: priest of Žagare, GUDANA VIČUS Gustavas Stjapasovich, residentresidents of Žagare: LAUZUS Kostasa Iozosovich, LAUZUS Albinas Iozosovna and vice-president of the Žagare Executive Committee of the City Soviet of People's Deputies VITKUS Antanas Iozosovich,

Have made this Act on the crimes of the fascist aggressors and their accomplices against Soviet citizens and established the following:

In Žagare of the Lithuanian SSR, the Commission revealed three graves with brutally tortured and buried Soviet civilians.

The first grave is in the park in the north-eastern suburb of the city, 300 meters away from the city.

The grave is shaped in the form of the letter “L”, its length is 80 m from north to west, from east to south – 42 m, the width of the tomb is 4 m.

At a distance of 90–200 m around the grave there is a mixed and coniferous forest which skirts the area of the park. The place of the graves raises boldly 30–60 cm above the level of the whole park area, and the surface of the grave, as well as the rest of the park area, was sown with oats, and up to the moment of the inspection the oats were completely mowed down and gathered.

The second grave is situated in the western suburb of Žagare, one km away in the area of the Jewish cemetery.

The surface of the grave is cone-shaped, 5 m long, one of the ends is 4 m, and the other one is 8 m.

The grave is 40–60 cm higher in relation to the adjoining area. Under the rising layer, the surface of the grave is covered with grass, and does not differ from the rest of the area.

The third grave is located 2 km north-east from Žagare in the suburb of the Lithuanian cemetery.

The grave is 10–20 cm lower than the general relief of the land, the length of the grave is 3 m, the width is 2 m. The surface of the grave is covered with the same grass as the rest of the area.

The exhumation of corpses has been conducted from all of the three tombs. All the corpses, except for five Lithuanians, are Jewish.

From the first tomb that is 2 m deep, 2,403 corpses were extracted, among them: 530 men, 1,223 women and 625 children.

From the second grave, 1.5 m deep, 38 male corpses were extracted.

From the third grave 8 corpses were extracted, among them: 6 corpses of men and 2 corpses of women.

During the exhumation of the corpses from the third grave, relatives recognized the following corpses: citizen VITOLOS Ekle recognized his brother VITOLOS Alfred, citizen LAUZAS recognized her husband LAUZAS Ludwig.

In all the graves the corpses lay disorderly, and in the third grave the corpses had their hands tied up by ropes behind their back.

In the first grave a thin layer of earth was revealed in several places.

Most of the corpses were completely undressed, some of the corpses were wearing underwear, and some were buried in over-coats, and children's corpses were all dressed with their shoes on.

Six-pointed cardboard stars were found pinned to the left side of the chest on the clothes of some corpses.

Most of the corpses were in the condition of grave wax and their shape was preserved.

An insignificant part of the corpses were skeletonized, and had the residue of grave wax on their extremities and near chest and belly cavities.

The examination of corpses established that the destruction of Soviet civilians was carried out by execution from firearms, rifles, pistols, and submachine guns.

The execution was conducted by chaotic gunfire, and the fire was held both from long-distance range and point-blank in every possible part of the body, but mainly in the head.

The mass destruction of civilians took place in the autumn of 1941.

In witness thereof this act has been made.

Chairman of the Commission – Military Public Prosecutor 8 PAVKD

Major of Justice NIKITIN

Inspector of the DCI “Smerch” 8 PAVKD

Junior Lieutenant SERGEEV

Assistant Chief Medico-Legal Expert of the First PBF

Captain of m\ś PRIKHODKO

Medico-Legal Expert of the 51 Army

Captain of m\ś FILJAKOV

Witnesses:

Priest GUDANAVIČUS

Citizens: LAUZUS, LAUZUTS

Deputy Chairman of Žagare Executive Committee of the City Soviet of People's

Deputies VITKUS.

17.

SPECIAL REPORT ON MASS EXECUTIONS IN THE CITY OF ŽAGARE

Top secret

October 6, 1944

In addition to ours 20175/2

dated October 2, 1944

To the chief of Headquarters of Counterespionage NKO "Smersh"

Commissioner of State Security of the Second Rank

comrade ABAKUMOV

Moscow

During the investigation process with regard to the case about the group of the arrested PLEKAVIČUS, JANIZKAS, GERIKAS and STAČKUS, members of the so-called organization of German activists that acted in the city of Žagare of the Lithuanian SSR, it was established:

members of the organization conducted mass executions of the Soviet civilians in a park in the north-east suburb, 300 meters from Žagare, in the western suburb 1 km away on the area of the Jewish cemetery and in 2 km north-east from a hamlet in the suburb of the Lithuanian cemetery.

The medico-legal examining group opened the graves and exhumed 2,448 corpses from there, among which the following were revealed:

Corpses of men – 574

Corpses of women – 1,225

Corpses of children under 15 – 675

Corpses of babies – 24

Eight corpses of shot communists were extracted from grave 3 and recognized by their close relatives.

The commission has established that the destruction of the Soviet civilians took place in August – September, 1941, by mass executions from rifles, submachine guns and pistols.

Up to 50 corpses that were extracted from the graves have no traces of wounds and were obviously buried alive.

The investigation with regard to this case is coming to an end and will be submitted for consideration to the court-martial.

*Head of Department of Counterespionage "Smersh" of the 1st Baltic Front
General-Lieutenant KHANNIKOV*

20498/2

Central Archive of FSB of Russia. Fund 100. List 11. File 1. Pages 32–33.
Original. Typescript.

18.

REPORTS OF SECURITY POLICE ON THE SITUATION IN LITHUANIA

July, 1941

Former Lithuanian parties started carrying out propaganda activities among the civilians trying to gain new supporters. This isn't actually yet a propaganda activity, but only an attempt to establish contact. Although there is the Christian Democrat camp which seems to be most active. These circles need to be looked after in the appropriate way. They managed to win over the Catholic bishop BRIZGYS, who has a significant position among the Lithuanian clergy. Bishop BRIZGYS has a friendly attitude towards Germany and is in tight contact with general RASTIKIS, who is an intermediary here between the Lithuanian people and Germany from the church side. BRIZGYS is even ready to avowedly call the Catholics of Lithuania on behalf of the church for loyal attitude and cooperation with Germany.

And WOLDEMARAS's supporters are becoming more and more active. They completely defy general RASTIKIS for being that close to the Christian Democrat circles. They aspire to the limited independence of Lithuania, i.e. they support the political, cultural and economic freedom, but they refuse the realization of their own foreign policy. They wish to take over the management of the foreign policy to the Great German Reich, and promise that it will bring only only profit. To immediately clear up the political situation in Kovno [Kaunas] to preserve calmness and order, general RASTIKIS will immediately dismiss the provisional Lithuanian government. He will create the Lithuanian working group only to provide him with information. Selection of new members will be his prerogative.

On orders of the German field commandant's office of June 28, [1941], partisans [the forest brothers] were disarmed in Kovno and its vicinities. Despite it, to make sure of their readiness for cooperation, the field commandant's office created an auxiliary police group of 5 companies formed of politically reliable partisans. Two companies were sent under command of the task group. One of them is guarding the concentration camp for Jews created in Fort 7 of the Kovno fortress and carries out executions there while other companies, with the consent of the field commandants office of the task command, are used for solving problems of the order police. Besides, these companies guard the prisons situated in Kovno.

Disarmament of partisans created one more focus of tension at the present moment in Kovno. [...] After their disarmament, they remained without any means and often even without a roof over their heads, there's still no understanding how they would be integrated into the working process. To support their positive attitude towards Germans, the field commandant's office suggests giving preference to the partisans when distributing tasks and bread [...].

Now the task team has become more closely familiarized with the situation in Vilnius. The main representative across Vilnius is a Lithuanian lieutenant colonel SPOKKEVICIUS, the commandant is a Lithuanian major VERTELIS, his substitute is lieutenant colonel VITKUS. The German military instances have given full independence to Lithuanians and even support in their activities. There are about 3,000 Lithuanian soldiers in Vilnius at the moment, among them about 200 officers, who were trained and armed under the former Lithuanian charter. Mostly they are the Lithuanians, who served in the Russian army, and deserted when the war broke out.

For civil control in Vilnius the Lithuanian party created a committee that is being supervised over by professors ZAKEVISIUS and JUZGUTIS. And this committee has received wide freedom of action from the German military authorities. Besides, a police group under the command of ISKAUSKAS was created in Vilnius which wears Lithuanian uniform and is armed with pistols. Solving problems of the security police was delegated to the former Lithuanian officials of the state security police.

Russian State Military Archive. Fund 500–k. List 1. File 756. Pages 3–5.
Copy. Typescript. Translated from German.

19.

ORDER OF THE 1ST DEPARTMENT OF RSHA TO COMMANDERS OF TASK GROUPS “A”–“D”

January 19, 1942, Berlin

The general case with the staff in the Reich is that meanwhile it is impossible to strengthen the security police in the east by German forces. Despite variance which existed at the beginning, now it is necessary to think of strengthening of the security police by appropriate local residents.

Therefore, I ask to find out, whether there are some elements in the regions of your task groups that are appropriate by their origin and spirit to be engaged in special units, which are to supplement the security police.

Dispositions, training and bringing to action should be in accordance with the so-called “security groups” created in the Reichskommissariat in Ostland, a term which should be appropriate with regard to groups of security police, but with the specification “security police”.

The quantitative structure of these security groups of security police depends on the local conditions. One should note that not only their command is entrusted to the German security police, but the German security police should also carry out constant control over these groups. These formations could only be brought to action if the staff of the security police can assume supervision over the operation. The correlation of forces 1:1 between task group “A” and security groups that was established earlier should be increased.

Concerning the regimentals and the armaments of the security groups I should point to the existence of auxiliary sources that we have at our disposal in the occupied eastern areas, as the delivery of materials from the Reich is impossible.

As for the salary, we should proceed from the fact that it cannot in any case be the same as the salary set for Germans.

Their salary should be considerably smaller. The high prices that we are facing now in the country should not be the reason to pay the staff of security groups at a high rate that could not later be dropped without facing expressions of discontent.

Payments should not exceed 1/3 of the sum received by the German auxiliary police [...].

SIGNATURE

20.

**ORDER OF THE WEHRMACHT SUPREME COMMAND
ABOUT STATEMENTS OF UKRAINIANS AND BALTS
ABOUT THE GERMAN WEHRMACHT DRAFT**

Strictly confidential

February 23, 1942

Fuhrer Headquarters

0078/42

Deliver to:

*Main command of land forces, Luftwaffe Commander,
Command of the Navy, Command of Ostland, Command in Ukraine,
Command of Southeast, Command of Wehrmacht: Abver
Foreign Department, 2 Departments, 3 Department
The general army Department, Economical Department
Department of press and propaganda
To officer of communication at the general-governor of Krakow
To Wehrmacht operational headquarter*

Concerns: statements of Ukrainians and Balts about the German Wehrmacht draft.

The number of cases has increased when Ukrainians and Balts from various social groups address to Führer with reports and loyal telegrams which they almost always express their desire to participate, as soon as possible, in the struggle against Bolshevism.

Führer has forbidden creating formations from local residents to be used at the front. Reichsführer SS has only allowed to form groups of police self-defense in Reichskommissariat from local residents in the form of local police organizations. In order not to offend or push away the creative forces in these areas by full aversion or absence of any reaction to such statements, and on the contrary, in order to link them to Germany with such courtesy, without assuming any political obligations, such statements are to be responded in the following way:

There is no need in military assistance. Much more can be done for achieving the common goal and in military interests if there are people ready to carry service of establishing order and security on the occupied territories.

For this purpose, Führer and Supreme Commander of Wehrmacht have enacted that all of these forces should be gathered under the supervision of Reichsführer SS.

Chief of Main Command of Wehrmacht.

A. VON BUTTLAR

Copy is correct: MAJOR DISSEL

Russian State military Archive. Fund 500–k. List 1. File 25. Page 348 (with overleaf).
A copy of a copy. Translated from German.

21.

INFORMATION FROM THE MEŽEIKIAI RO MGB OF THE KLAIPEDA OBLAST ABOUT THE MEŽEIKIAI INSURGENT GROUP THAT PARTICIPATED IN MASS DESTRUCTION OF SOVIET FUNCTIONARIES AND JEWS IN 1941

Not earlier than December, 1944

In accordance with the archival data, evidences of arrested members of the Mežeikiai insurgent group: MISJUNAS Stasis, JAZBUTIS Ionas, JASJULIS Ljudas, SHILINIS Vladas, ČAPAS Adolfas, PIENGOLDAS Garoldas, GAGNAS Jaronimas, etc., and evidences of witnesses: PETRAUSKJTE Stasi, IGNOTAVIČUTE Nastasia, KINČENAS Zenonas, GEDVILAS Povilas, etc. it's been established that underground nationalistic organizations were created in 1940 in Mežeikiai and villages nearby, which had the aim to overthrow the Soviet regime in Lithuania by force of arms, timing the revolt so that it coincides with the onset of the war between Germany and the Soviet Union.

So, a former captain of the Lithuanian army TOTILAS created one of these insurgent groups in the Mežeikiai village of the Mežeikiai Volost. In the location of the railway station in Mežeikiai, MILJUNAS raised the second insurgent group; in the location of the old station, TUKIS Ionas created the third insurgent group. The underground organization organized by KENSTAVIČUS Antanas in the downtown area was arrested one month before the war.

A few days before the war, the members of the underground organization headed by MILJUNAS spread anti-soviet leaflets in the city of Mežeikiai, they called for the armed struggle against the Soviet regime.

On the first days when Germany attacked the Soviet Union, on June 22, 1941, members of these underground organizations began their struggle against the Soviet regime with weapons in their hands, they seized power in Mežeikiai and started their savage punishment of the Soviet party active and citizens of the Jewish nationality.

The insurgent groups included about 300 people, mainly the kulak elements, members of Šaulist organizations and persons with a hostile attitude towards the Soviet power.

The general management of the insurgent groups was headed by the so-called nationalist party, including TOTILAS, MILJUNAS, FABPONA VIČUS, TUMAS, TUKIS, JANUSHKIS, JAZBUTIS, KENSTAVIČUS, BUTKUS, IONUSHAS, and others.

After seizing power, under the instruction of the nationalist party headquarters, the members of insurgent group arrested nearly 200 people of the Soviet party active and about 2.5 thousand Jewish citizens.

Most of the Soviet party activists, first in a group of 68 men, and then in small groups, were shot in July and August, 1941 on the Jewish cemetery near the Venta River, 3 km from Mežeikiai. Among the shot Soviet activists were: NOVIKOV, SKACHKOV, PETRAUSKAS, IGNOTAS, DUNAEV, MURNIKOV, STRAKŠAS, and others.

Before the execution, the members of the insurgent group brutally tortured the arrested, beating them with butts, breaking out their hands.

In the same place, in July and August, 1941, about 3 thousand citizens of the Jewish nationality, who had lived in Mežeikiai were shot. From among the executed families LEYBOVICH, GIRŠAS, GIEMAS, BRONSEN and others are known, and a total of about 4 thousand people were shot at the Jewish cemetery near the Venta River.

During the executions of the Jewish population, several insurgents from among the members of the insurgent group were chosen to finish off the people in the pits who weren't killed during the execution.

Among the most active members of the insurgent group that operated in Mežeikiai and took part in arrests and executions of the Soviet citizens, the following can be named: GADEYKIS, KALINAUSKAS, ČAPAS, BJSULIS, IVANAUSKAS, NORWEISHIS, TUKIS, BAGDANOVICH, SIRTAUTAS, MALEČKAS, VALANTINAS, WEIČKUS, GUDAVIČUS, IONUŠAS, WISHTORTAS, ANDRJULIS, KRIJUST, LEBEKIS, JURKUNAS, SABAČANSKAS, and others, and also the heads of the executions FABPONAVIČUS, WEITKUS, STANJAVIČUS, BUTKUS, and others.

At the end of August, 1941, insurgent groups were disbanded. A part of the top executives received the supervising posts in police, saugumas, city and district councils, commandant's office and other establishments. The rank of the insurgent groups completed the police, and the auxiliary police (Pagelbine police) was created, and others went to service in the German army.

In 1944, as the Germans were retreating from the Lithuanian SSR, some of the insurgents escaped with them, others disappeared, and a part of them operated underground and later joined gangs.

Chief of the Mežeikiai RO MGB of the Klaipeda Oblast, Major [...]

22.

ACT ON CRIMES AND ATROCITIES OF FASCIST AGGRESSORS AND THEIR ACCOMPLICES IN THE CITY OF MEŽEIKIAI OF THE LITHUANIAN SSR

December 7, 1944

Mežeikiai

We, the undersigned: Military public prosecutor of unit 49573 captain of justice ALEKSEEV, public prosecutor of the Mežeikiai Uyezd GERZHENIS, judge of the Mežeikiai Uyezd DAUJOTA, chief of the Mežeikiai Uyezd Department of People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs senior lieutenant of state security [...], secretary of the Mežeikiai U.C. (Uyezd Committee) of the CP(B) (Communist Party (Bolsheviks)) of Lithuania KONDROTAS and chairman of the Mežeikiai Uyezd Executive Committee KRAMPIS, representatives of unit 49573 senior lieutenant OLENEV and senior lieutenant of state security LISIN, abbot of the Catholic church of Mežeikiai RASHIMAS V.V., pathologist of unit 92546 major of medical service FEDOROV, chief of health service of unit 49573 major of medical service ZHAROV, medico-legal expert of the Mežeikiai Uyezd TAUTVAJSHIS P.I. have made this statement about the following:

The above-named commission has examined the area of the city of Mežeikiai, near the bridge over the Ventu River, on the Jewish cemetery, near the sandpit, behind the forest warden's hut, at a distance of 3 km from the city. Mass violence against Soviet citizens took place in the above area on orders of the German military command, during the occupation of Lithuania by the German troops in 1941, and before the retreat of the German troops from the city of Mežeikiai in 1944, as confirmed by interrogations of eyewitnesses, identification of corpses, and during the opening of the graves.

During the inspection the commission revealed and opened 5 graves on the indicated area.

Grave 1 – length – 17 m, width – 4 m, depth – 5 m. Human bones of different ages were found in the grave mixed with lime, remains of shoes and clothes, and also personal things, such as mugs, bags, and so forth.

Grave 2 – length – 14 m, width – 4 m, depth – 1.6 m. Bones of corpses of different ages were also found in it, copiously mixed with lime.

Grave 3 – length – 40 m, width – 5 m, depth – 1.8 m. In the indicated grave a huge quantity of corpses was revealed, mostly of women and children, lying one on another. Corpses of children in a jumble with adult corpses, some of the

corpses were exhumed for medico-legal inspection. A total of over 1,800 people were buried in this tomb.

Grave 4 – length – 14 m, width – 3.5 m, depth – 2 m. In the indicated grave, completely decayed corpses were discovered, some remains of clothes lying without order.

Grave 5 – length – 4.5 m, width – 2.5 m, depth – 1.5 m. In the indicated grave, 16 corpses, shot by fascist aggressors and their accomplices on August 6, 1944, were found and extracted for medico-legal inspection. Upon the inspection, it was established: 12 male corpses, 4 female. All of them were in underwear, in condition of insignificant decomposition. The medico-legal examination established that 6 corpses had a blunt penetrating gunshot wound with the inlet wound in the forehead area, in one case – a penetrating gunshot wound in the chest.

The other 9 corpses had extensive damages to the skull, obviously, as a result of an blow by some heavy subject, (rifle butt, shovel). Besides, a closed fracture of the right shoulder was discovered on one of the female corpses. From among the buried in this grave, relatives and friends identified:

1. NOVIKOVA Elizaveta Ivanovna, 63 years old, recognized her husband NOVIKOV Alexey Alekseevich, 75 years old.

2. LAVBA Emilia, 53 years, recognized her daughter Martha, 25 years old. The latter was the wife of lieutenant K.L.MEDONOV, she is survived by a three-year-old son.

3. Friends and fellow-villagers, identified the evacuated from the Leningrad Oblast, Novgorodski area, Podberetsky farm, Ugolki village, of the Vostok collective farm MARKOVA Raisa, 18, and SHTYKOVA Nina, 18. Fellow-villagers witnesses MELNIKOVA Alexandra Vasilevna and KIRILOVA Valentina Petrovna evidenced that SHTYKOVA and MARKOVA had been taken from the Leningrad Oblast by the Germans to Mežeikiai together with them, and before the German troops retreated, they were captured by secret police and shot on August 6, 1944.

4. PETRAUSKENE Rozalia, 45 years old, recognized her son PETRAUSKAS Vincas, 18 years old.

DUNAEVA Stefaniya, during the interrogation by the commission, evidenced that in 1941, the Germans had been carrying out executions of the population and Soviet activists for three days, and the shooting was so intensive as though it was a battle.

Witness DUNAEVA rushed to the place of execution, for her son – DUNAEV Nikolay, a Komsomol member, had been taken there and shot.

Fourteen corpses were extracted from the 3rd grave for medico-legal examination, among them 2 corpses of 8–6 year-old children and 12 female bodies, they were well preserved owing to the absence of lime in the tomb, and because of the dry sandy soil. Many lacerated wounds by various explosive bullets were found in the skull area of the corpses. The wound in the face and the neck of one of the children's corpse evidences that in this case the instrument of destruction was a shovel.

In total over 4,000 corpses were found buried in the revealed graves.

The main culprits of the mass annihilation of citizens are: the fascist military command, manager of the Baltic region LOZE, commissioner of civil authorities of Lithuania prince FONRENTELN, Gebitskommisar GEBEKKE, chief of secret police FABINAVIČUS, and also the direct initiators: SCHMITAS, WOLDEMARAS, VILGELMOVICH, GADEIKIS, KALANAUSKAS and others, for what they should be responsible.

The place was photographed, a drawing of the site was made.

*Correctly: Chief Officer of the Criminal Investigation Department of the
Mežeikiai Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Lit. SSR – Captain [...]*

The original of the act is in cases of Executive Committee
of the City Soviet of People's Deputies.

23.

**TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF ŠIDLAUSKIS E.,
MEMBER OF THE BAND THAT OPERATED
IN THE AREA OF THE MEŽEIKIAI UYEZD
IN LITHUANIA SINCE JUNE, 1941**

January 15, 1945

I, inspector DCI “Smersh” of the 10th Guards army guard captain [...], in presence of a translator, senior guard sergeant [...] interrogated as an accused ŠIDLAUSKIS Enas Enasovich

Interrogation began at 10 o'clock.

Question: You are accused pursuant to Clause 58–1 of the UK [Criminal code] RSFSR. Do you admit being guilty of the charges against you?

The answer: Yes, I admit being guilty of the charges against me pursuant to Clause 58–1 “a” and 58–11 of the UK RSFSR. I admit that in 1941, in June, during the temporary retreat of the Soviet army from the territory of Lithuania because of the German attack on the USSR, I lived on the territory of Lithuania, and voluntarily entered a terrorist band, consisting of approximately 30 people. This terrorist band was organized on June 23, 1941, of persons incited against the Soviet power.

The indicated terrorist band was headed by JUKAUSKIS Domas and ŽILINSKIS Zigmąs, the band operated on the territories of Vekslaikiai and Laizuvaikiai Volosts, Mežeikiai Uyezd (Lithuania).

The members of this terrorist band were:

1. JUKAUSKIS Domas, approximately 35–37 years old, I don't know his birthplace, when the terrorist band was operating, he temporarily lived in a manor of his father in the Sprodi village, Laizuvaikiai Volost, Mežeikiai Uyezd (Lithuania), from a family of peasants-kulaks, Lithuanian, citizen of the USSR.

Features: average height, solid, brown-haired, I don't remember any other features. Head of the indicated terrorist group.

2. ŽILINSKIS Zigmąs, approximately 23 years old, native and resident of the Purveni village, Vekslaikiai Volost, Mežeikiai Uyezd, from a family of peasants, Lithuanian, citizen of the USSR.

Features: – quite tall, standard figure, fair hair, I don't remember any other signs, together with JUKAUSKIS headed the mentioned terrorist band.

The members of this group:

3. JUKAUSKIS, I don't know his name or patronymic, JUKAUSKIS Domas's brother, lived together with him.

Features: – approximately 30 years old, average height, standard figure, I don't remember any other features.

4. ŠILINIS Bronis, approximately 30 years old, from a family of peasants, a Lithuanian, citizen of the USSR, resident of the Daupgeriai village, of the Laizuvaikiai Volost, Mežeikiai Uyezd (Lithuania).

Signs: below average height, standard figure, I don't remember any other signs.

5. ŠILINIS Jurgis (the brother of ŠILINIS Bronis), approximately 50 years old, resident of the Dauteriai village [Daupgeriai], of the Laizuvaikiai Volost, from a family of peasants, Lithuanian, citizen of the USSR.

Features: below average height, standard figure, I don't remember any other features.

6. ŠIMKUS, approximately 30 years old, resident of the Laijuva village, of the Mežeikiai Uyezd (Lithuania), Lithuanian, citizen of the USSR.

Features: – average height, standard figure, brunette, I don't remember any other features.

7. VIZGAUDIS (I don't know the name and the patronymic), approximately 40 years old, from a family of peasants, Lithuanian, citizen of the USSR, resident of the Daupgeriai village of the Laizuvaikiai Volost.

Features: above average height, standard figure, brunette, I don't remember any other features.

8. JAROŠUNAS Bronis (I'm not sure if I remember the name correctly), approximately 35 years old, from a family of peasants, Lithuanian, citizen of the USSR, resident of the Laizuva borough.

Features: below average height, standard figure, blonde, I don't remember any other features.

I do not remember the other members' names or last names.

I do not know, where the above-mentioned members of the terrorist band are now, I believe they may be hiding somewhere in the area of their residences. I was personally involved in this terrorist group by ŽILINSKIS and JUKAUSKIS Domas.

On June 23, 1941, they came to my house and offered me to enter the terrorist band. As I was dissatisfied with the Soviet power, because in 1940, 40 hectares of land were confiscated from me and 11 heads of cattle were confiscated for non-payment of the state tax, I voluntarily entered the mentioned terrorist band.

The heads of this band JUKAUSKIS and ŽILINSKIS gathered all members of the mentioned band in the house of the former. These chiefs ordered us to struggle, ostensibly, for the independent Lithuania, thus, we were instructed to arrange ambushes, to fire at and arrest Soviet military men, militiamen, communists, Komsomol members and other Soviet activists and also to arrest citizens of the Jewish nationality. We, the members of the mentioned gang, executed all this.

My practical activity against the Soviet regime, as well as of my accomplices of the mentioned terrorist band was that on June 23, 1941 we, having noticed from the place of ambush an automobile passing from the Antonava village to the Pakanami village, Vekslaičiai Volost, Mežeikiai Uyezd, shot at it. I fired twice at the car. At that time two unknown persons ran from this vehicle to the forest, we shot at them also, but whether they were killed or not, I don't know, as no one of us went to the forest where those people ran.

The vehicle was fired at from rifles and pistols (service). I had a rifle which I got after my father died in 1940.

The vehicle was taken by JUKAUSKIS and a member of the band – KONČUS (I don't know his name or patronymic), approximately 23 years old, resident of the Lajūva borough, a post office employee, Lithuanian, citizen of the USSR.

Features: average height, thin, chestnut-coloured hair. I don't remember any other features. I do not know where he is now,

On the same day, i.e. on June 23, 1941 we arranged an attack on the Laizuvaikiai Volost executive committee, but we didn't find anyone from the employees of this executive committee, so we picked up the documents and loaded them on the car of the above-mentioned unknown persons. JUKAUSKIS and KONČUS took away these documents somewhere. And as we attacked the Volost executive committee we also fired at two trucks with Soviet soldiers that were passing by: VECGAUDIS and I were firing at these lorries, I didn't notice who else was shooting. I don't know whether there were any victims from among the Soviet soldiers, as these vehicles left in the direction of the Lithuanian-Latvian border.

From June, 24 till June, 27, 1941, we were hiding in the forest, being afraid, that Soviet military units that were passing by would catch and shoot us down.

On June 27, 1941, the mentioned terrorist band gathered for the night in ŽILINSKIS Zigmās's house in the Purveni village, where we arranged a binge (drank vodka and beer). In the morning of the next day, i.e. on June 28, 1941, someone of the members of the mentioned band captured two Soviet citizens, I do not know their last names, who, as I later found out from a resident of the Antanua village of the Veksnaikiai Volost citizen GEDRAITIS Bronis, were shot in the location of villages Purveny and Antonau. Though, GEDRAITIS didn't tell me who shot these people, so I don't know.

On the same day, i.e. about June 27 or 28, 1941 the above band with the participation of people from others bands, fired at three vehicles that were passing by with militiamen and citizens in civilian clothes. We fired at these two vehicles from 150–200 m away. This battle also happened near the Purveni village. There were no victims from among the gang, and I did not notice whether there were any victims from among the militiamen and the people going with them. Militiamen captured our car in this battle, the one that we had captured from the two above-mentioned unknown persons on June 23, 1941.

When the battle stopped, all the vehicles with the militiamen left in the direction of the place called Akmiane.

As in the cases of firing at the Soviet citizens mentioned above, I was also shooting the militiamen from a German or Czechoslovak rifle which I had picked up near the automobile that we captured on June 23, 1941 (about what I have evidenced above).

Since about June 27 or 28, 1941 within a week we, the members of the terrorist group, were hiding in the forest in the area of the Antonau village, Veksnaikiai Volost, again afraid of an ambush from the Soviet troops.

For this period we did not make any attacks or arrests. We took groceries from local citizens.

At the beginning of July, 1941, we arrived from the forest to the Laiguviai borough (Volost) where we arranged the headquarters of the terrorist band which instructed us to arrest Soviet activists, therefore members of the gang arrested approximately 100 men, among whom there were militiamen, communists, Komsomol members and citizens of the Jewish nationality. Some of the arrested persons were freed, but communists and citizens of the Jewish nationality were departed to Mogeiki (Lithuania), where they were shot by the German authorities.

I, with the participation of bandits ŠIMKU and ŠILINIS, personally arrested:

1. EČUS, I don't know the name and the patronymic, former militia chief of militias of the Veksnaikiai Volost, lived in the Tirksliai village (Volost) of the Mežeikiai Uyezd. I do not know, where he is now.
2. STONIS, I don't know the name and the patronymic, resident of the Gailishki village, Laiguviai Volost. I don't know, where he is now and what he had been doing before.
3. GUJAUSKAITE (I don't know the name and the patronymic), resident of the Palaijupe village, Laiguviai Volost, I do not know, where she is now.
4. STRAJAS (I don't know the name and the patronymic).
5. ŠAPŠKIS (I don't know the name and the patronymic).

They are Soviet citizens of the Jewish nationality, who lived in the Laiguviai borough, all of them were later shot by Germans in Mežeikiai (Lithuania).

Besides, I guarded arrested communists and other Soviet activists for about a week (7 days), I don't know their last names, and also guarded the arrested Jewish citizens – men, women, old men and children that were imprisoned in the Laiguviai Synagogue, who were subsequently sent to Mežeikiai and shot there by the German authorities, but I did not escort these arrested people to the execution.

Later on after the establishment of police in Laiguviai, I was sent home. My rifle was taken from me as I was let go.

Before the coming of the Red Army to our district I lived in my house and did work about the house, as the Red Army came I started hiding in the forest, afraid, that I would be arrested by the Soviet authorities for my crimes. I came home for the nights.

Interrogation ended at 10.15 p.m.

Transcript of interrogation was read to me in translation into the Lithuanian language, it was written down from my words correctly.

ŠIDLAUSKIS

Translated: Senior Guard Sergeant [...]

Interrogated: Inspector DCI "Smersh" of the 10th Guards Army

Guards Captain [...]

24.

**TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF ŽILINEKIS K.K.
ABOUT ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNTER-
REVOLUTIONARY NATIONALISTIC ARMED GROUP
THAT WAS OPERATING IN 1941 ON THE TERRITORY
OF THE MOSEDIS VOLOST**

November 5, 1944

I, senior inspector of DCI “Smersh” 417 SSKOSD captain [...] with the participation of a Red Army translator of field mail unit 13231 [...] on this day interrogated as an accused

ŽILINEKIS Kazis Kazisovich, born in 1909. Native of the Nauioki village, Mosedis Volost, Kretinga Uyezd, the Lithuanian SSR, Lithuanian, citizen of the USSR, from a family of farmers, an employee of the Volost council of the Mosedis Volosts, non-party member, from 1934 to 1940 inclusive – a member of a nationalistic organization “Šauliai jung,” self-educated, according to his words, wasn’t previously convicted, married, family of 3 persons, never was on military service, resident of the Mosedis borough of the Kretinga Uyezd, the Lithuanian SSR.

Interrogation began at 9.05.p.m.

Ended at 2:25

Translator is warned about the responsibility for incorrectness of the translation in accordance with Clause 95 of UK [Criminal Code] of RSFSR. Is acquainted with content of the law.

SIGNATURE

Question: On previous interrogations, you named a number of active members of the counter-revolutionary nationalistic armed group that was operating in 1941, in June – September on the territory of the Mosedis Volost against the Red Army and the Soviet regime in the Lithuanian SSR, for the purpose of overthrowing the latter and reestablishing the bourgeois-landowner regime in Lithuania.

The investigation demands that you name all members of the group and give detailed testimonies about their counter-revolutionary activity.

Answer: Personally I, as a member of the Lithuanian counter-revolutionary nationalistic armed group that was operating under the command of the commander of the group DANILUNOS in June – September, 1941 on the territory of the Mosedis Volost against the Red Army and the Soviet regime for the purpose of overthrowing the latter in the Lithuanian SSR and reestablishment

of the old Smetona regime, know the following active members of the same group:

1. DANILUNOS Edwardo, about 25 years old, resident of the Kraku village, Mosedis Volost, of the Kretingski Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR, reserve commander of the Lithuanian army in the rank of junior lieutenant, studied in the Kovensk university, but I don't know whether he graduated it. He was the organizer and commander of the group, had been in charge of the group since it was organized and up to its liquidation, i.e. since June 23, 1941, up to mid-September of the same year. Under his management, the group conducted active struggle against the Soviet regime and the Red Army, in particular, organized and conducted armed attacks on small-sized Red Army groups, captured and disarmed them, and armed the group with this weapon, conducted mass arrests of the Soviet-and-party active members, approximately 100 people, of whom three people, JALGERIS Pranas, PAJAUSKAS and one more Soviet worker from the Darbenai Volost were shot by the group without investigation or trial. Besides, 27 families of the Jewish nationality were arrested, including women, old men and children. From conversations of the members of the group and local residents, I heard that all the Jews were shot after they had been driven to Kretinga. A resident of Mosedis, I know the following families among the arrested: IOSERIS – 5, NUKA – 4, MIKLEMAN Ioskin – 4, PRISHMAN Motki – 4, KLAUKE – 6, PROKAS – 5, ZDRELKIS – 3, PIENKIS– 2, MAUSHKIS – I don't know how many members of the family, BAKARELIS – 3, DIKIND Noskis – 4, JADINSKIS Ionkedis – 3, KREVIZEITE – 1, HOLES Lieser – 4, LOVEKI, LEHBNIS – 3, MEERIS – 2, ESHKIS – 3–4, IONKELIS – 1, FRUMAS – 4, GITKINDE Dokis – 4, GITKIND Šikis – 2, RUBIN Maushki – 5, AMOSHUS – I don't know how many members of the family, LEIBE Šlemkis – 2, LEIBE – 4, SHOMANAS– 4. All of them were taken from the Synagogues in Mosedis (there was a ghetto) to Kretinga on carts, which had been taken by DANILJUNOS from the Volost villages. In August, 1944 DANILJUNOS organized a volunteer battalion, where he recruited former policemen, members of the group who struggled against the Soviet regime and other elements, who were hostile to the Soviet regime, from four Volosts: the Mosedis Volost, Škuodas Volost, Darbenai Volost and Salantai Volost. This battalion was sent by DANILJUNOS to the Plunge borough where it was stationed in a household school. DANILJUNOS himself had disappeared from Mosedis one day before the Red Army came and I don't know where he is now.
2. KUDARAUSKAS Iozes, 34 years old, teacher of a Mosedis Volost school, lived in Mosedis, was the organizer of the group and deputy commander of the group of DANILJUNOS. He had left Mosedis one month before the Red Army units came but I don't know where.

3. ŠRAPNEUČKIS Petras, about 30 years old, resident of Mosedis, employee of the executive regiment, was a clerk of the Volost executive committee under Smetona. Organizer of group and assistant commander of the group of DANILJUNOS. He had left Mosedis three days before the Red Army came but I don't know where.
4. BENETIS Adolf, 30 years old, resident of the Daukshi village of the Mosedis Volost, personally participated in mass arrests committed by the group, and abused the arrested Soviet citizens of the Jewish nationality, made them run along the street, beat and practised various humiliating sneers. Was in the group from the moment of its organization up to the liquidation. I don't know where he is now.
5. DANILO Pranas, about 24 years old, resident of the Bakstu village of the Mosedis Volost, was in the group from the first days of its organization, participated in mass arrests of Soviet citizens, escorted arrested Jews to work, I don't know where DANILO is now.
6. PETRAUSKAS (I do not know his first name), about 30 years old, resident of the Kulali village, was in the group from the first days, personally participated in arrests of Soviet citizens, in particular, once I saw him bring RAZMAS Juzopad, who he had arrested in Kulali Šersej of the Mosedis Volost, RAZMAS was wounded by PETRAUSKAS during the arrest. I don't know where he is now.
7. GUOBIS (I do not know his first name), resident of the Gardgu hamlet of the Lithuanian SSR, an activist in the group. In Mosedis lived in the house of surveyor VEIČAITIS where he was in training after finishing the school of surveyors. GUOBIS, is approximately 23–24 years old, a tall man, broad-shouldered, full figure, svelte, with a fleshy, red face, flat nose, fair hair, combs his hair back, wide eyebrows. Don't know where he is now.
8. BALTRUTIS Stasis, 30 years old, resident of the Dauksia village in the Mosedis Volost, member of the group, personally arrested Soviet citizens, in particular resident of the Šakelia village – PAVLOVSKIS Julis and his son PAVLOVSKIS Julis Julisovich. I do not know his whereabouts.
9. DIKARAS Vladas, resident of the Nevocu village in the Mosedis Volosts, member of the group, together with me personally participated in the arrest of PAVLOVSKIS Julis and his son PAVLOVSKIS Julis Julisovich. I do not know his whereabouts.
10. LULIS (I don't know his first name), resident of the Kraku village in the Mosedis Volost, member of the group, personally participated in the arrest of son and father PAVLOVSKIS, residents of the Šakelia village in the Mosedis Volost.

11. ZUBE Iozes, resident of the Krakū village in the Mosėdis Volost, together with me personally participated in arrests of Soviet citizens, so, together with me he arrested son and father PAVLOVSKIS residents of the Šakelia village in the Mosėdis Volost.
12. KAJIS Pranas, resident of the Teveljia village of the Mosėdis Volost, personally participated in arrests of Soviet citizens, in particular together with me arrested PAVLOVSKIS Julis and his son PAVLOVSKIS Julis Julisovich, residents of the Sakelia village in the Mosėdis Volost.
13. SEMETA Pranes, resident of the Igoria village of the Mosėdis Volost, a member of the group, personally participated in arrests of Soviet citizens, in particular in the arrest of residents the Šakelia village PAVLOVSKIS Julis and his son PAVLOVSKIS Julis Julisovich, where I was also present.
14. SKEREIS Ozes, resident of the Dauksia village in the Mosėdis Volost, a member of the group and personally participated in the arrests of Soviet citizens, in particular together with me he arrested residents of the Šakelia village – son and father PAVLOVSKIS.
15. PLAISINIS Kazis, resident of the Dauksia village in the Mosėdis Volost, member of the group.
16. STRELCANUS (I don't know name his name), resident of the Dauksia village in the Mosėdis Volost, a teacher of an agricultural school, a member of the group.
17. PAVLOSKIS Kazis, resident of the Udraliu village in the Mosėdis Volost, member of the group.
18. DOMARKAS Iozes, resident of the Igoria village of the Mosėdis Volost, a member of the group.
19. LEKNUEV Kostas, resident of the Udraliu village in the Mosėdis Volost, member of the group.
20. GURAUŠKAS Ionas, resident of the Bibeliški village in the Mosėdis Volost, member of the group.
21. GURAUŠKAS Kazis, resident of the Bibeliški village in the Mosėdis Volost, member of the group.
22. MAJRAMAS Ionas, resident of the Plausnei in the Mosėdis Volost, member of the group.
23. PEMKUS (I don't know his first name) resident of the Arela in the Mosėdis Volost, member of the group, second-in-command of the group after DANILJUNOS.

24. SIMKUS Stesis, resident of the Šauklu village in the Mosedis Volost, member of the group.
25. MARKOVSKIS Petras, resident of the Nauiokai village in the Mosedis Volost, member of the group.
26. LUKOSIS (I don't know his first name), resident of the Dauksu village in the Mosedis Volost, member of the group.
27. SIMKUS Pranas, resident of the Kraku village in the Mosedis Volost, member of the group.
28. PAVLOSKIS (I don't know his first name), resident of the Areli village in the Mosedis Volost, member of the group.
29. DABRIS Kostas, resident of the Mosedis borough, an active member of the group.
30. SALIS Vladas, resident of the Jalgeriai village, member of the group.
31. LAUREČKIS Aleksas, resident of the Mosedis borough, member of the group.
32. LAUREČKIS Petras, resident of the Nauiokai village in the Mosedis Volost, member of the group.
33. PREALGAUSKAS Leonas, resident of the Igoria village of the Mosedis Volost, member of the group.
34. VASILIAUSKAS Kazis, resident of the Mosedis borough, member of the group and a policeman.
35. GRIČKUS Ionas, resident of the Igoria village of the Mosedis Volost, member of the group.
36. BUDRIKIS Antonas, resident of the Udrala village of the Mosedis Volost, member of the group.
37. ROIKA Kazis, resident of the [D]Jarbokai village of the Mosedis Volost, member of the group.
38. PUCKORIS Kazis, resident of the Nevocu village of the Mosedis Volost, member of the group.
39. DOBROVOLSKAS Ionas, resident of the Mosedis village, member of the group and a policeman.
40. KASTAUNAS Iozas, resident of the Mosedis borough, member of the group.
41. MAIORAS Stasis, resident of the Igoria village of the Mosedis Volost, member of the group.

