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## Proceedings of the second meeting with Israel Yakushko on 10.05.1999[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Second trip to Israel Yakushku in Herzliya**

On May 10 I had my second meeting with Israel Yakushka. I left home at 7:15 a.m. and returned at 9:30 p.m.

Israel and Ida greeted me very warmly. They treated me to an excellent lunch and apologized for his brother Moses, whose unfriendly wife, they said, was seriously ill and had no time to talk about the past.

I asked Israel questions about the transcribed text of the audio recording of the last conversation with him, then we looked through the list of the dead, clarified names and surnames, then from his family albums we took the photos of Zeimelis before 1941, put them into a new album which I gave him, numbered all the photos and their places in the album.

Then Israel began to give explanations of the photographs in his new album, but we did not have time to unfold this work as it was already very late. For reasons of integrity and convenience of perception of the explanations to the photos, I moved the audio recording of the beginning of the work with them to "Materials of the third meeting with Israel Yakushko on 17.05.1999", file InterviewJAI3.docx.

The next meeting was scheduled for May 17.

**The content of the talk on the sound recording**

Discussion on the audio recording of 04/30/1999.

At the beginning of the conversation Israel deviated from discussing my questions about the audio recording of 04/30/1999, but then we returned to them.

И. In Žeimelis, they did not teach us well in elementary school. For example, the letters "S" and "S". We all say "S." That is not right. When the second teacher came, he grabbed his head:

- How is it that in second grade you don't know "S" and "Sh", we pronounced the letter "shin" as "shin". Fish in Yiddish is "fish," we said "fis. That's the way we spoke in Zeimelis and many Lithuanian Jews spoke that way. Even by conversation here in Israel, you can tell: "Are you from Lithuania?"

***B***[[2]](#footnote-2) . HOW AND WHERE WAS YOUR FAMILY EXILED IN WORLD WAR I? WHERE WERE OTHER FAMILIES EXILED TO? WHO CAME BACK FROM WHERE?

И. To Kherson in 1915. It was like this: Cossacks came to Jeimeli and started taking everything from the stores, like a pogrom. They did not kill! My father told me that there was such a small store, they came and took it, they did not pay money. Then they came to the market square with the horses. Everybody was scared. By evening, there was such an atmosphere that there was about to be a riot.

One free woman slept with one main Cossack and the next day (they left)[[3]](#footnote-3) .

They gave the order: "All Jews are German spies and must be kicked out of Zeimelis. People packed up and all left, both on horseback and on foot. And got to many places, not only Kherson, but other cities as well.

А. Who's going where?

И. I know, about Lazer Haesh, that it was as if he was in Moscow. He had two sons staying there. That's what they told me. They were studying. In 1941 one came to Zeimelis! I don't know your father (or not).

А. I don't know anything about that!

И. Yes, he came, I remember it well! And everyone was saying, "Leyser's son Haes came," not Haesh. Haes - that's what they said. He was there for a week, a week and a half. And he wanted to take them to Leningrad, but they didn't agree. Because they had a lot of houses. The whole street, or half of the street. Where the police (part) was, that was their house, where the inn was, the central one in the bazaar (Little Tavern), that was their house, where they lived. He had many houses. He was considered a rich man. In the synagogue he stood near Rabbi Krenitz at all times. All the children would show him respect, "Good morning!" When the rabbi entered, everyone stood up.

One time, I was a boy about 8 years old, he (Laser) was sitting there on the bench. Kids were running around. He asks me:

- Ingele, ingele, wemen bist du? (Boy, boy, whose are you?).

- Ich bin Mote Yakushok, sun. (I am the son of Mote Yakushok).

- Oh, a sheine ingele du bist! (Oh, what a handsome boy you are!).

In 1941, on the second day (of the holiday) of Rosh Shana (bet tishrei), all the Jews were thrown out into the market square, where there was a synagogue nearby. And there came from Linkuva gymnasium students, German officers and a few Lithuanians who had already served as policemen for the Germans. One of them was Molnikas. He used to drive cattle from Zeimelis to Riga. My father used to buy cattle. The Lithuanians drove them to Riga. There they were slaughtered and there they sold the meat.

And that day they took all the Jews and chased them a mile and a half away from the township in the direction of Bauska. There was a big barn there. And all the Jews were driven into the barn. All night long they were in the barn. Then they dug a hole in the corner of the woods. The next day they chased them five at a time. It was a very rainy day. They drove them five at a time and shot them.

When they were standing in the bazaar in Zeimelis, Leyser Haesch wore, it was summer, a mink coat. The minks are so beautiful down there!

Molnikas comes up and he says:

- Take off my coat.

Freida became indignant.

- What?!

- Like you in the summer in a fur coat! Give me the coat, I'll help you out.

Freida told him:

- Give him the coat.

And Molnikas took the coat. The coat cost 2,000 litas at the time. That's a lot of money! They could have bought a house for 2,000 litas. And they took his coat from him.

(On May 5, Israel, after telling me the same story over the phone, said that Leyser did not want to give back the coat, he was beaten and had his coat taken away).

А. You said Leyser didn't take off his coat.