42. RUSIS Vitonas, resident of the Mosedis borough, member of the group.
43. LEILENAS Vugustas, resident of the Mosedis borough, member of the group.
44. BRAZDEIKIS Kazis, resident of the Šauklia village in the Mosedis Volost, member of the group, a policeman.
45. RAMONAS Ionas, resident of the Arela village of the Mosedis Volost, member of the group.
46. APOLSKIS (I don't know his first name), resident of the Mosedis borough, member of the group.
47. KLOVA Kostas, resident of the Nauiokai village in the Mosedis Volost, member of the group.
48. ZOBERNIS (I don't know his first name), resident of the Igoria village of the Mosedis Volost, member of the group.
49. ZOBERNIS Alfons, resident of the Kusai village of the Mosedis Volost, member of the group.
50. UJENDENES Antonas resident of the Igoria village of the Mosedis Volost, member of the group.
51. KAUBRE Ionas, resident of the Sauklia village in the Mosedis Volost, member of the group.
52. KAKSTIS (I don't know his first name), resident of the Kulaliu village of the Mosedis Volost, member of the group.
53. MIČKUS (I don't know his first name), resident of the Serksniu village of the Mosedis Volost, member of the group.

Here are all the members of the group whom I could recall and testify to the investigation.

Transcript of interrogation is written down according to my words correctly and is read to me in the Lithuanian language.

JILINEKIS

Translator [...]

Interrogated: Senior Investigator of DCI "Smersh" 417 SD Captain [...]

25.

**SPECIAL REPORT OF HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF DOUNTERESPIONAGE “SMERSH” OF THE 1ST
BALTIC FRONT ON THE LIQUIDATION OF A BAND
THAT OPERATED IN THE REGION OF THE MOSEDIS
VOLOST OF THE LITHUANIAN SSR**

Top secret

December 20, 1944

*To chief of Headquarters of Counterespionage NKO “Smersh”
commissioner of state security of the 2nd rank, comrade ABAKUMOV*

Moscow

In October of this year the search group of Department of Counterespionage “Smersh” of the 77 rifle division of the 51 army in Mosedis, Kretinga Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR detained an active member of mass executions of civilians ZUBENIUS Ilfons Kazemirovich, born in 1915, Lithuanian.

On the interrogation ZUBENIUS evidenced, that at the end of June, 1941, he voluntarily entered the Lithuanian group that struggled against the Red Army, participated in executions of civilians to the orders of the German command and named the members of this group:

DOBRISKAS Kostas Jurgisovich, born in 1906, Lithuanian,

ŽILINSKIS Kazis Kazisovich, born in 1909, Lithuanian, member of the Šaulist organization,

GURAUSKAS Kazimiras Antonasovich, born in 1921, Lithuanian, member of the Šaulist organization

GURAUSKAS Ionas Antonasovich, born in 1920, Lithuanian, member of the Šaulist organization,

ARLAUSKAS Ionas Mikolasovich, born in 1920, Lithuanian, member of the Šaulist organization,

LEBUS Jurgis Jurgisovich, born in 1898, Lithuanian, member of the Šaulist organization,

DERJINSKIS Kazis Kantonasovich, born in 1906, Lithuanian, member of the Šaulist organization,

ZUBE Iozas Avgustovich, born in 1913, Lithuanian, member of the Šaulist organization.

Due to the taken measures all of the listed members were found and arrested in October of this year.

By the investigation it was established that:

In June, 1941 on the territory of the Mosedis Volost of the Kretinga Uyezd a former officer of the Lithuanian army DANILIAVIČUS Edwards formed a band from members of the Šaulist organization, which was named “the partisan group,” posing the problem of struggle against the Red Army and recovery of the bourgeois Lithuania.

By confessions of the charged persons, testimonies and medico-legal examination, that made the opening of the graves, it was established, that in June – July, 1941, the members of the band detained and gave out to Germans 40 Red Army soldiers that were entrapped by the enemy.

In June, 1941 members of the band arrested more than 200 civilians, and about 50 people of the Soviet party active and shot them in Kretinga.

In September, 1943 participated in a raid to search Soviet parachuters.

In June – July, 1944 mobilized civilians of the Mosedis Volost for trench works and kept an eye on the progress of the work.

In August, 1944 all arrested persons took part in the battles against the Red Army.

In September, 1944 the group detained 15 Soviet parachuters in the region of the Šauliai village in the Mosedis Volost of the Kretinga Uyezd and also gave them away to the Germans.

The arrested members of the band completely admitted themselves guilty.

On November, 16 of this year, the case with charges against members of the band was handed to military tribunal 77 SD of the 51 army for examination which sentenced:

ZUBERNUS A.K. – to capital punishment – execution;

ŽILINSKIS K.K., ZUBE I.A., LEBUS J.J., DERJINSKIS K.K., GURAUSKAS K.A., GURAUSKAS I.A., ARLAUSKAS I.M. And DOBRISKAS K.J. – to 10 years of work camps with subsequent disfranchisement for 5 years to everyone.

*Head of the Counterespionage Department of “Smersh”
of the 1st Baltic front General-lieutenant KHANNIKOV*

26913/2

26.

RECORD OF TASK GROUP "A" ABOUT EMPLOYMENT OF LITHUANIAN SECURITY GROUPS FOR STRUGGLE AGAINST PARTISANS

January, 1942

[...] In the middle of December 1941, 22 km north of Kaunas a group of 23 partisans was precisely located. As there were no military subdivisions at the command of the Wehrmacht commandant in Lithuania, for neutralization of this group, a squad from task team 3 [...] and 2 Lithuanian security battalions was engaged, in total 730 officers, corporals and private soldiers [...]. When the partisans were detected, there was a battle in which 9 partisans were killed. Two soldiers of the security battalion and one Unterführer from task team 3 were wounded. [...] 5 peasants, whose long-term support to the partisans was established, were shot. In total task team 3 shot 956 Bolsheviks in Lithuania, including 1 commissioner, 1 senior political chief and 5 political chiefs. It is remarkable that the Lithuanian auxiliary forces contribute greatly to the struggle against Bolsheviks.

Russian State Military Archive. Fund 500-to. List 4. File 92. Pages 133–134.
Copy. Typescript. Translation from German.

27.

**RECORD ON THE NUMBER OF EXECUTIONS
COMMITTED BY TASK GROUP "A"
AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 1942**

Strictly confidential

Not earlier than February 1942

	Lithuania	Latvia	Estonia	Byelorussia	Old Soviet regions	Total
Jews	136,421	35,238	963	41,828	3,600	218,050
During pogroms	5500	–	–	–	–	5,500
Lithuanian frontier troops	5,502	–	–	–	–	5,502
Communists	1,064	2,914	4 070	311 +)	–	8,359
Partisans	56	367	400	221 +)	–	1,044
Mental patients	653	693	–	298 +)	–	1,644
Others	78	–	30	203 +)	–	211
	143,774	39,212	5 463	42,861	3,600	240,410 +5,500

+) *those shot after December 1, 1941*

28.

**B.V. SCHNEIDERAS'S STATEMENT ABOUT THE CRIME
COMMITTED BY GERMAN BANDITS ON THE
TERRITORY OF LITHUANIA ON MARCH 27, 1944
IN KAUNAS**

January 30, 1946.

*To the Chairman of the Military Tribunal of the Baltic Military District
Colonel of Justice comrade PANKRATOV*

*Deputy Manager of the Special Sector
of the Central Committee of the CP of Lithuania
SCHNEIDERAS B.V.*

apt.2, 4, Palanga St., Vilnius

In view of the beginning of the trial with regard to the case about the crimes of fascist aggressors on the territory of the Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian SSR, I ask to attach the following crime committed by German bandits in the territory of Lithuania on March 27, 1944 in Kaunas to the long list of German crimes.

On the day above mentioned, on March 27, 1944, German fascists arranged a so-called "children's action" in the German ghetto in Kaunas during which these gangsters rushed at children as wild animals, violently tore them away from their mothers, mothers were beaten within an inch of their lives, and the children were thrown as puppies into the prepared trucks. Thereat heart-breaking scenes were seen. Mothers that wished to go together with their children were beaten with butts, and were told: "You should still live to suffer." These wild scenes of children catching proceeded for 2 days – on March 27 and 28, 1944.

Thus, about 2,000 children were seized, from babies to 14-year-old children.

Among these children was also my daughter SCHNEIDERAS Edvika Borisovna, born in 1931, as of the beginning of the German invasion she was in a pioneer camp in Palanga, and therefore remained together with the rest of the camp on the territory of the occupied Lithuania since the camp had not been evacuated. After the pioneer camp my daughter was taken to the Kaunas ghetto, where she stayed till March 27, 1944.

Children were taken away in an unknown direction and their fate is still not known. Through on hearsay, the German monsters took blood from the children for their wounded bandits.

I ask not to refuse the attaching of this crime to the general list of crimes accomplished by the German fascists on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR and also, if it is possible, to find out about the fate of these 2,000 poor children.

SIGNATURE

Central Archive of FSB of Russia. N-18313. Volume. 20. Page 332.
Original. manuscript.

29.

**TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF BILA PRANAS,
WHO PARTICIPATED IN EXECUTIONS OF JEWS
IN KAUNAS AND ŠAULIAI AND PUNITIVE ACTIONS
AGAINST CIVILIANS ON THE TERRITORY OF RUSSIA,
INCLUDING THE DISPATCH OF RUSSIAN PEOPLE
FOR COMPULSORY LABOUR TO GERMANY**

June 4, 1945

I, senior inspector of the “Smersh” Counterespionage Department of the 92nd rifle corps – guards captain [...] on this day interrogated arrested person

Bila Pranas, Moteius’s son, born in 1916, native of Instenburg (Germany), Lithuanian, citizen of the USSR, worker, 4-grade education, previously not convicted, married, his wife – BILENE Olesya and two daughters live in the Velena borough of the Lithuanian SSR.

Interrogation begun at 10.10 p.m.

Translator – a Red Army man [...] is warned about the criminal responsibility in accordance with Clause 95 of UK [Criminal Code] of RSFSR.

SIGNATURE

Question: How and when were you recruited to service to the German army?

Answer: I voluntarily went to service to the German army on August 28, 1941. The 13th Lithuanian battalion was being formed at that time in Kaunas, where I was taken as the squad leader of the 3rd company. My former military rank of sergeant-major was restored. From then on and up to the capitulation of German armies, i.e. up to May 9, 1945, I was in service in the 13th Lithuanian battalion of the German army. As I was in the above mentioned battalion, I had to participate repeatedly in realization of punitive measures that were launched by Germans against innocent Soviet citizens and partisans, both on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR, and on the occupied territory of the Kalinin Oblast.

Question: Give detailed testimony about your punitive activity during the disposition of the 13th Lithuanian battalion on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR.

Answer: During the disposition of the battalion in Kaunas, the 3rd company was basically busy with executions of the Jewish population confined in the concentration camp – “GHETTO”. 1st and 2nd companies basically were on

garrison service, guarded the GHETTO, escorted Soviet citizens to the place of execution. As the squad leader of the 3rd company, I had to participate three times in the executions of the Soviet citizens of the Jewish nationality: once in Šauliai, two times in Kaunas.

Question: Tell me about your participation in the execution of the Jewish population in Šauliai.

Answer: I do not remember the exact date, I probably was on September 12, 1941, we, a group of about 20 soldiers of the 3rd company, under the command of lieutenant BARAZDA arrived in cars to Šauliai with an objective to execute the Jewish population confined in the GHETTO concentration camp. We carried out the execution in the outskirts of the city, 5 km away in a forest, where a pit had already been dug before our arrival of the size: length – 25–30 m, width – 3 m and depth – 1,5 m. A group of about 200 people of the Jewish nationality, mostly men of different ages were brought to the place of execution by local policemen. From them we took 20–30 people, drove them into the pit, and then on command volleyed at them. Those who remained alive – we shot by single shots. The next group was again driven in the pit to step on the corpses of the shot, and again we volleyed at them. We again would drive the following group into the pit on top of the corpses shot before and again volleyed on command. All of the 200 people were killed in such a way. I can't tell who buried the corpses, as after the execution we left for Kaunas, where we stayed by cars. It's hard to say how many people I personally shot, as we fired volleys at the group, and I cannot say how many people I personally shot, but every time I aimed at a particular person, and I'd made about 10 shots.

Question: How were the executions of Soviet citizens of the Jewish nationality held in Kaunas and what was your personal participation in it?

Answer: At about the beginning of December, 1941 I participated two times in the executions of Soviet citizens of the Jewish nationality of Kaunas. Executions were carried out in the 9th fort by a group of about 25 soldiers from the 3rd company, under the command of a German officer. There were also some German soldiers in this group. As well as in Šauliai, a group of about 300 Soviet citizens was brought to the place of execution. From them we took 20–30 people, took them aside, took off their outer garments, shoes, took their valuables, and then drove them into the pit and on command volleyed them. The ones that survived were then shot by single shots. I personally also shot some people. In 2–3 days I participated again in an execution of nearly 300 people, and the execution was held in fort 9 in Kaunas in the same manner as before. In both groups there were men, women and children. For these two days I shot approximately 15 people, but I can't say for sure, maybe more.

Question: You testified that before the execution everyone was undressed, and their valuables were taken away. Who took away the property and the valuables of the shot?

Answer: The valuables and property of the shot were taken away by persons who participated in the execution, but I personally had not taken anything.

Question: What was your punitive activity during your location on the territory of the Kalinin Oblast like?

Answer: In March, 1942 the 13th Lithuanian battalion was transferred to Russia, to the Dedovichsky region of the Kalinin Oblast, for struggle against partisans. I arrived at the battalion in April, 1942. When in the Dedovichsky region, I repeatedly participated in battles with partisans, fired from rifles at partisans, but I can't say for sure if I'd killed anyone or not, when I participated in battles, and it is difficult to remember each case separately, as I don't remember. I participated in punitive expeditions against civilians only once and personally drove out the residents of the Uda village of the Ashevsky region of the Kalinin Oblast from their houses, and then escorted them for their further dispatch to Germany.

Question: Do you have any German awards, when and what have you received them for?

Answer: For good service in April, 1944 the German command awarded me with the medal "Cross for battle service."

Interrogation ended at 1.50 a.m.

Translation of the transcript of interrogation into the Lithuanian language was read to me aloud, and is written down according to my words correctly.

SIGNATURE

Interrogated: Senior Inspector of the "Smersh" Counterespionage Department of the 92nd rifle corps

Guards captain [...]

30.

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF ŠALKAUSKAS MIKOLAS

December 27, 1945

Šauliai

I, senior investigator of the investigatory Department of NKGB of the Lithuanian SSR senior lieutenant [...] on the day above written interrogated as a witness:

ŠALKAUSKAS Mikolas, son of Alex, born in 1896, native of Riga of the Latvian SSR, Lithuanian, from a family of peasants, handicraftsman, non-party member, was not previously convicted, is married, education – elementary school, resident of the Šaukiani borough of the Šauliai Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR.

Witness is warned about the responsibility for false swearing in accordance with Clause 95 of UK [Criminal Code] of RSFSR.

/SIGNATURE/

Question: In what language can you testify?

Answer: I wish to give my testimony in Russian, which I know and I do not require a translator.

Question: Where did you live and what did you do during the period of temporary occupation of the Šauliai Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR by the fascist armies?

Answer: During the period of occupation of the Šauliai Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR by the fascist armies, I lived in the Šaukiani borough which is 33 km away from the city of Šauliai. I was a joiner in my own household.

Question: What do you know about particular facts of brutal actions committed by SS and SD, and also the police against Soviet citizens during the German occupation of your region?

Answer: In the spring of 1942, I don't remember in what month, SS and police authorities, that arrived from Šauliai, carried out raids in the Šaukiani Volost on the local population to capture Russian POWs that had escaped from concentration camps and were hiding among the peasants. During this raid at a house of a peasant of the Lekces village – KUPRISCHENKO, I don't know his first name and patronymic, that is 4 km away from Šaukiani two hidden Russian Red Army men whose last names I don't know were revealed.

KUPRISCHENKO and these two Red Army men were arrested by Germans and delivered to Šaukiani. In some days KUPRISCHENKO and both of the Red Army men were executed by Germans – hung in the market square of Šaukiani. After the execution the Germans photographed the corpses and the local residents were forbidden to remove the men from the gallows for 3 days.

On the fourth day the corpses were buried by the locals. Other facts of Germans' atrocities are not known to me. There is nothing more that I can evidence.

Written down according to my words correctly, read through to me in Russian which I know.

SIGNATURE

Interrogated: Senior inspector of NKGB of the Lithuanian SSR

Senior lieutenant [...]

Central Archive of the FSB of Russia.
Archive File N 18313. Volume 2. Pages 1–2. Original.

31.

**SPECIAL REPORT OF THE “SMERSH”
COUNTERESPIONAGE DEPARTMENT
OF THE 4TH SHOCK ARMY ABOUT THE ARREST
OF THE LITHUANIAN PUNITIVE GROUP THE “JAHT-
TEAM” WHICH PARTICIPATED IN EXECUTIONS
OF JEWS IN KAUNAS AND IN PUNITIVE OPERATIONS
AGAINST INNOCENT RESIDENTS AND PARTISANS
IN THE LENINGRAD AND KALININ OBLASTS**

Top secret

June 8, 1945

*To the head of the “Smersh” Counterespionage Department
of the Leningrad front general-lieutenant BYSTROV*

The “Smersh” Counterespionage Department of the 4th shock army revealed and arrested a punitive group of the so-called “Jaht-team” of the 1st company of 13th Lithuanian battalion of the German army including commander of the “Jaht-Team”:

1. Chief-sergeant-major – TENDSEGOLKIS Kazis, born in 1915, native of Šauliai of the Lithuanian SSR, from a family of peasants, Lithuanian, citizen of the USSR, education of 4 classes, married, was not previously convicted, commander of the “Jaht-Team” of the 1st company of the 13th Lithuanian battalion. Awarded with the German “Iron Cross of the 2nd Class.”
2. Corporal – ALEKSAITIS IONAS, born in 1917, native of the K-Ruda village of the Marijampoles Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR, Lithuanian, citizen of the USSR, from a family of peasants, non-party member, education of 4 classes, single. Did not serve in the Red Army, squad leader of the “Jaht-Team” of the 1st company of the 13th Lithuanian battalion. Awarded with the German “Iron Cross of the 2nd Class.”
3. Corporal – KAČUNAS Iozas, born in 1917, native of the Ruponans village of the Vilniaus Volosts of the Kaunas Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR, Lithuanian, citizen of the USSR, from a family of peasants, single, did not serve in the Red Army, squad leader of the “Jaht-Team” of the 3rd company of the 13th Lithuanian battalion. Awarded with the German “Iron Cross of the 2nd Class.”

4. Corporal – VIKNJAVIČUS Iozas, born in 1916, native of Saratov, resident of the Garliava Volost of the Kaunas Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR, Lithuanian, from a family of peasants, citizen of the USSR, education of 3 classes, single, did not serve in the Red Army, squad leader of the “Jaht-Team” of the 1st company of the 13th Lithuanian battalion. Awarded with the German cross “For good service.”
5. Corporal – BEČALIS Alex, born in 1916, native of the Paleunik village of the Kidain Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR, Lithuanian, from a family of peasants, citizen of the USSR, single. Did not serve in the Red Army. Commander of machine gunners. Awarded with the German “Iron Cross of the 2nd Class”.
6. Chief-corporal – PETRONIS Stanislav, born in 1915, native of the Knitishki village of the Zemoiti Volost of the Ukmerge Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR, from a family of peasants, Lithuanian, citizen of the USSR, education of 6 classes, single. Did not serve in the Red Army, hospital attendant of the “Jaht-Team” of the 1st company of the 13th Lithuanian battalion. Awarded with the German “Iron Cross of the 2nd Class” for faultless service.
7. Chief-corporal – KIBORTAS Vitautas, born in 1916, native and resident of the Krekis village of the same Volost of the Kidaini Uyezd, Lithuanian SSR, citizen of the USSR, Lithuanian, from a family of peasants, single. Did not serve in the Red Army, private soldier of the “Jaht-Team” of the 1st company of the 13th Lithuanian battalion.
8. Corporal – TOMASAUSKAS Cheslavs, born in 1916, native of the Lovkagalys village of the Pokruojis Volost of the Šiaulai Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR, from a family of peasants, Lithuanian, citizen of the USSR, single. Did not serve in the Red Army, private soldier of the “Jaht-Team” of the 1st company of the 13th Lithuanian battalion.
9. Corporal – BENDERIS Kazis, born in B 1921, native and resident of Kaunas, Lithuanian SSR, from a family of workers, citizen of the USSR, education of 3 classes, single. Did not serve in the Red Army, a private soldier of the “Jaht-Team” of the 1st company of the 13th Lithuanian battalion. Awarded with the German “Iron Cross of the 2nd Class” for faultless service.
10. Corporal – PALELENIS Stasis, born in 1918, native and resident of Libava [Liepaja], from a family of workers, Lithuanian, citizen of the USSR, is married, education of 6 classes, was not previously convicted, served in the Red Army in the 7th company of the 294th division, does not know the number, voluntarily took the side of Germans, private soldier, messenger of the “Jaht-Team” of the 1st company of the 13th Lithuanian battalion.

11. Corporal – BILA Pranas – son of Matejus, born in 1916, native of Instenburg (Germany), permanent residence in the Velena hamlet of the Kaunas Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR, from a family of workers, Lithuanian, citizen of the USSR, education of 4 classes, married, according to his words was not previously convicted.
12. Private – KATAUSKAS Bronis – son of Pranas, born in 1921, native of Lozdeiai, 13 Vilnius street, Seinia Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR, from a family of workers, citizen of the USSR, Lithuanian, single, education of 4 classes, according to his words was not previously convicted, served in the Red Army.

The investigation of this case established that all of the arrested persons, living on the territory temporarily occupied by the enemy, voluntarily went to service in the 13th Lithuanian battalion that was raised by Germans in July–August, 1941, and was originally called the battalion of auxiliary police.

From July till December, 1941, during the dislocation of the battalion, in Kaunas, its staff carried out purely police functions, on German orders.

The 1st company with the persons that we arrested, carried guard service of the Ghetto concentration camps where the convicted Soviet citizens were kept, from which they were escorted to execution by soldiers of the company, to forts 7 and 9 (suburb of Kaunas) and up to the execution the territory of the named forts was guarded by a cordon.

The direct initiators of executions of Soviet citizens were soldiers of the 3rd company of the battalion.

In March, 1942, the 1st battalion of the auxiliary police was renamed into the 13th Lithuanian battalion and maneuvered to the territory of the Leningrad Oblast for struggle against the Soviet partisans.

The persons that we arrested during 1942–1943 as men of the 13th Lithuanian battalion, together with German tank and artillery units and “Russian Police Volunteer Battalions” combated against Soviet partisans on the territory of Kalinin and Leningrad Oblasts, inflicting personnel and engineering casualties to partisans.

Later on, in the 2nd half of 1943, at the 1st company of the 13th Lithuanian battalion the so-called “Jaht-team” was raised with the aim of realization of punitive measures against Soviet partisans and innocent citizens in the territory of the Leningrad and Kalin Oblasts that were occupied by the Germans.

The persons that we arrested, headed by commander chief-sergeant-major TENDSEGOLKIS, had their service in the “Jaht-team”.

“Jaht-team” operating as a punitive expedition in the territory of the Kalinin area was catching and shooting Soviet partisans, subjected civilians to robberies

and executions, burnt tens of settlements, and in mass order stole the population for hard labour to Germany.

Retreating due to attacks of the Red Army, the 13th Lithuanian battalion, including the persons that we arrested, as part of the German army were used for construction of defensive fortifications, and were also on the first line against units of the Red Army. After the capitulation of German armies in Kurland on the 8th of May of this year TENDSEGOLKIS and others were captivated.

The investigation on this case proceeds with the purpose of establishing, as the task set to the arrested, [...] of the underground activity after capitulation, and the hiding places known to them, storages of weapon and possible affiliation with the enemy secret agents.

*Chief of the "Smersh" Counterespionage Department of the 4th Impact army
guards colonel SMISHNIKOV*

4898/SO

Report prepared by: the Investigation Department

32.

**SPECIAL REPORT ABOUT THE ARREST OF MEMBERS
OF THE MASS EXECUTION OF SOVIET CITIZENS
IN THE LJAUDIS FOREST IN 1941**

Top secret

September 29, 1944, Moscow

To comrade ABAKUMOV

As a result of work among civilians we established facts of mass execution of Soviet citizens, Party and Soviet active – residents of the Šadovo district of the Lithuanian SSR, carried out by Germans and the Lithuanian nationalists in the Ljaudis forest in August, 1941

The following members of the execution are arrested:

1. JULIPA Karol Eduardovich, born in 1910, Lithuanian, native of the Povordichi village of the Šadovo Volost of the Panavežys Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR.
2. PRONUKEITIS Antonas MikoloviČUS, born in 1914, Lithuanian, native of the Roginiani village of the Šadovo Volost of the Panavežys Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR.
3. PALIMAITIS Ionas Ionasovich, born in 1914, Lithuanian, native of the Meldine village of the Panavežys Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR.
4. JULIPA Ionas Eduardovich, born in 1912, Lithuanian, native of the Povordichi village of the Šadovo Volost of the Panavežys Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR.
5. JANUSAUSKAS Ignos Ignasovich, born in 1894, Lithuanian, native of the Roginiani village of the Šadovo Volost of the Panavežys Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR.
6. ADUMAITIS Antanas Feliksovich, born in 1904, Lithuanian, native of the Liberiski village of the Panavežys Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR.
7. SVEGJDA Felix Baltrasovich, born in 1915, Lithuanian, native of the Rembogli village of the Panavežys Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR.

By evidence of witnesses, of the arrested, and by the act of the medical examining body that made the opening of graves and exhumation of corpses, it is established:

As the German armies came to the Šadovo borough of the Panavežys Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR in July, 1941, all the Jewish population, the Soviet and party active in the vicinities of Šadovo, were, under the German command, violently driven by the local auxiliary police to a specially prepared camp located in the Šadovo aerodrome. More than 7,000 people had been concentrated in the camp by the end of August, 1941, among whom there were women, children and old people.

Prisoners were regularly exposed to beatings and violations from the guards of the camp.

In the morning of August 26, 1941 prisoners in the camp were announced that they would be transported to Panavežys for construction works, after which the prisoners, under the disguise of dispatch, were taken by vehicles to the Ljaudis forest (15 km from Šadovo borough) and subjected to mass execution.

Those brought to the place of the execution were undressed to underwear, forced to lie down in rows in the prepared pits and shot, children were undressed by mothers then they were killed against the trunks of trees and dumped in the pits.

The execution of innocent Soviet citizens proceeded during August 26–27, more than 700 people were annihilated at that time.

Carnages of innocent Soviet citizens were conducted under the command of the German occupation authorities.

Representatives of the German military command came to the camp, and also to the place of execution during the moment of execution.

Initiators of mass executions are the members of Lithuanian nationalistic organizations that served in the auxiliary police, created by the Germans.

The investigation with regard to this case proceeds.

Measures on search of the remaining members of the execution are taken.

Head of "Smersh" Counterespionage Department of the

1st Baltic front general-lieutenant

KHANNIKOV

20014/2

33.

REPORT OF THE TASK TEAM "A" IN RSHA

April 24, 1942

In Lithuania on April, 11 in a shed in the Aluve village (in the vicinity of Vilnius) 2 armed communists were seized. The shed was burnt. During the battle one Lithuanian shutsman was killed, and one wachtmeister of the German gendarmerie and one Lithuanian shutsman was wounded.

Russian State Military Archive. Fund 500-k. List 1. File 25. Pages 332–333.
Translation from German.

34.

REPORT OF TASK GROUP “A” ABOUT THE SITUATION AND THE STATE OF PUBLIC OPINION IN LITHUANIA

April, 1942

Krasnogvardeisk

The Introduction of self-management in Lithuania is constantly briskly discussed by the public. Basically, they see it as the first step to the cultural and economic improvement of the situation of Lithuanian people. Thus, certainly, it is clear to them, that the introduction of self-management will not entail the establishment of the independent Lithuanian state for a long time, and in the nationalists and activists circles these measures of the German government are considered as something greater, than simply a diplomatic maneuver which is suitable for preparing the full association of Lithuania to the Reich better, than it was possible to do it before.

Counter-propaganda is heard from these circles, which consists of several basic points:

1. Germans have given self-management to Lithuanians not because of sympathy, but because of the military necessity.
2. Germans need people for distribution of the German management on the occupied Russian territories that will lead to shortage of the personnel in Ostland.
3. There is a soldier shortage on the Russian front. Germans assume, that the introduction of self-management will help the mobilization of Lithuanians and will provide the front with new staff.
4. The expansion of the rights of Lithuanians is directly linked with noticeable attenuation of their internal forces. Attempts are made to use English tactics among the Lithuanians, i.e. to use Lithuanians by Lithuanians themselves.
5. After the end of the war Lithuanian independence will be canceled, and Germans will attach Lithuania to the Reich. [...]

In general it is possible to say, that frank pleasure reigns among the Lithuanian population because of the innovations. [...]

All of the measures directed against the Pole-Catholic church in Vilnius, till now were not perceived by the Lithuanian clergy as measures against the

church, but exclusively as measures against the politicized Polish circles. Among the Polish population it caused an expected reaction, the resistance will not reach any demonstrations in any circumstances. The Lithuanian public expresses pleasure concerning these measures, at least externally.

The joining of districts Oschmiana, Swir and Eiseliai was positive for the mood of the Lithuanian population, especially in the Vilnius region. The matter concerns the agricultural poor regions with the population retrograded in cultural, economic and political terms. This integration is important as it provides with further increment of the Byelorissian and Polish population. Settlement Smordon of the Oschmiana district deserves special attention, as, according to the information received, here is the centre of the Polish Resistance movement of this region. Presumably contacts with Soviet partisans in the Minsk region occur in this region.

The prospective usage of Lithuanian policemen in the newly gained regions, mainly in the Oschmiana district, where there is no Lithuanian population at all, can have negative political value under the current circumstances, maybe it is necessary to think of leaving the Byelorissian police units which were used there till now, at least in this district, after a corresponding check. Representatives of the Byelorussian National committee indicate that the usage of Lithuanian police forces will be hardly understood by the Byelorussians of these regions. [...]

35.

**SPECIAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF THE “SMERSH”
COUNTERESPIONAGE DEPARTMENT OF THE 43RD
ARMY ABOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF LITHUANIAN
“PARTISANS” IN THE EXECUTIONS OF SOVIET
CITIZENS IN THE DEMITRAU CAMP**

Top secret

December 25, 1944

*To the head of the “Smersh” Counterespionage Department
of the 1st Baltic front general-lieutenant
comrade KHANNIKOV*

On November, 22 of this year the operative-search group of the “Smersh” Department 92 SK established that in 1941 the punitive group, which calls themselves the German “partisans”, under the orders of Germans, conducted mass executions of Soviet citizens driven to the Demitrau camp of the Kretinga Volost.

The witnesses interrogated with regard to this case – GRIKRTAS Ionas, EČKUS Antonas, VALARTINAS Staponas, GODLJAUSKEN Broneslav and JURSHKUS Kazimiras evidenced that a resident of the Jasda village of the Kretinga Volost GRIKSTAS Stapunas Mikolasovich and resident of the Kagdina village of the Darbenai Volost PATRULIS Jurgis Tedaushasovich actively participated in the mass destruction of Soviet citizens.

During the interrogation of a number of other witnesses in was established that in June–July, 1941 in the Kretinga Uyezd the Germans organized a punitive group from people, who were hostile to the Soviet power, to arrange massacre of the Jewish population, the Soviet-and-party active functionaries and hostile to Germany people.

The punitive group was subordinated to the chief of the Kretinga Uyezd police JAKIS Granas. VITKUS, who lived at that time in Škuodas, was the head of this group.

In July, 1941 the Germans began destruction of the Jewish population of the Kretinga Uyezd. The executions of Soviet citizens took place in the Darbenai borough of the city of Kretinga and in other settlements.

The same month of 1941 the German “partisans” conveyed about 700 people to the Demitrau camp from the city of Škuodas, women and children – the Soviet citizens who had been imprisoned for about 3 weeks.

On August 15, 1941, after the Demitrau camp was visited by the chief of the Uyezd police JAKIS and the head of the punitive group VITKUS, more than 20 local people were taken from the nearby areas to dig graves on the Alkos mountain which is 2–4 km to the west of the camp and then on the night of August, 16 they began the annihilation of children and women.

On August 15, 1941 at 11 p.m. members of the punitive group sent a group of 300 Soviet citizens (women and children) to execution. They announced to those women and children that they would go swimming and also told them to take all of their belongings and valuables with them.

The whole group of children and women were taken to the graves, prepared in advance, and were then brutally killed there.

Before the brutal annihilation, the women and children were undressed, violently driven into the graves, beaten by sticks, and then shot. Besides, the children and women, who were wounded, were buried alive.

After the annihilation of this group, the second one was brought at dawn – over 200 women and children, who were first undressed and then shot.

When this was known on November 23, of this year, one of the members of this mass execution was arrested – resident of the Jasda village of the Kretinga Volost GRIKSTAS Stapunas Mikolasovich.

At the interrogation Grikstas was first denying his membership in the punitive group and his participation in the execution of the Soviet citizens, but later on, his guilt being established by evidences of witnesses, he owned to the committed crimes, and evidenced that on August 15, 1941 he was sent by the German “partisans” to the Eskvada forest on the Alkos mountain for digging graves for Soviet citizens, that were imprisoned in the Demitrau camp. Before the evening, after finishing the digging of the graves, the head of the punitive group VITKUS offered everyone who wished to take part in the execution, promising to reward for it with the valuables and belongings of the shot. He agreed and together with VITKUS Stanislavus, LAUKIS Stasis, MAZALAS Pranas and JIBINSKIS Stasis went to the Demitrau camp, received rifles and cartridges there, and then together with the German “partisans” conveyed more than 300 women and children to the Alkos mountain, where the above-named persons actively participated in their brutal extermination.

At dawn the second group of women and children – more than 200 people was conveyed from the camp. They were shot in groups of 5–6 people, standing at the edge of the pit.

Due to the taken measures, members of this execution of Soviet people PATRULIS, VITKUS and LAUKIS were arrested. On the interrogation, after some disavowal they admitted their guilt in the committed atrocities against the Soviet citizens and gave similar testimonies.

On November, 27 of this year GRISHKAS, PATRULIS, VITKUS were arrested for the committed crimes.

During the process of investigation we created a commission to fully establish the atrocities, including representatives of local government bodies, medical and sanitary battalion, and political departments 156 SD, 92 SK, which from December, 14 till December, 17 of this year conducted the excavation of graves on the Alkos mountain, exhumation and the medico-legal post-mortem examination.

As established by the commission, 510 women and children were shot in total, from them 289 were buried alive, including 31 babies.

In accordance with the evidences of the arrested and the witnesses, the active members of the execution of the 510 women and children, besides the ones mentioned-above, are:

1. VASJARIS Kostas, resident of the Ujuluobe village of the Škuodas Volost.
2. VEHTAS Aleksas, resident of the Kubiliskis village of the Škuodas Volost.
3. VEHTAS Ionis, resident of the Kubiliskis village of the Škuodas Volost.
4. GIRKANTAS Getras, resident of the Kuli 2 village of the Škuodas Volost.
5. MACULAVIČUS Mikas, resident of Škuodas.
6. SHLIMAS Stasis, lived Kretinga.
7. JUZOPOVICH Iosas, lived in Kretinga.
8. VITKUS, lived in Škuodas.
9. JAKIS Pranas.
10. APTAUTIS Antonas, lived Kretinga.

For establishing and arresting of the persons that participated in the execution, two operative-search groups were formed. One of them, headed by captain VINICHENKO, was directed to Škuodas and its vicinities, and the second one, headed by senior investigator of the “Smersh” Department 156 SD captain FOMICHEV was sent to the Darbenai borough.

It wasn't possible for the operative groups to arrest the persons with regard to this case, since a part of them had left with the Germans, and others had been hiding somewhere before the Red Army came, and VASJARIS Kostas, VEHTAS Aleksas, VEHTAS Ionis, GIRKANTAS Getras, and MACULAVIČUS Mikas were arrested by the "Smersh" of the 51st army for executing Soviet citizens on the Alkos mountain and for the committed atrocities, and they were given away to the military tribunal.

PATRULIS, GRIKSTAS, VITKUS who were brought to trial admitted themselves guilty in accordance with item 1 of the Decree of Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of USSR, dated April 19, 1941.

Materials about the criminal activity of JAKIS Pranas, JIBINSKIS Stasis, MAZALASA Pranas and VITKUS are marked for special proceedings and passed to the Kretinga Uyezd department of NKGB.

For rendering practical help on the investigation and direct participation in interrogations of the arrested and witnesses with regard to this case the deputy chief of investigatory Department captain ZAITSEV was sent to the "Smersh" Department 92 SK for the time from December 5 to 17.

After the accused were confronted with the witnesses, the case on PATRULIS, GRIKSTAS, VITKUS and LAUKIS together with the arrested was passed to the investigatory Department on December 18 of this year.

Chief of the "Smersh" Counterespionage Department of the 43 army–

Colonel JOSEPH

12907/20

36.

**MEMORANDUM REPORT ON THE ACTS OF
ATROCIOUS DESTRUCTION OF THE SOVIET PEOPLE
COMMITTED BY THE GERMANS ON THE TERRITORY
OF THE LITHUANIAN SSR IN THE VICINITY OF THE
CITY OF ALYTUS**

Top secret

October 18, 1944

*To the head of the "Smersh" Counterespionage Department
of the 3rd Byelorussian front general-lieutenant
comrade ZELENIN*

The investigation group for the cases of traitors and the German invaders' accomplices, arrested by the "Smersh" 1 VA authorities has established the following acts of destruction of Jewish residents and Soviet and party activists, committed by the Germans during the occupation of the Lithuanian SSR.

1. In the autumn of 1941, to the south of the city of Alytus about 7,000 Jews were shot on the tank firing ground.

The organizers and heads of the execution were the occupying authorities (the last names are not identified). The direct executors were the death battalion gang, who had arrived from Kaunas, and the members of the local Šaulis organization.

2. In June, 1941, in the city of Alytus, since at night someone had fired a shot, the Germans shot 700 men. At night the German soldiers would search all the houses, they arrested all the men they detected, drove them out into the street and shot them.

3. In September, 1942, in the suburbs of the Merech borough the Germans with the participation of the police shot more than 900 Jews.

4. Late in August 1941, in the suburbs of the Butrimantsy borough 700 Jews were shot.

The execution was committed by the gang of the so called Lithuanian high school students, who had arrived from the city of Alytus, and policemen. One of the executions' organizers and leaders was the Butrimanskaya Volost police chief KASPARYUNAS Leonard.

5. In September, 1941, in the location of the Voitkushki estate of Volkomirsky Uyezd the Germans and a Šaulist detachment shot about 6,000 Jews from the neighbouring Volosts.

Along with the others, one of the organizers of the execution was the Gelvanskaya Volost Šaulist detachment leader SHVAINBORIS Franas, the former Lithuanian army lieutenant.

6. On August 26, 1941, by the barracks of the Prona borough military community, a gang of chasteners, who had deliberately come from Kaunas, the local police and the Šaulists shot about 700-800 Jews.

As an organizer YASENAUTSKAS Eduard, the Prona Šaulis organization leader took part.

7. In June 1941, in the Eastern suburbs of the city of Yurburg the police under command of the Germans shot 300 of the local Jews.

8. In the autumn of 1941, in the vicinity of the Semilishki borough there took place a massacre of Jews. The accurate number of the shot is not identified, only in October up to 200 people were executed.

Besides the German authorities' representatives, the organizers of the executions were the Troitsk Uyezd police chief MUCHINKOS Peter and the Semilishki Volost head ADUKONIS Andrey Ignatievich (arrested by us), both Lithuanians.

9. In September, 1944, the massacre of Jews was committed in the location of the city of Mariampol. The number of the shot is not identified.

The participants of the execution included the Germans and Šaulists.

10. In July, 1941, the Germans and police shot 22 Soviet and party functionaries of the Simnovskaya Volost.

11. In autumn, 1941, in the vicinity of Dorouniski borough of Pokon Volost 22 Jewish women and children were shot.

One of the organizers of the execution was the Volost police chief POTUMSIS A. Yu. (now arrested by us).

12. In June, 1941, in the vicinity of the city of Prena a mass execution of Jews was carried out. The accurate number of the shot was not identified, although, the evidence of the arrested YUCHAVICHUS K.S. suggested that the corpses of the shot completely filled two pits of the following size: 20 long, 4 m wide and 3 or 4 m deep.

13. In August or September, 1941, the Jews, residents of the Ezno borough were shot. The number of the shot was not established.

14. In the summer of 1941, in the Geryalka forest, within 1 km and a half to the east of the Ionava borough the Germans and a Šaulists detachment shot about 6,000 Jews, Soviet and party functionaries and the POWs of the Red Army.

In 1944 for the purposes of concealment of the traces of the crime, the invaders arranged to incinerate the corpses of the shot.

For the majority of the above mentioned, the Germans gathered the Jews to be exterminated in the designated locations, called ghettos, and then exposed them all to destruction by means of shooting. The people were shot in the pits, which had been excavated in advance, the victims were driven into such pits by force.