И. Yes, he didn't take it off. Freida made him take off his coat: "Maybe this coat will help us.

Then they were all shot the next day. Five men at a time. Only one escaped - Gershka Tarutz. He was with a bicycle. Joschka Lakunishok and Hershka Tarutz ran away. They ran as far as Žagaré. At Žagaré they were killed, too.

Who told me? A Lithuanian man who is there. A woman who knows a lot. She wrote. And her husband told it to me. He had already died. They didn't convict him after the war.

А. When roughly was this told to you?

И. In 1948. The first time I, my father, Motl Yakushok, Meir Yakushok, Moshe Yakushok, and Faivl Zagorski came to Zeimyalis. And we started asking questions, asking questions. They told us everything. Everything was fresh.

At that time we wanted to put up a monument. We collected money in Kaunas. Most of the Jews of Žeimelis lived in Kaunas. The Soviet government was not interested. The Soviets were Lithuanians. And we went. Haim Glezer-he was chairman of the village council when the Russians came. Meer Yakushok was the party secretary. Avremka Baginsky was the chief of the police.

А. All the Jewish power was?

И. Yes, all the Jewish power was.

А. Glaeser went around petitioning that a monument could be erected?

И. Yes, you could put up a monument. And the bosses said, "Collect the money. So they raised the money. And nothing came of it. It wasn't given. It was written "Here are buried Soviet citizens, victims of German fascists".

А. Who laid the concrete slabs?

И. I don't remember that.

(I ask about the use of the Jewish bank building before the action )[[4]](#footnote-4)

И. Folksbank was. But it was small. How could they have driven them there? No, the synagogue. They burned it down afterwards. The synagogue also had stone walls. Not wood. Everything was stone. Red stone.

А. So how was it broken?

И. Broke it. Then they stole all those stones. Burned it down. There were wooden benches and Aron Kodesh. When we came in 1948, I remember we saw some remnants ourselves. The synagogue was big. There were two sides (entrances), one (side) was closed, the other was open. The room was big.

А. Was there a section for women?

И. Yes, upstairs, second floor.

А. You mean it was a double-decker?

И. We kids used to go to the second floor. There were a lot of pigeons there, we used to catch them.

А. What was the roof like?

И. Red.

А. Tile?

И. Yes, tiled, semi-circular.

А. Windows?

И. The windows were big, like in synagogues, semicircular on top, long. There was a gap from the fence toward the street. We always played soccer there on the Sabbath.

А. You said there was a second synagogue.

И. My father used to go there. We used to go to the little synagogue. It was a house in the same courtyard where the rabbi lived. There was a room like our salon (about 30-35 square meters). We only went on the Sabbath. We went to synagogue every day. I didn't go. My grandfather went to the synagogue, Leiser Haesh went to the synagogue. And a lot of people went to synagogue. Every day was a minyan. They would get up at 7 a.m., go to the synagogue, and then go to their jobs.

А. Did the rabbi have a beit midrash or a beit knesset, a house of study or a synagogue?

И. Beit midrash. Be idish a schtibel (in Yiddish shtibel). There were many shtibel in Lithuania. There was a portion of people who went to the shtibel. Twenty people always came. True, on Simchat Torah, the Sabbath, there was always booze and snacks. Brown lekahs like that. A little vodka to drink. Every Sabbath. But we didn't pray Rosh Shana there, we went to the big synagogue. There was a wooden beit sefer and a bath house. Nothing has been preserved there.

Masha was not Gershon, but Zalmanovich. The Gershons lived in a bathhouse. They were very poor people.

I also want to tell you, there was a room in the same house where Ita Yakushok and Brianna Yakushok, our relatives, lived. Bryna was 102-103 years old. She couldn't walk, they took her out on a horse-drawn cart and shot them near the pit, too. We children were always walking around, laughing: Ida, Ida, es regnet afn gas! (Ida, Ida, it's raining outside). There was a school in this yard. There was another little house, a shamesh beit a knesset lived there. Leizer was his name.

***В.*** WHO IS THE ZYAMA YOU CAN ASK FOR THE LAST NAME OF THE CAR?

Zyama is another Berman. They are not related to Charlie.

А. Is he alive?

И. Yes. I talked to him yesterday. He lives in Or Yehuda. He's from Žeimyals, and he was there until the last moment, he lived in Žeimyalis. I lived in Šiauliai and he lived in Žeimelis. I often talk to him about this matter. He sent materials to Yad Vashem. He's 1924, he's disabled from the war, he has one arm. And his sister Rivka Berman, 1926, is still alive. I can call him now. I, when I prepare the list, I talk to him always.

А. Let's discuss it with you first. I have it memorized.

***Г.*** WHERE WERE THE JEWS IMPRISONED IN ŽEIMELIS WHEN THEY WERE CAUGHT IN THE BUTCHERS' CASE?

И. It was called "dabokle," in Lithuanian, a small room with bars attached to the police. That's where they kept them.

***Д.*** WHERE WERE THE JEWS STANDING AT THE SITE OF WHAT FIRE WHEN BURSTEIN SAID THE PROPHETIC WORDS?

И. That's where Milunsky kept the mill. It was always a gathering place for Jews who had no work. Azriel had no work. And he told me how Stalin took the boots off him. He was somewhere in Russia during the revolution. And others... And they wouldn't let us children eavesdrop. They chased us away. But I remember well (be idish):

- Wos wart ihr fun sein tovot? Der himmel weint. Ihr geit nit?

А. What is tovot?

И. This is the same in Hebrew as litwishen gericht (Lithuanian court).

***Ж.*** IS IT TRUE THAT ISRAEL HASH WAS A PHOTOGRAPHER? IS IT TRUE THAT HE THEN WENT TO LINCUVA? DID HE DIE IN ŽEIMELIS OR IN LINCUVA? DID HE HAVE ANY BROTHERS, SISTERS, RELATIVES? WHAT WAS HIS RELATIONSHIP TO LEYSER? WHAT ELSE DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT ISRAEL HAYES?

А. Moshe (Israel's brother) told me that Israel Hayesh was a photographer. Is this true?

И. Yes, he had a picture there, all pictures of him. (Shows pictures taken by Israel). My mother, my brother died, a tank man. My brother Levy Israel Hayesh took pictures in our courtyard. That was before the war. (Shows picture 57[[5]](#footnote-5) ). My brother (on the right in the hat), next to Shulgeifer. They were always playing chess.

А. What do you know about Israel HaYeshe anyway? Your brother (Moshe) said that Israel then went to Linkuva. Was he related to Leiser?

И. That I don't know. Most of the young people were in HaShomer HaTzair, Israel Hayesh was in HaShomer HaTzair, and the Yakushkis were always in Beitar.

А. What is the difference between these organizations?

И. "Beitar" - more extremist and more nationalist, that's Jabotinsky. "Ha shomer ha tzair" leftist more, (their leader) was Ben Gurion. In 1936 there was an election in Zeimelis for the 17th (non-slavery, possibly the 18th) Jewish Congress. I remember it well: "Stimmt far Zhabotinskij in doktor Shehtman!

А. Where is Schechtman from?

И. From Kaunas.

They were canvassing, the conversations were so heated. Campaigning, as it is now (in Israel, on May 17, the elections of the prime minister and the Knesset were taking place, and there was a very fierce election battle). I remember it well:

Stimmt mit likvidatoren. Stimmt far Zhabotinski. List Numer eins doktor Shehtman (Vote with the liquidators. Vote for Jabotinsky. List number 1 Dr. Shechtman).

There were poems under the poster. I studied them, but I don't remember. There were discussions. I was about 14 or 15 years old.

А. Don't remember who passed?

И. Most left-wing parties: "He Halutz", "Ha shomer ha tzair alef", "Ha shomer ha tzair bet", "Gordonists". "The Gordonists" were right-wing, more right-wing. They passed. They got most of the candidates. And Jabotinsky got less. There was a minority.

А. Let's return to Israel Hayesh. He was in HaShomer HaTzair. Was he a public figure there, holding office?

И. No, I was a member. I was a member of Beitar. He was 7-8 years older than me, he was like my brother, that 1914. He was in the army in 1936. There is a picture[[6]](#footnote-6) .

А. How long did you serve in the Lithuanian army?

И. 18 months.

А. Did he go to Linkuva?

И. I don't know.

А. Does your list of the dead include Israel Hayes?

И. There is. His mother. I know where they lived. On Joniskis Street. That house is still standing.

А. You said last time that you didn't know the mother of Israel. Or did I misunderstand you?

И. I have a list (looks at it). In the winter it would snow where the sidewalk was, then it would freeze and we would skate. And she would always go out and pour sand so we wouldn't skate, wouldn't ruin the sidewalk. They had a vegetable garden, a big vegetable garden. Abraham Fleischman lived next door. And there was a driveway. And they were always suing for a meter. They moved the fences at night.

А. Haeshi?

И. Haeshi and Fleischmann were rearranging. They were suing. Drove to Yonyskis to court. For half a meter. I have it all written down. I read it (in my diary).

***З.*** IS SHOHET THE PROFESSION OF THE SECOND TEACHER'S FATHER OR IS THAT HIS SURNAME?

А. You said about Katz's second teacher that his father was a Shohet.

И. Not Katz, Moshe Green. Katz was a teacher, came from somewhere, not from Jemialis. Moshe Green studied at the Jewish seminary in Telshai. There was a yeshiva there. There was also a yeshiva in Ponevezh. Zyamka Berman studied in Ponevezh in a yeshiva, and I in Slobodka. Moshe Greene's father was a shochet, cutting cattle, chickens. Moshe Green was short, very small. I have a picture of him.

***И.*** WHAT WAS THE SCHOOL ON LINCOVA STREET - A LITHUANIAN SCHOOL? CAN YOU SHOW ME THE LOCATION OF THE JEWISH SCHOOL ON THE PLAN OF ŽEIMELIS? IS IT STILL THERE TODAY?

А. Was the school where you started school on Linkowa Street a Lithuanian school or a Jewish school? The new one that was built?