As a rule, before the execution, the chasteners took away good clothes and valuables from the people driven to the execution. The longheaded organizers of the execution would have ordered to take those along, which they later on laid their hands on.

The organizers and leaders of these acts of atrocity were the German occupying authorities, as well as the local police and the so called death battalion. The major and direct participation in the mass extermination of the Soviet citizens was taken by the detachments of the Šaulis Lithuanian nationalistic organizations.

Distinguishing facts of atrocious destruction of the Soviet people

In the city of Alytus on the night from June 24th to 25th, 1941, the Germans shot 700 innocent men. The pretext for that was a shot fired in the city by an unknown person.

On this subject the arrested SAVLEVICH Peter Petrovich gave the following testimony:

“On June 24, 1941, that is a day after the city of Alytus was occupied by the Germans, in the grinding mill in Kovno street an unknown person fired a shot. In connection with this the Germans executed a ferocious massacre of the civilians. They would search the houses and, without regard to the persons, took all the men out in the street and shot them. Thus, on one night the Germans shot 700 men, including two priests in Alytus.

Then the Germans declared that for one killed German soldier they would shoot 400 citizens.”

In the summer of 1941, the Germans totally eliminated all the Jews in the Butrimantsy borough. A part of the Jews were sent to Alytus and destructed there, the other 700 people were shot in the suburb of Butrimantsy borough.

The execution took place in late August, 1941. On August 29, within 2 km of the borough a number of pits were excavated. On the night of August 30, the

police collected the Jews of the borough, including women, children and old people – the total of about 700 people. On August 30, the police and a gang of Lithuanians, who had arrived on purpose from Alytus, shot the Jews and buried them in those prepared pits.

The arrested SENAVAITES P.M. testified as follows about how the execution was carried out:

“All the group was brought to the place of the execution and left within 50-60 m of the excavated pits.

Under command of the Butrimen Volost police chief KASPARYUNAS and the lieutenant, who had arrived as the Lithuanians’ gang head, groups of 30-40 people were taken to the pit, made lie facedown and shot. Having covered the corpses with some soil, they brought another group of 30-40 people, who were laid on top the dead and also shot.

Thus, in 3 or 4 hours the whole group of Jews was destructed.”

In the Butrimantsy borough in the period of the massacre of Jews there had place the facts when the chasteners, promising to save their lives, made Jewish women live together with them and then monstrously killed them.

Thus, the arrested policeman LYAPENYAUSKAS at the interrogation testified as follows:

“During my service in the police in the Butrimantsy borough, I together with the police chief KASPERYUNAS, making use of my duty status and promising to save from executions, forced two Jewish girls to live together with us.

...Later on, wishing to get rid of them, upon KASPERYUNAS’s command, some day in November, drove them as though to have a walk at the Jewish cemetery.

When we arrived, we found KASPERYUNAS and policeman KRISTOPONIS waiting there for us. We suggested that the girls should walk ahead and then wait for us. As they started walking we KASPERYUNAS and KRISTOPONIS fired at the back of their heads and killed them. I buried the corpses of the girls right in that place.”

In the autumn of 1941, on the tank firing ground in the vicinity of the city of Alytus 7,000 Jews were shot.

One of the direct participants of that atrocity SAVELICH P.P., after his arrest, testified as follows:

“In Alytus there arrived a major German executive, I don’t know his last name (he arrived in the military uniform, had two big stars on the shoulder boards), and immediately under the command of Gestapo and the city council all the Jewish residents were moved to a certain place, to the western part of the city. They totally collected 7,000 people.

A month later all the Jews were taken in cars to the prison in Alytus. Presently a gang of the death battalion arrived in Kaunas and all were shot.”

The investigation group for the case of the arrested traitors MIKOLAUSKAS E.V., PAULAUSKAS V.M. and GALIAUSKAS F.A. established that in the Voitushki estate of Volkomirsky Uyezd 6,000 Jews were shot. Active and direct participation was taken by a Šaulist detachment, led by SHVAINBORIS.

A member of the Šaulis organization PAULAUSKAS V.M. testified as follows about the execution and his participation in it:

“In the Voitkushki estate with the participation of the Germans, police, and Šaulis organization members there was carried out a mass execution of Jews.

...The groups of Jews, brought under police escort, were first undressed to underwear, then driven into the pits, made lie facedown and the lying people were shot.

I personally fired two shots from my carbine into the pit filled with people. Besides, I watched so that nobody could escape from the place of the execution. Upon the execution completion together with other Šaulists I covered the corpses with some ground.

Some days after the execution, on the premises of the Musnikovskaya Volost police I was rewarded for my participation in the execution: I received a chest of drawers, a pair of trousers, some clothes and some other things.”

Another participant of the execution MIKOLAUSKAS E.V. testified as follows:

“In September 1941, upon the task of the Šaulis organization I participated in the massacre of Jews in the Voitkushki estate.

...Before the execution all the Jews were stripped to underwear, then forced to go down into the pit, to lie facedown, and then were shot.

...Thus, with my participation and the participation of other Šaulists, Germans and police, in the Voitkushki estate of Volkomirsky Uyezd after monstrous tortures up to 6,000 Jews were shot.”

From the materials of the investigation upon the case of the arrested group of nine Šaulists, headed by STEPSHIS Kozis Karpovich, who participated in the atrocious extermination of the Soviet citizens, it has been established that in the summer of 1941, in the Goryalka forest, within 1 km and a half from the Ionava borough, there were shot and cremated about 6,000 people, including Jews, Soviet and party functionaries and Red Army military men. The corpses of the shot were burnt.

During the excavation of one of the graves handcuffs were found, which suggests that the shot had been fettered.

Chief of the “Smersh” Counterespionage Department

I VA lieutenant colonel

SIGNATURE

5849/3

Central Archive of Russia. Fund 100. List 11. File 5. Pages 160-165.
Original. Typescript

37.

**SPECIAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF THE 2ND OFFICE
OF THE 4TH DEPARTMENT OF NKGB OF THE USSR
ABOUT THE CAPTURED DOCUMENTS DESCRIBING
PUNITIVE ACTIONS OF INVADERS AND
THE LITHUANIAN “SELF-MANAGEMENT”
CONCERNING CIVILIANS AND PARTISANS**

Top secret

October 31, 1943

To the chief of the 2nd Department of NKGB of the USSR

Comrade FEDOTOV

Deliver to: MERKULOV, KOBULOV, FEDOTOV

The head of our task group operating in the Vilejka region, BSSR, major of state security sent us two documents about the actions of German occupation authorities and authorities of the Lithuanian “self-management” against the partisan movement in Lithuania.

One of them is the directive of doctor Adrian fon RENTELN – general commissioner of Lithuania, to general KUBILJUNAS – first general adviser. In this directive it is stressed, that in Lithuania, with assistance of the local residents, acts of sabotage at transport routes became more frequent, and it is suggested to burn all the nearby settlements for each separate case of sabotage, and to abduct the residents to Germany.

The second document is a circular order of general KUBILJUNAS to Uyezd chiefs and burgomasters of the major cities published for the fulfillment of fon Renteln’s directive. In the circular order it is suggested: a) to make Renteln’s instructions clear to all the residents and b) to impose as a duty on them to inform the police about all suspicious persons or groups of people that appear in the district.

For the purpose to fulfil the indicated directive the Germans already completely burnt down the Ferma, Trakenai and Lopdena villages of the Trakaiskia Volost of the Trakaiskia Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR, in which vicinity acts of sabotage took place.

APPENDIX: translations of the directive and the circular order

Chief of the 2nd office of the 4 Department of NKGB of the USSR [...]

Appendix 1

Copy of a copy.

Rather urgent

2376

The first General adviser and the General adviser on internal affairs.

To all of the Uyezd chiefs and burgomasters of the cities of Kaunas,

Vilnius, Šiaulai and Panavežys.

I am sending a copy of the official letter of the General Commissioner for 12438 of September 10, 1943 for fulfillment. In view of this I ask to immediately take the following measures:

1. To entrust the Volost heads and burgomasters of cities to widely explain to the residents at agricultural meetings, that the General commissioner has informed in writing, that the liability for any attacks on railways, bridges and other similar sites will be put on the residents of the district where these incidents will happen, i.e. the households of this district will be burnt, and the residents will be driven away to Germany. Therefore to avoid severe punishment the residents are to inform the police or the local self-management (to Volost heads, burgomasters, chairmen and assistant chairmen) about every suspicious person or a group of people, who appear in their district, certainly, if there is no chance of detaining them themselves.
2. To oblige the Volost heads, burgomasters, chairmen and their assistants to inform the police about every suspicious person and saboteurs (parachuters, bandits, etc.), who appear in their district. I also ask to explain that these officials of self-management will be severely punished, if they do not inform urgently or will conceal this information.
3. If required to take other measures on the spot, besides the ones that I have mentioned – I ask to apply them. It is important that all the authorities and the residents, in the name of well-being of residents, should be involved in the struggle against gangsterism and sabotage.
4. I will publish appeals on this issue. They will be later sent for distribution. However, the measures I mentioned should be taken immediately, without waiting for the appeals.

(Signed by) General KUBILJUNAS

The first General adviser and the general adviser on internal affairs.

September 15, 1943

The copy is correct: (Signed by) Chief of office.

The copy from a copy is correct: Secretary of the district chief

(the signature is illegible)

Svirjaj Uyezd chief

Svirjaj, September 28, 1943

Appendix 2

To all Volost heads.

2361

For information and fulfillment.

The district chief (the signature is illegible)

The general commissioner in Kaunas

Copy from a translation.

Kaunas, 1943, September 9.

12438

To the First General adviser of Kaunas.

The increase of attacks on railways, roads and bridges forces us to apply vigorous measures.

As it is impossible to make attacks without, at least, passive participation of residents, the responsibility for the order and safety should be put on the residents. We must make the residents not only resist the gangs, but inform the corresponding authorities about the appearance of gangs, or suspicious people. That is why you should inform the local residents through district chiefs that from now the nearest residents or settlements will be considered responsible for any actions of sabotage. I order the district chiefs to call the known group of people to account each time.

Residents should be notified, that from now on in case of attacks the nearby groups of houses and settlements will be ruthlessly destroyed, and the residents will be taken out. I suggest that we clarify the situation to the residents by means of posters. The text of the posters should be given to me before printing.

(Signed by) Doctor fon RENTELN.

The translation is correct: (Signed by) PLADIENE.

The copy of the translation is correct:

(Signed by) the chief of office.

The copy from a copy of the translation is correct:

Secretary of the district chief

(the signature is illegible).

Central archive of FSB of Russia. Fund 100. List 11. File 6. Pages 258–260.
Certificated copy. Typescript.

38.

**SPECIAL REPORT OF THE HEAD OF THE “SMERSH”
COUNTERESPIONAGE DEPARTMENT OF THE 3RD
BYELORUSSIA FRONT GENERAL-LIEUTENANT ZELENIN
ABOUT THE ACTIVITY OF THE ŠAULIS NATIONALISTIC
ORGANIZATION**

Top secret

September 3, 1944

*To the chief of the NKO “Smersh” Counterespionage central administrative
board Commissioner of state security of the 2nd rank*

Comrade ABAKUMOV

From the materials available to the “SMERSH” Counterespionage Department of the 3rd Byelorussia front it is seen that from all of the existing counter-revolutionary nationalistic organizations on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR that we’ve revealed, the Šaulis (Lithuanian rifleman) organization was the most active during the occupation period.

As it was reported earlier, this counter-revolutionary organization existed long before the formation of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic and was the armed group of the Smetona regime.

With the establishment of the Soviet authority on the territory of Lithuania in 1940, the Šaulis organization ceased its legal existence, went underground and posed before the members a problem of realization of anti-soviet propaganda among the Lithuanian population, acts of sabotage in the Soviet state system and prepared an armed revolt in the rear of the Red Army, in case of war of the Soviet Union with Germany.

In 1941, as the fascist Germany attacked the USSR, the Lithuanian nationalistic organization emerged from the underground and stirred up their hostile activity against the Soviet power.

During the retreat of Soviet troops far inland, the Šaulists organized attacks on the retreating small subdivisions, killing soldiers and commanders of the Red Army.

It is established, that the Šaulis organization especially actively proved themselves during the occupation of the Lithuanian SSR by the German troops.

Under the orders of German occupation authorities this organization committed active treacherous activity, which mainly included struggle against partisans in

the rear of the German armies, to the destruction of the party-and-soviet active, the Jewish population and other persons who were loyal to the Soviet power.

With the liberation of the Lithuanian SSR territory by the units of the Red Army, the Šaulis organization has again gone underground and now has the aim of preserving the fascist staff and the available weapons to oppose the Soviet authority as opportunity offers.

It is also established, that before the retreat of the German troops from the territory of the Lithuanian SSR the most active members of the Šaulis counterrevolutionary-nationalist organization were enlisted by the German intelligence service and received the task to carry out espionage, terror and acts of sabotage in the rear of the Red Army.

As a result of work accomplished by the Counterespionage Department of the 3rd Byelorussian front and the subordinated bodies of “Smersh” on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR liberated from Germans, a number of Šaulis organizations were revealed, which carried out active treacherous activity during the occupation in favour of Germans, participated in mass arrests of the Party-and-soviet active functionaries, struggled with Soviet partisans and committed brutal destruction of the Jewish population.

We arrested the heads of some of these organizations and their active members.

During the period of operations at the 3rd Byelorussian front, as of August 30 of this year, all in all 159 active members and heads of the Šaulis organizations are arrested, for example:

The “Smersh” Counterespionage Department of the 5 artillery corps at the end of July of this year revealed a Šaulis counterrevolutionary-nationalist organization that existed in the settlements of the Olansk Volost of the Alytaus Uyezd and included 18 people.

Five active members of this organization including assistant head of organization – PRIESKENIS Ionas – are arrested.

The “Smersh” Counterespionage Department of the 11th guard army in the Alytaus Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR revealed a Šaulis organization, that included 50 people. The head of this organization – BALJUKANUS Alexander and an active member ESULEVICH – are arrested.

On August 19 of this year the “SMERSH” Counterespionage Department of the 39th army arrested the head of the “Šaulis” organization, that existed in the Vilki borough of the Kovensk Uyezd – GUDAVIČUS Stanislav Sidorovich.

On August, 11 of this year the “Smersh” Department of the 4th gun divisions RGK arrested the head of the Šaulis organization – SALINKA Vldas Iosesovich and one of the active members of the organization – BURAUŠKAS

Bronislav Adamovich. This organization existed in the Ludznia Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR.

On August 5 of this year the “Smersh” Department of the 11th guard army arrested the head of the Šaulis organization and the organizer of the Savisovgi punitive group – ZAROVSKAS Iozes.

The “Smersh” Counterespionage Department of the 14th region of the air-base, of the 1st Air army arrested – STEPSHIS Kozis, who was the head of the Šaulis organization in the Bojarishniki village of the Kauno Uyezd.

The analysis of evidences on the liquidated cases on heads and active members of the “Lithuanian riflemen” organization established the facts of brutal execution of Soviet partisans, the party-and-soviet active functionaries and the Jewish population committed by these people.

Using the hostile mood of Šaulists against the Soviet power, Germans formed punitive groups from them, which conducted mass arrests of Soviet citizens, Red Army soldiers who had escaped the entrapment, and brutally destroyed the Jewish population.

All of this is confirmed by the following facts:

On August 19, 1944 the “SMERSH” Counterespionage Department of the 39th army revealed and partially liquidated the Šaulis counter-revolutionary-nationalist organization that existed in the Bobtskai Volost, from among the local population.

Ten active members of this organization were arrested on this case, including commander of the punitive group created from members of the indicated organization – JANUSHAUSKAS Justinas Iohimovich, born in 1899, native of the Sorenchi village of the Krasnoselskaya Volost of the Kauno Uyezd.

The investigation established that in July 1941, after the Lithuanian SSR territory was occupied by the German troops, with the Germans occupation authorities’ knowledge the local Šaulis counterrevolutionary-nationalist organization was restored in the Bobti borough, which was illegal after the establishment of the Soviet authority in Lithuania.

Later a punitive group was made from the members of this organization, who actively fought partisans, detected communists, Komsomol members and other people of the Soviet active and also participated in executions of the Jewish population.

In the summer of 1941 JANUSHAUSKAS’s punitive group has arrested 373 Jews – women, old people and children who were then shot by the orders of the German authorities, in a forest near Bobti.

In July, 1941 members of the punitive group TAUJANSKIS, LJAUDANSKAS and SIMANSKAS captured and shot 15 Red Army men who had escaped the German entrapment.

In November, 1941 the same persons arrested and shot an employee of People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs PATOSHEV Dorofey and later his family – his wife and two children.

In December, 1941, members of the group SHKAMA, ČAPOVICH, LJAUDANSKAS and SIMANSKAS arrested the chairman of the Village Soviet SIRTOV Kazimir and when the latter tried to run away, they delivered fire, and then burnt the bath-house down where he was hiding.

The same month the abovenamed persons participated in the arrest of the former chairman of the Bobta Village Soviet – JLOBITSKI Vitold and Soviet activists MACKEVICH Juzef, TARASEVICH and ROMANSKI, whom they gave away to the German punitive authorities.

The Šaulists case investigation proceeds.

The investigation with regard to the case of another group of arrested Šaulists, who lived in the Vilkomir Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR, including – MARTINELIS Stanislav Annovich, SHVITRO Kazimir Frantsevich, VASILEVSKY Ivan Antonovich, KARALIS Boleslav Iosifovicha, ZAKREVSKY Lavras Dominikovich and ZAKREVSKY Vitovtas Lavrosovich – established that all of these persons were members of the punitive group that participated in the mass arrests of the Jewish population.

So, with their personal participation in the Shivrinti borough for the period from July till September over 1,000 Soviet citizens of the Jewish nationality were arrested, who were given away to German authorities and subsequently shot.

In August, 1941 they jointly participated in the brutal execution of a big group of Jews, about 6,000 people, in the vicinity of the city of Vilkomir, and MARTINELIS personally shot some women with babies.

All of these persons also plundered the belongings of the shot Jewish population.

About his treacherous activity and participation in mass execution of the Jewish population arrested ZAKREVSKY Lavros Dominikanovich evidenced at the interrogation:

“In July, 1941 I entered a group that was raised by Šaulists in the Shivrinti borough. The group performed punitive functions against the Soviet-and-party activefunctionaries and the Jewish population.

In August, 1941 in the Shivrinti borough the group arrested about 70 people from among the Soviet active and the Jewish population. I personally convoyed these arrested to Vilkomir, where they were later shot.

A month later in the Shivrinti borough a group of 1,000 Jews, mostly women, old people and children was arrested. All of them were also sent to Vilkomir where they were shot...

The case is being investigated.

In August, 1941 Germans brutally exterminated 7,700 Soviet citizens of the Jewish nationality, who lived in the Marijampole Uyezd.

The Lithuanian police and active members of the Šaulis counterrevolutionary-nationalist organization directly participated in it.

So, PAVLAITIS Herman, arrested by the “SMERSH” Department of the 11th guard army, testified:

“In August, 1941, under orders of the German command, the police of Marijampole Uyezd committed a mass raid against the Jewish population of the Marijampole Uyezd. All of the police, including me, were directed to settlements where we took away all the Jewish families, including babies, put them on carts and convoyed them to Marijampole.

For three days of the operation we arrested and convoyed about 7,700 of the Jewish population – women, old people, men and children of all ages.

We had guarded the doomed to death for three days, not giving them any water or food.

On the 3rd day, on Saint Ludwikas’s day, all of them, about 7,000 people, were shot by the police.

I, as well as others, was guarding the doomed to execution...”

Telling about the circumstances of the execution of the Jewish population in the Marijampole Uyezd, at the interrogation of August 12, 1944 PAVLAITIS evidenced:

“Before the execution the doomed to death were locked in stables.

...After the prisoners were searched, the strongest men were chosen to dig pits. Eight pits were dug, two of them 150 m long, 5 m deep and 4 m wide, and the other six 100 m long, 4 m wide and 5 m deep.

After all the Jews were undressed and were left in underwear, the execution began.

First men were shot in groups of 100–200.

As soon as the men were shot, women and children of all ages were executed in the same way.

In the course of the execution many were wounded and then shot by single shots from rifles, and many of them were buried alive, as a result the ground was moving for some hours after the corpses were buried... ”.

Being an active doer of the German command's will related to the annihilation of the Jewish population, PAVLAITIS personally arrested and conveyed to the execution about 700 Jews of different ages, including babies.

The case is being investigated.

In September, 1941 Germans shot 1,900 Soviet citizens of the Jewish nationality, who lived in the Seree borough.

Arrested members of the Šaulis counter-revolutionary nationalistic organization RUNTA Vlados, KLIMAVIČUS Vensos, JANUSHANIS MOTEUSHAS, SHATIKOUSKAS Jurgis and VALENTA Iozas actively participated in this brutal destruction of the Jewish population.

With regard to this case the arrested RUNTA evidenced at the interrogation:

“Being an officer of the secret police, under their orders I arrested Jews, conveyed them to the place of the execution and personally participated in the executions.”

This case investigation also established, that in Seree the German punitive authorities, with the direct participation of RUNTA and KLIMAVIČUS 44 communists and other Soviet activists were arrested and then shot.

The investigation of the following case proceeds.

The “SMERSH” Counterespionage Department of the 11th guard army – on August 5, 1944 arrested an active member of the Šaulis counterrevolutionary-nationalist organization and the head of the Šaulists group in the Beksha village. BEKSHA Moteus Iozesovich, born in 1906, native of the Beksha village of the Olenikenik Volost of the Vilnius Uyezd.

The investigation established that BEKSHA joint the Šaulis counterrevolutionary-nationalist organization in 1937.

Being an active member of this organization, in 1941, after the occupation of Lithuania by German armies, under orders of police, he organized a Šaulis group in his village, which included 20 people, and started an active struggle against the Soviet authority, caught Red Army soldiers, entrapped by the enemy, communists, Komsomol members, and other Soviet activists, who remained on the occupied territory.

In August, 1941 the Šaulis group headed by BEKSHA took part in the mass execution of the Jewish population of the Olkeniki borough.

About his treacherous activity at the interrogation on August 10, 1944, BEKSHA evidenced the following:

“Since 1941, I was the head of the local Šaulis organization in the Beksha village. The group included 20 people. My group caught Red Army soldiers, communists and Komsomol members that remained on the occupied territories. In August 1941, under orders of the police, together with my group I arrested about 500 Jews for five days in the Olkeniki village. The latter were convoyed to the Eishishki borough and shot there by the Germans and the Lithuanian police.

My group did not directly participate in the execution of the Jewish population. We only guarded these Jews before the execution and during the execution...”

The investigation of this case proceeds.

An active member of the Šaulis counterrevolutionary-nationalist organization PAULAUSKAS Bronis Miklas arrested by the “Smersh” Counterespionage Department of the 3rd fighting air corps on the interrogation evidenced the following about the participation of Šaulists in mass execution of the Jewish population in the Vilkomir Uyezd:

“The mass destruction of the Jewish families began shortly after the occupation of our district by the German armies. The annihilation of Jews was carried out by execution near the Voitushki manor in pits prepared in advance. 60 people were driven into these pits, shot there and buried. After that other 60 people were brought. 200 people were shot in each of those pits.

MIKOLAUSKAS, other members of the Šaulis organization, and I participated in these executions of the Jewish population.”

The case is being investigated.

It is established, that German counterespionage authorities hired their agents from among the members of the Šaulis counterrevolutionary-nationalist organization, which they used for detecting the party-and-soviet active, partisans and other progressive elements among the Lithuanian population, as well as among other nationalities on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR.

We detected 21 agents of German counterespionage units among the arrested heads and active members of the Šaulis organization, that carried out active treacherous activity on the territory occupied by the Germans.

A part of the counterespionage agency was transferred to the German military intelligence at the retreat of German armies, and left in the territory of the

Lithuanian SSR liberated from Germans with espionage, terrorist and subversive tasks.

On July 30, of this year the “Smersh” Counterespionage Department of the 39th army arrested a group of 5 active members of the “Šaulis” organization, who were left on the territory Lithuanian SSR liberated from German armies with the espionage-terrorist task.

The following group includes the following persons:

1. PINKJAVIČUS Lenginas Bronis, born in 1918, native and resident of the Boguslavishki borough of the Vilkomir Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR, Lithuanian, a member of the Šaulis organization, former soldier of the Red Army, on June, 23, 1941 gave himself up to Germans.
2. VARKJAVIČUS Leonos Stanislavovich, born in 1922, native and resident of the Pipli village of the Vilkomir Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR, Lithuanian, a member of the Šaulis organization.
3. RUDJONIS Stjapos Pranos, born in 1922, native and resident of the Pipli village of the Vilkomir Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR, Lithuanian, a member of the Šaulis organization.
4. BASHKJAVIČUS Bopis Stasis, born in 1920, native of the Jalschini borough of the Vilkomir Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR, Lithuanian, a member of the Šaulis organization.
5. CASOS Pranos Pranos, born in 1915, native and resident of the Boguslavishki borough of the Vilkomir Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR, Lithuanian, a member of the Šaulis organization.

It is established, that the indicated persons were members of the Šaulis Lithuanian counterrevolutionary-nationalist organization, as the Germans occupied Lithuania they actively participated in arrests and executions of the party-and-soviet active and the Jewish population, and were subsequently recruited by the SD police for detecting the people that were engaged in antifascist activities. During the first days of July of this year, the persons listed above were left in the rear of the Red Army, with the following task received from the German intelligence:

1. To gather information about the staffing numbers, the armaments and the dislocation of the Red Army units.
2. To reveal the persons, who will inform the Soviet authorities about German accomplices and to secretly kill these persons.
3. To kill representatives of the Soviet power who will arrest German protégés.

4. To establish, who exactly and for what crimes is arrested by the Soviet authorities, what units make these arrests and where these units are located.
5. Who and how reacts on the coming of the Red Army among the population.

All of the above listed persons were armed by rifles and grenades. PINKJAČUS Lenginas Bronis, whom we arrested, was the head of the group.

Twelve illegal members of this group are being prosecuted with regard to this case. Measures are taken for their search and arrest.

An arrested active member of the punitive group that was committing arrests and executions of communists during the occupation on the territory of the Koshedar Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR – ALEKSANDROVICH Franc Egorovich, a member of the Šaulis counter-revolutionary organization evidenced at the interrogation, that he and the head of the punitive group – DRULIS, received a task from the Germans to stay in the rear of the Soviet army to organize gangster groups and carry out terrorist and subversive activity at the Red Army transport routes.

Upon the search of ALEKSANDROVICH's apartment, rifles, grenades and cartridges were found.

The head of the punitive group DRULIS, had been an active member of the Šaulis organization since 1931. He is arrested. The case is being investigated.

The operative group of the “Smersh” Counterespionage Department of the 39th army revealed and arrested a group of SD Šaulis-agents that carried out active treacherous activity on the territory occupied by the Germans.

This group includes:

1. JIGAR Peter Ivanovich, born in 1891, native of the Ragoji village of the Janovsk Volost of the Kovensk Uyezd, Lithuanian.
2. DAVALGA Kazemir Kazemirovich, born in 1907, native of the Lakishki village of the Janovsk Volost of the Kovensk Uyezd, Lithuanian, son of a landowner.
3. BARANAUSKAS Augustine Jurgisovich, born in 1897, native of the Stankuti village of the Janovsk Volost of the Kovensk Uyezd, Lithuanian.

It is established, that during the occupation of the Kovensk district the listed persons were recruited by the police and under orders of the German counterespionage authorities detected the Soviet-and-party active, soldiers of the Red Army, who escaped from the German captivity, and persons who spread anti-fascist propaganda. In July 1944, before the German retreat, JIGAR received a task from the chief officer of police – to stay in the rear of the Red

Army for gathering espionage information, which he should transmit to resident SNEJKO, however the latter never appeared.

By JIGAR's evidence, another police agent arrested by us – DAVALGA, received a task before the German retreat to stay in the rear of the Red Army for implementation of subversive activity.

Thus, from the facts listed above and from additional materials available to us, which had been reported earlier, it is seen, that the majority of members of the Šaulis counterrevolutionary-nationalist organization participated in treacherous activity or in every possible way supported the activities of the German occupation, aimed at destruction of Soviet citizens, soldiers and commanders of the Red Army and the Jewish population. The most active part of Šaulists, that proved themselves in practical treacherous activity, were left by the Germans in the rear of the Red Army with the task of implementation of espionage terrorist and subversive activity.

On the basis of the above-stated, considering the criminal activity accomplished by the Šaulis Lithuanian nationalistic organizations during the occupation of the Lithuanian SSR by the German armies and the fact, that by virtue of the hostile attitude to the Soviet authority these organizations, which went deep underground and stored their weapons, are a base for the German intelligence, I consider it expedient to conduct a mass operation on simultaneous arrests of all members of the Šaulis organization, that exist on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR, and with their dispatch to special camps for subsequent filtration and repression.

Head of the Smersh Counterespionage Department of the

3rd Belarus front general-lieutenant

ZELENIN

3/24499

39.

LIST OF TRAITORS REVEALED BY THE PARTISAN RECONNAISSANCE

1. KRAPNAUSKAS Kazis, Antaza Volost, Vedoru village, pursued communists, Soviet activists, shot Jews, plundered, is a secret police agent now.
2. DAINJUS Iozas Mjarkevich, Antaza Volost, Dubaraichu village, a rebel, shot Bolsheviks, plundered, serves in store of compulsory deliveries in the Antaza Volost.
3. DAINJUS Ionas, Antaza Volost, Vedoru village, a rural head, Šaulist, a rebel. Participated in executions, plundered, is a secret police agent now.
4. RIBAKOVAS Andreenas Artemievich, Antaza Volost, Dubaraichu village, a rebel, destroyed roads at the retreat of the Red Army, showed to Germans the direction, where the Red Army was retreating, gave out Soviet functionaries, gave out GORANABAUSKAS [KIRIONAS], an active Soviet worker, hung himself in prison.
5. GEDRAITIS Balis, Antaza Volost, Vedoru village, Šaulist, a rebel, under his indications Germans made many arrests.
6. AJAKSNIS Kazis Kazevich, together with his father and two brothers, Vedoru village, killed, plundered, gave out communists and Soviet activists.
7. BAIRAS Balis Antonovich, Didee village, a rebel, pursued communists.
8. STATULJAVIČUS Albinas, from the Vedoru village, from 1940 to 1941 worked in Kaunas as a driver. According to his words, he, ostensibly, at the retreat of the Red Army killed one commander and came back home, participated in arrests, often went to Kaunas.
9. BUROKAS Čapas, Stasis, Vladas, conducted arrests in the Didee village, shot people.
10. BUROKAS Felikas, Didee village, a rebel, shot Red Army men, beat the arrested.
11. STREIKUS Antanas, Masiulishki village, a rebel. Together with his father shot people, plundered, has left as a volunteer to the eastern front.
12. STREIKUS Pjatrás, Masiulishki village, a rebel, gave out Bolsheviks and Soviet activists.

13. STREIKAS Antanas, Masiulishki village, a rebel, shot, participated in arrests, plundered, gave out people.
14. ZIKMEVSKIS Alienovas, Paluku village, Imbrat Volost, a rebel, killed Bolsheviks, gave out people, is a secret police agent now.
15. NAPRIS Vincas, Kuklu village, a rebel, a secret police agent, works in an establishment.
16. NAPRIS Stasis, Kuklu village, a rebel, a thug, participated in arrests, gave out the population.
17. GUDONIS Juozas, Shniukshtu village, during the Soviet authority organized the fascist rebels, is a secret police agent now.
18. DENINIS Bronjus, Voluniu village, a rebel, a secret police agent.
19. MESHKAUSKAS Valis, Didee village, a rebel, works in the Zarasai polices.
20. VASILIAUSKAS Antanas, a rebel, a police agent.
21. VILCHUKAS Antalius, Degucaj Volost, Zalesie village, a rebel, shot at the retreating Red Army soldiers and the evacuated population, and now participates in executions. The police often invites him to shoot. Works in secret police, has weapon. A peasant, has 12 hectares of land.
22. JUSHKENAS Vincas, Imbrat Volost, Naviku village, has 35 hectares of land, a rebel, now works in the secret police and has weapon.
23. SAVIČUS Bronjus, Degucaj Volost, Kirviliashku village, a rebel, shot people, the police invited him to participate in executions. Now is a police informer, has weapons.
24. JUSHKENAS Julis and his brother, Degucaj Volost, Blinikshu village, has 13 hectares of land. A rebel, participated in executions, in 1942 was taken away to Germany for the Reich works. In 1943 on June 25 returned from Germany for 3 weeks on a leave, but doesn't want to return to Germany.
25. JUSHKENAS Kazis, Degucaj Volost, Blinikshu village, a peasant, has 12 hectares of land, a rebel, shot communists and Jews. Now he is the head, has weapons.
26. MAJEIKA Antanas, Degucaj Volost, Shukishku village, a peasant, has one and a half hectares of land, a rebel, shot Bolsheviks and Jews. Works in the secret police. Writes reports to the police. A fisherman. Has weapons.
27. JANOVDIS, Degucaj Volost, Chijavkos village, a rebel, shot people.

28. DAMBRAUSKAS Longinas, Degučai Volost, Zablotishku village, a rebel, participated in executions. In the spring of 1942 left for Germany on works at the Reich. In 1943, on June 25 returned from Germany and lives at his farm.
29. JUSHKENAS Adolfas, Degučai Volost, Zablotishku village, a rebel, participated in executions, now he is a policeman in Vilnius.
30. JUSHKOVAS Romanas, Degučai Volost, Zablotishku village, a former rebel.
31. GULBINSKAJA Pjatrás, Degučai Volost, Zablotishku village, a rebel. Has voluntarily left for the eastern front.
32. JUSHKENAS Longinas, Imbrat Volost, Mukulu village, a rebel, the insurgent headquarters are in his house. A peasant, has 6 hectares of land.
33. KOLIS Vladas, Degučai Volost, Asavitu village, a tailor, a rebel, has a radio set, is speculating and informs the police.
34. TVERDAUSKAS Vaclovas, Degučai Volost, Minakishku village, a rebel, now works as a courier in Zarasai agronomics.
35. MALDAUSKAS Edmundas, Degučai Volost, Baraviku village. A rebel. Worked as a supervisor for Germans in the Zarasai prison. Now he is a policeman in Zarasai.
36. VITKAUSKAS Juozas, Degučai Volost, Shunjalu village, a rebel, a supervisor of the road Zarasai – Kaunas. Has weapons, a secret police agent.
37. STANKJAVICHES Andrjus, Degučai Volost, Murmulishki village, a rebel, was in Germany. In the spring of 1943 returned from Germany and works as an operator in Zarasai. He shot many people. Some say that he participated in execution of Vorobiev and other communists.
38. JUODINIS Vladas, Degučai Volost, Madunu village, a rebel. Shot at the retreating Red Army men and the evacuated population. His father has 13 hectares of land.
39. JURSHIS Vincés, Degučai Volost, Kirviliashku village. His father has 25 hectares of land. A rebel. During the Smetona regime served in the frontier police, during the retreat of the Soviet power was also working there. At the retreat of the Red Army shot at the Red Army men. Now lives at his fathers', has weapons. A secret police agent.
40. SHILIEKIS Ionas, Degučai Volost, Zalesé village, a rebel, secretary of a rebel group. His father – the commander of the rebel group. Under his orders and orders of his father communists and Soviet activists were shot.

- Now he is a student in Zarasai. His father is the chief officer of police in Antalepte.
41. JUSHKENAS Julis, Degučai Volost, Zabolotishki village, has 33 hectares of land, a rebel, a secret police agent, has weapons.
 42. SHKUKIAMIAČUS, Imbrat Volost, Mukulu village, a rebel, shot at Red Army men and communists. Participated in executions of Jews.
 43. TUTENAS Ionas, Degučai borough, a rebel, participated in executions. Now is the supervisor of roads and the chief of secret police of the Degučai region, has weapon, severely treated the population.
 44. BAINERAITIS Ionas, Degučai Volost, Vaikucu village. A rebel. Worked as a forester in the Degučai forest. Since spring 1943 lives at home.
 45. CHIJKAS Pjatraš, Degučai Volost, Cigavkos village, has 15 hectares of land, he killed MIDUNETSKI Misha.
 46. RUKSHTJALIS Aleksas, Degučai Volost, a rebel, very cruel. Now works as a clerk in the Degučai Volost administration. Treated the population very severely. Works for bribes. Has weapons.
 47. KLIMANSKAS Alfonsas, Degučai borough, has 20 hectares of land, a rebel, shot communists, now is a secret police agent, has weapons.
 48. DJAKSNIS, Degučai borough, a teacher, a rebel. Judged the arrested persons. Many people that he prosecuted were shot. Now works as a teacher and informs Germans.

Chief of the intelligence-informational Department Lithuanian Š.P.D.

BARANAUSKAS

40.

**SPECIAL REPORT OF HEAD OF THE “SMERSH”
COUNTERESPIONAGE DEPARTMENT OF THE 3RD
BYELORUSSIAN FRONT GENERAL-LIEUTENANT
ZELENIN ABOUT THE ACTIVITY OF THE ŠAULIS
NATIONALISTIC ORGANIZATION**

Top secret

September 11, 1944

*To the chief of the NKO “Smersh” Counterespionage central administrative
board Commissioner of state security of the 2nd rank
Comrade ABAKUMOV*

In early August, 1944 the “Smersh” Counterespionage Department of the 89th army gained the information that during the occupation of the Rossijansk Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR by the German armies the most active members of the Šaulis Lithuanian counterrevolutionary-nationalist organization chose to openly struggle against the Soviet authority, rendering all-round help to the German occupation authorities in the destruction of partisans, separate groups of Red Army soldiers that were in German encirclement, and also in the destruction of the Soviet-and-party active functionaries and the Jewish population.

Separate persons from among the Šaulists, firm opponents of the Soviet power who have proved themselves traitors, were appointed for supervising posts by the German occupation authorities.

So, KOVALCIS, a convinced Šaulist was appointed to the post of chief of the Rossijansk Uyezd Saugumas secret police, LUKMINAS was appointed to the post of chief of the Gertakol Volost police, MIČKAS Jurges Bronas was appointed the head of Gertakol Volost, and the head of the Gertakol borough – Šaulist KACUNAS Kazis.

The following persons, having taken up the duties of managing the Rossijansk Uyezd and the Gertakol Volost, with a view of realization of organized struggle against the Soviet local authorities grouped the counter-revolutionary nationalistic element around themselves, most of whom belonged to the Šaulis organization, and from this contingent created the Lithuanian police and a number of punitive groups.

Being active doers of the German command’s will, these persons started their struggle against the partisans, the Red Army soldiers that had been entrapped

by the Germans, destruction of communists, Komsomol members, persons loyal to the Soviet power, and also the Soviet citizens of the Jewish nationality.

Under orders of the German command KOVALCIKAS, LUKMINAS, MIČKIS and KACUKAS with the punitive units which they created in August and September, 1941 in the area of the Kurnishki manor, that is 2 km from the Gertakol borough – brutally exterminated 2,000 people of the Jewish population of the Rossijansk Uyezd.

By means of the measures taken, the “Smersh” Counterespionage Department of the 39th army at the end of August of this year detected and arrested two organizers and seven active members of the committed crimes.

Arrested with regard to this case:

1. Chairman of the Gertakol Volost – MIČKIS Jurges Pronas, born in 1906, native of the Vidgeri village of the Šiskai Uyezd of the Rossijansk Volosts, a kulak, a member of the Šaulis organization.
2. Chairman of the Gertakol borough – KACUKAS Kazis Kazisovich, born in 1910, native of the Vogeni village of the Gertakol Volost, Šaulist.
3. JUKNA Enas Enosovich, born in 1916, native and resident of the Mikaice village of the Gertakol Volost, the policeman, a member of the Šaulis organization.
4. JUKNA Antonas Enosovich, born in 1911, of the Mikaice village of the Gertakol Volost.
5. IOTIS Viktoras Pronas, born in 1905, native and resident of the Vizbori village of the Gertakol Volost, Šaulist.
6. VICUNAS Antonas Antonasovich, born in 1915, native and resident of the Peljuni village of the Gertakol Volost, a member of the Šaulis organization.
7. ANDRKIS Antonas Iosifovich, born in 1910, native and resident of the Simurishki borough of the Rossijansk Uyezd, a member of the Šaulis organization .
8. GEGORAITIS Kazis Kazisovich, born in 1910, native and resident of the Promadnevo village of the Gertakol Volost, Šaulist.
9. RAGALIAUSKAS Ionas Ionasovich, born in 1908, native of the Vediani village of the Gertakol Volost, during the German occupation of the Gertakol borough had his own bakery and a grocery store.

In the progress of investigation the available materials about the treacherous activity of the indicated persons were completely confirmed.

So, at the interrogation, the arrested former chairman of the Gertakol borough – KACUKAS K. evidenced the following about the details of the execution of the Jewish population and his personal participation in this crime:

“...In August, 1941 I personally made a list of all residents Jews of the Gertakol borough. I did this work under MICKAS’s orders. On the first days of September, 1941, according to the list that I presented, execution of the Jewish population was carried out, in which I directly participated. 128 men were shot in total, including 30 children.

Before the execution all of the doomed were exposed to severe beatings, then they were undressed, and then shot. Their clothes were plundered by the chasteners.

LUKMINAS supervised over the execution and when the Jews were brought to the pits, he declared to them: “This is for your help to the Soviet power. You have abducted many of our Lithuanians to Siberia...”

From testimonies of the arrested persons with regard to this case 13 other men that actively participated in the execution of Jewish population in the Rossijansk Uyezd were established.

Measures are taken to detect and arrest these persons.

The materials of the investigation establish, that organizers of the brutal destruction of the Jewish population former chief of the Rossijansk Uyezd police – KOVALCIKAS ran away with the retreating German armies, and chief of the Gertakol police – LUKMINAS was killed in the armed resistance on August 10th of this year during an operation of the “Smersh” Department of the 84th rifle battalion for detection of the counter-revolutionary elements.

Investigation of this case proceeds for the purpose of revealing of all of the facts of treacherous activity of the arrested persons indicated above and establishing all of the active members of the brutal destruction of Jewish population of the Rossijansk Uyezd.

*Head of the “Smersh” Counterespionage Department
of the 3rd Belarus front general-lieutenant ZELENIN*

3/25268

41.

**SPECIAL REPORT OF THE HEAD OF THE “SMERSH”
COUNTERESPIONAGE DEPARTMENT OF THE 1ST
BALTIC FRONT ABOUT THE ARREST OF A FORMER
CHIEF OFFICER OF POLICE OF BIRZAI GRUZDIS
BRONISLAV KARLOVICH.**

Top secret

December 15, 1944

*To the chief of the “Smersh” Counterespionage central administrative board
Commissioner of state security of the 2nd rank
Comrade ABAKUMOV
Moscow*

The “Smersh” Counterespionage Department of the 3rd Air army in the Ergunishki village of the Eniskol Volost of the Birzai Uyezd detained and then on October 14, 1944 arrested an active chastiser and member of mass executions of Soviet citizens on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR temporarily occupied by the Germans.

GRUZDIS Bronislav Karlovich, born in 1906, native of the Balalei village of the Tausen Volost of the Velikomir Uyezd (Lithuania), Lithuanian, citizen of the USSR, non-party member, primary education, previously not convicted, single.

During the investigation of the case, conducted in the “Smersh” Counterespionage Department of the 1st Baltic front, it is established, that from 1928 to 1940, i.e. before the establishment of Soviet power in Lithuania, GRUZDIS was an active member of the Šaulis Sajunga counter-revolutionary nationalistic organization and served in the Lithuanian police – first as a policeman, and from 1939 till 1940 – as chief of the Volost police of the Deguciai borough of the Zarasai Uyezd, in the rank of wachtmeister.

After the establishment of the Soviet power in Lithuania, in October, 1940 GRUZDIS went to work in the Novo-Svencziani Uyezd Department of national education where he worked in the position of the secretary till the moment of occupation of the Lithuanian SSR territory by the Germans.

Having remained on the territory temporarily occupied by the enemy, GRUZDIS came to the German commandant in the first days of occupation of Novo-Svencziani and was appointed the city marshal.

Holding this post till January 1944, GRUZDIS was an active chastiser and an accomplice of German invaders in the realization of mass executions of Soviet citizens.

In 1941, the police, directed by GRUZDIS, detained nearly 200 Red Army men, who were entrapped by the Germans, and 200 Soviet activists were arrested most of which were shot in Panavežys.

In September, 1941, under the command of the Germans, the police headed by GRUZDIS, drove together and then shot about 8,000 Soviet citizens of the Jewish nationality, that lived on the territory of the Novo-Svencziani Volost.

The evidences of witnesses interrogated with regard to this case: NALIVAIKO A.A. FILLIPOVE K.I., ZINKOVA E.I. and others establish that the execution of Jews was conducted continuously for two days; the corpses were dumped into a specially opened ditch that was located south-west of Novo-Svencziani.

During the inspection of the place of the execution of the Soviet citizens by a specially created commission a ditch filled with corpses was found in the place indicated above: length – 156 m, width – 10 m and depth – 3,5 m, fenced from all around and covered by 1 meter of sand.

After getting the post of the chief officer of Birzai police in January, 1944, and working there till the coming of the Red Army to Lithuania, GRUZDIS conducted mass executions of the Soviet citizens that were dissatisfied with the Germans.

GRUZDIS arrested and gave out 250 Soviet patriots to Gestapo most of whom were shot.

Besides GRUZDIS repeatedly conducted raids against Soviet partisans as the head of a policemen group, during which in the Klavsucei village two partisans BORISOV and SOLOVIEV were killed by the police and an unknown woman that harbored them was shot.

Investigation continues for detection of the overall GRUZDIS's criminal activity, detection of the police agents and active accomplices of invaders.

On GRUZDIS's evidences 35 active accomplices and traitors of Soviet people are to be prosecuted with regard to this case, materials on them are sent to the NKGB of the Lithuanian SSR.

*Head of the "Smersh" Counterespionage Department
of the 1st Baltic front general-lieutenant KHANNIKOV*

[SIGNATURE]

26505/4

42.

**“APPEAL TO LITHUANIANS” OF THE COMMANDER
OF THE POLISH PARTISAN GROUPS OF THE VILNO
DISTRICT VILKA**

May 20, 1944

As a commander of the Polish partisan groups operating on the territory of the Vilno district, I call all the Lithuanian public to end the burning anti-Polish course held in Vilno and the Vilno area for five years already .

All effort of the management, the police and the Lithuanian Saugumu has been directed against the Polish public for these tragic years. The police and the Lithuanian Saugumu (Gestapo) fiercely struggled against any demonstration of Polish, sending thousands of Polish patriots – intelligentsia, youth, peasants and workers to Lukishki, Ponar and other prisons and places of execution.

We know well these places of tortures, brutal beatings and humiliation of the arrested. We know well about the starvation in prisons and concentration camps. We also know the names of initiators of these crimes that cry to the sky for revenge. Such last names as BABRANICIUSOV, CHESNULISOV and thousands of other murderers will become history of the disgracefully perishing Lithuania. They and their contemptible assistants: sleuths, residents, policemen, security guards, chiefs of prisons, etc. will answer as war criminals not only to history, but also to our tribunals for the murders that they had committed, for the sea of shed blood.

And all Lithuanian public are morally and physically responsible, for it had never condemned and had not struggled against these murderers, but silently looked at the destruction of the Polish elite.

Especially explicitly this picture has evinced for the last 3 years, i.e. from the moment of occupation of these lands by the Germans when after the destruction of Jews by the hands of Lithuanian executioners the attention of these criminals was directed against Poles.

Tens of thousands [from among] Polish young people have been seized by the hands of the Lithuanian police and were sent either to the front, or for work to Germany. Thousands of Poles have undergone Lukishki and other prisons during these three tragic years. Germans published commands, and the Lithuanian police and Sauguma executed these instructions with the silent approval of the Lithuanian society.

We waited that you would come to reason, but we were exasperated. As the commander of the Polish military groups struggling against gangsterism [...]

1. Lithuanian police Sauguma (Gestapo), and also the Lithuanian officials should immediately cease toadying to Germans in the struggle against Poles. Any raids, political arrests, taking of hostages, struggle against our movement for independence, tortures and beatings of the arrested persons, catching of our soldiers that are joining the Polish groups, deliberate destruction of the arrested persons by famine, bribery, etc. crimes should be certainly stopped.

2. Silently looking at these crimes, the Lithuanian public bears responsibility for them and consequently should begin resolute struggle against the criminals. I demand to immediately begin a pacificational [based on reconciliation] campaign in the attitude of Lithuanians towards Poles, so that in the future there would be no such phenomena as carnages of the innocent Polish and Byelorussian people by soldiers of general PLEHAVICIUS.

Our patience has run down. I am warning that if the management, police and Lithuanian Sauguma do not make corresponding conclusions from our appeal and do not stop their methods of struggle, then hard-fought struggle will be applied to all the Lithuanian police, Sauguma and the administration. By means of Polish armed forces at my order I shall destroy the core of criminals in the shortest time.

If you wish to have ruthless struggle, you will have it!

I'm only warning, that absolutely different methods of struggle, than the ones used in the struggle against PLEHAVICHIUS's group will be applied. There we had dealings with soldiers partly compulsorily drawn into these ranks. You policemen, Lithuanian Saugumists are criminals who have risen voluntarily for the struggle against all the Polish on this territory. Remember, that the border of Lithuania is near, and we shall manage to let our revenge free on that side of the boundary posts.

I address to the Lithuanian public. Let it inspire its sons and force them to struggle with true gangsters, instead of the Polish public and its soldiers, who voluntarily and ideologically stood up for protection of life and property of citizens whatever nationality or confession they are..

Commander of partisan Groups of the Vilno district

VILK

43.

INFORMATION ON THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY FASCIST AGGRESSORS AND THEIR ACCOMPLICES TO CITIZENS, PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS, STATE ENTERPRISES AND ESTABLISHMENTS OF THE LITHUANIAN SSR

December 31, 1945

In the Lithuanian SSR German aggressors and their accomplices killed and tortured 436,535 innocent residents and 229,738 POWs, stolen 36,540 citizens to the German servitude.

Fascist aggressors and their accomplices destroyed and wrecked 36,089 structures of state enterprises, public organizations, establishments of culture, art and religious cults. Including 11,245 apartment houses, with the volume of 8,388,133 cubic meters, 72 buildings of hospitals, polyclinics and ambulance stations, 30 theatres, clubs and places of honor, 685 school buildings, 5 libraries, 15 buildings of scientific institutes, 30 buildings of academies, 2 museums, 20 children's establishments, 14 churches, 9 chapels, 78 churches, 130 synagogues, 18 other structures of religious cults, 1,655 industrial buildings, 56 electricity generating plants and substations, 386 stores, 18,538 warehouses, 69 garages, 170 vegetable storehouses, 156 granaries, 2,703 cattle-breeding block constructions. They destroyed and took 14,399 heads of cattle, 11,150 horses, 10,712 pigs, 9,971 heads of sheep and goats, 19,766 heads of different birds, 908 beehives, 11,555 tons of grain, 10,840 tons of potatoes, 3,863 tons of vegetables and fruit, seized and destroyed 5,921 hectares of grain crops, 1,019 hectares of potatoes, 3,846 hectares of other agricultural crops, 148 hectares of gardens, and 499 hectares of afforestations.

Fascist aggressors and their accomplices destroyed and took out from the Lithuanian SSR equipment, machines, agricultural stock belonging to public organizations, state enterprises and establishments: 113 boilers, 17 steam turbines, 77 steam engines, 102 locomobiles, 8 steam locomotives, 5 rail motor cars, 162 diesels, 39 gas-generator engines, 28 hydraulic turbines, 129 electrogenerators, 10 movable electricity generating plants, 3,924 electric motors, 1,170 metal-cutting, 1,227 wood-working and 445 weaving machines, 428 units of pump equipment, 224 units of jacking equipment, 1,680 motor vehicles, 2,339 special sewing machines, 480 tractors, 2 combines, 2,416 tractor plows, 3,426 tractor harrows, 1,443 cultivators, 985 seeders, 93 potato-planters and potato-diggers, 876 tractor rakes, 894 mowing machines,

260 threshers, 859 harvester, 363 winnowing machines, 58 separators, 555 cream-separators, 159 straw cutters, 12 fire trucks, 5,651 carts, 518 different trolleys, 3 barges, 7 tanks, and 6,859 different agricultural stocks.

Fascist aggressors and their accomplices took from citizens 623,618 heads of cattle, 223,589 horses, 776,387 pigs, 276,533 sheep and goats, 587,104 heads of different poultry, 7,582 beehives, 780,035 tons of grain, 906 tons of flour, 1,319,971 tons of potatoes and vegetables, 484,470 tons of other agricultural products: burnt and wrecked 15,175 apartment houses and 29,186 outdoor block structures with the volume of 17,896,954 cubic meters, destroyed 19,821 trees of long-term plantings and plundered 78,946 units of different agricultural stock, and 101,816 volumes of books.

From materials of the Emergency State Commission.

Central Archive of FSB of Russia. Archive File N-18313. Volume 18. Pages 197.
The certified typewritten copy.

44.

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF THE TASK GROUP
OF THE 4TH DEPARTMENT OF NKGB OF THE USSR
ABOUT ACTIONS OF PUNITIVE GROUPS
IN THE TERRITORY OF BYELORUSSIA**

Top secret

November 16, 1943

*To the chief of the Central Army Headquarters of the Partisan
Movement at the Headquarters of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief
General-lieutenant comrade PONOMARENKO*

The head of our task group captain KRIVSKI informs, that the enemy punitive groups have combed and partially occupied the forests of the Polotsk region of the Vitebsk Oblast. Punitive SS formations are in command of Godberg NICKEL and Amkalt RUSSEL, the 13th, 2nd, 57th, 24th police regiments are in these formations, the 64th security and the 255th Lithuanian regiments, the 9th armoured company, the Latvian battalion, an artillery division, motor-platoon, the air-defence battery, building battalions and nine airplanes.

The German command gave the indicated formations a task of full liquidation for four weeks of partisan groups which are based in settlements of the Drissen Osvei regions.

*Deputy Chief of the 4th Department of NKGB of the USSR
Commissioner of State Security EITINGON*

Delivered to: comrade PONOMARENKO, comrade KUZNETSOV

45.

**LIST OF PERSONS ON THE ROLL OF THE POLICE
WHO PARTICIPATED IN EXECUTION OF INNOCENT
RESIDENTS – JEWS OF THE ILOKIAI BOROUGH,
THE ILOKIAI VOLOST, THE LITHUANIAN SSR
IN JULY, 1941**

Not earlier than October, 1944

1. BRUJAS Peter Antonovich, resident of the Ilokiai borough, the Ilokiai Volost.
2. BRUJAS Anton Antonovich, resident of the Ilokiai borough, the Ilokiai Volost.
3. SMEIJS Peter Iosifovich.
4. GLIAUBERTAS Mikhail Vladimirovich.
5. BRUJAS Peter.
6. NAVITSKI Ivan.
7. GAČUS Joseph.
8. JAČKUS Vikenti.
9. PASHKEVICH – worked as an organist at a church in Ilokai.
10. ALSEIKA Kazimir Antonovich, resident of the Stripinai village of the Ilokiai Volost.
11. STRIKAITIS Konstantin, resident of the Kavšai village of the Ilokiai Volost.
12. PJATRAUSKAS, resident of the Arksva village of the Ilokiai Volost.
13. CAPORUS Leon resident of the Gintalaci village of the Ilokiai Volost.
14. SHARAPNITSKI Joseph, resident of the Nausiadai village of the Ilokiai Volost.
15. VINDASUS Kazimir, resident of the Gidrimai village of the Ilokiai Volost.
16. TAURILA Kazimir, resident of the Ilokiai borough of the Ilokiai Volost.
17. JEIMIS Julis, resident of the Ilokiai borough of the Ilokiai Volost.

Comment: STRIKAITIS Konstantin and PJATRAUSKAS both worked as chiefs of police in the Ilokiiai borough.

Military inspector MP of military unit 28159
Major of justice AVTUKH

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 94. File 423. Pages 37.
The original Typescript.

46.

ACT OF INSPECTION OF PLACES OF MASS GRAVES IN THE ILOKIAI BOROUGH

October 12, 1944

Ilokiai borough, Lithuanian SSR

We, the undersigned soldiers of military unit field mail 28159 major of justice CHERFAS, major of justice AVTUKH, sergeant-major GORYANETS at presence of residents of the Ilokiai borough of the Lithuanian SSR KOZLOVSKI Kazimir and GERDVAINIS Peter Alfonsovich on this day have drawn up the present act about the following:

On this day 800 m to the south of the Ilokiai borough we discovered two pits in the northern part of the Jewish cemetery, of the size as follows: the first pit 25 m long and 5 m wide, the second pit – length – 10 m. Width [].

In 1941 at the beginning of July as the German troops entered the Ilokiai borough, under the German command, from over [...] Jewish residents: men, women and children were brutally destroyed. All of the shot Jewish residents of the Ilokiai borough were buried in the two above-stated pits. About what the present act is drawn up.

Major of justice CHERFAS

Major of justice AVTUKH

Sergeant-major GORYANETS

residents of the borough KOZLOVSKI and GERDVAINIS

47.

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF WITNESS KAZIMIR KOZLOVSKI

October 12, 1944

Ilokiai borough, Lithuanian SSR

Military inspector of the military office of public prosecutor of military unit field mail 28159 major of justice AVTUKH interrogated as a witness the undernamed who being warned about the responsibility for false swearing in accordance with clause 95 of UK [Criminal Code] of RSFSR, evidenced as follows:

KOZLOVSKI Kazimir, has no patronymic, born in 1897, native of the Truikino village, Shkudskaya Volost, Lithuanian, education of 3 grades, resident of the Ilokiai borough, married, has 3 children, from a family of peasants, works for a wage in agriculture.

Question: Tell me witness what is known to you concerning the execution of innocent Jewish residents in the Ilokiai borough by German military authorities in 1941?

Answer: During the time of execution of Jewish residents of the Ilokiai borough, that is on July 6 and 7, 1941, I was at that time under arrest, I had been arrested by the police, together with the police the head of the borough VAITKUS Jusef, resident of the Ilokiai borough came to me. I don't know the last names of the policemen. I had been under arrest for more than 2 months. Then I was released under the police supervision. Jewish men were gathered in the Jewish synagogue earlier, 10–12 days before the execution. In the evening of July 6, 1941, Jewish men were taken out from the synagogue in groups and brought to the Jewish cemetery and shot there. By this time women and children were also brought to the Jewish synagogue. When the execution of the Jewish men ended, women and children were escorted in groups to the cemetery. I can not tell how many children, women and men were shot separately, but I know no less than 300 people were shot in total. I can only give some names and last names: KATZ Mendel's family consisted of 4 persons. Wife KATZ, I don't know her first name, gave birth to a baby on the night of execution and was shot together with him. KATZ Leib's family consisted of 3 persons, all were shot. GRUPPELIA Samson's family consisted of 9 persons. All were shot, including 7 children under 20, etc. Doctor ESELEVICH was also shot, I know that he was led to the execution by CAPORUS Leon from the Gintalaici village of the Ilokiai Volost, who worked

in the police at that time, together with SHAROPNICKI Joseph resident of the Nausiadai village of the Ilokiai Volost. I know, that during the moment of execution RACUS Joseph was on police service, resident of the Ilokiai borough, STRIKAITIS Konstantin, resident of the Masiadai village, worked as the chief officer of police in the Ilokiai borough, VINDASHUS Kazimir resident of the Gidrimai village of the Ilokiai Volost, ALSEIKA, I don't know his name, resident of the Kervai village, left as a volunteer to the German army, BRUJIS Peter, resident of the Ilokiai borough, SHMEIJIS Peter Iosifovich, resident of the Ilokiai borough, left with German troops before the approach of the Red Army; I don't know where the other persons are. The belongings of all the shot Jewish residents were plundered by the police and other unknown residents. I am adding that during the time of the execution of the Jewish population JACĶUS Vikenti was on police service, a resident of the Ilokiai borough, has recently moved to Vilno, but I don't know where. With weapon in hands he guarded the residents arrested by the Germans and took Jews from their houses. I also know, that during the moment of execution there were German soldiers and officers, who were photographing the shot people. The next day after the execution, all of the Germans left the borough, there were only the policemen, who called themselves partisans, all of them worked against the Soviet power and Red Army.

There is nothing more I can add about the execution of the Jews in the Ilokiai borough.

Written down accurately according to my words and read through to me.

K. KOZLOVSKI

*Military inspector MP of the military unit 28159
Major of justice AVTUKH*

48.

**TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF WITNESS
KALOSHIS A.J.**

October 11, 1944

Ilokiai borough, Lithuanian SSR

Military inspector of the military office of public prosecutor of military unit field mail 28159 major of justice AVTUKH interrogated as a witness the undernamed, who, being warned about the responsibility for false swearing in accordance with clause 95 of UK [Criminal Code] of RSFSR, evidenced as follows:

KOLOSHIS Andrey Yurievich, born in 1892, native of the Kovno province, Ilokiai borough, Latvian, 2 grades of education, from a family of peasants, a tailor, lives as a single handicraftsman, married, has a family of 3 persons.

On the merits of the questions I can explain as follows:

After the war with Germany had begun and the Ilokiai Volost territory was occupied, it happened on June 26 or 25, 1941, the local police, under orders of German military authorities, drove together all of the Jewish residents of the Ilokiai borough in the Jewish synagogue, Jewish men were taken there earlier and were kept in the synagogue under armed guard for about 12 days. At the beginning of July all of the Jewish men were convoyed in groups to the Jewish cemetery, where they were executed. Men were shot in the afternoon. After Jewish men were executed, women and children of the Ilokiai borough were gathered in the Jewish synagogue, and late at night they were convoyed in groups to the place of execution, that is to the place where the men had been gathered and shot. My house is near the place of the execution, so I personally heard shots from automatic weapons and rifles. When the execution ended, I asked a German officer in [...] "Is it possible to go and look at the shot?" He answered, that was possible. Then I went to the place of the execution. Here I saw that the victims were lying in two heaps of corpses. Some were separately lying away from the two heaps. Jewish men were shot and their corpses lay separately from the corpses of women. At the time, when I was approaching the place of execution, some people were still alive and moving, and two policemen, whose names I don't know, were present there at that time, they walked around the two heaps and shot the people from rifles. They shot in the head, in the chest and in other parts of the body. In total, over 300 men, women and children of all ages were shot there. All of the Jews that lived in the borough were shot without exception. I know the following people among them:

[illegible] Mendel's family consisting of 4 persons, all of them were shot, from them there were 2 children aged below 13, BERSH[...N's family consisted of 8 persons, all of them were shot, AU[...KIS's family consisted of two persons – all shot.

From among the shot there were also rabbis, [...] a Jewish doctor was shot, I cannot recall his last name. The property of the shot Jewish residents was plundered by the police and by some other persons. I know that at execution of Jews there were Germans and policemen, I can not name them, as I do not know them. There is nothing more I can add.

It is written down accurately according to my words and read through to me.

K.KALOSHIS

Military inspector MP of the military unit 28159

Major of justice AVTUKH

49.

**TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF WITNESS
MALUKAS I.F.**

October 11, 1944

Ilokiai borough, Lithuanian SSR

Military inspector of the military office of public prosecutor of military unit field mail 28159 major of justice AVTUKH interrogated as a witness the undernamed, who, being warned about the responsibility for false swearing in accordance with clause 95 of UK [Criminal Code] of RSFSR, evidenced as follows:

MALUKAS Joseph Frantsevich, born in 1898, native of the Margenka village of the Ilokiai Volost, resident of the Ilokiai borough, Lithuanian, illiterate, from a family of peasants, has 5 hectares of land, is married, has 3 children, a no-party member.

To the point of the questions I explain as follows:

Before the beginning of the war with Germany I worked in the Ilokiai borough as a member of the Volost council of workers deputies. When the German armies occupied the territory of the Ilokiai Volost, I was arrested by PASHKEVICH by orded of captain of the Lithuanian army PJATRAUSKIS – the latter headed the police station in the Ilokiai borough. PASHKEVICH worked at a Lithuanian church in the Ilokiai borough and during the German occupation was a police employee. Up to the day of liberation of the Ilokiai borough by the Red Army, PASHKEVICH lived in the borough, I don't know where he is now. I had been under arrest for five days, then I was released home under a ban to go out in the street. Other citizens of the borough had been arrested together with me. Some of them were taken to prisons and others were shot.

When the execution of innocent residents took place, I was under arrest. Later I got to know from other residents of the borough, that all of the Jewish population, first men, were taken to a synagogue which was turned into "Ghetto", and then were taken in groups under armed guard to the Jewish cemetery and shot. After the execution of Jewish men ended, women and children were gathered, and were also shot. Executions were committed from automatic weapons and rifles. During the time of the execution both Germans and the police were present and were shooting. Direct initiators of the execution are not known to me. But I know that the following persons took

residents from their apartments and guarded them up to the moment of execution: PASHKEVICH, JEIMIS, JULIS, these persons are Lithuanians, residents of the borough. I don't know where they are now. Convicts were used to dig the pits for the shot. All of the belongings of the shot were plundered, the best ones were taken by the police, and everyone was allowed to take the rest, except for persons who sympathized with the Soviet power. I know that the victims were undressed and only bad clothes were left on the doomed. I do not precisely know how many people were killed, but no less than 300 people.

There is nothing more I can add to the present question.

Written down accurately according to my words and read through to me.

I. MALUKAS

Military inspector MP of the military unit 28159

Major of justice AVTUKH

State Archive of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 94. File 423. Page 31 overleaf.
The original. The manuscript.

50.

**TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF WITNESS
TAUJANIS F.F.**

October 11, 1944

Ilokiai borough, Lithuanian SSR

Military inspector of the military office of public prosecutor of military unit field mail 28159 major of justice AVTUKH interrogated as a witness the undernamed, who, being warned about the responsibility for false swearing in accordance with clause 95 of UK [Criminal Code] of RSFSR, evidenced as follows:

TAUJANIS Feodor Frantsevich, born in 1888, native of the Ilokiai borough, Lithuanian, illiterate, from a family of peasants, resident of the Ilokiai borough, works as the church head of a church in the Ilokiai borough, married, has two children.

To the point of the question I explain the following:

I have been living with my family in the Ilokiai borough since 1935. I know the residents of the Ilokiai borough quite well. Before the war there were about 200 households in our borough. I've heard there were about 1,000 residents, from them 300 were Jews. As the German armies came, they established the local authorities, and also a police station was created. The chief of the police station was STRIKAITIS, I do not know his name or patronymic, resident of the Kausai village, the Ilokiai Volost. I do not know, where he lives now. Before, this post belonged to PATRAUSKIS, I do not know where he lives now, resident of the Arkshva village of the Ilokiai Volost. I do not know, where he lives now.

On June 26 or 25, 1941, Germans were in the Ilokiai borough, they ordered to gather all of the Jewish population of the borough. First, all Jewish men were gathered in the Jewish synagogue and were detained there, women and children weren't gathered at this time. After spending two weeks in the synagogue the Jewish men were convoyed in groups to a cemetery and shot. After the men had been executed, women and children were also gathered in the Jewish synagogue and were then brought to the same cemetery and shot. I know some last names of the Jewish families that were executed. For example: BALKIN Jankel, shot together with his wife, BESCHTEIN shot together with his family that consisted of [...] persons, I also know some first names of the shot people: Shalom, Leiba and others. I heard that the arrested people were used for digging the pits. All of the property was subsequently plundered. I know that

during the time of the execution the following persons served in police and participated in the mass execution of Jews: GLJAUBERTAS Nikolay, resident of the Ilokiiai borough, TAURILA Kazimir, resident of the Ilokiiai borough. I do not know, where they are now or where they live. I have nothing else to add concerning the issue of mass execution of the Jewish population in the Ilokiiai borough.

Written down accurately according to my words and read through to me.

F. TAUJANIS

*Military inspector MP of the military unit 28159
Major of justice AVTUKH*

State Archive of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 94. File 423. Page 30 overleaf.
The original. The manuscript.

51.

**TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF WITNESS
GERDVAINIS P.A.**

October 11, 1944

Ilokiai borough, Lithuanian SSR

Military inspector of the military office of public prosecutor of military unit field mail 28159 major of justice AVTUKH interrogated as a witness the undernamed, who, being warned about the responsibility for false swearing in accordance with clause 95 of UK [Criminal Code] of RSFSR, evidenced as follows:

GERDVAINIS Peter Alfonsovich, born in 1899, native of the Kivili village of the Shkoda Volost, resident of the Ilokiai borough, Lithuanian, illiterate, from a family of peasants, a shoemaker, married, has two children.

To the point of the question I can explain the following:

I've been living in the Ilokiai borough for 40 years now. During the war with Germany I also lived in the Ilokiai borough. I know that when the territory of the Ilokiai Volost was occupied by the German armies, volunteer groups that called themselves partisans were raised in the Ilokiai borough. These people were against the Soviet power and executed all the commands of the German military authorities. On the second day after the beginning of the war, I was arrested by PASHKEVICH, who at once had voluntarily entered the police. I was under arrest for [8] days. Then I was released home, without having permission to walk on the territory of the borough, I was only allowed to stay in my house. When I was in prison, all residents of the borough, first of all Jewish men, were arrested by the police and locked up in the Jewish synagogue. In 10–12 days Jewish men were taken in groups to the Jewish cemetery and there shot from automatic weapons and rifles. After the execution of men, Jewish women and their children were gathered. There were also brought to the Jewish synagogue, and then shot on the cemetery. I myself saw that before the execution policeman GLJAUBERATIS cut off the beard of a rabbi, I don't know the last name of the rabbi.

In total over 300 Jews: old men, men, women and children were shot. I personally knew well the Jewish residents whose families were shot. So, for example, the LEVINA family, the SHAPIRA family – a former druggist, the family consisted of 3 persons, SHAPIRA Gershan's family, the family of doctor ESELEVICH of 3 persons, GLIKMAN Esel's family that consisted of 3 persons

and others. During the execution of Jews and after it the following persons were on police service:

BRUJAS Peter Antonovich, resident of the Ilokiai borough,

BRUJAS Anton Antonovich, resident of the Ilokiai borough,

SHMEIJIS Peter Iosifovich, resident of the Ilokiai borough, served in police, during the moment of execution of Jews he did not participate.

GLJAUBERTAS Mikhail Vladimirovich, resident of the Ilokiai borough,

ALSEIKA Kazimir Antonovich, Stripinai village,

BAUJIS, Ilokiai borough,

NAVITSKI Ivan, resident of the Ilokiai borough,

PASHKEVICH – worked as an organist in a church in the Ilokiai borough.

All of the mentioned persons participated in the gathering and conveying of the Jews to the cemetery for execution. I do not know where these persons are now, not so long ago I saw NAVITSKI.

GERDVAINIS

State Archives of the Russian Federation.
Fund 7021. List 94. File 423. Pages 28 with overleaf.
The original. The manuscript.

52.

**ACT ON CRIMES AND ATROCITIES OF FASCIST
AGGRESSORS AND THEIR ACCOMPLICES
IN THE ILOKIAI BOROUGH, THE MEŽEIKIAI UYEZD,
THE LITHUANIAN SSR**

October 18–19, 1944

Ilokai borough, Lithuanian SSR

We, the undersigned, Military Public Prosecutor, Military Inspector of military unit 39887 Guard's Major of Justice of ZUBROV Konstantin Fedorovich, Guard Major of Justice ZARETSER Mikhail Abramovich, Chief of the Counterespionage Department of military unit 66818 BELYANIN Vasily Ivanovich, Instructor of the Political Department of military unit 34433 major ZAICHENKO Danil Danilovich, Public Prosecutor of the Mežeikiai Uyezd GORVJANIS Petras, Instructor of the Mežeikiai U.C. [Uyezd Committee] of the CP(B) [Communist Party (Bolsheviks)] DVANRENAS Iozas, Chairman of the Ilokiai Borough Council KAZLOUSKAS Kazis, Prior of the Catholic Church of the Ilokiai borough priest DIKAVIČUS Vitautas, Doctor of the Ilokiai borough LJALIS, KARECHKO Antonas, have drawn up this act about the following:

As the fascist aggressors came to the Ilokiai borough, the Germans at once began committing massacre of Soviet citizens, for this purpose they made mass raids, catching communists, Komsomol members, Soviet activists and Jews.

Upon interrogations of witnesses of these executions it was established that executions took place on the Jewish cemetery, which is to the south-west of borough Ilokiai.

During the inspection of this location three graves were revealed which have been opened by the commission.

1st grave – 15 m by 5 m in size. 300 disorderly dumped corpses of men, women, and children in 4 layers were revealed at a depth of 1.85 m. The overwhelming majority of corpses had no shoes on, some corpses were undressed.

2nd grave – 10 m by 5 m, at a depth of 1.75 m disorderly dumped corpses of men, women and children were revealed. The overwhelming majority of corpses had no shoes on.; clothes had been taken off from some of the people. In total about 100 corpses were revealed in the second grave.

3rd grave – 4 m by 3 m, 3 corpses of men were revealed at a depth of 75 cm.

So, in total, up to 475 corpses were revealed in the graves.

The medicolegal commission examined 47 corpses, including those of 33 men, 9 women and 5 babies. The medicolegal examination established that all of the corpses have gunshot wounds in the top area of the body, many corpses have several wounds, that evidences that execution was carried out from small and automatic weapon.

The main originators of carnages and humiliation of the Soviet citizens in the Ilokiai borough are: the fascist command, administrative officer of the Baltic states LOZE, commissioner of Lithuania's civil authorities prince von RENTEILN, gebits-commissioner of the Šaulis district GEVEKKE, commandant of the Ilokiai borough HORS and fascist accomplices – direct initiators of executions, tortures and humiliation of the Soviet citizens: chiefs of the fascist nationalistic group VENSKUSS Kazis, PETRAUSKAS Francisc, senior inspector LUKAŠEVIČUS Stasis, members of the group: GLJAUBERTAS Mikas, TAURILA Kazis, JANCAUSKAS, VINCAS, GRIBAUSKAS Antnas, STRIKAITES Bolis, VEITAS Rimvild and others.

All of them should suffer severe punishment for the atrocities.

In witness of thereof this act is drawn up.

Military Public Prosecutor of military unit 39887

Guard's Major of Justice ZUBROV

Military Inspector ZARETSEK

*Chief of the Counterespionage Department of military unit 66818
major BELYANIN*

*Instructor of the Political Department of military unit 34433
major ZAICHENKO*

Public Prosecutor of the Mežeikiai GORVJANIS

Representative of the Ilokiai borough council KAZLAUSKAS

Priest DIKOVIČUS Vitautas

Doctor LJALIS KARECHKO

53.

**ACT OF INSPECTION OF GRAVES
OF SHOT CITIZENS BUDA AND PETREIKIS**

February 9, 1945

Salantai borough

This act is made on February 9, 1945 in Salantai borough of the same Volost, the Lithuanian SSR to witness that citizens BUDA Jurgis, son of Kazis and citizen PETREIKIS, son of Ignas were shot in the Salantai borough. The place of the execution and burial is in the Salantai borough, Vilnius Street, near the machine-tractor station, on the right side. Both of them lie in the same pit. A wooden fencing was made around the tomb during the liberation and the 27th anniversary of the Socialist October revolution.

Citizens BUDA Jurgis and PETREIKIS Ignas were recognized [...] as communists by the Germans and Lithuanian partisans, and therefore were shot. They were shot by the Germans, but under orders of the Lithuanian partisans.

Chairman of the Salantai Uyezd Executive Committee

KASRAGIS

State Archive of the Russian Federation.
Fund 7021. List 94. File 423. Pages 26. Original. Manuscript.

54.

**ACT OF INSPECTION OF GRAVES OF SHOT CITIZENS
IN THE SALANTAI BOROUGH**

February 9, 1945

Salantai borough

This act is made on February 9, 1945 in Salantai borough of the same Volost, the Lithuanian SSR, to witness that in the Salantai Volost, in the Novo Salantai village on citizen SHOBLINSKIS Felix's land, 18 people were shot during the German occupation, including 7 Jews and 11 Lithuanian citizens. One of them was a judge in the people's court – was shot as a communist. Others were residents of the Platelai Volost. Why they were shot is not known.

All of them were shot by Germans, but under orders of Lithuanian partisans.

Chairman of the Salantai Uyezd executive committee

KASRAGIS

State Archive of the Russian Federation.
Fund 7021. List 94. File 423. Pages 25. The original. The manuscript.

55.

ACT ON ATROCITIES OF FASCIST AGGRESSORS AND THEIR ACCOMPLICES IN THE ŠKUODAS VOLOST

February 12, 1945

This act is made by the Škuodas Volost executive committee on February 12, 1945 to witness that during the occupation of the Lithuanian SSR, Škuodas Volost on June 22, 1941, a so-called partisan group was organized from members of the former fascist organizations “Šaulis Sajunga” and prosperous local residents, who arrested Soviet activists and communists, the Red Army men, who got entrapped, and Soviet civilians.

Innocent residents were shot in the city of Škuodas, approximately 1,200 people, and about [...]00 persons were captivated and taken to the Dimitrava concentration camp, then they were shot in the Darbensk forest. Accurate data [...] cannot be reported, because this district is occupied.

Chairman of the Škuodas Executive Committee [...]

State Archive of the Russian Federation.
Fund 7021. List 94. File 423. Pages 23. The original. The manuscript.

56.

ACT ON CRIMES OF FASCIST AGGRESSORS AND THEIR ACCOMPLICES IN MOSEDIS

February 7, 1945

On February 7, 1945, the Commission aimed to establish the crimes committed against the citizens of the USSR by fascist aggressors, of the Kreting Uyezd, Mosedis Volost, including chairman GADEIKIS Alex and members: INTENE Kaze and BALTINAS Alfons, upon the claim of citizen JALSIRENE Katrin, who lives in the Mosedis borough, investigated crimes of the fascist aggressors' agents, who had killed the claimant's husband and two other citizens.

From interrogation of witnesses of the crime it was established, that on June 30, 1941, the local police arrested citizens of the Mosedis borough JALGERIS Pranas, son of [...] and PAJAUSKAS Kazis, son of Kazis (both of them were employees of the state storage) and citizen BARKUS (the name and the patronymic are not identified), a former manager of the registry office bureau in Darbenet.

With no investigation or legal trial the three citizens on the day after their arrest, i.e. on July 1, 1941, were shot by the local partisans that are named in the attached list, and buried on the place of execution in field in the Mosedis borough, on ANDREIKAS's land.

Appendix – one list.

Chairman of the Commission:[...]

Members of the Commission:[...]

LIST OF FASCIST INVADERS AND THEIR ACCOMPLICES
WHO COMMITTED ATROCITIES ON THE TEMPORARY OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES OF THE LITHUANIAN SSR

#	Last name, name, patronymic	Nationality	M. rank or post	Names of the m. units, establishments and organizations	Crime	Part taken in the committed crime
1.	MIČKUS Žezas	Lithuanian	partisan	police	Execution of three citizens VII.1.41	Shot
2.	ZOBERNIS Alfons	Lithuanian	partisan	police	Execution of three citizens VII.1.41	Shot
3.	DAŽINSKIS Kazis	Lithuanian	partisan	police	Execution of three citizens VII.1.41	Buried the corpses
4.	ARLAUSKIS	Lithuanian	partisan	police	Execution of three citizens VII.1.41	Buried the corpses

I CERTIFY

Chairman of the Mosedis Volost Executive Committee

State Archive of the Russian Federation.
Fund 7021. List 94. File 423. Pages 7–8. The original. The manuscript.

57.

ACT ON CRIMES OF FASCIST AGGRESSORS AND THEIR ACCOMPLICES IN MOSEDIS

February 7, 1945

On February 7, 1945, the Commission aimed to establish the crimes committed against the citizens of the USSR by fascist aggressors, of the Kreting Uyezd, Mosedis Volost, including chairman GADEIKIS Alex and members: INTENE Kaze and BALTINAS Alfons, upon the claim of citizen INTES Valis investigated the atrocities committed by Germans and their accomplices in the last days of their stay in the Lithuanian SSR. It was found that on September 28, 1944, in the Mosedis borough the German special police (SD Polizei) with the participation of local and criminal police arrested the followers of the Soviet regime. The following persons from the Mosedis borough and its vicinities were arrested:

INTAS Valis, INTENE Kaze, BALTINAS Antanas, BALTINENE Ona, BALTINAS Alfonsas, SKRUIBIS Jonas, REIKA Valis, REIKA Ezas, KINČUS Nikodimas, NAVIČKAS Stasis, KRISTIONAITIS (the name is not identified) PRJALGAUSKAS (the name is not identified), TAURINEKENE Leonilia and BRUŽAS Povilis.

All of the 14 arrested persons were sent to the Škuodas police where they were beaten and humiliated. The women and two men (REIKA Ezas and PRJALGAUSKAS) were released the next day, three persons: INTAS Valis, NAVIČKAS Stasis, KRISTIONAITIS executed out of court (according to the data available, they were shot right against Škuodas), and the other people were sent to the Dimitravas concentration camp where they were daily exposed to tortures and threats of execution, and held there till October 8, 1944 when the valorous Red Army, making its liberation movement, came so close, that the Germans, trying to escape from the approaching army, ran from the concentration camp, releasing the prisoners.

Chairman of the Commission

Appendix – one list.

THE LIST OF FASCIST INVADERS AND THEIR ACCOMPLICES
WHO COMMITTED ATROCITIES ON THE TEMPORARY OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES OF THE LITHUANIAN SSR.

#	Last name, name, patronymic	Nationality	M. rank or post	Names of the m. units, establishments and organizations	Crime	Part taken in the committed crime
1.	BALTUONE	Lithuanian	Chief	police	Arrest, conveying to the concentration camp and execution	chief
2.	ŽIMUNELIS	Lithuanian	Wacht-meisterr	police	Arrest, conveying to the concentration camp and execution	chief
3.	DOBROVOLSKIS	Lithuanian	private	police	Arrest, conveying to the concentration camp and execution	active
4.	VASILJAUSKAS	Lithuanian	private	police	Arrest, conveying to the concentration camp and execution	active
5.	KUNJUTIS	Lithuanian	agent	criminal police	Arrest, conveying to the concentration camp and execution	active
6.	5 German policemen, Their last names are not known	Lithuanian	partisan	German police	Arrest, conveying to the concentration camp and execution	active

I CERTIFICATE

Chairman of the Mosedis Volost Executive Committee

58.

ACT ON CRIMES AND ATROCITIES OF FASCIST AGGRESSORS IN THE VILKAVISKIS UYEZD OF THE LITHUANIAN SSR

April 12, 1945

We, the undersigned on April 12, 1945, Commission on examination of facts of fascist atrocities during the temporary occupation of the Vilkauskis district of the Lithuanian SSR, including Chairman of the Commission first secretary of the Uyezd committee of the CP(B) comrade BELJAUČKAS, chairman of the Uyezd Executive Committee comrade ŠUPIS and chief of the Vilkauskis Uyezd Department of People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs KRYLOVICH have executed this act about the following:

Since the Vilkauskis Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR was occupied by the fascist aggressors, the Germans started mass destruction of the civilian Soviet population, and also soldiers and commanders of the RKKA.