И. No, Jewish. Red house like that, go in by the stairs, several (steps) stairs and I studied there in first grade, second grade. Then at the beginning of the '30s, in '29 they started building a school, then they moved to this school. The building of the old school on Linkovskaya Street has been preserved. Red (house). Abramovich's warehouses were there. He then declared himself bankrupt. He had a house in Riga. And the house today, too. A beautiful, tall house. He was rich.

***К.*** WHY DIDN'T YOU LEARN FROM WOLOWITZ IF HE IS IN THE PICTURE?

HOW OLD ARE YOU IN THIS PICTURE? WHAT YEAR WAS THIS PICTURE TAKEN?

IS THIS PICTURE OF ALL THE STUDENTS IN THE SCHOOL OR ONE CLASS? HOW MANY CLASSES WERE THERE IN THE SCHOOL?

WHY ISN'T YOUR YOUNG TEACHER IN THE PICTURE?

WHAT SUBJECTS WERE TAUGHT AT SCHOOL?

WHAT CLUBS OR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WERE THERE AT SCHOOL - ART, SPORTS? DID YOU GO ON EXCURSIONS? WHEN?

А. Is the picture (Y26, sent to me by Barry Mann) of all the students in the school, four classes or just one class? Because there are students of different ages here. You said you didn't study at Wolowitz, but you took the picture together. What year was the picture taken. How old are you here?

И. 5-6 years old. I did not study.

А. It's probably older.

И. I want to tell you: it's not Wolowitz. My brother was in school. Basya was in the first grade. It was at the beginning of the 1929-30 (school) year, I think. How I got to this picture. 35 is not Wolowitz. This is the Zeimälje school. On Linkuva Street[[7]](#footnote-7) . This house still stands. Stairs, going in that door. 18 is my brother (Moshe). I was 5 or 6 years old. I remember well. I always asked my parents:

- Ich will gejn in bet sefer ba Bas'ka.

And I was walking around in my dress at the time. And they took some books, folded them up for me, tied them.

- Go to school.

I walk into the school and yell:

- Baska!

I get in their way. They tell me:

- Still, still, - quiet, quiet.

I sit in class. I'm getting bored. They were taking pictures that day and I climbed in. This is the old school on Linkova Street. It was probably in '29.

А. Are all the classes here? Children of different ages.

И. Three or four classes.

А. Who wanted to take the picture?

И. Yes.

А. What subjects were taught at school?

И. In elementary school in first grade: math, geography, history (in second grade), in third grade math, grammar, and most importantly... (end of the audio tape).

Rabbi Krenitz came and taught us Jewish studies. The rabbi did not receive money from the Lithuanian state. He got it from the Kagal. He came twice a week. (Had) a dictation. They were afraid. They learned the Tanach, the Humash.

А. Did you study Jewish or Lithuanian history?

И. Studied Jewish history, partly Lithuanian history. Wolovich taught Lithuanian history in Lithuanian.

А. Did you study Lithuanian as well?

И. How about that! We started with Hebrew. The school taught in Hebrew. The name of the school was "Tarbut". There were "Tarbut" and "Yavneh" schools. "Yavneh" was more religious, "Tarbut" was more free. In Zeimelis there was no "Yavne", only "Tarbut". Yiddish was not studied at all. Yiddish was spoken at home.

А. Were there circles at school?

И. Were. I participated. On Purim they used to do Purim spiel. I remember - I participated. I remember going on stage and saying this: (sings):

Heint is Purim, un morgen is oijs,

Gib mir a groshen un warf mir arijs.

(Today Purim, tomorrow not,

Give me pennies and throw me away).

There was a drama club in Zeimelis. I was a prompter, in Yiddish. We played the plays "Sulamit", some plays by Bialik.

(I show him pictures[[8]](#footnote-8) , received from Gel. Israel reads on one of them) Herzl's "Kleptomania"[[9]](#footnote-9) .

А. You were not the prompter on it.

И. No. These are pictures from the early '30s.

А. Do you think these are the photographic works of Israel Hayesh or not.

И. It's hard to say.

А. Were there any other photographers there? Was he the only photographer?

И. No, it wasn't his. He was too young (in those years). I was the prompter for The Pursuit of Husband. Faivel Zagorski was the prompter. Then he didn't want any more. And they took some Jew to read. And he sat there in a booth.

А. Where were the performances?

И. In our Jewish school there was such a hall that used to open up. And "Trumpeldor" was played there. That was in 1929-1930. Motl Yakushok was a Trumpeldor. And most of the plays were played in the Lithuanian school, the big white building.

А. What other circles were there besides drama?

И. There was a library. Faivel Zagorski was there. They took books, paid little money there, half a lit, and read at home. There was no TV back then.

А. Were there sports clubs at school?

И. Soccer. There was no teacher. The teacher played with us. Showed us how to play. Moshe Green played with us. He was from Zeimelis, he was relatively young. Before Katz. We always played soccer in the playground where the synagogue was. There was a bathhouse there. I remember one time we were playing soccer, and I kicked it! And I kicked out the window. And there was running, screaming.

The Lithuanian school (outdoors) already had devices for sports, basketball boards, climbing ladders (the Swedish wall), and playing croquet. There was no sports hall.

А. Were there field trips? Did you take children from school to Jewish sites?