Since July, 1941, near the city of Virbalis there is an anti-tank ditch, where Germans shot innocent Soviet citizens, including Jews – 11,943 people, before the execution they were subjected to brutal tortures, were undressed and dumped into the ditch. At the same time there was a POW camp in Virbalis, where 20,000 soldiers of the RKKA died of cold and hunger or were shot in Vilkauskis. Since July and the next months of 1941, 3,056 innocent Soviet citizens, that is the Soviet party activists, were shot in specially prepared ditches. At the same time on the Vilkauskis station as the trains with POWs arrived, the POWs were thrown out of the cars, the dead and the weak were also thrown out and shot, so 2,390 people were shot and buried.

Executions were carried out near the army barracks in Kibarti. Fascist aggressors carried out mass execution at woodside, 7,280 innocent Soviet citizens were shot in total. The executions took place in different places, i.e. near the border, in sheds, and in Kibarti. Since July, etc. 1941, Germans shot 1507 civil Soviet citizens in the Baltrushki village, the execution was carried out near the Baltrushki village at the edge of the forest. On September 15, 1941, in the city of Pilvishki the fascist aggressors shot 2,300 civil Soviet citizens, old men, women, children were not shot, they were thrown into the pit and buried alive. In the Vistitez Volost fascist aggressors held a massacre of Soviet citizens. 1,951 people were shot in total. Execution was carried out near the windmills in the Vistitez Volost, people were smothered to death by telephone wires. Except the tortured and shot, the German aggressors violently abducted 1,708 people to Germany. 192 people died of pain. In total 52,357 Soviet citizens in the Vilkauskis Uyezd were tortured, starved to death, shot or abducted to

Germany. The lists of the people shot or stolen to Germany, whose last names were identified, are appended.

In witness thereof this act is made.

Chairman of the Uyezd Commission

Members of the Commission

CONSOLIDATED DATA OF ESTABLISHED ATROCITIES COMMITTED
AGAINST CITIZENS OF THE USSR BY FASCIST CRIMINALS IN THE
VILKAVISKIS UYEZD OF THE LITHUANIAN SSR

Names of the cities, settlements, villages	Shot	Hung	Died after tortures	Killed by bombs and shells	POWs died	Died in total	Subjected to arrests, beatings, violence	Abducted to Germany as in acts	Abducted to Germany as in lists
1 Virbalis	11,943	–	–	–	20,000	31,943	604	–	–
2 Vilkaiviski	3,056	–	–	192	2,390	5,638	–	–	–
3 Kibarti	7,280	–	–	–	–	7,280	–	–	–
4 Baltrushki	1,507	–	–	–	–	1,507	–	–	–
5 Pilvishki	2,300	–	–	–	–	2,300	–	–	–
6 Vistitez	1,951	–	–	–	–	1,951	–	–	–
Stolen On the Uyezd		–	–	–	–	–		1,708	1,439
Total on the Uyezd	28,037	–	–	192	22,390	50,649	604	1,708	1,439

Chairman of the commission BELDŽAUCIS

Members of the Commission: SHOPIS, KRILOVICH

59.

**REPORT ON MASS EXECUTIONS OF INNOCENT
CIVILIANS AND POW SOLDIERS
AND COMMISSIONERS OF THE RKKA COMMITTED
BY GERMAN INVADERS IN VICINITIES OF THE CITY
OF VIRBALIS OF THE VILKAVISKIS UYEZD**

Top secret

December 14, 1944

It is established that fascist invaders in 1941, having occupied the territory of the Vilkauskis Uyezd, committed mass execution of the civil population and Soviet POWs in the vicinities of the city of Virbalis and so they destroyed about 7,000 people, among them old men, women and children. In accordance with the available materials of the UO NKGB, we have interrogated a number of eyewitnesses of massacres of the Soviet citizens.

By evidences of the witnesses, German fascists, since June 10, 1941, regularly committed executions of groups of 400–500 people. Hitlerites brought Jews from Czechoslovakia, France and other countries occupied by Germans. Witness ŽEMANTAUSKAS Pjstras, son of Ionas evidenced:

“During the occupation of the city of Virbalis by the German armies, the German authorities with the help of traitors executed the civil population and POW soldiers of the RKKA. Executions took place outside Virbalis in an anti-tank ditch, which was dug out in 1941 by the Red Army.

I know about four mass executions. The first execution was on July 10, 1941, the second one – in a month. Lithuanians and Jews from the nearby villages were shot. The third execution was in autumn 1941, this time Jewish women brought from Czechoslovakia, France and other places were shot. I know that 32 Lithuanians were shot in the anti-tank ditch, whose last names are as follows: ŽEMANTAUSKAS Albinas, BURAUSKAS Ionas, [LANGAS] K., CHEMOKOITES, etc., nearly 500 Russians and commanders.”

Witness ANDROKAITES Viktoras has also testified about the executions.

Chief of the Vilkauskis UO NKGB [...]

60.

REPORT OF THE VILKAVISKIS UO NKGB ON MASS EXECUTIONS IN THE CITY OF VILKAVISKIS

Top secret

Not earlier than December, 1944

On June 27, 1941, in the city of Vilkauskis the local Šaulists under the orders of the German occupation authorities committed a mass execution of all the men Jews. On this day over 1,000 people were arrested and later shot.

The following circumstances of the execution are established:

On June 27 a former commandant of Vilkauskis KJAUNIS assembled all the Šaulists of the city and the villages in the vicinity by sending notices and by oral announcements. When more than 200 Šaulists were gathered, KJAUNIS made a speech before them and called them to fulfill the tasks of the German authorities, i.e. to arrest the Jewish population of Vilkauskis.

Šaulists were divided into groups of 10–12 men, then the mass arrests began. People were arrested in the streets and then convoyed to the building of the former theological seminary.

*Chief of the Vilkauskis UO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs
Major of State Security [...]*

State Archives of the Russian Federation.
Fund 7021. List 94. File 419. Page 29. The original. The manuscript.

61.

**TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF WITNESS
PLECKAITES V.**

January 9, 1945

Vilkaviskis city

I, detective of the task force of the Vilkaviskis UO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs junior lieutenant of state security [...], on this day interrogated as a witness citizen PLECKAITES Vikcas, born in 1905, native of the Slobodu village, Šakei Volost, Bublelju Uyezd, Lithuanian, education of 3 classes, married, according to his words – was not previously convicted, lives in the Alvita village of the Alvita Volost.

Witness is warned about the responsibility for false swearing in accordance with clause 95 of UK [Criminal Code] of RSFSR.

SIGNATURE

Question: In what language do you wish to evidence?

Answer: I know the Lithuanian language well, and I will evidence in the Lithuanian language through a translator. Dizka.

Translator is warned about the responsibility for incorrectness of the translation in accordance with clause 95 of UK [Criminal Code] of RSFSR

SIGNATURE

Question: Tell me, citizen PLECHKAITES, what do you know about the executions committed in 1941 in Vilkaviskis?

Answer: Yes, I can tell the following. It happened on July 28, 1941, I was in prison at that time, it was 8 or 9 o'clock in the morning when MAVRITUS, I don't know his name for sure came in the prison, and started calling up the prisoners, he called up 63 Lithuanians and they were led somewhere. Earlier in the morning about 80 Jews had also been taken out, they never came back to the prison again.

Question: Do you know who supervised the executions, who convoyed them to the place of execution?

Answer: Obviously, the chief of Gestapo LANKAUSKAS, I don't know his first name, supervised the executions. The ones who escorted, I do not know their last names.

Question: The investigation group is informed that you buried the corpses, so you must know who participated in the executions?

Answer: I cannot say this, because I am not a resident of Vilkaviskis and I don't know their last names, but I can recognize them. PRIDATKAS Vincis can tell you this.

Question: Tell me, where did MAVRUTIS and LANKAUSKAS live and where are they now?

Answer: They lived in Palvishki.

Question: Tell me, do you know who was the chief of prison?

Answer: I do not know the last name of the chief of the prisons, nor I know the other workers of the prison.

Question: Who participated in the executions from the police and the civil residents?

Answer: I know that PILJUSHKAITES participated in the executions, he was standing and guarding it from any strangers. He was a civilian, I don't know anybody else.

Question: Tell me, who might know the workers, who were on guard and worked in the prison?

Answer: I do not know.

Question: What else do you wish to add to the investigation?

Answer: There is nothing more I can add.

[Transcript] read through to me aloud and translated into the Lithuanian language.

SIGNATURE

*Translated into Russian Detective of the task force
Junior lieutenant of state security*

SIGNATURE

62.

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF WITNESS LADŽAITIS IOZAS

Not earlier than January 1945

I, detective of the task force of the Vilkaviskis UO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs junior lieutenant of state security [...], interrogated as a witness:

Last name, name and patronymic: *LADŽAITIS Iozas Ioko*

Year of birth: *1918*

Address: *Alvita village, Alvita Volost*

Birthplace: *Krustargu village, Vilkaviskis Volost*

Party membership: *Non-party member*

Passport:

Education (secondary, higher): *6 classes*

Occupation:

Family: *Single*

Birth rank: *From a peasant family*

Military duty: *Liable for military service*

Was in the territory occupied by the enemy: *In the Lithuanian SSR*

Participation in bands, organizations or revolts: *No*

Previous conviction: *Wasn't convicted, according to his words*

Question: In what language do you wish to evidence?

Answer: I know Russian and I wish to evidence in Russian.

Question: Tell me, what you know about the execution in 1941 in Vilkaviskis?

Answer: Early in the morning of July 28, about 80 people were taken from our cell and they were taken somewhere, then they came again and from our cell, the one where I was, policeman DIDILIS Pjatraš took the prisoners from the cell. He was the chief officer of police in Alvita, now ran with Germans. Over

60 people were called, and they were taken away, but we were told that they were taken to another room, because that one was too small. After, some hours later, we were taken from the cell to bury the corpses – then we found out that they had been shot.

Question: Who was present, when you buried the shot people, from the police and civilians?

Answer: When we came, policemen were standing around and guarding the place. Among them I know KAZLAUSKAS, JURGILONIS, I don't know their names, and there were no civilians. KAZLAUSKAS served in the Vilno police, now I do not know where he is, and JURGILONIS served in the German army. Nor I know where their families live.

Question: Do you know who served at prison?

Answer: I can not tell that for sure, because they were not local, but I know the policemen: VENČUS, wachtmeister, AGLINKAS, DEKIS, policeman, KELEKŽVIČUS, EVENCAVIČUS, the confidential chief officer of police, I do not remember anyone else. But I haven't seen them in the place of the execution. I do not know where they live. I cannot add anything else.

The transcript was read out to me and was written down correctly according to my words.

SIGNATURE

*Detective of the Task Force
Junior Lieutenant of the State Security*

SIGNATURE

63.

**TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF WITNESS
KIRKILOVSKI A.S.**

April 4, 1945

On April 4, 1945 I, chief of the Vilkaviskis UO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs major of state security [...], interrogated as a witness with regard to the case of fascist atrocities during the occupation a citizen of Lithuania KIRKILOVSKI, who gave the following information about himself:

KIRKILOVSKI Alter Shepshelovich, born in 1911, in the Pilvishki borough, the Vilkaviskis Uyezd, the Lithuanian SSR, Jewish, non-party member, literate, previously not convicted, single, now lives in the city of Vilkaviskis, the Lithuanian SSR, 27 Lauku street.

Witness KIRKILOVSKI is warned about the responsibility for false swearing in accordance with clause 95 of UK [Criminal Code] of RSFSR

SIGNATURE

Question: In what language do you wish to evidence?

Answer: I know Russian, I will testify in Russian.

Question: Tell me, witness KIRKILOVSKI, what do you know about the fascist atrocities during the occupation of Lithuania?

Answer: I know, as a resident of Pilvishki, that a week after the Germans came to Pilvishki in July they've begun conducting mass arrests of the innocent Jewish population. First they arrested 500 people in Pilvishki, men over 13 to very old age, all of them were shot in the second fortnight of July, 1941, including my brother KIRKILOVSKI Haim Shepshelovich, cousin KIRKILOVSKI [...] 25 years old, second cousin KIRKILOVSKI Mozes [...] 22 years old and my friends. SHRINSENSKAS Berenis, 50 years old, his son – SHRINSENSKAS David, 15 years old, NEIMAN Jankel Mozes, 40 years old and his son, 14 years old. KREMOMARAITIS Leiba, 18 years old, LUDIS Rahil, 22 years old, SHINBER Leiba, 19 years old, LUDVE Leiba, 40 years old, [...] Isaac, 40 years old, GOLDBERG Isaac, 40 years old, his son 17 years old, TEIK Leiser, 35 years old, his father – TEIK Aushel, 57 years old, RABINOVICH, DEMBOVSKI Moses – a doctor, about 60 years old, his son – doctor DEMBOVSKI Vova 25–30 years old, his wife doctor DEMBOVSKENE, a dentist, 50–55 years old. Dentist KONILOVICH Hana,

40 years old, her husband – an engineer, I do not remember his last name. And others whose names I don't remember. All of them were residents of the Pilvishki borough, and all of them were shot by Germans, and buried in special pits outside the Pilvishki borough near the Šileli village.

On September 15, 1941, the second mass arrest of women and children of the shot was conducted in the Pilvishki borough, about 500 people all in all, and they were also shot by Germans and buried in the same place where the first victims were. Small children were not shot – they were thrown alive together with the corpses into the pit with water in it, and buried.

I also know about the executions in the city of Vilkauskis, where the Uyezhd prison was located, for example:

On June 28, 1941, near the military barracks the Germans shot up to 1,000 men, taken from the Vilkauskis prison and from the seminary which was temporarily used as prison. The victims were exclusively party workers and the Soviet-and-party activists. From among the shot I know that there was doctor SHAPIRA, resident of Vilkauskis, doctor [...], doctor ZISKIN, political functionary VAISHKURA, political officials two brothers SHULINSKAS and others. All of them were shot and buried in the pits near the military barracks in Vilkauskis.

On September 25, 1941, the second group of 1,200 people was subjected to execution by the Germans, most of them women and children who were also buried in the pits near the military barracks in Vilkauskis after the execution. And these people were taken from the camp which at that time was in the indicated barracks. I know the following people among the shot: BUDSKANE Haia, BUDINSKAIA Fona, LIHCHEVA Anna with three children of 1 to 8 years old.

In November, 1941, 60 people were arrested and brought to Vilkauskis from the nearby villages, exclusively Jews who were shot and buried near the above-mentioned barracks.

Round January or February, 1942 in the court yard of the seminary in Vilkauskis, which was used as a prison, the Germans gathered about 800 Red Army POWs and held them without food in the frost, so the soldiers died from cold. The corpses were taken out on carts by the survived Red Army men, 4–6 corpses on a cart, and those corpses were taken out to the military barracks where they were buried. The remaining POWs were later shot by the Germans.

As of May 1, 1942, the Germans took more than 100 Soviet citizens from the Vilkauskis prison to the indicated barracks where the latter were shot and buried.

Question: Tell me, KIRKILOVSKI, do you know the people who participated in the executions of the Soviet citizens?

Answer: Yes. The following people actively participated in the executions: chief of the Pilvishki Lithuanian police BONAŽUS, who ran away with the Germans, when the Red Army approached, his assistant LITUVNIKAS Kazis, I do not know where he is now, policeman SHTREMAITIS Pjatraš who ran to Germany, BURAKAS Pjuzas who was arrested by bodies of People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs and is prosecuted, white bandit KAMINSKAS Kazis, who is hiding from the prosecution.

In Vilkaviskis chief of the Vilkaviskis [...] REINIS, his assistant DENELIKAITIS, white bandit BREAZER, LETUVNIKAS Adolkos

Question: Tell me, KIRKILOVSKI, who of the citizens could admit the atrocities of fascist aggressors?

Answer: The following persons can admit that: ZLOTI [...] Sender, lives in Vilkaviskis, [...] Lauku DOCUMENT27 and VAISHKURENE [Maria], lives in Vilkaviskis in Vilnius Street.

Question: What can you add?

Answer: I have nothing more to add.

The transcript was read through to me, was written down correctly according to my words, in witness thereof I undersign.

SIGNATURE

*Chief of the Vilkaviskis UO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs
Major [...]*

64.

**ACT 1. ON MASS EXECUTIONS
OF THE PARTY-AND-SOVIET ACTIVE FUNCTIONARIES
AND OTHER CIVIL POPULATION
IN THE POESTIE FOREST OF THE PANAVEŽYS UYEZD**

Top secret

January 22, 1945

Panavežys

We, the Emergency Commission of the Panavežys Uyezd, the Lithuanian SSR, under the chairmanship of the first secretary of the Uyezd Committee of the CP(B) comrade PAPLAUSKAS, members: assistant chief of the Panavežys UO political militia senior lieutenant of militia [...], chairman of the Panavežys Uyezd Soviet of Workers' Deputies IONUSHAS, chairman of Panavežys Soviet of Workers' Deputies comrade PECHEKAS,

Whereas the following documents have been made available: a copy of the transcript of interrogation of LASKOV Nikifor Filipovich, born in 1872, a poor peasant of the Panavežys Uyezd and Volost, dated December 18, 1944, JUZENE Irani Yurievna and ZAKARKENE Emilia Kozisovna, who live in the Korshunovka village of the Panavežys Uyezd and Volost, dated January 22, 1945, report of senior inspector of the UO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs militia [...], dated January 20, 1945, there are also other evidences.

On the day above written we have made this act to the effect that in the Panavežys Volost of the same Uyezd, near the Biljunai village, in the Poestie forest in July to September, 1941, and even in 1942, mass executions of the Soviet and party active functionaries and other civilian population were carried out, these being supervised by the following: gebits-commissioner VALTERNEUM, his assistant GUTLIS, chief of the gendarmerie captain BELMAN, commandant of the Panavežys city – GARMUS, chief of headquarters general NOVAKAS and his assistant colonel STIPULONIS, translator for the headquarters KOMERAUSKAS, city and Uyezd public prosecutor GRIGATIS, German lieutenant – GAMAB, chief of the Lithuanian Gestapo SAUTAS Lena and JUDVIRŠIS, Lithuanian-German nationalists MJASIDIS, Narujishki village, brothers ŠEIBOKI Stasis and Vldas, BOLCHUNAS, Torushki village Panavežys Volost of the same Uyezd, DOMESHEVICH, PORULICH, DOMBRAUSKAS and BELŽAUSKAS, the city of Panavežys.

In July and early August, 1941, 300–400 adult men were daily brought to the above-stated forest. They were undressed to underwear, and then shot from automatic weapon, right in the pits, in layers. Round September of the same year about 8,000 people of the Jewish families were gathered in the Panavežys concentration camp, in Suvelka Street, who were taken on the same day to the Poestie forest. The latter were all shot at one time.

During the execution the below-mentioned tortures were committed: before the execution wives and children of the arrested men were gathered in a circle, and in this circle men were forced to creep on elbows, then they poured water on them and the arrested were ordered to roll on the ground, so the ground was covered with mud, and they were ordered to put their faces in this mud and then to have a look at their families. After they were beaten by sticks and lashes, and then shot. Small children, for their bloody pleasure, were raised by one of the executioners and others shot them. Old men and invalids were brought directly to the pit in trucks and dumped in to the pit as firewood and then they were shot from automatic weapon, and the ones that were alive were still buried.

The persons are indicated in the materials of the investigation and the attached list.

In total, approximately 10,000 to 12,000 people were shot in the Poestie forest.

*Chairman of the Emergency Commission of the Panavežys Uyezd
PAPLAUSKAS*

Assistant chief of the UO political militia senior lieutenant [...]

Chairman of the Panavežys Uyezd Soviet of Deputies IONUSHAS

Chairman of the Panavežys City Soviet of Deputies PECHEKAS

65.

**ACT 3. ON MASS EXECUTIONS
OF THE PARTY-AND-SOVIET ACTIVE FUNCTIONARIES
AND OTHER CIVIL POPULATION
IN THE ŽELIS FOREST OF THE PANAVEŽYS UYEZD**

Top secret

January 24, 1945

Panavežys

We, the Emergency Commission at the Panavežys Uyezd, the Lithuanian SSR, under the chairmanship of the first secretary of the Uyezd Committee of the CP(B) comrade PAPLAUSKAS, members: assistant chief of the Panavežys UO political militia senior lieutenant of militia [...], chairman of the Panavežys Uyezd Soviet of Workers' Deputies IONUSHAS, chairman of the Panavežys City Soviet of Workers' Deputies comrade PECHEKAS, on establishment and investigation of the committed atrocities against the civil population in the Uyezd by the fascist aggressors.

Whereas the following document has been made available: an extract from the transcript of interrogation of January 18, 1945 MIKOLAUSKAS Vinces, Alex' son, born in 1902, lives in Panavežys in 42 Ukes street.

On the day above written we have made this act about a mass execution of the Jewish population, mostly men, that was committed in the Želis forest of the Panavežys Uyezd. The execution was headed by lieutenant GAMAN (German).

In the above-stated place the executions proceeded from August to September, 1941, once a week – on Monday in groups of 250 people. These people were brought to execution from the prison of the city of Panavežys.

In total in the Želis forest around 1,500 people were shot.

*Chairman of the Emergency Commission of the Panavežys Uyezd
PAPLAUSKAS*

*Assistant chief of the UO political militia senior lieutenant [...]
Chairman of the Panavežys Uyezd Soviet of Deputies IONUSHAS
Chairman of the Panavežys City Soviet of Deputies PECHEKAS*

66.

**ACT 4. ON MASS EXECUTIONS
OF THE PARTY-AND-SOVIET ACTIVE FUNCTIONARIES
AND OTHER CIVIL POPULATION IN THE
KANZERLINGA FOREST OF THE PANAVEŽYS UYEZD**

Top secret

January 23, 1945

Panavežys

We, the Emergency Commission at the Panavežys Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR, under the chairmanship of the first secretary of the Uyezd Committee of the CP(B) comrade PAPLAUSKAS, members: assistant chief of the Panavežys UO political militia senior lieutenant of militia [...], chairman of the Panavežys Uyezd Soviet of Workers' Deputies IONUSHAS, chairman of the Panavežys City Soviet of Workers' Deputies comrade PECHEKAS, on establishment and investigation of the committed atrocities against the civil population in the Uyezd by the fascist aggressors.

Whereas the following document has been made available: an extract from the transcript of interrogation of AMOSSEV Athanasius Konofevich, born in 1916, lives in Panavežys, 15 Pluki street, (dated December 14, 1944).

MUKALAUSKAS Vincas, Alex's son, born in 1902, Lithuanian, lives in 42 Unas street (dated January 19, 1944).

PILEKENE Albert Tadovn, lives in the Staniuni borough, Panavežys Uyezd and Volost (dated January 22, 1945).

On the day above written we have made this act about an execution of the party-and-Komsomol and Soviet and other civil population active functionaries, both – men and women, that was committed on July, 1941 in the Kanzerlinga forest in the Panavežys Uyezd and Volost.

By evidences of MUKALAUSKAS and others, the executions were headed by a German – lieutenant GAMAN and Lithuanian-German nationalists – members of the punitive battalion.

In July, 1941, 500 people were shot during the first execution, among them 100 women. The same month 120 people were taken out from Prison 4 of the city of Panavežys, including the following people who were shot: director of the Meat-Packing Plant of Panavežys DELEKTIS, BINKA – assistant chief of the

Plant, KLETSKIS from the Kupiski borough of the same Volost, STAJAVIČUS Aleksas, resident of the Smilgov Volost, who worked as a militiaman in 1940–1941 and others.

People had been undressed before they were brought to the execution.

In total nearly 600 people were shot in the Kanzerlinga forest .

In witness thereof this act has been made.

Chairman of the Extraordinary Commission of the Panavėžys Uyezd
PAPLAUSKAS

Assistant chief of the UO political militia senior lieutenant [...]

Chairman of the Panavėžys Uyezd Soviet of Deputies IONUSHAS

Chairman of the Panavėžys City Soviet of Deputies PECHEKAS

State Archives of the Russian Federation.
Fund 7021. List 94. File 426. Page 5. The original. The manuscript.

67.

**ACT 5. ON MASS EXECUTIONS
OF THE PARTY-AND-SOVIET ACTIVE FUNCTIONARIES
AND OTHER CIVIL POPULATION
IN THE LIAUSIN FOREST OF THE ŠADOVO VOLOST**

Top secret

January 19, 1945

Panavežys

We, the Emergency Commission at the Panavežys Uyezd, the Lithuanian SSR, under the chairmanship of the first secretary of the Uyezd Committee of the CP(B) comrade PAPLAUSKAS, members: assistant chief of the Panavežys UO political militia senior lieutenant of militia [...], chairman of the Panavežys Uyezd Soviet of Workers' Deputies IONUSHAS, chairman of the Panavežys City Soviet of Workers' Deputies comrade PECHEKAS, on establishment and investigation of the committed atrocities against the civil population in the Uyezd by the fascist aggressors.

Whereas the following documents have been made available: an extract from the transcript of interrogation of September 13, 1944 NAVIČKAS Ionas Antonovich, born in 1919, native and resident of the Konladishki village of the Šadovo Volost of the Panavežys Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR and an extract from a verdict of the military tribunal of People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs Lithuanian SSR armies of January 18, 1945, we have executed this act to the effect that in the Šadovo Volost in August, 1941 the commandant of the city of Šadovo, SINULIS Stasis, PINKIS, URBAITIS Antanas and NAVAKAS Ionas, members of the "Party of Šaulists" in Šadovo arrested all of the party-and-Soviet active functionaries and the Jewish population and later shot them in the Liausin forest of the Šadovo Volost – 500 people in total, some of them were buried alive, in witness thereof this act has been made.

Chairman of the Extraordinary Commission of the Panavežys Uyezd
PAPLAUSKAS

Assistant chief of the UO political militia senior lieutenant [...]

Chairman of the Panavežys Uyezd Soviet of Deputies IONUSHAS

Chairman of the Panavežys City Soviet of Deputies PECHEKAS

68.

**ACT 8. ON MASS EXECUTIONS
OF THE PARTY-AND-SOVIET ACTIVE FUNCTIONARIES
AND OTHER CIVIL POPULATION IN THE PANAVEŽYS
UYEZD OF THE LITHUANIAN SSR**

Top secret

January 25, 1945

Panavežys

We, the Emergency Commission at the Panavežys Uyezd, the Lithuanian SSR, under the chairmanship of the first secretary of the Uyezd Committee of the CP(B) comrade PAPLAUSKAS, members: assistant chief of the Panavežys UO political militia senior lieutenant of militia [...], chairman of the Panavežys Uyezd Soviet of Workers' Deputies IONUSHAS, chairman of the Panavežys City Soviet of Workers' Deputies comrade PECHEKAS, on the basis of the regulation of the State Emergency Commission of the USSR on establishment and investigation of the atrocities committed against the citizens of the USSR, who were on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR temporarily occupied by the Germans.

On the day above written we have made this act to the effect that in 1941–1944 in the Panavežys Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR in the Poestie, Žalgaris, Želis, Keizerling, and Liausin, forests and in other areas mass executions of citizens of the USSR – Lithuanians and people of other nationalities – were committed by the fascist invaders and their accomplices – Lithuanian-German “nationalists” headed by:

Gebits-commissioner VALTER-NEUM, his assistant GUTLIS, chief of the gendarmerie captain BELMAN, commandant of Panavežys – GARMUS, chief of headquarters general NOVAKAS and his assistant colonel STEPULONIS, translator at the headquarters KOMERAUSKAS, public prosecutor of the city and uyezd GRIGAITIS, lieutenant – GAMAN (German), chiefs of the Lithuanian Gestapo SAUITAS, LEPA, JUDIRSIS.

Lithuanian-German “nationalists” MJASADIS, Narujishki village, brothers ŠEIBOKI Stasis and Vldas, BOLCHUNAS, Torushki village, Panavežys Volost of the same uyezd, DOMOŠEVIČUS, PORULIC, DOMBRAUSKAS and BELJAUSKAS, Panavežys and others.

When the mass executions were committed, different tortures also took place, such as:

Before the victims were sent from prison to execution the German punitive group came, took the people from the prison to the court yard and beat with lashes, made of insulated wire till the people lost consciousness, then threw them into trucks, put some canvas over the people and sat down on top of them and drove them to the place of execution.

During the mass execution in the Poestie forest 10,000 – 12,000 people were shot, before the execution wives and children of the arrested men were gathered in a circle, and in this circle men were forced to creep on elbows, then they poured water on the arrested and ordered them to roll on the ground, so the ground was covered with mud, and they were ordered to put their faces in this mud and then to have a look at their wives and children. After they were ordered to lie in the pits in rows, with their faces down. When they had lied in a 100 m long row in the pit, they were shot from automatic weapon.

Small children, for their bloody pleasure, one raised a child up, and the others shot at him.

Old men and invalids were brought directly to the pit in trucks and dumped in to the pit as firewood and then they were shot from automatic weapon, and the ones that were alive were still buried.

Mainly military bases are located at the places of executions, so due to these circumstances excavations were not conducted.

In total, in accordance with the incomplete data, materials of investigation, acts and lists available 17,808 persons were tortured and shot in the Panavežys Uyezd of the Lithuanian USSR [...] among them 195 people – in accordance with the lists, taken away to the German servitude – to Germany – 374 people.

All materials of the investigation, acts and lists are appended.

Chairman of the Extraordinary Commission of the Panavežys Uyezd
PAPLAUSKAS

Assistant chief of the UO political militia senior lieutenant [...]

Chairman of the Panavežys Uyezd Soviet of Deputies IONUSHAS

Chairman of the Panavežys City Soviet of Deputies PECHEKAS
[...] of the Panavežys UO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs
Major of the State Security [...]

69.

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF WITNESS JUZENE P.J.

January 22, 1945

I, employee of the Panavežys UO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs [...], interrogated as a witness on atrocities of fascist aggressors which happened in a forest near the Karshunovka settlement, to the east of the military aerodrome Poestie, citizen JUZENE Pranja Jurievna, who lives in the same settlement.

Evidenced the following:

In early August, 1941, partisans drove groups of 300–400 men to the place of mass execution, who were undressed to underwear, then they were directed to a pit and ordered to lie facedown and then shot from automatic weapon. Before the execution they were beaten by rifle butts and by wire and leather lashes. They ones who could not walk, among the doomed, were shot on their way and then they were thrown in a truck and driven to the pit.

The brutal bandits raised the small children up and shot them, then threw them in the pit.

Gold and other jewelry was taken by the white bandits. From among the members of the mass execution I know white bandit MASJADIS, Narujishki village, brothers ŠEIBOKI, Stasis and Vladas, ADUKJAVIČUS Ionas from the Poestie village, BALCHUNAS, Tarushki village. Most of the members were Lithuanians. In total, about 8 thousand people were shot; most of them were women, children and old men.

In 1944 Soviet and party functionaries were also shot in groups of 40, 20 and less. The executions happened early in the morning. The ones who shot, were also mainly the Lithuanian Gestapo officials.

Good clothes and other belongings were taken by the white bandits and German Gestapo members, and the remaining clothes were plundered by residents of the vicinities.

There is nothing more I can add.

SIGNATURE

Evidence of citizen JUZENENE is confirmed by ZAKARKENE Emilia Kazisovna, who lives in the Karshunovka village of the Panavežys Volost.

*Assistant chief of the UO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs
of the political Department senior Lieutenant of militia [...]*

State Archives of the Russian Federation.
Fund 7021. List 94. File 426. Page 13. Certified copy. Typescript.

70.

**INFORMATION ABOUT THE CRIMES COMMITTED
BY GERMAN AGGRESSORS IN 1941 AND 1944
IN THE CITY OF PANAVEŽYS, THE LITHUANIAN SSR**

January 20, 1945

Panavežys city of the Lithuanian SSR

To the chief of the Uyezd Department of the

People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs militia of Panavežys LSSR

The supervisor of National Schools comrade JUROSHENE together with her husband, also a Soviet-and-party worker, were tortured and shot at the Jewish cemetery. White bandit KORSAKAS, son of a former bakery proprietor, shot them.

The same year in the Keizerling forest a clerk of the trade union of builders SHEPELEV Ivan was shot, in the Žalgaris forest in July, 1941 SHEPELEV Nicolai and SHEPELEV Alexander, and also my cousin a Komsomol member SOLOGUBOV Evgrafi Yakovlevich who were betrayed by a German supervisor of prison. In 1942 for possession of weapon my relative RYBAKOV Mirtian Evstratievich was executed. In 1943 GORBUNOV Kirian was shot for active operations against German accomplices. In 1944 active workers of the trade union of builders ERSHOV Artemi and GORBUNOV Feodor were shot.

Before execution and, in general against the Jewish population, indescribable methods of tortures were used. For example: wives of the arrested husbands were gathered in a circle and in this circle men were forced to creep on elbows, then they were poured water on and ordered to roll on the ground so that the ground became muddy, and the men were forced to lean their face in this mud, and then to look at their families, then they were beaten by sticks and lashes. According to a story of a white bandit who participated in the mass execution in the Kurgunovo forest, named Adomas, I don't know his last name, he told us about how the executions were committed. 200 m away from a pit, everyone was undressed, and directed to the pit where they were to lie down in rows, then the command "attention" and bursts of fire fell thick and fast. When the group was shot, there was a check when the remaining doomed were shot from revolvers.

Small children, for their bloody pleasure, one raised a child up, and the others shot at him. Old men and invalids were brought directly to the pit in tracks and dumped in to the pit as firewood and then they were shot from automatic

weapon, and the ones that were alive were still buried. This is how the executions were committed in the Žalgaris forest. Gestapo members supervised the execution, and Lithuanian white bandits did the shooting.

Among the white bandits I know BELJAUSKAS, only his last name, who participated in all of the executions, but where he is now is not known.

SOKOLOV

State Archives of the Russian Federation.
Fund 7021. List 94. File 426. Page 14. Certified copy. Typescript.

71.

**TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF WITNESS
AMOSEEV A.K.**

December 14, 1944

On December 14, 1944 I, senior inspector of the Panavežys UO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs junior lieutenant [...], interrogated as a witness:

AMOSEEV Afonasi Konofeevich, born in 1916, native of the city of Saratov, Saratov Oblast, from a family of workers, a worker, poor, married, a family of 3 people, now is a platoon commander of the Panavežys militia, 4 grades of education in a national school, Russian, liable for military service, according to his words was not previously convicted, his address: 15 Pluke street, Panavežys.

The witness is warned about the responsibility for false swearing in accordance with clause 95 of UK [Criminal Code] of RSFSR.

(SIGNATURE)

Question: Tell me, where were you during the period of occupation of Lithuania?

Answer: During the temporary occupation of Lithuania by Germans from 1941 to 1944, I was in forests and on farms. In 1940, during the period of the Soviet power in Lithuania, I worked in the Panavežys prison. During the retreat of the fascist armies from Panavežys, I was arrested on the way and directed back to Panavežys. When I arrived to the city, I left my family, and went away from the city to hide from the German troops, but in July, 1941 I was caught by the German authorities, was imprisoned in the Panavežys prison, and in some days in July I was taken to execution in the Keizerling forest, 3 km away from the city, to the north of Panavežys. In total 120 people were taken from the prison together with me, all of them party-and-soviet activists. Komsomol members were loaded into trucks and taken to the place of execution which was in the forest, but during the execution I managed to escape. 6 of us left the groups, others were shot, among them I know: directors of the meat-packing plant PEPETSKIS, BINKOS, from Panavežys, KLJATSKIS, Kupiskis city and others whose last names I do not remember, except this, mass executions of the civil population were conducted in Poestie, which is 5 km from Panavežys. I can not say when the executions were committed, as I did not see them

personally, but MORGIS Ivan told me about it, he works at the railway now, his daughter was shot . But I cannot tell, when the executions happened, as I was hiding in the forest all the time up to 1944, i.e. up to the coming of the Red Army, but in August, 1942 in the Korshunovka forest 45 party-and-soviet activists were shot, including PETRAITIS Bolis, JUSKEIIVIČUS, who worked in 1940 in Panavežys. SIMULJAVIČUS can confirm this, he now serves in the RKKKA, there is nothing more I can add.

Written down correctly, read aloud to me.

SIGNATURE

*Assistant senior investigator of the Panavežys UO People's Commissariat
of Internal Affairs [...]*

*The copy is correct:
Deputy chief of the Panavežys UO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs
political Department senior lieutenant of militia [...]*

State Archives of the Russian Federation.
Fund 7021. List 94. File 426. Page 20. Certified copy. Typescript.

72.

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF MIKALAUSKAS VINCES

January 18, 1945

On January 18, 1945 I, senior inspector of the OBB of the Panavežys UO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs LSSR lieutenant [...], interrogated citizen:

MIKALAUSKAS Vinces, Alex's son, born in 1902 , native of the Vileiki village of the Boisogol Volost of the Šauliai Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR, lives in 42 Upes street, Panavežys, citizen of the USSR, Lithuanian, non-party member, 4 grades of education, married, according to his words was not previously convicted.

The witness is warned about the responsibility for false swearing in accordance with clause 95 of UK [Criminal Code] of RSFSR.

SIGNATURE

Question: In what language do you wish to testify, in Russian or in Lithuanian?

Answer: I wish to testify in Russian, as I am fluent in Russian.

Question: Tell me, where did you serve in 1941?

Answer: Since June 28, 1941, I took service in the Panavežys prison, in the prison I worked till July 26, 1944. I served in the prison as a supervisor.

Question: Tell me, during your service who and how many times took out the prisoners to executions?

Answer: In July, I do not remember the date, 1941 a German lieutenant, his last name was GAMAN, arrived to the prison and ordered to take the prisoners to execution. By 3 o'clock 108 arrested persons were taken from their cells and formed in ranks of 4 people. Among them I knew STSJAVIČUS Alex, resident of the Smilgi Volost who served as a militiaman in 1940–1941, AMUSEEV, resident of Panavežys, in 1940–1941 served as a supervisor in prison, DIJULIS – a party-and-soviet activists, during the moment of execution he escaped, now he lives in Panavežys, Savliu street, I don't know, which house he lives in, GORBUS, a 70-year-old man. On three cars the arrested persons were taken out for Panavežys to the Keizerling forest convoyed by the punitive battalion, where the Lithuanians served. When the cars were leaving the prison,

I personally saw the Lithuanians and Germans sitting in the vehicles with rifles. I was not present at the execution, but I heard from the employees of the prison, that 108 people were shot, and only 2 or 3 managed to escape. As I know, the executions were conducted by the Germans, and some by the Lithuanians of the punitive battalion.

After that execution, lieutenant GAMAN started carrying out executions every Monday, 250 persons of the Jewish population were taken; they were executed in the Želis forest. It carried on this way before the big execution of the Jewish population.

I don't remember exactly the month and the date, but in autumn 1941, round September, Jewish families of Panavežys were gathered in the Suvalka street, in the square, which was fenced around by barbed wire, the punitive battalion was on guard, about 8 thousand people were behind the fence. Later I heard from our supervisor GAS who was present at the place of execution in Poestie, that on one day 8 thousand men, women and children of the Jewish population were shot. The execution were conducted by the Germans with the participation of the punitive battalion, the victims were buried by the Russian POWs.

Question: What else can you add to the investigation?

Answer: There is nothing more to add.

Transcript of interrogation is written down accurately according to my words and read to me aloud.

SIGNATURE

Interrogator: senior investigator of the Panavežys UO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs LSSR lieutenant of state security

*The copy is correct:
Deputy chief of the Panavežys UO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs
political Department senior lieutenant of militia [...]*

73.

**EXTRACT FROM A VERDICT OF THE MILITARY
TRIBUNAL OF PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT
OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE LITHUANIAN SSR
ARMIES DATED JANUARY 18, 1945 WITH REGARD
TO CASE 111**

Top secret

January 19, 1945

Materials of the preliminary and judicial investigation established, that the accused: VASKIS Kazis, URBAITIS Ananas and NOVAKAS Ionas, being hostile to the Soviet power, during the German occupation of Lithuania in 1941, voluntarily entered the white bandit group of SJANULISA Stasis in Šadovo.

Being in the indicated group, the accused participated in arrests and seizures of the soviet-and-party activists. They convoyed and patrolled Soviet citizens arrested by the Germans, protected the German punitive bodies and the headquarters, carried out police service on guarding Šadovo from the Soviet partisans' penetration, protected the property stolen from the shot Jewish population. Besides URBAITIS Antanas and NOVAKAS Ionas, being "Šaulists" for a long time, and being in a "Šaulist" group, in August, 1941 actively participated in the execution of the civil Jewish population in the Liausin forest. URBAITIS and NOVAKAS personally buried corpses of the shot USSR citizens. In total together with other bandits, they buried nearly 500 people in two pits, some were buried alive.

The extract is correct.

*Secretary of the Military tribunal of People's Commissariat
of Internal Affairs armies sergeant SOLNTSEV*

74.

EXTRACT FROM TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF NAVIČKAS IONAS

January 19, 1945

NAVIČKAS Ionas Antonovich, born in 1919, native and resident of the Konladishki village of the Šadovo Volost of the Panavežys Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR, Lithuanian, non-party member, from a family of peasants-kulaks.

The witness is warned about the responsibility for false swearing in accordance with clause 95 of UK [Criminal Code] of RSFSR.

SIGNATURE

In June, 1941 as soon Germans came to Šadov I voluntarily entered the “white partisans” group, and with the purpose to help the Germans to drive the Red Army away from Lithuania quicker, and later to struggle for the independent Lithuania. In August, 1941 by orders of the commandant of Šadov SJANULIS Stasis all Jews and communists were shot in Šadov by SJANULIS Stasis himself and ČINSKIS, and URBAITIS.

Question: From evidences of URBAITIS Anastas it is seen that you guarded the arrested Jews and their property together with VAŠKAS Kazis.

Answer: Yes, besides, I participated in the executions of Jews, I also guarded them, and also guarded the property taken from the Jews.

Question: Were you in one group with URBAITIS Anastas?

Answer: Yes. I was in one group with URBAITIS Anastas.

Question: That means that you were in the “Šaulist” group?

Answer: That means I consisted in the “Šaulist” group.

NAVICKAS

Translator: GAILUNAS

Interrogator: [...]

The extract is correct: deputy chief of the Panavežys UO militia political Department, senior lieutenant of militia [...]

75.

LIST OF FASCIST INVADERS AND THEIR ACCOMPLICES WHO COMMITTED ATROCITIES ON THE TEMPORARY OCCUPIED TERRITORY OF THE USSR IN THE PANAVEŽYS UYEZD, THE LITHUANIAN SSR

Last name, name, patronymic	Nationality	Military rank and post	Name of military unit, establishment, organization	Characteristic of crime	Part in committed crime	# of acts; date of acts and Volost
VALTERNEUM	Germ.	Gebits-commissioner	–	All the twelve people were organizers of mass executions in the Panavežys Uyezd	Head	#1 of I/22-1945
GUTLIS	--	--	Deputy gebits-commissioner		--	#2–3–6 of I/24-1945
BELMAN	--	Captain	Chief of the gendarmerie		--	#4 of I/23-1945
GARMUS	--	--	Commandant of Panavežys		--	Panavežys Volost
NOVAKAS	--	General	Chief of Staff		--	#5 of I/19-1945
STEPULONIS	--	Colonel of Staff	Deputy chief		--	Šadovo Volost
KAMERAUSKAS	Lit.	–	Translator of Staff		--	#7 of I/20-1945
GRIGAITIS	--	–	Prosecutor of Panavežys		--	Novomestskaia Volost
GAMAN	Germ.	Lieutenant	–		--	
SAUITAS	Lit.	–	Chief of the Lithuanian Gestapo		--	
LENA	---	–	--		---	
JUDVIRŠIS	--	–	--		--	
MJASADIS	--	–	Naruzishki village			

Last name, name, patronymic	Nationality	Military rank and post	Name of military unit, establishment, organization	Characteristic of crime	Part in committed crime	# of acts; date of acts and Volost
ŠEIBOKIS Stasis	--	–	Troshkuni village of the Panavežys Volost			
ŠEIBOKIS Vladas	--	–	--			
BOLCUNAS	--_--	–	--			
DOMOŠEVICUS	--	–	Panavežys			
PORULIC	--	–	--			
DOMBRAUSKAS	--	–	--			
BELEUSKAS	--	–	--			

State Archives of the Russian Federation.
Fund 7021. List 94. File 426. Page 49. Certified copy. Typescript.

76.

**ACT ON ATROCITIES OF FASCIST AGGRESSORS
AGAINST CITIZENS OF THE USSR IN THE LASDIAI
UYEZD DURING THE OCCUPATION
OF THE LITHUANIAN SSR**

Top secret

June 8, 1945

Lasdiai

The commission consisting of: [chairman] of the Lasdiai Uyezd committee of workers' deputies IVAŠKAUSKAS I.P. and members: Secretary of the Lasdiai Uyezd Committee of the CP(B) of Lithuania GRIGONIS J.I., KUNIGAS-KREBONAS, of the Lasdiai parish, citizen CAPULIS Bernardas, Simano's son, chief of the Lasdiai Uyezd militia – lieutenant of militia [...] and doctor-therapist comrade INGULEVIČUS Bernardes, Stasno's son, have drawn up this act about the atrocities committed against the citizens of the USSR by fascist aggressors during the occupation of the Lithuanian SSR. The commission established the following:

1. On June 23, 1941, the Germans buried alive in the ground citizen of the Lasdiai city comrade KRUSHIN Neiaha, 38 years old, a saddler. The grave of comrade KRUSHIN N. is in Lasdiai on Vilensk Street, opposite the post-office.

Witnesses of this German atrocity – comrades PAUJU Ionas and KATAUSKAS Pranas, residents of the Lasdiai City who under the threat of execution buried comrade KRUSHIN Noiaha in the ground.

2. On the suburbs of Lasdiai (1,5 km away) in Katkiski on August 15, 1941, the Germans organized a ghetto.

From the Veiseia, Kopcevo, Rudomini Volosts and the city of Lasdiai the Germans drove 1600 men, women and children in the Ghetto.

From August 15 till October 23, 1941, Germans drove men and women to work.

On October 23, 1941, guards of the ghetto from among the Germans announced "you will not go to work any more."

After this announcement chief officer the Lasdiai police BRAŠKO came to the ghetto and announced to the doomed people: "You will live on October 24 and 25 while the pits are being dug, and on October 26 all will be shot."

For digging the ditches Germans drove 200 peasants from the nearby villages and forced them to dig the ditches under the threat of execution. Two ditches were made: one of them 50 m long, 5 m wide and 3 m deep, and the second one about 30 m long, 5 m wide and 3 m deep.

The execution of the people doomed to death was conducted by the Germans on October 26, 1941.

On November 3, 1941, Germans and German hirelings from among Lithuanians started their hateful job – to bring out Soviet citizens from barracks of the ghetto in groups of 500 people and more and drive them under escort to the execution to the Katkiskinsk field.

50 m away from the ditches, the people were stopped and ordered to undress, the ones that did not undress, were undressed by force, clothes were taken off, valuables were taken away, in underwear only they were driven to the ditches for the execution.

Soviet citizens, men, women, old men and children embosomed to their mothers, going to certain death, did not shout, only cried, embraced and kissed each other.

Ahead of everybody was citizen PRUSAKAS Šmuila with his family consisting of his wife, two daughters and two adult sons.

As soon as the people – Soviet citizens, in a group of 500 people (the first group) – were driven into the ditch, the Germans from automatic weapon and German hirelings – Lithuanians from rifles started their outrage – to shoot the innocent Soviet citizens.

When the German barbarians were convinced that their victims did not move – that they were dead, they drove workers with shovels from among the peasants and forced them to bury the shot bodies. As the bodies were buried, workers were driven behind a hill 40–50 m from the place of execution in the opposite direction from the victims.

After the first group that had already been shot, the second group of also 500 people, were also forced to undress and in underwear only they were driven to the ditch, the one which was half-filled with the corpses, and methodically, as well as the first group, the Germans and their accomplices shot the second group of 500 Soviet citizens.

And again Germans drove the workers with shovels that covered the corpses with ground, and the workers were again ordered to go back behind the hill.

Having shot one thousand people, the Germans drove the third group of 600 people, and the way it was with the first two groups, they were undressed – had their clothes taken off and their valuables taken away, were driven to the ditch, notwithstanding their cries for mercy, they shot everyone .

The workers with shovels were driven, and the chief officer of police BRAŠKO ordered: “Bury the corpses, those of you who will not do it will be shot right away”.

Having finished with their hateful atrocity, the Germans and their accomplices picked up the clothes of the shot, loaded them on carts and left to the city of Lasdiai, leaving some people for supervision over the workers who were filling the ditch with shot bodies of the Soviet citizens.

The list of the fascist invaders and their accomplices, who committed atrocities in Katkiski, are appended to this act.

The execution of 1,600 Soviet citizens in Katkiski is admitted by the citizens, who managed to escape from the execution, and now live in Lasdiai, the following comrades:

MIHNOVSKI Wolfas, 25 years old, resident of Lasdiai,

MIHNOVSKAYA Riva, 23 years old, resident of Lasdiai,

KANAS Gdelgeu, 38 years old, resident of Lasdiai,

KULISKITE Mira, resident of Lasdiai,

ZEFAS-ORENTAIKE Elia, 25 years old, resident of Lasdiai,

The inhabitant of a former manor in Katkiski, citizen ARLAUSKAS Petras,

resident of Lasdiai citizen PETRUŠKEVIČUS Lozas,

resident of Lasdiai citizen KAZAUSKAS Lozas.

This is also certified by the act, dated March 8, 1945.

3. Shot in the Leipun Volost about – 170 people, it is certified by the act, dated February 28, 1945

4. Shot in the Veiseia Volost – 292 people, it is certified by the act, dated June 5, 1945

5. Shot in the Rudmin Volost – 5 people, it is certified by four acts.

6. Shot in the Sangrud Volost – 4 people, it is certified by two acts.

7. Shot in the Svento-Ezer Volost – 4 people, it is certified by four acts.

8. Stolen to German servitude – 539 people, it is certified by acts and nominal lists.

In accordance with the data available in the Lasdiai Uyezd during the German occupation of the Lithuanian SSR German aggressors shot:

Men – 1,110,

Women – 866.

Abducted to German servitude:

Men – 327,

Women – 212.

This act is made in five copies:

Original – to the Emergency State Commission

The second copy – to the Uyezd Executive Committee

The third copy – to the Uyezd Committee of the CP(B)

The fourth copy – to the Uyezd People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs
of the Lithuanian SSR

The fifth copy – to the Uyezd NKGB of the Lithuanian SSR.

Appendix:

1. Register of acts about the established atrocities of fascist criminals against the citizens of the USSR – 1 page.
2. Acts on atrocities of fascist aggressors – 1 page.
3. Register of acts on the USSR citizens stolen to German servitude – 7 pages.
4. Acts on the USSR citizens stolen to German servitude – 6 pages.
5. Statements of citizens on atrocities of German aggressors – 6 pages.
6. Nominal lists on citizens stolen to German servitude – 20 pages.
7. Nominal lists on the people killed by fascist aggressors – 19 pages.
8. Generalized information on the established crimes of fascist aggressors – 1 page.
9. List of fascist invaders and their accomplices who committed atrocities on the temporary occupied territory of the USSR in the Lasdai Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR – 1 page.

Chairman of the Lasdai Uyezd

Committee of workers' deputies IVASHAUSKAS

Secretary of the Lasdai U. C. of the CP(B) of Lithuania GRIGONIS

Chief of the Lasdiai UO of militia Lieutenant of militia [...]

Kunigas-krebonas of the Lasdiai parish CAPULIS

Doctor - therapist INGELEVICUS

State Archives of the Russian Federation.
Fund 7021. List 94. File 428. Pages 25–28. Original. Typescript.

77.

**REPORT OF VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE LASDIAI
VOLOST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

June 5, 1945

The information is given by the Lasdiai Volost executive committee vice-president George Ivanovich SAMUKHOV according to the report by citizen KATAUSKAS Pronas and PAUJA Ionas, who live in Lasdiai:

On June 23, 1941, German policeman with several citizens of Lasdiai, post-office chief BOGDONAS and his deputy, whose last name I don't know, rushed into the apartment of citizen KRUSEN, beat him and his wife, took away all the jewelry, ordered several Jews to carry the man, who was more than half dead and throw him into a pit and ordered to bury him before 9 o'clock in the morning. When they were burying him he was still alive, moaning and sighs were heard, then the bandits ordered Jews to tread down the grave so that the sighs would not be heard. Bandit MATULJAVIČUS participated in the beating and burying, in 1941 he was working in the People's court as a courier, nowadays he is in gangs; and also JUŠKELIS Vladas, who lives in Susniki, at peat works.

Deputy Chairman of the Lasdiai Volost Executive Committee SAMUKHOV

78.

**CONSOLIDATED DATA ON ESTABLISHED ATROCITIES
COMMITTED BY FASCIST AGGRESSORS AGAINST
CITIZENS OF THE USSR IN THE LASDIAI UYEZD
OF THE LITHUANIAN SSR**

Top secret

June 11, 1945

#	Names of cities, villages and farms	Shot	Hung	Died after tortures	Killed by bombs and shells	POWs died	Died in total	Subjected to arrests	Taken to German servitude as in acts	Taken to German servitude as in lists
1	Lasdiai	1,600		1			1,601		59	51
2	Leipun	170					170		297	285
3	Kopcev								67	59
4	Veisei	292					292		26	27
5	Rudomin	5					5		40	44
6	Sangrud	4					4		16	12
7	Sventozer	4					4		25	13
	In total	2,075		1			2,076		539	491

*Chairman of the Lasdiai Uyezd Committee
of Workers' Deputies IVASHAUSKAS*

79.

**LIST OF FASCIST INVADERS AND THEIR
ACCOMPLICES WHO COMMITTED ATROCITIES
ON THE TEMPORARY OCCUPIED TERRITORY
OF THE USSR IN THE LASDIAI UYEZD
OF THE LITHUANIAN SSR**

Top secret
June 11, 1945

Last name, name, patronymic	Nationality	Military rank and post	Name of military unit, establishment, organization	Characteristic of crime	Part in committed crime	# of acts; date of acts and Volost
VELEPELESKAS Lukes	Lithuanian			Shot people in Katkishki	Executor	
MATULJAVIČUS Iozas	=			=	=	
JANUŠKO Pjatraš	=			=	=	
GLINSKAS Albinas	=			=	=	
SCHUKAS Iozas	=			=	=	
JANCAUSKAS Iozas	=			=	=	
PALJUKONIS Bronis	=			=	=	
DAMBRAUSKAS	=			=	=	
JANCULIS	=			=	=	
ZDANCEVICUS	=	Wachtm eister		=	=	
PLITNIKAS Iozas	=		NKGB	=	=	
PAŠKAUSKAS Iozas	=			=	=	

Last name, name, patronymic	Nationality	Military rank and post	Name of military unit, establishment, organization	Characteristic of crime	Part in committed crime	# of acts; date of acts and Volost
CERKJAVICUS	=			=	=	
SALIKLIS Jonas	=			=	=	
PAPIRIS	=			=	=	
DRUTIS Pjatraš	=			=	=	
RADZJUKIPAS Iozas	=			=	=	
KLIMAS Antanas	=			=	=	
JUŠKILIS Vladas	=			=	Beat citizen KRUŠKIN N.	

Chief of the Lasdai UO militia Lieutenant of militia [...]

State Archives of the Russian Federation.
Fund 7021. List 94. File 428. Pages 96–97. Original. Manuscript.

80.

**ACT OF THE COMMISSION FOR INVESTIGATION
OF ATROCITIES ACCOMPLISHED BY FASCIST
AGGRESSORS ON THE TERRITORY
OF THE KRETINGA UYEZD, THE LITHUANIAN SSR**

April 11, 1945

The City of Kretinga

The Committee for investigation of atrocities accomplished by fascist aggressors on the territory of the Kretinga Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR during the temporary occupation from June 22, 1941 to September 9, 1944.

Chaired by secretary of the Kretinga Uyezd Committee CP(B) of Lithuania comrade BUTKUS Antanas, deputy chairman comrade SIMONAIČUS Vincas.

Members of the Commission: chief of the Uyezd Department of People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the Lithuanian SSR captain of state security comrade [...], public prosecutor of the Kretinga Uyezd comrade PAULAUSKAS, the Kretinga Uyezd public health department head comrade ŠEIBELIS, representative of the Kretinga Uyezd department of national education head of department SKERIS Jonas, head of propaganda department of the Kretinga Uyezd Committee CP(B) of Lithuania comrade GALKUS.

Whereas the following documents were made available: acts of opening of graves, transcripts of interrogation of witnesses of the brutal massacre of fascist aggressors against the civil Soviet citizens who were temporarily in the fascist occupation, it was established that on June 22, 1941, from the very first day of the perfidious intrusion of the fascist armies on the territory of the Kretinga Uyezd, mass arrests and destruction of civil Soviet citizens began in the city of Kretinga, in the Salantai borough, Palanga, Gargžėdiai, Škuodas, Mosėdis and other settlements of the Kretinga Uyezd.

Party members, Soviet employees, the party-and-Soviet active, members of Komsomol, former military men of the Red Army and their [...] were exposed to arrests, tortures, humiliation and executions. And also all the Jewish population that lived in the city of Kretinga and the uyezd were without exception arrested and destroyed.

On June 24, 1941, the fascist military command in Kretinga announced to all the population of the city to gather up in the city square, ostensibly, for a rally. The gathered population was surrounded by the fascist troops, and there mass arrests of innocent Soviet people, men, women and children took place.

Witness SENETIS Boleslav Gavrilovich, born in 1904, resident of 20 Zel [...] street, Kretinga city evidenced as follows:

“On June 24 there was an announcement that all citizens should come to the square for a rally. The gathered citizens in the square were surrounded by SS troops and convoyed to TIŠKEVIC’s manor, near Kretinga. On the second day the Germans drove all of the arrested in trucks to a forest called Girale and executed them. As I know before the execution citizens were beaten, their belongings were taken away, documents burnt. In total 800 Soviet citizens were shot in the Girale forest, among them 300 women and 500 men, Russians, Lithuanians and Jews.

I also know well that the white partisans and Šaulists gathered Jewish citizens and communists and escorted them to a monastic pond where the arrested were driven by force into the water and forced to swim, then they were forced to creep on mounds, then the exhausted, hardly standing of their feet people were shot point-blank from rifles, thus 300–350 people were shot.

I know that in August, 1941, white partisans brutally exterminated about 600 Soviet women and children, who were killed by sticks. They caught and killed the children who tried to run away beating them against the trees.”

So in the city of Kretinga about 4,000 Soviet citizens – men, women and children were shot and brutally tortured, which is admitted by the following eyewitnesses:

1. PODLESKITE Sofia Pronovna, born in 1921, resident of the Gestautai village, of the Kretinga Volost and Uyezd;
2. BOCEVIČUS Antanas Prano, born in 1898, resident of Kretinga, 22A Vitauto street;
3. JURKIGAS Juozas [Aptapo], born in 1901, resident of Kretinga, 49 Vitauto street, and other citizens.

In the Gargžėdiai borough of the Kretinga Uyezd during the German occupation 850 innocent Soviet citizens, men, women and children were shot and brutally tortured, which is confirmed by the act of opening of the graves at the place of executions and testimonies of the following witnesses:

1. Prior of the Catholic church in Vejaigai, Gargžėdiai Volost. ALEKSEUS Ionas, Antanasa’s son, born in 1901;
2. GEDVILAS Justas, Danelius’s son, resident of the Gargžėdiai borough, 21 Klaipėda;
3. NJUNJAVA Zen [...] Jurievich, born in 1884, lives in the Lepaigai village of the Vevirženai Volost of the Kretinga Uyezd and others.

In the Škuodas borough and Volost 1,206 people – men, women and children were shot and tortured.

In the Mosedis Volost 119 people were shot and brutally tortured.

In the city of Palanga and the Volost, 700 innocent Soviet men, women and children were shot and brutally tortured.

In the Darben, Kretinga and Salantai, Kuliai, Kartena and Platelia[...] Volosts 610 men, women and children were shot and brutally tortured.

Thus, in the Kretinga Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR during the occupation by fascist aggressors from 1941 to 1944, 7,495 innocent Soviet citizens – men, women and children were shot, killed and brutally tortured.

Because of no archival materials available, it is impossible to make nominal lists.

The commission established that on the territory of the Kretinga Uyezd there were two prisoner-of-war camps for the Red Army soldiers, the first one was near the Kretinga railway station, in a wooden barrack. The number of POWs in it was about 100 men. The second camp was TIŠKEVIC's manor, near Kretinga, where more than 500 were kept. By evidences of witness TUTALITE Sofia Yurievna, born in 1897, residents of Kretinga, the POWs of the above camps were kept in the most horrifying conditions, they were swelled up of famine. Those who were not able to work were shot right away and thrown out the window in the court yard, then they were taken away on vehicles to the city and buried.

It is not possible to count the number of POWs shot and dead of famine.

For the period of temporary occupation of the Kretinga Uyezd from 1941 to 1944 the fascist aggressors stole to German servitude 200 civil soviet citizens, men and women.

In witness thereof this act has been made.

The documents appended to the act include: transcripts of interrogation of witnesses, acts of opening of the graves at the place of execution, lists of the shot and brutally tortured Soviet citizens and those stolen to German servitude.

Chairman of the Commission BUTKUS

Members of the Commission

81.

**CONSOLIDATED DATA ON ESTABLISHED ATROCITIES
COMMITTED BY FASCIST AGGRESSORS AGAINST
CITIZENS OF THE USSR IN THE LASDIAI UYEZD
OF THE LITHUANIAN SSR**

April 29, 1945

#	Names of cities, villages and farms	Shot	Hung	Died after tortures	Killed by bombs and shells	POWs died	Died in total	Subjected to arrests	Taken to German servitude as in acts	Taken to German servitude as in lists
1	Kretinga	44,000	-	-	-	-	44,000	-	-	43
2	Kretinga Volost	331	-	-	-	-	331	-	-	26
3	Škuodas	11,206	-	-	-	-	11,206	-	-	5
4	Darbeniai	5,596	-	-	-	-	5,596	-	-	5
5	Palanga	7,700	-	-	-	-	7,700	-	-	26
6	Ploteliai	1,110	-	-	-	-	1,110	-	-	10
7	Gargžėdiai	7,751	-	-	-	-	7,751	-	-	37
8	Andriaiavas	551	-	-	-	-	551	-	-	11
9	Kartepa	228	-	-	-	-	228	-	-	12
10	Salantai	222	-	-	-	-	222	-	-	7
11	Mosedis Volost	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
	In total	77,495	-	-	-	-	77,495	-	-	200

*Chairman of the Kretinga Uyezd
Commission of the Lithuanian SSR BUTKUS*

82.

LIST OF FASCIST INVADERS AND THEIR ACCOMPLICES WHO COMMITTED CRIMES ON THE TEMPORARY OCCUPIED TERRITORY OF THE LITHUANIAN SSR

Not earlier than April, 1945

Last name, name, patronymic	Nationality	Military rank and post	Name of the military unit, establishment, organization	Characteristic of the crime	Part in the committed crime
ZVIGULIS Zenas	Lithuanian	Private	Partisan	Executed	Executed
CEŠKIS Jurgis	=	Did not serve	=	=	=
LENDERAUSKAS Jozas	=	Private	=	=	=
LEKANAUSKAS	=	=	=	=	=
IMITA Pranas	=	=	=	=	=
RETKUS Albertis	=	=	=	=	=
KADIS Petras	=	Did not serve	Gestapo	Judge	Judged to death
KRUIBIS	=	Private	Lithuanian police		=
BALDGUNA	=	–	Priest	The main judge	=
BALTUOZ Pranas	=	Did not serve	Partisan	Executed	Executed
[..]TONKUS Juozas	=	Private	=	=	=
AIČUS Pranas	=	Did not serve	=	=	=
[..]CIZAKAS	=	Private	=	=	–
[..]ANLOS Stasis	=	Did not serve	=	Executed	Executed
[..]AZDAUSKAS Kazis	=	Private	=	=	=

Last name, name, patronymic	Nationality	Military rank and post	Name of the military unit, establishment, organization	Characteristic of the crime	Part in the committed crime
[..]IJCUS Danas	=	=	=	=	=
[..]BIS	=	=	=	=	=
[..]ADAIKIS	=	=	=	=	=

Chairman of the Salantai Volost executive committee

State Archives of the Russian Federation.
Fund 7021. List 94. File 422. Pages 17. Original. Manuscript.

83.

**TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF WITNESS
ZIMONAITE S.B.**

Not earlier than November, 1944

I, chief of the Kretinga UO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs lieutenant of state security [...], interrogated as a witness

Last name, name and patronymic: *ZIMONAITE Sorenia Bunimovna*

Year of birth: *1923*

Place of birth: *Darbinai borough, Kretinga Uyezd*

Address: *Darbinai borough, Salantai street, Kretinga Uyezd*

Party membership: *Non-party member*

Nationality: *Jew*

Citizenship: *USSR*

Education: *Secondary*

Occupation: *Worker*

Family: *Single*

Social status: *From a family of a local dealer*

Was/wasn't on the territory occupied by the enemy: *Was on the temporary occupied territory of the Lithuanian SSR from June to October 10, 1944. Was illegal*

Testimony of witness ZIMONAITE Sorenia Bunimovna.

The witness is warned about the responsibility for false swearing in accordance with clause 95 of UK [Criminal Code] of RSFSR.

SIGNATURE

Question: Tell, me citizen ZIMONAITE, what do you know about atrocities of the fascist aggressors on the temporarily occupied territory of the Lithuanian SSR?

Answer: On June 22, 1941, i.e. right after the intrusion of fascist aggressors into the territory Lithuanian SSR the population of the Darbinai borough ran to

the nearby settlements and large forests. Germans took measures to search for communists and Jews in particular, then on June 27 the Germans burnt the Darbinai borough and propagandized to the population that the Jews had set the fire and on the same day the arrested the Darbinai rabbi. He was questioned – tell us, who burnt the Darbinai borough. Rabbi VAIZVORD was scoffed at in every possible way, later he was publicly shot. Later that day at about 2-3 p.m. the fascist punitive units together with the organized Lithuanian bandit groups began mass arrests of Soviet people, particularly the Jewish population. The people were concentrated in the market square of the Darbinai borough, more than six hundred people, including men, women and children. All the clothes, gold rings, watches, private papers and other valuables were taken away from them. Then, on June 27, 1941, at about 5 or 6 p.m., everyone was drawn up and convoyed to the city of Kretinga. On the way the Germans practised all kinds of tortures and humiliated all the citizens, beat women and children with sticks, forced men to trail the carts, [...] of this convoy – were riding bicycles, and the citizens were ordered to run. Those who dropped behind were beaten with sticks, despite their age. In the back there was a motor vehicle which made photographs up to Kretinga. Everyone was driven to a suburb of Kretinga in the direction of Klosteda, to a river bank, but I don't remember the name of the river. In the morning of June 28, 1941, everyone was convoyed back to Darbinai. Men were separated from women so that there were about 150 men. They were taken 600 m away from the centre of Darbinai to a forest where they were all shot from machine guns. Women, children and old people, nearly 450, were locked in a Synagogue. All of those 450 people had been held under guard in the Synagogue for about two months. Then 50–60 young girls were sent to agricultural works to kulaks, the remaining women and children were shot at different times in groups of 100–150. Two groups of about 150 people – 1 km from the Darbinai borough in the direction of the Vaipeikiai village, about 100 m from road, in a forest. The third group – 100 people was shot in 2 km from the Darbinai borough in the direction of the road leading to the Karsucei village, aside from the road, about 500–600 m, in a forest, the so-called “Baptokalnīs.”

Question: The above mentioned soviet citizens, were they all shot from fire-arms or other measures of murder were taken?

Answer: Few of the above Soviet citizens were shot from fire-arms. I know for sure that before women and children were killed, they were brutally scoffed at by bandits: women were stripped naked, gold teeth were torn away from live people; they were forced to step into the prepared pits. Those who did not get into the pit were killed by sticks, and thrown alive into the pit, children were also killed by sticks, some were thrown alive into the pit, babies were crashed against the trees, some were buried alive in their mothers' hands, the murderers tortured and humiliated the defenseless Soviet people with monstrous brutality.

Question: Who headed the brutal murders of the Soviet citizens and who do you know from among the participants of those crimes, tell their last names?

Answer: Germans were at the head, but Lithuanians also participated in executions and murders, the so-called “Lithuanian partisans.” I can give some last names of the murderers: ZABORAS, I do not know his first name, JAŠINSKAS Vladas, GRIČUS Valis, GRIČUS Iozas, RAČINS KAS, MEMGAUDAS and others.

Question: What else do you know about atrocities of the fascist troops?

Answer: I do not know anything else.

Transcript was written down according to my words correctly and read through aloud to me.

SIGNATURE

Interrogator [...]

84.

**TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF WITNESS
ŠATELENA R.A.**

April 11, 1945

Interrogation began on April 11, 1945 at 1.50 p.m.

Ended on April 11, 1945 at 4.40 p.m.

I, inspector of the OBB of the Kretinga UO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs junior lieutenant of state security [...], interrogated as a witness

Last name, name and patronymic: *ŠATELENA Riva*

Year of birth: *1917*

Place of birth: *Lidivskai city, Šilova Volost, Raseiniai Uyezd*

Address: *Darbinai borough of the same Volost Kretinga Uyezd*

Party membership: *Non-party member*

Nationality: *Jew*

Citizenship: *USSR*

Education: *4 grades of gymnasium in the city of Raseiniai of the same Uyezd*

Occupation: *Work at her farm in the Darbenai borough of the Kretinga Uyezd*

Family: *Single*

Social status: *From a family of poor peasants*

Was/wasn't on the territory occupied by the enemy: *Was in the Butingi village of the Darbenai Volost of the Kretinga Uyezd*

Testimony of witness ŠATELENA Riva, daughter of Aizereilis.

The witness is warned about the responsibility for false swearing in accordance with clause 95 of UK [Criminal Code] of RSFSR.

SIGNATURE

Question: Witness ŠATELENA, in what language do you wish to testify?

Answer: I would like to testify in the Lithuanian language.

Question: Citizen MANJUKAS will be the translator; do you have any objections against him?

Answer: I have no objections against the latter.

Question: What do you know about German atrocities and executions of Jewish and other citizens in the Darbinai Volost during the German occupation?

Answer: On the first day of the beginning of the war German invaders arrived to the Darbenai Volost and mobilized all of the Jewish population from old men to children to do various works, forced them to clean lavatories with hands, to sweep streets and other work. The Jewish population that was unable to work, was beaten with wooden sticks. On June 24, 1941, commandant of the city of Darbenai published an order to the effect that the Jewish population must wear a yellow color band on the chest and on the back so that every German would know that it is a Jew with a yellow band. Jewish men were exposed to strong tortures and were beaten by sticks, lashes, butts of rifles. Germans forced us to work from dusk till dawn without rest. In the Darbenai Volost we worked till June 28, 1941, and then we were sent to Kretinga. Before we were sent to Kretinga, German soldiers set the house of one of the Jews on fire, his last name is RAZMAN, I don't know his first name or patronymic, and the white partisans drove all the Jewish population to the place of fire where 600 people, including children, women and old men were driven. They started searching for the priest called VAISBORDAS and when he was found at home the white-bandit "partisans" beat him, forcing him to answer who had set RAIZMAN's house on fire. Priest VAISBORDAS was beaten till he lost unconsciousness, and when the people brought him by his legs to the place where we were he was already dead. Soon a car approached the crowd, three German officers came out from the car, I don't know their last names. One of the Jews, whose last name was BLOKH, was taken from the crowd and then shot by those officers, after that six Jews were taken to dig the grave and bury VAISBORDAS and BLOKH near the river, and we were taken back to Kretinga. German soldiers convoyed us, there was only one from the white bandit group, a Lithuanian, whose last name was MEMGAUDIS, I don't know his name or patronymic, they had a cart. On the way the German soldiers unharnessed the horse, tied it to the back of the cart, the Jews were harnessed instead of the horse, the ones whose names were KAN Jacobas, VISKIN, I don't remember his first name, and three others, whose last names I don't remember, there were five people in total. All the way the Germans were beating those citizens with lashes and butts of rifles and gave them strong kicks.. The Germans put all of us in order and forced us to march in step all the way, the ones who couldn't were beaten by lashes and sticks.

When we were brought to Kretinga, we were placed near the Jewish cemetery where we were ordered to sit, then we were photographed, then we spend two

hours there and then we were sent back to the Darbenai borough to walk under police escort. We stopped overnight by the road.

On June 29, 1941, we arrived in Darbenai. We spent one day on the suburbs of Darbenai in the open. For two days they did not give us any food. On this day six German officers came to us and separated men from women and took them to the Palanga Street where they were shot. 150 men were taken from us. We heard the shots. Except the 150 men there were four POWs who were shot together with them. All of us women in the evening of June 29, 1941 were sent to German camps, that were located in the Darbenai borough, and we were placed in a school. In three weeks I was taken by a Lithuanian master, whose last name was BAGDANAVIČUS Benis to do house work for him. When I was still in the camp, it was round the first half of July, 1941 in the Skuodas Volost Germans arrested two brothers RAIZMAN Leib and Israel who were brought to Darbenai. At that time I worked on the street and saw the Germans beat them by lashes and sticks, gave them kicks, struck matches and lit paper and burned it in their mouths. The Germans made them unshoe and burned their feet for the only reason that they were communists. At this time a Lithuanian priest came there, I don't know his last name, and told the white bandits that they must stop torturing the RAIZMANs and just shoot them. After this the "partisans" stopped their tortures and sent them to prison, and in two days they were shot at the Jewish cemetery. On the day when the RAIZMAN brothers were beaten, women and children were tortured in the camp. One day the following happened. When I was in the camp in Darbenai a white partisan, whose last name I don't remember came to us. He called an old Jewish woman, I don't know her last name, and shot that woman from a rifle and ordered to load the corpse on a cart, and he also took three other old women and took them to the Jewish cemetery, where he shot them. In early August I asked my mistress to let me go to the camp, she let me go. I came to the camp where a boy, called BLOH Haim began telling us that he had heard from Lithuanian children that graves were prepared for us, and that day at night we would be shot. We didn't believe him. On the same day the chief officer of police, whose last name I don't know, came to us with two partisans. One of them was MEMGAUDIS, I don't know his name, and I don't know the other one at all. The chief officer of police told us that the place was too cramped and that some of us would be sent to other camps. In his hand the latter had a lists of Jews who were in the camp. I asked the chief whether we would be taken to other camps tonight. He answered, yes. Only then we understood, that today we would be shot. The chief put down the names of all of the women who had babies and left. On that day six German officers came to us and separated men from women. At 11 p.m. the chief officer of police, who had visited us in the afternoon and 7 white-bandit "partisans" with him came to our camp. The chief said that the people enrolled in the afternoon must come out. All the women with babies left. There were 100 women not including children, I don't know

how many children there were, and they were taken down the Vaniaiukiu street to a forest where they were killed with sticks, pitchfork, knives and axes, and thrown into pits, small children were taken by their legs and thrown alive into the pit. All of them were killed on that evening. Next morning my master came to the camp, took me to work, and in a week I found out through my master that all the women had already been shot since there wasn't anyone in the camp. Thus 600 Jewish citizens were shot.

Question: Who headed the executions of the Jewish citizens?

Answer: The chief officer of police, whose last name I don't know headed the executions.

Question: What else do you wish to add to your testimony?

Answer: I still wish to add the following: in total 60 of us were taken to various works, including men. In September, 1941 all of us were gathered in the camp of the Darbenai borough. I found out that we would also be shot. In the evening I and ŠUBITSAITE Asya escaped, the ones who stayed in the camp were shot.

Transcript was written down according to my words accurately and read through aloud to me.

SIGNATURE

Translator MANJUKAS

Interrogator: inspector [...]

85.

**TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF WITNESS
SINETIS B.G.**

April 10, 1945

Interrogation began on April 10, 1945.

Ended on April 10, 1945.

I, senior investigator assistant of the OBB of the Kretinga UO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of junior lieutenant of state security [...], interrogated as a witness

Last name, name and patronymic: *SINETIS Balislav Gavrilovich*

Year of birth: *1904*

Place of birth: *Vilnius*

Address: *20 Zemaitcko street, Kretinga*

Party membership: *Non-party member*

Citizenship: *USSR*

Education: *6 grades of gymnasium*

Profession and specialty: *Stove setter*

Occupation: *Secretary of the Kretinga city executive committee*

Family: *Married, has a wife and 4 children*

Social status: *From a family of peasants*

Was in the territory occupied by the enemy, or not: *Lived on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR occupied by Germans from June 1941 to November 1944*

The witness was warned about the responsibility for false swearing in accordance with clause 95 of UK [Criminal Code] of RSFSR.

SIGNATURE

Witness's testimony:

Question: Tell me, what do you know about the atrocities committed by the fascist troops of Gestapo during the occupation of Kretinga by Germans?

Answer: I know well, that on June 22, 1941, Germans occupied Kretinga. On June 24 there was an announcement about the city that all the citizens should gather in the square for a rally. The gathered citizens were seized by SS troops

and conveyed to TIŠKEVIC's manor in Kretinga. On the second day all of the arrested were taken by Germans to a forest called Gerali where the execution was conducted, as I know before the execution citizens were beaten, their valuables taken away and documents burnt.

Question: Name the shot Soviet citizens.

Answer: 800 Soviet citizens were shot in the Gerali forest, among them 300 women, 500 men, Russians, Jews and Lithuanians. I do not remember the last names of all of the shot citizens, but I know well that MISJUNAS Ionas, resident of Kretinga [KRESTINKAS], DAVIDAS, resident of Kretinga and others were shot.

Question: Where else did Germans conduct executions of Soviet citizens?

Answer: I also know well that the white partisans and Šaulists gathered Jewish citizens and communists and escorted them to a monastic pond where the arrested were driven by force into the water and forced to swim, then they were forced to creep on mounds, then the exhausted hardly standing of their feet were shot point-blank from rifles. The murdered were thrown into a pit and then drove on carts to the Jewish cemetery. Thus 300–350 people were shot.

Question: What else do you know about the crimes committed by the fascist troops against civil citizens?

Answer: I also know, that in August, 1941 the white partisans gathered all the Jewish Soviet citizens – women and children and conveyed them to the Kiskis manor where they were first undressed and beaten with sticks, partisans caught the children who tried to escape, took them by the legs and crushed them on the trees. 600 people were killed and tortured in such a way. Besides, from the prison called the Monastery house, [...] and tortured Lithuanian were taken on cars to the Jewish graves and shot, thus, 80 people were shot; I do not know their last names.

Additionally, I also know that the arrested Soviet citizens who were imprisoned in the Demitrov camp were exposed to beatings and executions. I know that near the Jazdu and Miski village 500 people were shot, I don't know their last names. There is nothing else I can add.

Transcript was written down according to my words correctly and read through aloud to me in Russian.

SIGNATURE

86.

**ACT ABOUT SLAUGHTER OF CIVIL SOVIET PEOPLE
BY FASCIST AGGRESSORS ON THE TEMPORARY
OCCUPIED TERRITORY OF THE GARGŽEDAI VOLOST,
THE KRETINGA UYEZD, THE LITHUANIAN SSR**

February 11, 1945

Gargžedai

We, the undersigned chief of the Gargžedai VO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs lieutenant of militia [...], Komsomol organizer of Gargžedai STAPONAS Kazis, son of Liudas, who lives in 25 Basanavicus street, Gargžedai, with participation of doctor ADOMAITIS Pranasa, son of Antanas, who lives in Kalniski village of the Gargžedai Volost of the Kretinga Uyezd, upon oral and written claims of the residents, have made this act about mass murder of civil Soviet people by the fascist aggressors on the temporary occupied territory of the Gargžedai Volost of the Kretinga Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR.

In the suburbs of Gargžedai near Memel street about 20 m aside of it there was identified a grave of 44 m long and in 3 m wide. After removing one meter of the surface layer, corpses of men were discovered. The total number of the Soviet citizens killed and executed turned out to be 396 people. During the examination of the corpses it was established, that the destruction of people was conducted with firearms.

In the Vožaici forest near the Perkunai village of the Gargžedai Volost 450 m away from the road there was identified a pit – a grave 14 m long and 2.5 m wide. When a 70 cm surface layer was removed, 107 corpses of killed and shot girls were discovered (according to the count made).

Upon examination of the corpses it was established that the destruction of civil Soviet citizens was conducted with firearms and judging by the fractured and damaged bones the destruction was also conducted by blunt objects.

A second grave 14.5 m long and 3 m wide was found in the same forest 1 km away from the above pit-grave, 700 m away from the road. After removing 80 cm of the surface layer corpses of women and children were revealed. After the count and examination there were found 347 corpses.

The murder of women was conducted by firearms, children according to the damaged bones, were killed by blunt objects.

Shots from firearms were made disorderly in different parts of the body. Among corpses a birch staff 2,5 m long and 9 cm thick with marks of blood was found. This suggesting that some people were murdered by stakes and other objects. Among the corpses 17 children without any injuries were discovered. This fact proves that they were buried alive. In witness thereof this act is made.

The act is drawn up in 2 copies.

Chief of Gargžedai People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs [...]

Gargžedai City Komsomol Secretary [...]

Medical Doctor ADDOMAITIS

The act is certified by Chairman of the Gargžedai Volost Executive Committee

87.

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF WITNESS ALEKSENS I.A.

February 7, 1945

Gargžedai city

I, chief of the Gargžedai VO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs lieutenant of militia [...], in the presence of translator PETROVSKI Peter Mikhailovich military unit 02569 interrogated as a witness

ALEKSENS Ionas, son of Antanas, born in 1901, native of Pužai village of the Skaudivills Volost of the Tovragov Uyezd, lives in the Vežaici village of the Gargžedai Volost of the Kretinga Uyezd, education – theological seminary, works at the Vežaici church, non-party member, single, according to his words was not previously convicted.

The witness is warned about the responsibility for false swearing in accordance with clause 95 of UK [Criminal Code] of RSFSR.

SIGNATURE

Question: Tell me, ALEKSENS Ionas, what do you know about the execution of Soviet citizens in the forest near the Perkunai village of the Gargžedai Volost?

Answer: In autumn of 1941, I don't remember the month exactly, I was bicycling from the Gargžedai borough to Vežaici. On my way I caught up with Soviet citizens of the Jewish nationality who were led under escort. Under escort there were women and children who asked me to go with them. Being a priest, I agreed.

Under escort they were led to a forest which is about 5 km from Vežaici and about 27 km from the Perkunai village. A pit was prepared in the forest, about 3 m wide, about 15 m long and about 3 m deep. Being a priest, I asked not to execute and not to undress them, but they did not pay attention to my requests. Before shooting they were ordered to strip, but upon my request, they had their underwear left, and in groups of 8 people they were brought to the pit and shot. The women who had many children, held [them] close and held babies in their arms. In total, 300 women and children under 10 years old were shot. Old women and children were brought on carts to the place of murder.

Question: Who headed these murders and who directly participated in the executions of the Soviet people?

Answer: I believe that this execution was committed on Hitler's and his party's order. In this case LUKAUSKAS Ildefancas, who served in Gestapo, headed this murder. A Lithuanian who was killed in 1944 by someone unknown.