И. On Lag ba Omer they went to the woods, made bonfires, but they didn't go to schools yet, there were no such circles. There were children who joined organizations: "Beitar," "Ha shomer ha tzair," "He Halutz," "Gordonia. And there was already such a thing there. In "Beitar" they taught us how to form, how to walk, how to fight with our hands, how to fight. And there we were already walking in the woods, making huts in the summer, learning, sitting, eating together.

And then in 1938 they came from Israel (so it says in the record) already in brown uniforms, like Italian fascists. Itzka Burshtein called them torchbearers. On Shavuot they were already walking around the place with torches.

***Л.*** TO THE RIGHT OR LEFT OF THE ROAD IS THE LAND OF LEYSER HAESHA, IF YOU GO FROM ZHEIMEL?

И. Hayesha on the left, near the woods, Vilenchika on the right, he lived there. Leyser lived in the place. There are two roads there.

***М.*** HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT PRINCE ANATOLY LIVEN?

WHERE WAS THE BRICK FACTORY LOCATED?

А. Prince sold the place in 1905.

И. Yes, I heard, where the mill is, all the big houses were once his.

А. Was there a brickyard.

И. Yes, there was, it was behind the slaughterhouse, but (there are) only ruins left. Red brick (did). It was built in Zeimyalis.

А. When did they build the railroad line?

И. The narrow gauge railroad was made in World War I. My sister's husband Leiba Lakunishok, a tinsmith and locksmith, worked at the station. He did roofing there and in many other places. But he was not a railroad employee. There were no Jews serving on the railroad.

***О.*** WHO ELSE SERVED UNDER LEYSER HAESH, BESIDES HESKEL? TSUNKAS, TETRAGAS, GRIGALUNAS? HAVE YOU HEARD OF THEM?

И. Yes, there were other servicemen (the question is apparently not understood). Moshe served with Vilenchik before he left for the army. Abramovich had him in his service, Vilenchik's. Abramovich declared bankruptcy. Moved to Vilenchik. Worked for Buzi Ehrlich.

А. Have you heard the surnames Tsunkas, Quaternogas, Grigalunas?

И. These are Lithuanian surnames. Tsunkas. He lived in Žeimelis itself. I haven't heard of Chetvergas. Grigalunas heard (but doesn't say anything specifically).

***П.*** IS IT CORRECT THAT HESKEL DIDN'T WORK IN THE AFTERNOON? HOW MANY YEARS DID HESKEL WORK AT LEYSER? IN WHICH YEARS?

И. They didn't work after the bazaar. It was over at 1:30 a.m. The Lithuanians were still walking around, buying vodka, getting drunk.

А. How many years did Heskel work for Leyser?

И. Six months to three quarters of a year. That was about 1937-1938.

А. Why did Heskel leave Leyserom, was he dissatisfied with him?

И. No, he went into the army. He was like a coachman, too. He used to take them every afternoon to the field with a brisket, a nice white horse, and the children always looked at how beautiful the horse was.

***Ч.*** WHAT WAS FREUD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD HESKEL? WHAT IS KNOWN ABOUT HER?

А. Didn't he complain about Freida, Heskel? She had a heavier temper. In our family it was said that Leyser was non-scandalous.

И. Right. He was quiet, quiet. He never helped the Jews. Didn't help just to give some money.

We went to gather at Keren Kaemet. And who went? My sister Batya. And I went to see Iser Izraelson. There was this box, a cannon. He'd always throw a dime in it.

Daddy to him:

- Iser, Iser, wos halt du gekumen (inaudible) all zunehmen fun alles gib meer af "Keren Kaemet".

Leyser wouldn't let me in at all. Didn't go in at all. His fences were always closed there. Not fences, the semi-circular doors (apparently, we're talking about gates) were always closed. I used to bring milk to Freida, though. But she never let me in (beyond the kitchen). One time I just looked in their bedroom. Two beds. So rich.

А. Have you looked in the bedroom?

И. Stopped by. Always she let me in (just to come in).

А. Was the bedroom right behind the kitchen?

И. Yes, yes. There was an aisle and a door. And I saw a bedroom. There were two beds next to each other. Covered. A beautiful bedspread. And in the kitchen there was a table, covered with oilcloth.

I always came and brought milk, a liter, a liter and a half. She would give me pennies. Well, not always, once a week, every five days she gave me milk:

- Farmacht gut die hand. Trog dos die mamen. Keif nit kein morozhenoe (Squeeze your hand well. Take this to your mother. Don't buy ice cream).

***С.*** WERE MILENCHIK OR VILENCHIK RICH? I DIDN'T CATCH THE LAST NAME. BOYAK KRENITZ? I DIDN'T HEAR, WHO WAS THE BOYAK?

И. Vilenchik. There were two brothers. There was also Milechik, but he was not rich, he was a poor Jew, a tailor.

А. There was also Boyak Krenitz.

И. Krenitz was a rabbi. There was the rich Nisha Ehrlich.

***Т.*** WHAT WAS THE LAST NAME OF THE HAWK? WHAT WAS SHE SELLING?

А. What shop were the Jews gathering around when Leyser asked you?