Besides, the following persons took part in the murder SALIKLIS Bronis, who lives in Gargžedai, Lithuanian. He worked as a police agent. PUZNEČKIS Antanas, who lives in the Sovlažom village of the Gargžedai Volost, LUKAUSKAS Povilas, who lives in the Sudaici village, PUTRJUS Ionas, who lives in the city of Gargžedai, he was a Wachtmeister of police. I do not remember the others.

Question: Where was the property of the killed directed?

Answer: The property of the killed was spread between the executioners.

Question: How were you watching the execution?

Answer: It was impossible to be present at the execution, as there were horrifying shouts of women and children. Besides, women asked for mercy. LUKAUSKAS Ildefancas was shooting the children who fell in the pit-grave together with their mothers.

There is nothing more I can evidence.

Transcript was written down according to my words correctly and translated to me aloud.

SIGNATURE

Translator PETROVSKI

*Chief of Gargžedai VO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs
Lieutenant of militia [...]*

88.

ACT OF INSPECTION OF GRAVES NEAR THE CITY OF JURBURG

March 28, 1945

Jurburg city of the Raseiniai Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR

We, the undersigned Commission for Investigation of atrocities of German aggressors during the occupation of the Raseiniai Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR, consisting of chairman of the commission – secretary of the Raseiniai U.C. of the CP(B) ZAICEV

Members of the commission: deputy chief of the Raseiniai UO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs senior lieutenant of militia [...], priest of the Jurburg city PERMINAS Albert Kazemirovich, manager of the Raseiniai Uyezd health department TOLOCKO Antanos Ionas, chairman of the Jurburg Volost executive committee ŽIKAS Ivan Mihailovich, and resident of Jurburg citizen GRIBAVIČUS Ezovs Enos, have drawn up this act about the following:

On the above written day the commission examined graves in which Soviet citizens shot by the German fascists during the occupation of Lithuania were buried. We carried out inspection of three grave:

The 1st grave is in 7 km from Jurburg to the west, along the road to Klaipeda, on the left side in the forest, 300 m from the road. The grave is covered by ground and by lime, 18 m long and 2 m wide. In accordance with the statement of a member of the commission GRIBAVIČUS, more than 200 people of the Jewish nationality, shot in late August, 1941 by Germans and Lithuanian nationalists, are buried in it, he personally talked with two women, who had escaped the execution, and they informed him that before the execution they were stripped naked and then shot. Later those women were caught and shot.

The execution of the citizens was headed by a Lithuanian AUKSUKAITES Vincas, resident of the Dainei village of the Jurburg Volost, now he has disappeared, among the direct initiators, there was a Lithuanian BAKUS Pranas, he lives in the Klosei village of the Jurburg Volost. Besides the 200 adults shot, there were also children shot, but their number is not established.

The 2nd grave is in the Kolnepai forest five km from Jurburg, to the west. It has the shape of a square [rectangle], 50 m long and 2 m wide. In accordance with the statement of a member of the commission GRIBAVIČUS, above 500 shot Jews, both men and women of different ages from children to old men were

buried in this grave. Execution was committed in late September, 1941 by the Lithuanian nationalists and the Gestapo.

Lithuanian AUKSUKAITES Vincas headed the execution and there was a chief of the German Gestapo German KASTEN-[JEIVSKI] and other Germans.

GRIBAVIČUS had a conversation with citizen GARASPSKENE, that was led to the execution together with the other Jews, but she managed to escape and she informed about the above. Where she is now is not established.

The 3rd grave is one km from Jurburg, in the west in the Šelutes forest, 15 m away from the road. It has the shape of a square, 10 m long and 2 m wide. 200 executed Jews are buried in this grave. The execution was conducted in late September, 1941 by the same persons as those indicated above.

The shot Jews were residents of Jurburg, mobilized by Germans to sawing works, upon the work completion they were shot.

In witness thereof this act is made.

Chairman of the commissions ZAITSES

*Deputy chief of the Raseiniai UO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs
[...]*

PERMINAS

TOLOCKO

ŽIKAS

GRIBAVICUS

89.

ACT OF INSPECTION OF GRAVES NEAR THE CITY OF JURBURG

March 28, 1945

Jurburg city of the Raseiniai Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR

We, the undersigned Commission for investigation of atrocities of German aggressors during the occupation of the Raseiniai Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR, consisting of chairman of the commission – secretary of the Raseiniai U.C. of the CP(B) ZAICEV

Members of the commission: deputy chief of the Raseiniai UO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs senior lieutenant of militia [...], priest of Jurburg PERMINAS Albert Kazemirovich, head of the Raseiniai Uyezd health department TOLOCKO Antanos Ionas, chairman of the Jurburg Volost executive committee ŽIKAS Ivan Mikhailovich, chief of communications of Jurburg LEVANOVIČUS Antonas Pronas and residents of Jurburg ŠVIRSKOS Pranas Jurgivich have made this act about the following:

On the day above written the commission examined graves in which the Soviet party active functionaries and citizens of the Jewish nationality were buried that were shot by fascists on July 3, 1941. The graves are 0,5 km from Jurburg, to the east, on the Neman River bank, near the Jewish cemetery. Two trenches, one of them 30 m long and 2 m wide, the second one – 8 m long and 2 m wide. In accordance with the statement of members of the commission – direct witnesses of executions LEVONAVIČUS and ŠVIRSKOS, on July 3, 1941, at 11 a.m. Soviet citizens were brought by order of the German command to the place indicated above, among them 40 Lithuanians and more than 310 people of the Jewish nationality, among whom there were 5 women of the Lithuanian nationality and one woman of the Jewish nationality, the others were men. The Lithuanians who were brought to the execution were all Soviet and party workers.

Till 5 p.m. the graves were being dug, then the execution was conducted.

Among the shot there were PRASKAITINE Juze – wife of the chairman of the Volost executive committee, AKSENAITE Antosja – activist, KJUDIPENE Barbara – activist, KUDAKAITE – wife-activist, BABAKAITES Sonja – telephone operator, GRIBAS Vincas – artist, TJATRAVIČUS Vincas – activist, KUDENIS Donas, activist, KUDENIS Alfancas – postman,

PJATRAKAITES Pinos – activist, ŽIMAITAITES Pjatraš – secretary of the Volost Executive Committee, and others.

In witness thereof this act is made.

Chairman of the Commission ZAITSES

Members of the Commission [...]

PERMINAS

TOLOCKO

LEVANOVICUS

ŠVIRSKOS

State Archives of the Russian Federation.
Fund 7021. List 94. File 427. Pages 3, 3 overleaf. The original. The manuscript.

90.

**CONSOLIDATED DATA ON ESTABLISHED ATROCITIES
COMMITTED BY FASCIST AGGRESSORS AGAINST
CITIZENS OF THE USSR IN THE LASDIAI UYEZD
OF THE LITHUANIAN SSR**

July 3, 1945

#	Names of cities, villages and farms	Shot	Hung	Died after tortures	Killed by bombs and shells	POW's died	Died in total	Subjected to arrests	Abducted to German servitude as in acts	Taken to German servitude as in lists
1	Gertakol Volost Kurpiski Volost	2,000				2,000				
2	Žvirgtci				20	20				
3	Volotkiski					7	7			
4	Krozeskaia Volost Krohi borough	250				250	26	10	10	
5	Volost Leonovo Nemoksa	2					2	4		
6	Pobalcu	7			2		9		2	2
7	Švenduni	6		1	1		8	4	2	2
8	Gaideni	3			1		4	2		
9	Nemosti	543				3	546	7	2	2
10	Ligiues	2				3	5	5	3	
11	Smulko	5			3		8			
12	Betigol Volost Betigola	46			5	51	36		3	
13	Ilisien	4				4	8	10		2
14	Sovgoili	10					10	18		
15	Ugene	2			1		3	12		2
16	Stepankoise	7					7	7		4
17	Navsatkoisi							6		9
18	Berteskensi	3					3	4		

#	Names of cities, villages and farms	Shot	Hung	Died after tortures	Killed by bombs and shells	POW's died	Died in total	Subjected to arrests	Abducted to German servitude on acts	Taken to German servitude by lists
19	Volost Titoviani Titovini	116			1	117				
20	Ukstiski					2	2			
21	Titoviani					6	6			
22	Tuluci					1	1			
23	Kelmeniai Volost Dauniucu									
24	Maironju			1	15		16		8	2
25	Grimzu			11			11			
26	Kerhasiu			1			1			
27	Poddubisiu	7					7			
28	Leliu	10					10		2	
29	Noceliski	2		3			5		3	
30	Gailiu									7
31	Paletmiu	10		2			12			
32	Verpenos	1					1		3	
33	Kukecu	10					10			
34	Kelma	50		12	17	100	179		5	
35	Raudon Volost Šmone				13	13				
36	Stoki	27					27			
37	Sovzgiri								4	4
38	Raudon	4					4			4
39	Šidloviai Volost Lidovjani	300					300			
40	Poddubisi	100					100			
41	Jurburg Volost Jurburg city	350					350			73
42	Forest in 7 km	200					200			

#	Names of cities, villages and farms	Shot	Hung	Died after tortures	Killed by bombs and shells	POW's died	Died in total	Subjected to arrests	Abducted to German servitude on acts	Taken to German servitude by lists
43	Forest Kolnenai	500					500			
44	Forest Šolutes	200					200			
45	Volost Raseiniai Kolnui	1,500					1,500			
46	Volost Veduklin	128	5		111		344	8		
47	Apusino				2		2	5	2	
48	Aloviniski			2	4	3	9	2	1	
49	Kemialiu	2			8		10		4	
50	Užudimis	1		2			3			2
51	Lukeminiski	263			30		293		2	2
52	Paupe	2					2	3	2	
53	Prismaici	3					3	1		
54	Nemersone	2			7		9	10	4	
55	Gragžei	3					3			
56	Uokeine	1		1		5	7			
57	Vailobei	2					2		3	
58	Kampaick	9			4		13			
	Total	6,697	5	36	206	173	7,117	170	63	132

*Deputy Chief of the Raseiniai UO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs
Colonel of the State Security [...]*

91.

**TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF WITNESS
JALKAUSKAS P.M.**

April 4, 1945

Vidukle borough

Interrogation began on April 4, 1945 at 10.15a.m.

Interrogation ended on April 4, 1945 at 11.30 a.m.

I, chief of the Vidukle Volost militia department, junior lieutenant of militia [...], on this date interrogated as a witness the undernamed, who testified as follows:

JALKAUSKAS Petras Martjans, born in 1878, native of the Butinklauskis village of the Tanrosin Volost of the Tanrosit Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR, illiterate, non-party member, Lithuanian, according to his words was not previously convicted. Now lives in Vidukle borough of the Viduke Volost of the Raseiniai Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR.

To the question, in what language he will testify, the witness has stated that he will testify in the Lithuanian language.

The witness has no objections against translator MARKUNAS.

SIGNATURE

The translator is warned about the responsibility for incorrect translation in accordance with clause 95 of UK [Criminal Code] of RSFSR.

SIGNATURE

The witness is warned about the criminal responsibility for false swearing in accordance with clause 95 of UK [Criminal Code] of RSFSR.

SIGNATURE

Question: Tell me, citizen JALKAUSKAS, what do you know about executions of the Jewish population during the occupation of Lithuania by the Germans?

Answer: In August, 1941, when Lithuania was already occupied by the Germans, early in the morning, I do not remember the exact date, headman PUKINAS Iozas whose patronymic I cannot tell came to my apartment. Coming to my apartment he proposed to me in the form of an order to take a shovel and go on road construction near the post office.

As I came to the post office, I saw many people who were standing with shovels, and they were guarded by policemen.

Then we were driven to the Jewish cemetery.

As we came to the Jewish cemetery where we saw that a pit was being dug, and we were also ordered to dig the pit.

At about 2 or 3 p.m. we finished digging the pit, but they did not let us go anywhere.

At 4 or 5 p.m. a truck arrived with Jewish women and their children in it.

The car stopped near the pit. Then they were ordered to get off the car and go down to the pit, and they started to undress them right away. Adults and children were undressed to underwear, when they had been undressed they were all ordered to lie facedown. Then they started to shoot from light machine guns. There were two machine guns. As they stopped shooting from light machine guns, those who remained alive were killed from rifles, submachine guns and revolvers. Then we were ordered to cover the corpses with sand, so that they would not be seen.

In 30 minutes, another car came which also brought many Jewish women and their children. [...] ordered to get off the car and go down to the pit, women and children were also undressed to their underwear and ordered to lie facedown.

Everyone lay down and again women and children in the pit were shot from light machine guns.

After shooting from light machine gun, they started to shoot from submachine guns and revolvers. Then we were ordered to [...], so we carried it out.

And then they let us go back home.

Question: Tell, me citizen JALKAUSKAS, how many people were brought in those cars, and can you tell how many women and children were shot in that pit?

Answer: I can tell that there were two cars with people in it, and about 80–100 women and children were shot, I cannot tell how many children separately were shot.

Question: Tell me, who shot the Jews and their children, can you tell their last names?

Answer: I can name the ones that I know: 1. RADOVIČUS Adamas, 2. KURSA [...], 3. KUČINS KIS Pavelas, I cannot name the others, as they were from the city of Raseiniai and from the Nemoksti village.

Question: Tell me, citizen JALKAUSKAS, what is the size of the pit which you were digging for the executions of the Jews?

Answer: I can tell that the pit was about 12–15 m long and about 4–5 m wide.

Question: What else can you add with regard to this case?

Answer: There is nothing else to add.

Transcript of interrogation was written down according to my words correctly and read to me aloud, in witness thereof I undersign.

SIGNATURE

SIGNED BY THE TRANSLATOR

*Interrogator: Chief of the Vidukle Volost Militia Department
Junior Lieutenant of Militia [...]*

State Archives of the Russian Federation.
Fund 7021. List 94. File 427. Page 32. The original. The typescript.

92.

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF WITNESS SELVJANES P.F.

April 5, 1945

Vidukle borough

Interrogation began on April 5, 1945 at 11.30 a.m.

Interrogation ended on April 5, 1945 at 12.40 a.m.

I, chief of the Vidukle Volost militia department, junior lieutenant of militia [...], on this date, interrogated as a witness the undernamed, who testified as follows:

SELVJANES Petras Franz, born in 1899, native of the Vidukle borough, Viduke Volost, Raseiniai of Uyezd, Lithuanian SSR. Literate, non-party member, social position – poor peasant, has a family, Lithuanian, according to his words, was not previously convicted.

To the question in what language he will testify, the witness has stated that he will testify in the Russian language.

The witness is warned about the criminal responsibility in accordance with clause 95 of UK [Criminal Code] of RSFSR.

SIGNATURE

Question: Tell me, citizen SELVJANES, what do you know about executions of the Jewish population during the occupation of Lithuania by Germans?

Answer: Yes, I can tell the following. In 1941, some days late in August, headman PUKINAS Iozas came to my apartment early in the morning and offered me in the form of an order to take a shovel and to go across the field to the Lithuanian cemetery ("Everyone else will be gathered there, and you will wait there.").

As I came to the indicated place, I saw about 20 people who were standing with shovels.

After a while, chief of police ESAITIS came to us and ordered us to go to the Jewish cemetery.

As we came to the indicated place a certain area was measured for us to dig a pit – 16 m long and 4 m wide, 2–2,5 m deep.

At about 10 or 11 a.m. we finished digging the pit, after that they did not let us go home as they told us that we would have to get [some tan].

In 5 or 6 hours, i.e. at 4 or 5 p.m. a truck arrived full of Jewish women and children in it. The car stopped near the pit and the people were ordered to get off the car and go down to the pit. At once they started to undress women and children to underwear. Then there were terrible shouts, cries, some people did not want to get off the truck, they were violently thrown out. Then there came an order to lie down in the pit facedown. As everyone lay down they were at once shot from light machine guns. There were two machine guns. People in the pit were shot from light machine guns. After finishing shooting from the light machine guns, those who were alive were shot from rifles, submachine guns and revolvers. Then we were ordered to bury the corpses so that they couldn't be seen.

In about 30 minutes another truck came, it had many Jewish women and children in it, they were also ordered to get off the car and go down to the pit, women and children were also undressed to underwear, then they were ordered to lie facedown, and they were shot from light machine guns, and then finished off from submachine guns and revolvers.

Then we were ordered [to shovel] the pit.

We [shoveled] the pit and went home.

Question: Tell, me citizen SELVJANES who was shooting, can you name them?

Answer: Yes, I can name the ones who were shooting: 1. RADOVIČUS who shot from a machine gun, 2. KURSA Anton, also shot from a machine gun, 3. TEREČKAS Felix, KUČINSKIS whose name I cannot tell, but I know that he lives in a village, somewhere in the Kelia Volost.

VIŠNJAUSKAS Ionas, I do not know where he lives, but I heard that his wife [...] Arepelso borough of the Roglov Volost [...] Uyezd.

Question: What else can you add with regard to this case?

Answer: There is nothing else to add.

Transcript of interrogation was written down according to my words correctly and read to me aloud, in witness thereof I undersign.

SIGNATURE

Interrogator: chief of the Vidukle Volost militia department

Junior Lieutenant of militia [...]

93.

**ACT ON ATROCITIES OF FASCIST AGGRESSORS
ON THE TERRITORY OF THE GIRTAKOL VOLOST
OF THE RASEINIAI UYEZD**

April 1, 1945

Girtakol borough

We, the undersigned commission consisting of:

Chairman of the Girtakol Volost executive committee BUKAUSKIS A., chief of the Volost Department of People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs [...], Girtakol Volost Komsomol organizer GRENITI A.

Have made this act about the below-mentioned.

Investigation on atrocities of fascist aggressors on the territory of the Girtakol Volost, the Raseiniai Uyezd during its occupation from July, 1941 to August, 1944 has established the following:

In August, 1941 in the Kurpiski village of the Girtakol Volost, to the order of German authorities, and under command of the chief of "Savezma" of the Raseiniai Uyezd mass destruction of the Jewish population by execution from submachine guns, rifles and by cold arms, rifle butts, sticks was committed. In total 1,600 to 1,650 Jewish people of different ages, from babies to old men, were shot and buried in the pits prepared in advance in the Kurpiski village.

Besides, during the German occupation Soviet Red Army soldiers were shot on the territory of the Girtakol Volost: in the Volotkiski village – 7 men, Tvigtci – 10 men, Gudais – 4 men, Mankuni – 2 men, Norgili – 2 men, Promjadžu – 2 men. 27 Red Army men in total. 7 Soviet citizens were also shot there.

[The end of the document is missing]

94.

**TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF WITNESS
KATUKOV K.I.**

March 21, 1945

Girtakol borough

I, chief of the Girtakol Volost Department of People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs [...], interrogated as a witness citizen KATUKOV Konstantin Ivanovich, born in 1907, native of the city of Vilno of the Lithuanian SSR, who lives in the Girtakol borough of the Raseiniai Uyezd. 4 grades of education, married, previously not convicted, social position – a poor peasant.

The witness is warned about the criminal responsibility in accordance with clause 95 of UK [Criminal Code] of RSFSR.

SIGNATURE

Question: Where were you during the occupation of the Soviet Lithuania by Germans?

Answer: During the occupation from 1941 to 1944, I lived in the Girtakol borough.

Question: What do you know about the atrocities of Germans on the territory of the Girtakol Volost during the occupation?

Answer: In 1941, after the Germans came, at the end of August, I do not remember the date for sure, in the morning at about 3 o'clock I was called by the police to dig pits, in the Kurtiski village. In total 80 people of the local population were mobilized for the pit digging. We started to dig pits at 3 and dug till 2 in the afternoon. In total 3 pits were dug, two of which were about 30 m long, and the other one about 20 m, the width of the pits was about 3 m and about 2 m deep. At about 2 p.m. when we were still digging the third pit, Jewish citizens from babies to old men were brought to the execution.

The first group, about 8 people, was driven on foot, and then others were brought on cars and horses, there were three cars that came several times. As I heard, all of the Jews were gathered and held under guard in the Beljuni borough of the Girtakol Volost, from where they were brought to the execution. I don't know how many rounds the car made, but I know that the execution went on from 2 p.m. till the dark, till about 10 p.m., and then next day – from about 9 in the morning and up to 4 o'clock in the evening. Approximately 1,800 people were shot. The execution was conducted from a machine gun and the

ones that weren't killed with the machine gun were finished off from rifles and by rifle butts. The shot were put in layers in the pit, then they were covered with 15–20 cm of ground, and then the next layer was put on top, in such a way two greater pits were filled and more than half of the smaller pit was filled by corpses. Before the execution everyone was forced to undress. The Jewish population was gathered in the Girtakol, Raseiniai and Betigol Volosts. During the execution the chief of Raseiniai "Sovgum" KOVALCUKAS came and another man with him, I don't remember his rank or his last name, probably he is also a "Sovgum" worker, he photographed all of the bandits who shot Jews and stood in the pits.

Besides, I know that at different times on the territory of the Girtakol Volost, during the German occupation, Soviet Red Army POWs were shot: in the Volotkiski village 7 Red Army men, in the Norgili village – 2 Red Army men, in the Promjadžu village – 2 Red Army men. The facts of murder of the Red Army men are not complete as I may not be aware of some of the cases, and as much time has passed, I may not remember some cases.

Alongside with the listed details of murder of the Jewish population and the Soviet Red Army men, I also know about the murder of Soviet activists from among the local population, namely: OSTEINKO Antonas – shot as a communist, MILIŠAVIČUS – a Soviet activist, STANKUS Juza – official of the Raseiniai militia, JACUBJAUSAS Ignas – chairman of the Village Soviet, BATIS – Deputy Chairman of the Village Soviet, MATJALIS – official of the Raseiniai Volost, PJATRAITES – a Komsomol member.

Execution was carried out without any preliminary interrogation and investigation.

Question: What do you wish to add to your testimony?

Answer: There is nothing else I can add to the testimony.

Written down according to my words correctly and read through to me aloud.

SIGNATURE

Interrogator: Chief of the Girtakol Department of People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs [...]

95.

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF WITNESS SAMKUS I.I.

March 27, 1945

On March 27, 1945 I, senior investigator of the Bešigai VO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs [...], interrogated as a witness the undernamed, who was warned about the criminal responsibility in accordance with clause 95 of UK [Criminal Code] of RSFSR

Last name, name and patronymic: *SAMKUS Ioseph Iosifovich*

Date and year of a birth: *1908*

Birthplace: *Skirvoini borough, Beitgol Volost*

Occupation till June 15, 1940. *Worked as a carpenter in Beitgol*

Occupation

a) At present: *Chairman of the Soviet of the settlement of the Raseiniai Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR*

b) At the moment the witness evidenced: *Chairman of the Beitgol testimony Soviet of the settlement*

Education: *Illiterate*

Social origin: *From a family of poor peasants*

Party membership: *non-party member*

Place of permanent residence: *Beitgol borough, Raseiniai Uyezd, Lithuanian SSR*

On the merits of the case SAMKUS evidenced that in 1941, when Germany occupied the Lithuanian SSR, to the order of the German authorities punitive groups were created for annihilation on the territory of Lithuania of the Soviet activists, who still remained and had not been evacuated in time from the Lithuanian SSR.

In the Beitgol Volost a punitive group headed by priest BLANNIS was formed, which in July–August, 1941 and throughout the time of the German occupation of the Lithuanian SSR carried out actions on detecting Soviet people. On the first days of July they caught member of the CP(B) BUTKUS Anton and KULIŠAVSKI who were taken out from the Beitgol and shot. Besides,

BLANKIS continuously carried out raids upon Jewish families in the Beitgol Volost of the Raseiniai Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR; as a result, 10 Jewish families were shot by him and their homes and households were plundered. Then, in 1944, in spring, PLANKIS made a raid upon Red partisans, three partisans were killed in the Moskvini Švjalni village of the Beitgol Volost. In autumn of 1944, during the retreat from the Lithuanian SSR the Germans abducted to Germany most of the young people, who are still missing. For example, ŠUKURTIS Vladislav, who lived in the Pokalniski village of the Beitgol Village Soviet and Volost, LINNJUS Kazis, who lived in the Beitgol borough, DANELJUS Kazis, who lived in the Beitgol borough, and VAINIKITE Jadzja, who lived in the Beitgol borough.

There is nothing more I can add.

Written down according to my words correctly and read out to me.

SIGNATURE

*Senior investigator of the Bešigai VO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs
[...]*

96.

THE ACT ABOUT EXECUTION IN THE STAKI BOROUGH

March 20, 1945

Staki borough

We, the undersigned: FAINSCHTEIN Tiriga Beiminovich, BARTKUS Broneslav, MINALGO Petros. All above-stated persons live in the Staki borough of the Ravdon Volost of the Raseiniai Uyezd, have made this act about the following: we personally saw the below-mentioned persons led from the Staki borough to illegal execution, by orders of the German invaders.

Former chief officer of the Ravdon Volost police POZJAREČKIS Geozas headed the execution. It was carried out on August 9, 1941, near the Staki borough, on the Mitava river bank. The persons listed below were shot:

#	Last name	How old	Residence
1	MJASNIKAS Esilis	60	Staki borough
2	MJASNIKAS Nisanas	20	– " –
3	MJASNIKAS Itinas	16	– " –
4	MJASNIKAS Tine	50	– " –
5	MJASNIKAS Natke	22	– " –
6	FAIRTUNENIS Rahilia	55	– " –
7	FAIRTUNENIS Esters	20	– " –
8	FAIRTUNENIS Haine	25	– " –
9	FAIRTUNENIS Enkil	17	– " –
10	FAIRTUNENIS	17	– " –
11	FAIRTUNENIS Entine	28	– " –
12	WOLFOVIČUS Saigue	46	– " –
13	WOLFOVIČUS Rosilius	10	– " –
14	WOLFOVIČUS Cile	17	– " –

#	Last name	How old	Residence
15	WOLFOVIČUS Fafene	45	– " –
16	VINIKAS Orgikas	65	– " –
17	KREMINAS Oizikas	45	– " –
18	KREMINAS Liina	38	– " –
19	FAINSCHTENINES Sofia	25	– " –
20	ZILBERMONITE Liba	18	Rovezone village
21	ZILBERMONITE Meiras	35	– " –
22	ZILBERMONITE Itikas	60	– " –
23	ZILBERMONITE Rahilia	55	– " –

The act is confirmed by:[...]

Drawers of the act:

FAINSCHTEIN

BARTKUS

MINALGO

97.

ACT OF INVESTIGATION OF ATROCITIES OF FASCIST AGGRESSORS AND THEIR ACCOMPLICES DURING THE TEMPORARY OCCUPATION ON THE TERRITORY OF THE KEDAINIAI UYEZD OF THE LITHUANIAN SSR

We, the undersigned members of the Commission for investigation of fascist atrocities against residents of the Kedainiai Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR: Chairman of the Commission secretary of the Kedainiai UKM CP(B) of Lithuania comrade PILGRIMIAS I.A., Secretary of the Commission comrade TIMINIKAS and members of the Commission: Chief of the Uyezd Department of People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs Lieutenant Colonel of State Security [...], priest RUCUNAS, doctor SERGEV, Chairman of the Uyezd Executive Committee comrade URBANAS.

Upon consideration of all of the collected materials: acts, transcripts of interrogations, testimonies of eyewitnesses (local residents), who eyewitnessed all the committed crimes,

HAVE ESTABLISHED: that during the German occupation fascist aggressors and their accomplices shot 8,699 civil residents of the Kedainiai Uyezd and 167 residents of the Kedainiai Uyezd were abducted for works in Germany: 30 people were killed by bombs and shells during bombardments from airplanes, 16 Red Army POWs died in the German concentration camp located in the Žeimien Volost.

The material of investigation on 89 pages is appended.

*Chairman of the Commission – Secretary of the Kedainiai UKM CP(B)
of Lithuania PILGRIMIAS*

Secretary TIMINIKAS

*MEMBERS: Chief of Kedainiai UK People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs
Lieutenant Colonel of the State Security [...]*

Priest RAČUNAS

Doctor SERGEEV

Chairman of the Uyezd Executive Committee URBANAS

98.

ACT 38 ABOUT THE EXECUTION OF SLUTSKI IOZAS'S FAMILY

April 17, 1945

On April 17, 1945 I, chief of the Boisagol Volost Department of People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs, lieutenant of state security [...], in the presence of witnesses PINKINAS of the Boisagol Volost of the Kedainiai Uyezd, who works as chairman of the village Celki Soviet of the Boisagol Volost, that during the German occupation of the Lithuanian SSR, i.e. in August, 1941, a group of rebels consisting of:

1) SURVIGA Vincas, 2) KILINSKAS, 3) ERMAGIVIČUS Vacis, 4) RIBINAUSKAS Leonas, 5) SURGINAS Pjstras, who lived in the Celki village, became traitors of their people and their native land and actively assisted German authorities in the struggle against the Red Army.

By investigation it was established that the above-mentioned persons in August, 1941 shot the family of citizen SLUTSKI Iozas, Celki Village of the Boisagol Volost who was the Chairman of the Soviet in 1941.

The investigation also established that the same punitive group gave away to the German authorities two Red Army men, who had lagged behind the retreating units.

The present act is signed by: [...]

Chairman of the Village Soviet

99.

**TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF WITNESS
ZINKUS IONAS**

August 28, 1944

Kraku borough

On August 28, 1944 I, militia officer investigator of the Kraku borough militia [...], interrogated citizen ZINKUS Ionas who evidenced the following.

I, ZINKUS Ionas, born in 1892, Kraku [Krakes] borough, Keiden [Kedainiai] Uyezd, have 4 hectares of land and I live in the Kraku borough.

I can evidence the following about the mass Jewish execution:

In 1941, [...], during the mowing I was driven to dig a pit. We dug the pits on the field of citizen GINČO. 3 pits were dug – 30 m long, 2 m wide and 2 m deep. When the pits were ready, partisans brought the Jews. At first men were brought, they were undressed, only in underwear. They were driven to the pits and shot. In total nearly 500 Jews were shot, then the Jewish girls were driven into the pit. There were about 200 girls, and they were driven to another pit. When there were no girls left, women with small children were brought – about 700 people. Soldiers in uniform were shooting, former Lithuanian soldiers. I cannot testify any more because I was shocked and couldn't watch such an awful scene.

The transcript of interrogation was read fairly.

SIGNATURE

100.

**LIST OF GERMAN-FASCIST AGGRESSORS AND THEIR
ACCOMPLICES WHO COMMITTED ATROCITIES
ON THE TEMPORARY OCCUPIED TERRITORY
OF THE KEDAINIAI UYEZD OF THE LITHUANIAN SSR**

Not earlier than August, 1944

Last name, name, patronymic	Nationality	Military rank and post	Location of committed crime	Role in committed crime	Numbers and dates of acts
JANKOVSKI	Lithuanian	Chief officer of police	Kroki borough	Headed execution	# 5 Kroki borough
LAVRINOVICH Ignaev	=	Head of Volost	=	Murder	# 8 IV-1945
CEVILNO Jutis Antanaevich	=	Policeman	=	Participant of executions	# 8 =
LITVINAVIČUS Kazis	=	Currently under arrest by People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs			# 33 IV-1945
KASPERAVICUS Belesas	=	Hiding from People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs			==
BAGDANAS	=				==
VIŠKANTAS Jurgiev	=	Presiding Judge	-	Traitor. Gave out Red Army soldiers	# 35
PAVLAUSKAS Kazis	=	Policeman	Baisagola	Participant	# 35
PAVILAITIS Kazimir	=	=	=	Traitor	# 37
ŠVEGŽDA	=	Chief of police	Baisagola	Arrested	# 39
POŠKUS	=	-	-	-	# 39
MACANSKIS Jonas	=	-	-	Convoyed arrested Soviet citizens	# 53

Last name, name, patronymic	Nationality	Military rank and post	Location of committed crime	Role in committed crime	Numbers and dates of acts
TRIŠTAVTAS Bronus	=	Airagola	-	Arrested citizens	# 53
ZUBENO Iozas	=	=	=	=	# 53
UNDEOIS Stasis	=	=	=	=	# 53
SOBECKIS Iozas	=	=	=	=	# 53

Chairman of Commission [...]

Members of Commission [...]

State Archives of the Russian Federation.
Fund 7021. List 94. File 421. Page 2. The original. The typescript.

101.

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF WITNESS ZINKUS IONAS

November 11, 1944

On November 11, 1944 I senior investigator of the Kedainiai UO NKGB lieutenant of state security [...], interrogated as a witness with regard to the case of massacre of Soviet citizens by the German invaders citizen ZINKUS Ionas, son of Osipa, born 1894, native of the Kroki [Krakes] borough, Kedainiai Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR, from a family of middle peasants, Lithuanian, non-party member, illiterate, married, has 8 children, aged from 5 months to 29 years old. Is a peasant, has 6 hectares of land, lives in the Kraku borough of the Kedainiai Uyezd.

Witness ZINKUS is warned about the responsibility for false swearing in accordance with clause 95 of UK [Criminal Code] of RSFSR.

SIGNATURE

Question: What were you occupied with during the German occupation of the Kroki borough area?

Answer: During the German occupation of the Kroki borough I had lived all the time in the Kroki borough, worked for myself in agriculture.

Question: What do you know about the mass annihilation of Soviet citizens by the German invaders?

Answer: I can testify to the investigation group that in the Kroki borough at the beginning of the German occupation, mass annihilation (by shooting) of Soviet citizens did actually take place, especially of the Jewish population. In August, 1941, I don't remember the exact date, more than 1,000 people, I'm not sure exactly how many, were shot at the Pistin farmstead near the Kroki borough. The execution was held publicly, in the afternoon, on a market day. Over 200 people were witnesses of this execution and watched it within 500 meters.

Lithuanian soldiers, who served in the German army and who were brought at night before the execution from the city of Kedainiai did the shooting. This was a task force, which went by cars to other uyezds. From a talk with these soldiers I found out that before arrival to our volost they had already executed over 5,000 people in the Kroki borough. Lithuanian partisans also helped the soldiers to execute of Jews in the Kroki Volost, such as: UKŠTAKIS, 35 years

old, resident of the borough [Kroki], he escaped with Germans, BARIAS, 30–35 years old, resident of the Kroki borough – he was arrested, ZIROMSKIS, father and son, residents of the Kroki borough. The son – I do not know his name, 20 years old – is hiding, father Anton – 50 years old, is arrested, and others [...]

Question: How many children, women and others were shot?

Answer: I cannot precisely answer this question, but approximately 600 men were shot, and the others were women – up to 200 and children – up to 100. Then there were old men and women. Among children of different ages 3 (three) babies about 5–10 days old were shot.

Question: From what sources do you know this information?

Answer: I participated in the preparation of the execution, i.e. I had to dig pits, and then without going home I was present at the execution and after that I shoveled the pits with the shot people.

Question: Tell in detail about your participation in the execution.

Answer: Before the execution, one day before we, peasants of the Kroki borough and villages nearby were gathered in the [...] borough with shovels. There were over 80 people. To the order of the Gestapo chief in the Kroki borough (I do not know his last name) we were ordered to dig 3 pits 30 m long, 1.5–2 m wide and 2 m deep till midnight. The place for the pits had been chosen in the Pestine farmstead. When the work was finished we were all placed in a shed.

We stayed there till morning of the next day.

At about 8 in the morning we all were taken from the shed and brought to the pits that we had dug.

At that time drunk soldiers and Lithuanian partisans arrived in cars and began executing people in these pits. People were shot in groups of 50 and 70. First men, then they began shooting children, women and old people.

The execution lasted for the whole day, that is till 4 or 5 in the evening. At this time, during the process of execution, after each group was shot, Lithuanian soldiers and partisans publicly drank vodka right on the site of the execution and again, singing songs proceeded to execute another group.

When all this had ended we were ordered by the chief of the task force to bury the corpses in the pits, and we did it.

Question: Name the members of the mass execution.

Answer: I frankly declare to the investigation group that all of them were the members of the mass execution [...], including their chiefs [...], therefore I cannot name them.

Question: What do you know about the tortures of the Red Army men and officers of the Red Army?

Answer: I do not know anything about it.

Transcript of interrogation is written down from my words correctly and read to me in clear language.

Signed: for the illiterate PROŠKIN

Interrogator: senior investigator lieutenant of state security [...]

State Archives of the Russian Federation.
Fund 7021. List 94. File 421. Page 2. The original. The manuscript.

102.

**TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF WITNESS
VOINOVSKI V.A.**

November 10, 1944

I, senior investigator of the Kedainiai UO NKGB, lieutenant of state security [...], interrogated as a witness with regard to the case of mass destruction of Soviet citizens by German invaders and their protégés the citizen

VOINOVSKI Vladislav Adamovich, born in 1881, native of the Kroki (Krakis) borough of the same Volost, of the Kedainiai Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR, from a family of land-poor peasants, Lithuanian, citizen of the Lithuanian SSR, non-party member, education – elementary school, previously not convicted, married, family of 3 people, owns 4 hectares of land and a needy farm. Lives in the Kroki borough, chairman of the Village Soviet of the Kroki borough.

Witness VOINOVSKI is warned about the responsibility for false swearing in accordance with clause 95 of UK [Criminal Code] of RSFSR.

SIGNATURE

Question: What did you do during the German occupation of the Lithuanian Republic?

Answer: I am a bricklayer by profession, with a work experience of more than 40 years, all the time was employed in the neighborhood of the Kroki Volost.

My family consisted of 5 people: my daughter, two sons, my wife and I. The younger son Ezas, 24, had been member of the Communist Party since 1933; in 1941 he was shot by German aggressors as a communist. During the time of the Soviet power in 1940, my son and I were occupied with farming in our own place. During the occupation of our Uyezd by the German aggressors, partisans arrested my son Ezas for his membership in the Communist Party and then he was shot in the city of Kedainiai. After that [...] my elder son Kazimir had to hide, because the Germans wished to subject to repression all families of communists, as it was actually done. I had to hide for about 2 weeks, and then the Red Army came in 1944.

I worked on my farm the rest of the time.

Question: What do you know about the mass destruction of Soviet citizens by German aggressors?

Answer: To this question I can report the following to the investigation group: in the Kroki borough during the period of German occupation there was a "Ghetto" where the Jewish population was being destroyed. Then, in 1941 the "Ghetto"

was transformed into a concentration camp where communists and other Soviet citizens were destroyed. A special team of 29 people operating in the Kedainiai Uyezd was created for conducting executions, with [...] the participation of the so-called “Lithuanian partisans” who served to please the invaders.

To the "Ghetto" and later to the concentration camp that was in the Kroki borough the Germans brought for destruction Soviet citizens from 5 Volosts of the Kedainiai Uyezd, i.e. Volosts Survils, Gudžinaia, Dotnuva, Grinkiskis and Kroki.

The place of execution of Soviet people was in the Pestine borough, 1 km from the Kroki borough.

In June, 1941, I do not remember the exact date, the first lot of the party-and-Soviet active functionaries were gathered from other volosts – over 200 people, including up to 160 Jews, the rest were communists and Soviet workers. They were mostly men, and there were also some women.

This [group] was escorted to Kedainiai and shot in the suburbs of the city in the “Bobeni” forest.

On August 3, 1941, in the Kroki borough up to 1,500 people were shot, including Jews, communists, Soviet workers, and other Soviet citizens, including women, children aged from 2 days (babies) to 10 years, and old people (men and women).

The mass execution was committed publicly on a market day in Pestine, from 8:00 till 15:00. Groups of 30–70 people were brought to the pit, completely undressed, and then a team of 29 people conducted the execution from submachine guns and rifles. This team included Lithuanians, and Lithuanian officers whose names I don't remember were in command. During the execution, this team publicly drank alcohol, i.e. after several volleys, each participant of the execution drank vodka and then began shooting again. After finishing the execution they drank again at a restaurant and then with songs left to Panavežys.

After this mass execution there were individual executions of people sympathizing with the Communist Party and the Soviet power. Among the shot Soviet people I can name the following comrades: PETROVSKI, I do not know his name, 20 years old, sympathizer. [...] and a Komsomol activist, resident of the Daržbasis village of the Kroki Volost; TIŠKUS, 45 years old, was a communist and a Soviet functionary, lived in the Rokai village of the Kroki Volost; WAICEHOVSKI Franes, 22 years old, former chief [...] in the Kroki borough; WAICEHOVSKI, I do not know his name, resident of the [Poe...] village of the Kroki Volost, my son – Ezas Vladislavovich, 24 years old, secretary of the Komsomol organization in the Kroki borough and a member of the CP(B), resident of the Kroki borough; CIVŠINS Ivan, 21 years old, member of the C.P.(B.), resident of the Kroki borough; ŠEINOSKI Ivan, 20 years old, a Komsomol member, resident of the Kroki borough; BERNENKEVICH, 23 years

old, secretary of the primary party organization in the Kroki borough, resident of the Kroki borough; MAZILEVSKI Franás, 40 years old, member of the C.P.(B.), resident of the Kroki borough; VELČINS KI, I do not know his name, 30 years old, chairman of the Kroki Volost Executive Committee; KISENUS Izidor, 28 years old, member of the C.P.(B.), and others.

Question: Do you know participants of the executions of Soviet citizens from among the local residents who now live in the Kroki borough?

Answer: From among the participants of the execution of Soviet citizens I know the following persons: STOKAS Ivan – 26–27 years old, resident of the Kroki borough, is now arrested, KRUTUNIS, 50 years old, resident of the Kroki borough – is hiding, MESHKOVSKI Ivan, 45–48 years old, resident of the Bobtei borough – is hiding, MOZKULAS, 50–55 years old – left with the Germans, ZIROŠKIS Antensas, 50 years old – is arrested, ZIROŠKIS Celsav, 22 years old – is hiding, 3 brothers LUKAŠ Peter – 25 years old, Stanislav – 35–37 years old, Benedikt – 22 years old, residents of the Kroki borough, ZINKUS – 27 years old, resident of the Kroki borough, ŠARANAS Ivan, is arrested, 30 years old, Kroki borough, ZIČENAS Civnis – 21 year old, is hiding, resident of the Kroki borough, is hiding, KIBORTAS Virondas – 24 years old, is in the German army, Kroki borough, VOLAINIS, I do not know his name, 30 years old, teacher of a grammar school in the Kroki borough, now works in a grammar school in the Kroki borough.