И. The shop was Havky's, her husband Lepar. She sold everything. She was related to Izraelson.

***Ф.*** WHAT ARE THE RULES OF THE RAG GAME? HOW IN FUTBALL?

И. The rag was played by the rules, just like in soccer. Yoshka Lakunishok made such good rag balls that they even bounced. We also played lapta.

There was an anecdote in Siauliai about the Shlevich brothers.

He came alone from Kurshenai, not far from Siauliai, when the Soviet regime was already in place. He was looking for a job. He was told: "Go to the commissar for work, Shlevich". He went. They checked him up, they said: "Go to the city executive committee to see Shlevich". He went. At the city executive committee, they checked his documents, and said: "Go to the Communist Party, to Shlevich. He was fed up, dirty, smelly. He says, "I want to go to the baths." They tell him: "Go to Shlevich."

Their father was the director of the bathhouse! Seven brothers. They used to haul goods to the railway station in wheelbarrows before the war. After they got a few litas, they would go into a restaurant, a tavern, take a glass of pepper vodka and "Chr-r-r - asleep. And all the owners who had stores, I also worked in the store, were always afraid to give others goods for wheelbarrows, because the Shlevichs frightened us: "The Soviets will come, oh you will be! We'll take power in our hands!"

"What is this town called? Shavlya Shlevich?"

Shavel could also be Shlevich. He was chased to Shavli. Then one was in the army. Father died, I guess. I don't know exactly. One of the Shlevichs lived in Lithuania after the war. He was a guard for Paleckis.

***Х.*** WHO MARRIED ZOROKHOVICH?

А. Among the butchers you named Zorokhovich. And you said that Tatka married Zorokhovich. I did not hear what Tatka was.

И. Leyser's daughter Mana married Zorokhovich. He was not from Zeimyalis. He was a shiduh (shadhen). He was tall like that. She was fat and short.

***Ш.*** WHICH BROTHER WAS IT, MOSHE OR HESKEL?

А. Which of the brothers did you offer to pick up the money at the state store in the early days of the war, Moshe or Hatzkel?

И. Moshe, he worked as a store manager, while Hatzkel was in the army.

***Щ.*** WHERE DID THE BIKE GO WHEN I GOT OFF THE BUS?

И. They (Lithuanians) took my bicycle from me on the bus.

The Jews at Zeimelah were not so religious. They did not go to synagogue in the 1930s, in 1934, they were not (orthodox).

***Э.*** REPEAT THE STORY OF THE ROSE AND THE COW. THERE'S A BAD RECORDING IN THE CAR.

И. We had three hectares of land. There was pasture, clover was growing, wheat. There were two cows and two horses, chickens. Every morning we had to get up at 4 a.m., 4:30 a.m., and chase the cows. It was done (by the children) by turns.

True, we had a common Zeimyalis pasture. There was a Jewish pasture, 4-5 hectares. It belonged to the community. It was near Vilenchik's land, it was 2-3 km away from the village.

And we used to herd them to our pasture. When I used to herd the cows, I would walk a kilometer, a cow would walk in the morning, eat grass on the road. I walked another half kilometer and there was a place, such a garden, there was a ditch, I had to chase the cows away.

I always met Rosa Schulgeifer on this spot, coming back from a walk. I was walking barefoot and my feet were red. She says:

- Ingale, dir is nit kalt?

- Nejn, nejn, Roza. (No, no, Roza).

- Wemen bist du? (Whose are you?)

- Motel Yakushok sun. (Motel Yakushok son).

- It's very good for your health to get up as soon as the sun shows and take a walk.

She was a sick woman, lame and hunchbacked, very thin. And he was so healthy. He wasn't from Zeimyalis either. It was a shiduh (matchmaking).

(Repeats the story in Yiddish at my request)

- Nun, dos is sehr gut zu gesunt zu stehn uf in der frih wen di san geht uf un spazirn gehn.

I always thought she would say, "She's sick. She needs to be. I'm healthy. I don't need this. I want to sleep."

***Y.*** TELL US ABOUT THE CONDUCTOR JOB, ABOUT THE BOYARSKY, ABOUT THEIR ESCAPE? WHEN, HOW?

И. I didn't (work) for long, a month and a half or two months. Mendel Boyarsky bought this bus[[10]](#footnote-10) in about 1932 coda. He got permission to take passengers from Zeimelis, Krukai and Joniskis. There was a railroad, a narrow gauge railroad, also Zeimialis, Krukai, Joniskis. Probably bribed there, got that permit, bought a bus, hired a chauffeur. He was paid 300 litas a month! There weren't many chauffeurs. The chauffeur's last name was Antanas, no Cinkus or Cinus. He was a tall Lithuanian, blond. He got up in the morning at 6 o'clock, every morning. He didn't drive in the winter, it snowed in the winter, nobody cleaned there. Only in the summer, in the fall.