Question: What do you know about the tortures of Red Army men and officers of Red Army?

Answer: I do not know anything about this.

Question: Who was abducted from your Uyezd to German servitude?

Answer: In our Volost there were in total up to 20 cases of stealing people to Germany, but I remember only the last names of two people: ŠIŠOVSKI Mathew, 40 years old, resident of the Kroki borough, and GURECKI Vintas, 37 years old, resident of the Kroki borough.

Their families now live in the Kroki borough.

Transcript of interrogation is written down according to my words correctly and read to me in the plain language.

SIGNATURE

Interrogator: Senior Investigator Lieutenant of State Security [...]

103.

**INFORMATION ON EXECUTIONS OF SOVIET CITIZENS
COMMITTED BY THE GERMAN FASCIST
AGGRESSORS IN THE TERRITORY OF THE KEDAINIAI
UYEZD, THE LITHUANIAN SSR FOR THE PERIOD OF
TEMPORARY OCCUPATION**

Top secret

Not earlier than November 1944

Personally to the Secretary of the Uyezd Committee of the party

Comrade PLJATKUS

1. Kedainiai city	Shot:	1. Members of the CP(B) and Komsomol members – 100 people. 2. Jewish population – 2,500 people. 3. POWs and other Soviet citizens – 70 people.
2. Krokas borough	Shot:	1. Members of the CP(B) and Komsomol members – 18 people. 2. Jewish population – 1,300 people. 3. POWs and other Soviet citizens – 18 people.
3. Ariogola borough	Shot:	1. Members of the CP(B) and Komsomol members – 4 people. 2. Jewish population – 700 people. 3. POWs and other Soviet citizens – 26 people.
4. Surveliski borough	Shot:	1. Members of the CP(B) and Komsomol members – 2 people. 2. Jewish population – 150 people. 3. POWs and other Soviet citizens – 5 people.

Chief of the Kedainiai UO NKGB

Captain of the State Security [...]

104.

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF ACCUSED KRIPAS IOZAS JURGIS

September 27, 1944

Interrogation began on September 27, 1944 at 4 p.m.

Interrogation ended on September 27, 1944 at 7 p.m.

Question: Where is the rifle that KRUTULIS gave to you?

Answer: The rifle was taken from me by the chief officer of police of the Odragola borough CAPAS in October, 1941.

Question: Why did CAPAS take away your rifle?

Answer: The rifle was taken away because I was suspected of stealing flour from the arrested and shot citizens, together with UNDERIS Stasis I watched over the flour. Both of us were arrested, were under arrest for 2 days, then CAPAS interrogated us, let us go and sent the materials to the Uyezd chief officer of police. Then we were interrogated by inspector TORDITOSS, he also arrested us, but I was released, as my wife had paid him 500 marks before the trial, and there was no trial.

Question: What property have you received for the active participation executions of Soviet citizens?

Answer: I have received: 1. Two summer coats. 2. A fur coat. 3. Two pairs of shoes. 4. A pair of boots. 5. Two downy pillows. 6. Two blankets. 7. A wadded blanket. 8. A man's winter coat. 9. One dress. 10. A man's fur coat. 11. One table. 12. A wardrobe. 13. Two chairs. 14. One sofa and some other minor things.

Question: You received the house in which you had lived till the day you ran, do you confirm this?

Answer: I really lived and now my wife lives in the house, in which earlier had lived ZPATAŠ, who was shot in 1941 as a Soviet patriot, but I did not consider the house my own because I paid KRUTULIS for the apartment. He gathered money from all the citizens who lived in houses of the citizens, who were shot in 1941.

Question: The investigation established that you personally voluntarily shot Soviet citizens?

Answer: No, I didn't initiate to shoot anyone; I only participated in the executions. What I did was I drove them to the execution, guarded the people

brought to execution, forced them to shovel up the pits where the shot were thrown and plundered their property.

Question: Name the last names of persons who shot Jews on September 2, 1941, when about 700 people were shot in the Eiragola borough.

Answer: I cannot tell their names, because people from Vilnius, dressed in uniforms of the Lithuanian army did the shooting. About 25–30 would come, then they left to the Krokis borough, and we were the members of the unit [who] brought people to execution and guarded them near the graves. I remember well that members of our unit would convoy and bring about 80–100 Jews to execution. I cannot name all of the last names, but I know the main heads: CAPAS – chief of police. 2. KRUTILIS. 3. JANUSKO. 4. PUŽAUSKA. 5. JANUKAS Antonas. 6. ŽINKINUS Mikolas. 7. MAŽAIKA Ionas. 8. MAŽAIKA Bronas. 9. STRAŽDAS Česus. 10. ANUZAITIS Viktoras. 11. URBANAS Stasis. 12. URBANAS Kazis. 13. URBANAS Pranas. 14. BANKUS Ionas. 17. KADARAS Kazis. 18. KADARAS Vladas. 19. GUDZIS. 20. AIIJAUSKAS. 21. BUTKIS. 22. UNDERIS Jurges. 23. UNDERIS Stasis. 24. ČEPLJAUSKAS Stasis. 25. KRIPAS Pranas. 26. ŠABLAUSKAS and I – KRIPAS.

Question: What made you join the struggle against the Soviet power and assist Germans?

Answer: I have already evidenced that when Germans occupied our Uyezd, such people as the priest of the church SETANAVIČUS, KRUTULIS – burgomaster of the church and doctor KADŽIS started convincing us that Germans would conquer Russia in three months, that there would be no more Soviet power, they promised good life, I listened to them and joined the struggle against the Soviet power.

Transcript of interrogation is written down according to my words correctly and read out to me.

SIGNATURE

Interrogator: Chief of the Kedainiai UO NKGB

Captain of State Security

105.

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF ACCUSED KRIPAS IOZAS

September 27, 1944

Interrogation began on September 27, 1944 at 10 p.m.

Interrogation ended on September 27, 1944 at 12 p.m.

Question: Were you member of the “Šaulists” party?

Answer: Yes, I had been member of the “Šaulists” party since 1939.

Question: Tell about the circumstances of your joining the “Šaulists” party.

Answer: As I was convicted, I was deprived of the right to be entered in the call-up register and I could not get a job. The secretary of the Volost foreman of the Eiragoli borough LUKOŠIS Antonas advised me to enter the “Šaulists” party, for which it was necessary for me to be exculpated and allowed to be entered in the call-up register. LUKOŠIS wrote for me a petition to the president, in which it was said that I had served a two-year sentence for my crime and I ask to exculpate me. I was exculpated, and then LUKOŠIS told me that it was necessary now to enter the Šaulists party, that would allow me to get a job anywhere. He wrote the application to the “Šaulists” organization for me and I was accepted as a candidate to the “Šaulists” party.

Question: Who was your head of “Šaulists” in the Eiragoli borough?

Answer: The chief of Šaulists in the Eiragoli borough was the Volost foreman GIRŠTAVTAS Bronjus, secretary of the organization was ZUBELO Iozas, ZUBENO’s assistant was LUKOŠIS Antonas. VIRŠTANTAS was evicted from Lithuania in 1941, and the latter two are hiding now afraid of the responsibility for the crimes they had committed during the German occupation. I cannot tell where they are hiding.

Question: Name members of the Šaulists party in the Eiragola borough.

Answer: The following persons from the borough were members of the Šaulists party: 1. GIRŠTAVTAS Bronjus. 2. ZUBELO Iozas. 3. LUKOŠIS Antonas. 4. UNDERIS Stasis, is arrested now. 5. ŠILČOS, I do not know his name, he is the son of a peasant, lived in the Rainciski farm, under the Germans worked in the Volost on requisition, is hiding now. 6. VAVPAS Petras, under Germans worked at home, manufactured and gathered leather, now lives in the Upitja village of the Eiragol Volost at his wife’s father ANŽULIS’s. 7. SOBEČKIS Iozas, POVILAITES, I do not know where he is now. 8. MARMA Stasis – is a hunter, lives now somewhere near the city of Kedainiai. 9. UNDERIS Jurgis, is hiding

now, during Germans worked [...] 10. ALJAUSKAS from the Ljancei village. 11. I [...] KRIPAS, and I do not know the others' last names, I also remember Šaulists' teachers: VEZGINES, GRIGAITIS, in total about 50 people were members of the organization in the Eiragol Volost.

Question: What work was conducted in the Šaulists organization?

Answer: There were meetings once or twice a month. On these meetings educational activity was conducted, aimed at development of patriotism for the independent Lithuania in the members of the organization. Besides, military training in musketry was conducted, we were trained to shoot and throw grenades, such work was conducted till the Soviet regime was reinstated in Lithuania in 1940.

In 1940, when the Soviet power in Lithuania was reestablished, the Šaulists organization was headed by a monopolist, I do not know his last name. He summoned all Šaulists of the Eiragol Volost in the Volost Executive Committee building where I was also present and announced that there were instructions to close the Šaulists organization. On the same meeting he called the attendants to struggle for the independent Lithuania, he said: "A Lithuanian should be a Lithuanian so that there would be no Russians or anyone else in Lithuania, a Lithuanian should die as a Lithuanian."

Question: What activities were conducted by the Šaulists organization during next years?

Answer: The Šaulists organization did not carry out any other activities. There was no head, assemblies were not conducted, as I know, however, in 1941, when Germany attacked the Soviet Union Šaulists organized a bandit group of the so-called partisans for helping Germans, and when the group was being formed only Šaulists gathered and agreed to actively help Germans.

Question: KODŽIS, the doctor, was he also a Šaulist?

Answer: I cannot say for sure, but I assume that he was a Šaulist, because on June 25, 1941, he gathered Šaulists in the Eiragol borough; he addressed to Šaulists and said that they should be the first to help Germans with the struggle against communists.

Question: What activities did Šaulists carry out in the Eiragol borough during the next years of the German occupation?

Answer: I do not know anything else that the Šaulists organization conducted during the German occupation.

Question: Did the Šaulists organization exist during the German occupation?

Answer: I cannot tell that, but I can say for sure that before the German retreat from our Uyezd some time in July, 1944 I was in DONGELAITES's restaurant.

We were sitting and drinking, ANUŽAITIS Viktoros worked in the police and JANUŠKA Viktoros – both of them were Šaulists, as they were drinking they said: “German armies are retreating to their border, then Hitler will be removed, an alliance will be made, Germany together with America and England, and they will fight against the Soviet Union and reestablish independence of all the small states”.

Šaulist MOCANSKIS Ionas – the landowner, when he had already run away from the borough, before the retreat of the German army, met me in the street as I was delivering newspapers. He told me: “Let’s go to Germany with us”. I told him that I would not go. Then he told me: “You will get killed because you were in a German partisan detachment. Then he also said that it was necessary for everyone to take weapons and assist Germans, and when Germans retreated to their borders, Hitler would be removed and an alliance would be made with America and England and together they would destroy the Soviet Union, and then all the small countries would be independent and there would be no Soviet power.

Question: Tell me whom were you hiding with recently from the Soviet power authorities?

Answer: I was hiding with Šaulists UNDERIS Stasis, in late August, 1944, he went to his relatives to Eiragola from the Drauskine village, and now he is arrested, he is in jail of the Kedainiai UO People’s Commissariat of Internal Affairs.

Question: ŠABLAUSKAS – the owner of a cafeteria and UNDERIS Stasis, did they participate in arrests of the Soviet citizens?

Answer: ŠABLAUSKAS and UNDERIS Stasis both lived in the Eiragola borough of the Kedainiai Uyezd, they participated in arrests of Soviet citizens and shot them, participated in mass executions of Jews in the Eiragola borough where almost 700 people were shot.

Written down according to my words correctly and read out to me.

SIGNATURE

*Interrogator: Chief of the Kedainiai UO NKGB
Captain of State Security [...]*

106.

**ACT 1. INVESTIGATION OF CRIMES IN THE KRONI
BOROUGH OF THE KRONI VOLOST
OF THE LITHUANIAN SSR**

November 8, 1944

Kroni borough, on November 8, 1944 Commission for investigation of [...] German atrocities, consisting of chairman of the Kroni Volost Market ERMOLAEV Feodor, deputy PUSTELNIK Feodor, secretary SVENTIČKAS Ionas and members: 1. agronomist BOJAUSKAS Alex 2. chairman of the Kroni Village Soviet KARMILEN Ivan 3. dentist TRABAUSKAITE Lyudmila 4. Komsomol secretary KAIRJUKŠTIS Kazis 5. teacher ANDRI[...] Juazas and 6. chairman of the cooperative society JURGELIONIS Vladas.

The above-mentioned commission confirms that on July 13, 1941, local Kroni “bandits” shoot and buried on the land of peasant KARPAVIČUS, Kroni borough, Kroni Volost, the following persons:

1. PLOTNIKOV Nikolay (Komsomol member), who lived in the Kroni borough.
2. PURAS Juzozas (teacher) – “ – in the Kroni borough.
3. ZAREMBA (Komsomol member) – “ – in the Kroni borough.
4. JAKUBAUSKAS (Komsomol member) – “ – in the Kroni borough.
5. SUBAČUS Kazis (deputy chairman of the Kroni executive committee) – “ – village Žuronai.
6. PERELŠTEINAS Lipe (a Jew), lived in the Kroni borough.
7. PERELŠTEINAS Irsa – “ –
8. PERELŠTEINAS Altaras – “ –
9. PERELŠTEINAITE Rohe – “ –
10. PERELŠTEINAITE Khana – “ –
11. PERELŠTEINAITE Khana – “ –
12. ROZENBERGAS Jankelis – “ –
13. ROZENBERGAS Mausha – “ –
14. TELEVIČUS Pranas, who lives in the Darsuniski borough, is buried in Darsuniski.
15. RIZGELIS Vladas – “ –
16. BANJURAS Boruhas – “ –

17. BANJURAS Elzve – “ –
18. FLIOINBERGAITE Sore – “ –
19. LIBERMANIENE Sore – “ –

The killed residents of the Darsuniski borough are buried in the same place in the Gous forest of the Kroni Volost, they were killed by local bandits, such as, for example, JANKEVIČUS, ARMAUSKAS and others in [...] on August 17.

1. BANURIENE Frume (a Jew), lives in the Darsuniski borough.
2. KOTONAITE Base – “ –
3. AHITAVICIENE Ese – “ –
4. GUTMANAITE Lyre – “ –
5. SMUKLERAITE – “ –
6. FLANSBERGIENE – “ –
7. ROSENBERGAITE Itke – “ –
8. ROSENBERGAITE Katze – “ –
9. STRAŽAITE Khana – “ –, lives in the Kroni borough.
10. STRAŽAITE – “ –
11. ŠMUSBERGAITE Lyuba – “ –
12. SILIKAITE Khana – “ –
13. FAINBERGAS Leizeris – “ –
14. FAINBERGAITE Khana – “ –
15. FAINBERGAITE Sore – “ –
16. SNEIDERAITE Khana – “ –

Besides, in 1941, a mass execution of Jews was organized at which about 140 people were shot.

Citizen HUDZINSKAS Petras, who lived in the town of Kroni was shot in 1941, his corpse is missing; he is presumably wounded or healthy, left his place of residence.

Chairman of the Commission [...]

Members of the Commission [...]

107.

**CONSOLIDATED DATA ON ESTABLISHED CRIMES
OF FASCIST AGGRESSORS AGAINST CITIZENS
OF THE USSR IN THE KAUNAS UYEZD**

July 3, 1945

Names of cities, villages and farms	Shot	Hung	Died after tortures	Killed by bombs and shells	POWs died	Died in total	Subjected to arrests	Taken to German servitude as in acts	Taken to German servitude as in lists
[...] Janetun Volost	22	–	–	–	2	44	–	46	
Ionovo Volost	55,666	–	–	–	–	55,666	–	209	
Lopiai Volost	115	–	–	–	–	115	–	35	
Vilion Volost	554	–	–	–	–	554	–	107	
Kroni Volost	1,182	–	–	–	2	1,184	–	38	
Vilki Volost	4,403	–	–	1	–	4,404	–	51	
Serjaržus Volost	1,116	–	–	3	–	1,119	–	–	
Raudondvaris Volost	1,123	–	–	2	1	1,126	1	8	
Bobtii Volost	3,320	–	3	9	7	3,339	11	41	
Vaniti Volost.	2,245	–	–	–	–	2,245	–	5	
Kusinka Volost.	220	–	–	–	–	220	–	9	
Možaili Volost.	1,117	–	–	–	–	1,117	–	50	
Vaidžogoli Volost.	777	–	–	–	–	777	–	–	
Gorļava Volost	1,144	–	–	15	–	1,159	12	125	
Cekiski Volost.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
TOTAL	77,484		3	30	12	77,529	24	724	

*Chief of the Kaunas Uyezd Department of People's Commissariat
of Internal Affairs Major of the State Security [...]*

Executive Secretary [...]

Member of the Republican Commission [...]

108.

**ACT 2. ON ATROCITIES AND INHUMAN TREATMENT
OF CIVILIANS, COMMITTED BY FASCIST
AGGRESSORS ON THE TEMPORARY OCCUPIED
TERRITORY OF THE IONOVO VOLOST
OF THE KAUNAS UYEZD OF THE LITHUANIAN SSR**

February 18, 1945

We, commission consisting of: chairman of the commission, chairman of the Volost VASILEV Arsentii [...]asimovich, members: party organizer of the Ionovo Volost, [...]OV Flor Andreevich, chief of the Ionovo Volost Department of People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs senior lieutenant of state security [...] in the presence of: chairman of the Village Soviet of the Užusoli [...] of the Ionovo Volost ŽHIGUNOV Boris Iosifovich, chairman of the Paskutis Village Soviet of the Ionovo Volost ANISIMENKO Artemi Martinovich, representatives from local residents VISOCKI Kalistrata Savelievich on this day on the basis of testimonies of the [...] examination of the place of executions of the local population committed by fascist monsters on the territory of the Užusoli village of the Ionovo Volost established the following:

With the occupation of the Lithuanian SSR the German Gestapo started committing atrocities against and abuse of civilians: men, women, old men and women and children of different ages that were unprecedented in the history of mankind.

On September 11, 1941, the German Gestapo gathered all of the residents living in the Užusoli and Paskutis Village Soviets and drove them to the Užusoli in [...] Viborni [...].

In total more than 300 residents of both sexes, aged from 6 to 75 years, were driven, and they were forced to sing songs and to dance. And fascists stood and beat them with rubber sticks and butts of rifles. The beating proceeded all day and all night from September 11, 1941 to September 12, 1941. After the beating everyone was ordered to pray to God, at the same time machine guns were installed behind them and fire was opened from blank cartridges.

On the same day Gestapo chose 49 people from all of the driven citizens, who after severe tortures and beatings, were driven to the Užusoli cemetery, 150 m away from Užusoli. They were forced to dig a pit 12 m long, 4 m wide and 2 m deep for themselves. As the pit was dug all of the 49 people were shot from

submachine guns and buried, and from among the executed some people had been buried alive.

From the 49 person 28 of the shot people were citizens who lived in settlements of the Paskutis Village Soviets (the list is applied).

In September, 1943 the German Gestapo conducted execution of 14 innocent residents from the Paskutis village the same Village Soviet of the Ionovo Volost, who were taken by fascists from the indicated village, convoyed to the Kongusili village on the suburb of the village, northbound at a distance of 150 m from the big road [...] a house, which belonged to citizen MARCHENKO Timothy Ksenofontievich, where a pit was dug sized 5 m long, 2 m wide and 1 m deep and shot them from the submachine guns (the list is appended).

Besides, in July, 1941, during transportation of arrested civil citizens in the direction of Kaunas, 3 km in the western direction from the Užusoli village in the forest fascists shot 3 people whose last names are indicated in the attached list at # 29–30–31.

For the period of the German occupation fascist monsters shot a total of 66 civil residents in the jurisdiction of the Užusoli and Paskutis Village Soviets.

In witness thereof this act is made.

Chairman of the Commission, chairman of the Volost

Members of the Commission

Attendants

109.

**ACT ON ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY FASCIST
AGGRESSORS AND THEIR ABUSE OF CIVILIANS
ON THE TEMPORARY OCCUPIED TERRITORY
OF THE IONOVO VOLOST, THE KAUNAS UYEZD,
THE LITHUANIAN SSR**

November 28, 1944

*Zusoli village of the Ionovo Volost
of the Kaunas Uyezd of the Lithuanian SSR*

We, commission consisting of: 1) secretary of the CP(B) district committee of Ionovo Volost of the Lithuania YAROV Flor Andreevich, 2) representative of People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs bodies lieutenant of state security [...], 3) representative of the Zusoli Village Soviet of the Ionovo Volost ZHIGUNOV Boris Osipovich, 4) representative of military units foreman LUNEVJAKA, 5) medical assistant of the Ionovo medical center GRIGORAS Vladimir Antonovich, 6) teacher of the Zusoli village MATEIKA Valerian Stanislavovich, 7) photographer MATYUKAS Anton Borisovich, 8) representatives of civilians VYSOTSKI Kalistrat Savelievich and PRESNYAKOV Alexander Evsigneevich, on the day above written, in the presence of the citizens of villages: Šarafarka, I, II, III, IV, V Budi, Veseluvka, Zusoli, Paskutiski, Kongusili, Pudmjani and others have conducted the opening of a grave of citizens shot by fascist hellhounds in 1941.

By means of the opening and testimonies of residents it is established as follows: after the occupation of the Lithuanian SSR the German Gestapo started committing atrocities against and abuse of civilians: men, women, old men and children of different ages, unprecedented in the history of mankind. Innocent people were shot and beaten.

On September 11, 1941, the German Gestapo arrested all the population of villages Zusoli, Paskutiski, I, II, III, IV, V Budi, Kongusili, Lomaki, Gurjali and others, and drove them to the school building in the Zusoli village. In total more than 300 were driven there. Innocent residents of both sexes, aged from 6 to 75. Everyone was forced to sing songs and dance, while being beaten by rubber sticks and butts of rifles. The beatings proceeded all the day and all night of September 11, 1941. In the morning on September 12, 1941, the beatings were resumed and proceeded till evening, when everyone was forced to kneel before the church and pray to God, while a machine gun was installed behind and fire from blank cartridges was opened. On the same day Gestapo

chose 49 people from among the civil citizens, who were taken to the Zusoli cemetery, after severe tortures and beatings forced to dig a pit 12 m long, 4 m wide and 2 m deep. After the pit had been dug, the 49 people were shot from submachine guns and buried, and many had been buried alive. At the opening of graves there were 49 corpses of citizens shot by fascists. From the Zusoli village of the Ionovo Volost:

1. VAITENKO Mikhail – 40 years old,
2. KORMILTSEV Nikita – 48 years old,
3. VOLOSENKO Leonti – 28 years old,
4. GORELCHENKO Simeon – 56 years old,
5. KRUGLYAKOV Stepan – 27 years old,
6. GORELCHENKO Grigory – 45 years old,
7. VOITENKO Nina – 38 years old,
8. MOLOTKOV Miron – 41 years old;

From the Girjali village of the same Volost:

1. CHISTOV Sergey – 18 years old,
2. SKROMNOV Feodor – 35 years old,
3. CHISTOV Peter – 21 years old;

From the Lomaki village of the same Volost:

1. PRESNYAKOV Sergey – 21 years old;

From the Veseluvka village of the same Volost:

1. ZYABKIN Leon – 22 years old,
2. MOGINYANOV Nikolay – 21 years old,
3. LEBEDEV Vladimir – 65 years old,
4. LEBEDEVA Anna – 65 years old;

From the Rudmjani village of the same Volost:

1. MOSHNYAKOV Kornei – 42 years old,
2. MOSHNYAKOV Silvestr – 36 years old,
3. GARUS Peter – 44 years old;

From the Šarafarka village of the same Volost:

1. ZRELSKI Alexander – 45 years old,

2. KOZLOV Andrey – 45 years old,
3. ZUEV Miron – 65 years old,
4. ZUEV Nikita – 32 years old,
5. ZUEV Nestor – 38 years old;

From the Kongusili village of the same Volost:

1. GORSHAKOV Anton – 48 years old;

From village V Budi of the same Volost:

1. KLINOV Epifan – 65 years old,
2. KLINOV Gerasim – 22 years old,
3. KLINOV Timothy – 30 years old,
4. CHUROV Spiridon – 22 years old,
5. VINOGRADOV Egor – 35 years old,
6. MOROZOV Kornei – 25 years old;

From village III Budi of the same Volost:

1. PAVLOVSKI Tikhon – 32 years old;

From village I Budi of the same Volost:

1. POROZOV Nikofof – 55 years old;

From the Poskutiski village of the same Volost:

1. HARITONOV Mikhail – 55 years old,
2. LEBEDEVA Futinia – 50 years old

Total: 49 people

At the opening of the grave a memorial service has been conducted. All of the present citizens were indignant at the fascist murderers, they swore, having united around the Lenin – Stalin party, to take revenge upon the German executioners for the murders and crimes they had committed against the Soviet citizens.

Long live Red Army! Glory to the great and loved Leader of the people and Commander comrade Stalin!

Long live Soviet Lithuania!

Death to German invaders!

Secretary of the Ionovo CP(B) District Committee
Representative of People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs
bodies of the State Security
Chairman of the Zusoli Village Soviet
Representative of military authorities
Medical Assistant of the Ionovo Medical Center
Teacher of the Zusoli Village
Photographer
Representatives of civilians

State Archives of the Russian Federation.
Fund 7021. List 94. File 420. Pages 433, 433 overleaf, 434, 434 overleaf.
The original. The manuscript.

110.

**ACT 1. ON ATROCITIES AND ABUSE OF CIVIL
POPULATION, COMMITTED BY FASCIST
AGGRESSORS ON THE TEMPORARY OCCUPIED
TERRITORY OF THE IONA VOLOST, THE KAUNAS
UYEZD, THE LITHUANIAN SSR**

February 17, 1945

We, commission composed of: chairman of the commission, chairman of the Iona Volost executive committee of the Soviet of Workers' Deputies VASILIEV Arseni Erastovich, members of the Commission: party secretary of the Ionovo Volost YAROV Flor Andreevich, chief of the Ionovo Volost Department of People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs, Senior Lieutenant of the State Security [...] Alexei Polikarpovich, at the presence of Chairman of the Ionovo City Executive Committee of Soviet of Workers' Deputies ŠEREIKO Mechislav Mikhailovich, resident of the Ionovo borough UTIRA Ludwig Kazimirovich, based on the testimonies of the visual examination of the place of executions of the local population committed by fascist monsters on the territory of the Ionovo Volost, has established the following:

In 1941, since the first days of fascist occupation of the Lithuanian SSR, Hitlerite bandits posed a goal of mass annihilation of innocent civilian Jewish population living in the Ionovo borough, the Kaunas Uyezd, the Lithuanian SSR.

For the purposes of implementation of this brutal crime fascist monsters with the active participation of their accomplices, the so-called Lithuanian white partisans, in August, 1941, committed a mass arrest of male [population] of the Jewish nationality who under arrest were also used by fascist bandits for digging pits on the site of the assumed mass executions, i.e. in the so-called "Giralka" forest, which is 1.5 km north-east from the Ionovo borough, 200 m to the field side from the highway from the Ionovo borough to the city of Ukmergi. There the fascist monsters prepared five pits from which 3 pits were 50 m long, 2.5 m wide, 2.5 to 3 m deep. Two pits were 30 m long with the same width and depth as the first 3 pits.

As soon as the first three pits were dug out, fascist monsters shot and buried in the pits all of the 100 Jewish men, who participated in the digging.

Some time after that execution the Hitlerite monsters together with their bandit accomplices, the so-called Lithuanian White Partisans, without regard to sex or

age, drove literally all of the Jewish population into a so-called camp arranged in the northern suburb of the Ionovo borough, enclosed by barbed wire, where women, old people unable to move, and children of different ages were driven.

After staying in this camp for some time, Hitlerite fascist monsters together with their accomplices-bandits the Lithuanian white partisans, gathered peasants with carts from the nearby villages, put the old Jewish people who were not able to move in those carts and took them to the “Giralka” forest, where the fascist bandits, as they approached the pits, dragged the old men from the carts, stripped them and dumped them alive into the pits, and then shot them from submachine guns.

While the execution of old Jewish people took place, the rest of the Jewish population that were in the camp came in an enormous column of mostly women and children to the place of the committed execution.

As the women and children who came saw this sinister bloody scene, all of them trembled with fear; horrifying cries and shouts were heard, women and children cried and shouted.

But the fascist bloody monsters were relentless; with animal fury they jumped on the defenseless women and children, stripped them until they were almost naked, brought them in groups to the pits and shot them from rifles.

The execution proceeded from 2 till 12 o'clock, even as it became dark, fascist monsters parked their cars with their lights on at the ends of the pits and continued the bloody atrocity unprecedented in the history of mankind. In total on this day no less than 4,000 civil innocent Jewish people were shot.

After the committed shooting, Hitlerite fascist bandits attracted the local population to fill the pits. As they came to the pits, moans were still heard from the pits, as there were still alive and half-alive victims in them; despite it, [...] filled the pits with the alive and half-alive victims.

All of the belongings and clothes that had been taken away before the execution from the Jewish population, and also the property which remained in the houses after they had been driven to the camp was plundered by the fascist bandits, taken away, as if it were a payment for the committed atrocity over the Jewish population.

Not confining to the committed mass executions of the Jewish population, some time later, the fascist butchers dug 2 more pits in the same forest 20 m long, of the same width and depth as the first five pits. And there, in 1941, at different times, innocent Soviet citizens were shot – activists and POWs, no less than 1,500 men.

So the fascist aggressors, directly aided by their bandit accomplices, “the white Lithuanian partisans,” exterminated over 4,000 Soviet citizens of the Jewish nationality and no less than 1,500 citizens of other nationalities and POWs.

For the purpose of concealing the traces of the committed crimes the fascist monsters, being afraid of the responsibility for the committed crimes, burnt corpses that were in the above-stated pits some months before the liberation of the Lithuanian SSR by the Red Army, turning them into ashes that [have not pr]eserve till now.

In witness thereof this act is made.

Chairman of the Commission [...]

Members of the Commission [...]

Attendants [...]

State Archives of the Russian Federation.
Fund 7021. List 94. File 420. The original. The manuscript.

111.

**TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF WITNESS
PAULAUSKAS A.I.**

February 14, 1945

Ionovo borough

I, chief of the Ionovo Volost Department of People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs, Senior Lieutenant of the State Security [...] on the day above written interrogated the undernamed as an eyewitness, who was warned about the responsibility for false swearing in accordance with clause 95 of UK [Criminal Code] of RSFSR.

POVLOVSKI [PAULAUSKAS] Adolf Ivanovich, born in 1913, native and resident of the Ionavo borough, 81 [Kisizen] street, Lithuanian, illiterate, married, non-party member, previously not convicted.

SIGNATURE

Question: Tell me, what do you know about atrocities of Germans during their occupation of the Ionovo borough of the Kaunas Uyezd?

Answer: During the German occupation, I worked in a cooperative society as a carrier of goods and I know well how round August, 1941 Germans together with Lithuanian partisans committed a mass execution of citizens of the Jewish nationality living in the Ionovo borough.

I do not remember the exact date, as a carrier I was called by a Lithuanian "partisan" ŽILINKAS Ivan who was the foreman in the "partisan" group at that time, and he ordered me to harness horses and to transfer the property of Jews from their apartments into a common barrack. I obeyed his order and left. Beside me there were many other peasants with horses who arrived from the villages nearby. When we approached the houses that belonged to Jews, there weren't any people in them, there were only their belongings and property, while all of the Jews had been driven to a place in the Ionovo borough, as though to a camp, enclosed by barbed wire.

All the property was being brought to one barrack from 8 to 12 o'clock in the morning, where a Lithuanian KUŽELEVSKI was receiving it from the carriers.

As we brought all of the stuff, we were let go home for dinner and ordered to be back after dinner with horses.

Arriving after dinner, we were offered to drive our horses to the camp where Jews were contained, [...] There were Lithuanian partisans and Lithuanian policemen, who began loading old Jewish men and women, who could not move, onto our carts. As the carts were loaded, we weren't told where to go, but we went along the highway towards [...]. When we were leaving the camp, a column of four people in a row, mostly women and children of different ages, went after us. This column stretched for about half a kilometer. The column went [...] for they did not know where they were driven. This column was driven by Lithuanian partisans.

We, the ones who went on horses ahead, having reached the forest, the so-called ["Eralki"] turned into this forest where 2 pits had been dug out of about 20 m long, 2 m wide and 3 m deep. Around these pits, a chain of guards of the Lithuanian partisans stood, among them there were two German officers, whose surnames I don't know.

As soon as we arrived with the carts, Lithuanian partisans rushed to our carts and started dragging out the old Jews and dumping them alive into the dug pits. And as soon as all of the Jews were dumped into the pits, partisans shot them in the pits. When the execution was conducted, we stood aside at the place of the execution.

We were told to bring all the belongings that had been taken from the Jews before the execution back into the barrack. So we also saw, beside the old men, the column of women and children, who had been going behind us, also shot; in this column there were about 1,500 people and there were about 100 old men.

As the column was brought, it was divided into parts, [...] waited here for their turn, and they were ordered not to look at the people being shot but to kneel and lower their heads. When the execution of these Jews began, awful shouts and cries were heard, women and children were crying. This mass execution began at about 4 in the afternoon and proceeded till midnight. Before the execution the Jews had been first undressed, then because of the darkness they weren't undressed, and in order not to stop the execution, cars with their lights on were placed at the ends of the pits, illuminating them.

As soon as the execution had been completed, all of us, the carriers, were offered to shovel up the pits, and as we approached the pits filled with corpses, we saw a Lithuanian "partisan" EKEIKO on top of them, who shot the Jews who were not yet killed from a rifle. It is hard to tell whether everyone was killed, so there is a possibility that some could have been buried alive.

As we filled the pits, we were offered to pick up all the things taken away from the Jews before the execution, load them onto our carts and bring them to the barrack in Ionovo.

After that I wasn't called for transportation and burying of Jews, although later the executions proceeded. I didn't witness these executions every day; there had been two executions before, which I hadn't seen, but it can be assumed that no less than 4,000 Jews were shot in the ["Eralki"] forest.

There is nothing more I can add with regard to this case.

Written down according to my words correctly and read through to me.

SIGNATURE

*Interrogator: chief of the Ionovo Volost Department of People's Commissariat
of Internal Affairs Lieutenant of State Security [...]*

State Archives of the Russian Federation.
Fund 7021. List 94. File 420. Pages 444–445. The original. The manuscript.

112.

**TRANSCRIPT OF INTERROGATION OF WITNESS
UTVERI L.K.**

February 17, 1945

Ionovo borough

I, chief of the Ionovo Volost Department of People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs Senior Lieutenant of State Security [...], on the day above written interrogated the undernamed as an eyewitness, who was warned about the responsibility for false swearing in accordance with clause 95 of UK [Criminal Code] of RSFSR.

SIGNATURE

I, UTVERI Ludwig Kozimirovich, born in 1922, native and resident of the Skazuki village of the Ionovo Volost of the Kaunas Uyezd, Lithuanian SSR, Lithuanian, literate, member of the VLKSM, previously not convicted.

On the merits of the questions asked I can explain the following:

In 1941 during the German occupation of the Soviet Lithuania, as member of the VLKSM I was arrested by the Germans and taken into custody in the Ionovo borough at the headquarters of Lithuanian white partisans. In August and September, 1941, as an arrested person, together with others inmates, I was convoyed by white partisans to a forest, the so-called "Eralki", where arrested Jews were also driven. This "Eralki" is situated northwest from the Ionovo borough, at a distance of 1.5 km 150 m from the highway from the Ionovo borough to the city of Ukmergi. In this "Eralki" forest we had been digging pits for some days. With my participation 5 of these pits were dug, 5 of which were 50 m long, 2.5 m wide and 2.5 to 3 deep. Two pits were 30 m long, with the same width and depth as the first three pits. As soon as the first 3 pits had been dug out the fascists together with the White Partisans shot Jews [...] up to 100 men.

After a while, in about a week after the first execution the fascists with the active participation [...] gathered literally all of the Jewish population living in the Ionovo borough, regardless of sex and age, all women, [...] children were driven into a camp in the Ionovo borough and enclosed by barbed wire [...]. Then all of them were driven into the above-mentioned forest in one big column. As they got there, they were stripped almost naked, their belongings were dumped in one common heap, and then all this property was taken away by the executioners. As soon as the Jews had been undressed, they were

brought to the pits dug out by us and fascist monsters shot them in groups from rifles. When the first group was shot, another one was prepared to be shot, and so the execution proceeded, one group after another.

The mass execution began at about 2 in the afternoon and proceeded till midnight. In total no less than 4,000 people were shot at this execution. During the execution there were hysterical shouts and cries of the women and children being shot, but the fascist monsters did not pay any attention, continuing their brutal [...]

[...] were buried alive and half-alive.

After that execution two pits of 20 m long were dug, which were [...] buried by fascists [...] by shot residents, Soviet party workers and military men. In total in these two pits fascists shot and buried no less than 1,500 people, and in general in the seven pits more than 5,600 people were shot.

Question: Do you know the persons who committed the mass execution of the Jewish citizens, and other civil citizens, and [...] if you know, [tell] their last names and names?

Answer: Yes. As the executions were committed in my presence, I [...] saw and remember the participants and direct initiators of the mass executions, although not everyone, however, I remember many of them. From the Vareiki Village of the Ionovo Volost – LJUKOŠAS, KUZLOVSKI, SOBOLEVSKI, BARTKEVIC, PALAIŠA Vacis, MOCKO Vacis, MOCKO Felinas. From the Saneviki Village of the Ionovo Volost MOTSKO Iolas, VAREIKIS Stasis, from the Maitsali village – ŠULGA Stasis, ŠULGA Edward, ŠULGA Kazis, from the Skarusi Village – MAZKAVIČUS, ZAKARSUDONAS Minas, ZAKARSUDONAS Bonis, GRANSKIS Vacis, ZVINCEVIČUS Bonis, LIVINSLAS Kazis, PONGRIMAS Ezas, BUBILAS Granas, UTVERI Vacis, KIDEL [...] Aleksas, KEDELSKI Stasis, KEDELSKI A[...], BUBILAS Maras, BUBILAS Antonas, MARO[...] Andrey, BIGJANIS Iozas, BIGJANIS Ljudas [...] Iolovo – GINEIKO Stasis, GUTAUSKAS Stasis, GUTAUSKAS Ezas, [...], KAVIČUS Kazis, ŠIMONIS Petras, [...], JALUŠAUSLOS. From the Iolovo station SIMONAVIČUS Petras, SIŠOLAVIČUS, ŠAUSKAS Iolas and from the Iolovo borough KREIČŠARA [...]

None of these persons are now living in the above-stated villages, many of them had left with the Germans, many were arrested by the counterespionage [«Smersh»] and [...] are hiding. All of these persons were White Lithuanian partisans during the German occupation, most actively participated in the executions. I don't know anyone not from the [...] who participated in the executions, though all of the executions were conducted in their presence, with their participation in management and conduction of the executions. But I don't know their last names.

There is nothing more I can add with regard to this case.

Written down according to my words correctly and read out to me.

SIGNATURE

*Interrogator: chief of the Ionovo Volost Department of People's Commissariat
of Internal Affairs Lieutenant of State Security [...]*

State Archives of the Russian Federation.
Fund 7021. List 94. File 420. The original. The manuscript.

113.

**MESSAGE OF DAD [GERMAN INFORMATION SERVICE]
ABOUT ADMINISTERING THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE
TO HITLER TO LITHUANIAN SUBDIVISIONS FORMED
FROM THE LOCAL POPULATION**

December 4, 1943

Berlin

Administering the oath of allegiance to Adolf Hitler to Lithuanian subdivisions formed from the local population.

The first contingent of Lithuanian subdivisions have sworn the oath these days at the celebratory parade. The contingent consists of Lithuanian volunteers – officers, corporals and private soldiers. The oath has been administered in a religious form: to defend the Lithuanian native land with weapons in hands from the Bolshevik enemy and to serve Adolf Hitler as fair and disciplined soldiers. From the moment of taking the oath the volunteers became a unit of the German Wehrmacht. The first Lithuanian general adviser, general KUBILIUNAS has stressed in his speech that the volunteers will execute their duties in Lithuania.

The oath completes the first period of preparation in which, under the direction of German instructors, volunteers have reached a considerably high level.

114.

**VENETA PROPAGANDA SERVICE. INFORMATION
475 ABOUT COLONEL SALAZIUS'S SPEECH OVER
THE KAUNAS RADIO**

Confidential

May 8, 1943

Berlin

Lithuania calls for battle.

As part of the action for the Lithuanian people's joining the struggle against Bolshevism, former Colonel SALAZIUS made a speech over the Kaunas radio. He declared, in particular, the following: "Who has stopped the brutal annihilation of our people? It is only the big campaign begun by the Germans against Bolshevism that has saved us. Vigorous sons of our people gathered in groups and facilitated whenever possible the approach of German armies. Even today, units of self-defense are at war against Bolshevism, side by side with their liberators, German soldiers. These same days the military commandant of Lithuania General-Major JUST called to enter the Lithuanian battalions. We should follow this appeal in order to prove that we have not forgotten the victims of the Bolshevist terror. We cannot stay apart from this struggle for human rights and culture; we should participate in it even more intensively. As a former political prisoner, who has personally been through the Bolshevism horrors, I call Lithuanians who are endowed with health and strong will, for active struggle against Bolshevism. Not for struggle by word, but in battle and in work. Nobody should remain idle now. The Great German Wehrmacht is defending us from Bolshevism. We must help it in every way possible, support and assist it.

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