He was carrying 15 passengers, 12 people. Who? A Jew was going to court in Yonyshkis. Jews were going, there were always 15 people. And they took cargo. They took Lithuanians on the way. The conductor would take the money and give a ticket. But he paid the conductor only 30 litas a month. I wasn't the main conductor, Hatzke was the main one. He went to work somewhere else, and he (Boyarsky) took me. I was 13 years old. I was happy, I got such a nice hat. And it always took us 1.5-2 hours to go to Joniškis, it was 25 km, but we drove slowly, not like now. There we stood there all day until four, until half past five and back to Zeimyalis. We were buying, one Lithuanian was buying building material and another Lithuanian was buying something else for the construction. The money the Lithuanians paid for transportation (luggage), the conductor took it for himself. This, too, was his livelihood. And I always came home (brought) 2-3 litas.

And one time they caught me. Hasya Boyarsky, Mendel's wife, came to her mother:

- What do you need this bus for carrying building materials?! To ruin the car! I don't want it anymore! And I was turned down. But I shared with the chauffeur.

А. What was the fate of this bus after the war began?

И. The party organization came.

А. Who told them to run, and how?

И. On Tuesday night they all ran away. There was a wooden garage he had. They drove into the garage. There were several from Šiauliai. Avremke Baginski, he was from Šiauliai, he was the chief there in the Communist Party. He came to Žeimelis. There were a few others there: Meer Jakushok, Glaeser. They got on the bus. They had a chauffeur. And they drove off. For us it was a blow - the party organization ran away. So the Germans are here. And we left on Thursday.

There was no longer any power in Zeimelis. The Lithuanians immediately started agitating against us. True, they did not kill anyone. And we started agitating: "We must run away from here. We know what the Germans are doing to the Jews in Germany.

А. You said that Haimke suffocated in a tank. Please list your brothers.

И. Levy, 29 years old. He studied at the yeshiva in Slobodka. He was a rabbi already. They always said to him, "Levi, why don't you get married?" - "I don't want to be a rabbi in a place." He was in a progressive bochur yeshiva. He didn't go to tzitzes. Dressed nicely. Worked at the port. Unloaded and got money there. Always nicely dressed, he had a nice suit. He was in the Kaunas ghetto. He died in Germany.

А. Then Moshe. He is alive. I met him.

И. Next Batya. She died here (in Israel) in 1978. And my father died in 1979. He was 1884, so he was 96.5 years old. But when we came to Russia, lived in Arsk, he looked very young. He had an overgrown beard. He was drafted into the Soviet Army, a construction battalion. Sent him to Engels to dig trenches. And he ran away from there, went back to Arsk.

А. Where is Arsk?

И. 60 km from Kazan by rail to Sverdlovsk, a Tatar place.

The next one is Hatzkel. He died in the army. The Germans shot him. He was in the Soviet army. They were already retreating. They were taken prisoner, probably surrounded. Moshe was also surrounded, but they came out in the forests, in Kalinin region, went through the swamps, came to Moscow. Then me. Then Haimke. He was a tractor driver in Arsk. He was drafted into the army in 1943. And he died in a tank in Kaunas in July 1944. The tanks were passing the bridge over the Neman. The Germans bombed and shelled him from Aleksotas. And he and his tank fell into a failure. The bridge was broken and several tanks fell into the Neman.

А. He wasn't in the Lithuanian Division?

И. No. Ukrainian Front.

***Я.*** HOW TO SEE A BOOK ABOUT ZHEYMYALIS WRITTEN IN 1991?

WHAT IS KNOWN ABOUT PRUKHNO?

И. V Joniskis lived. He died. There is a Pruhno here in Rishon. There was no Pruhno in Zeimyalis (probably referring to the time of the action).

More about Moshe Prukhno.

On 26.05.1999, in a telephone conversation, Israel Yakushok told me the following: a thin, tall old man, who seemed to be related to Leiser Haesh, served in the synagogue as shamesh, had a wooden house on the descent from the house of Moses Haesh to the synagogue. He died before the war. We children used to tease him, "Ay da uhne, Moshe Pruhne."

(Additional questions from the previous interview are now complete.)

Free Talk

И. Baraka's grandfather was from the neighboring village of Zheymyalis, Salaty. According to my father's stories, before 1905 there were 5,000 Jews living in Zeimyalis (I object). In each house where one family lived, there were actually three families, up to 50 Jews. That's what my grandfather told me and my father told me. There was an almshouse in Zeimelis, near the woods, where the grave of the executed was buried. It wasn't Jewish, it was common.

There were always Jews living in the villages around Zeimelis. The houses were better than Lithuanian houses. In a village, 4 km. from Žeimialis, in Lauksodzai, there lived 5-6 families of Jews, they had an inn there, such a big house. They would come there day and night, and people who were going to Riga would spend the night there. That house was a Jewish house. There were a few more Jewish houses. That's where the Bershtelis River went through. Then those Jews were evicted to Zeimelis.

On the Latvian border on the way to Bausk, there was an estate of a German count in Glebava.

А. Baron Ghana?

И. No, Baron Ghana was elsewhere. There were white houses in the villages, and there were red houses in Glebawa. And there was the main house, the most basic house. Jews lived there, too. It's on the very border.

My father, all his goods that he smuggled across the border, there was a customs house, red houses, he took to Riga. Riga was a big city. He brought fish products from Riga and then sold them in our place in the stores.

А. Is that where he was taking the apples?

И. No, that was later, in the year twenty-nine, thirty, before 1934. He traded with Riga. He used to buy meat here in the villages, in the markets in winter, cows. He would buy 15-20 cows and drive them to Riga. And in spring and winter, geese. In the spring they used to take thousands of eggs. And always gave a bribe to the chief Grabauskas.

One road goes through customs, and he smuggled (the other way). It was always Grabauskas who left, that road. That's three or four wagons. One wagon went through customs, and three wagons went the other way. And he always came. The warden himself smuggled a few times. On the way back my father carried fish. And then he sold it in the bazaars in Linkuva, in Pasvalys, in Vashkai. The best place is Linkuva.

А. Were the murderers of the Jews of Lauxodze on August 8, 1941?

И. I don't know. They were dressed in such coats, turned the other way around, the Lithuanian man told me (turnovers). From Lauksodze and from Linkuva, they were gymnasium students.

А. Maybe the Jews were collected by gymnasium students. Maybe they were shot...

И. I can't say that.

А. Do you know the story of the rescue of the Schulgeifer child? Ksendz...

И. Not the priest, the Latvian priest took it.

А. You mean pastor?

И. Pastor, yes. I think it was a pastor. Such an estate was near his church.

А. I've heard about this rectory.

И. Pastor's House. Pastor had a great connection with Schulgeifer. With Rosa Abramowitz. They used to meet. He went to see them. He was a very intelligent man, the pastor. And the Lithuanian kunigas, the priest was a big drinker, with the broads there.

А. So you think it was the pastor?

И. Pastor, only pastor.

А. I was told the last name Kurlyandchik.

И. I don't remember his last name, he had a German last name, or rather a Latvian last name: Kulmans, Gulmans, Ulmans. I don't remember.

А. Was the saved boy (Joseph) Jewish or not?

И. There were many stories about him. One told. Yankelevich had a china store. His daughter studied in Kaunas. The story was told that she gave birth to him (Joseph). She was not married. And she gave him to the Jewish bikur cholim (orphanage) on Mapu Street in Kaunas. And it was as if the Shulgeifers took him in. Such were the conversations, and how accurate they were is not known.

He was a good boy, a very good boy. He always let me ride his bike. He gave it to me. He'd come out and he'd always yell: "Oh, don't break my bike!" He was a little blond, a little blond.

She, Yankeljevich's daughter, then came to Žeimelis in 1938 or 1939. She was the manager of the Folksbank in Žeimelis. First her father was the manager and then her. I don't know what her name was, Rosa, not Rosa. She was blonde too, so blond. Yankelevich was a very devout person. He always went to synagogue. He talked to the rabbi for a long time. The boy's name was Yoshke, Yosef. He was thin.

Viewing the list of deceased Zeimelis[[11]](#footnote-11)

Joseph Baginsky

И. He died.

А. How old was he at that time?

И. I have it written down - 52 years old. Yochebed's wife. (Israel believes that Joseph was younger than 61 years old as listed). He came from Poland. Yocheved was a native sister of the Vilenchik brothers. Joseph was a tailor, sewing beautiful overcoats for the military. I know all the children. Esther Baginskaya is in Israel (whether she is alive now and in Israel, he does not know). She lived in Vilnius after the war.

Avremke Baginsky died in 1943 in the Lithuanian division. He was a commissar. They ran away with the bus in 1941, he was the party secretary. Then he got into the Lithuanian division, was a commissar and died in 1943 somewhere in Belarus.

Elijah Baginsky. Eliyahu, there is a photo (76[[12]](#footnote-12) ). He died in 1941 with my brother Hatzke or Heske; there were three of them Herzke, Elka, Hatzke, they died. They were shot by Lithuanians. They served in the Soviet army, got out of the encirclement and went back to Zeimelis. There was also a fourth. Heikel Zon.

Etka Baginskaya is in Israel. I don't know if she is alive or not. She was trained as a dressmaker by my sister.

Another one was. Baginsky Tufka (Tuvia). He is the youngest, he was about 10-11 years old when he died with the Baginskys. All the Baginskys were brothers.

I was in their house like I was in my own house. He is Yosif's son. Elka died earlier in the Soviet army in 1941. And Avreml later. With my Hatzke, Gershke and Joschka Lakunisch.

А. What, in the same tank?

И. No in the infantry. Hatzkel, my brother. They were in the same unit. Joschke Lakunishok died in Žagar.

(HERE IT REMAINS UNCLEAR HOW THE HATSKEL YAKUSHOK DIED - IN ZHEYMYALIS OR NOT, WHO IS A GERSHKA OR KHERSHKA, WHO IS THE HATSKEL, HETSKE, WHO YOSHKE LAKUNISHOK).

Beder (Aaron )[[13]](#footnote-13)

All died. Aba's hip. There were four daughters. Only daughters. Aba said, "If I have one more daughter, I'll burn the bed." They used to buy pelts of cows and calves from the Lithuanians and sell them. They bought pork bristles. They made white brushes and sold them. It was expensive. They traded horses.

A. (His information does not coincide with Zagorski's data, I ask) Who had 4 daughters with Aba or Aron? (Israel does not remember). Give me the names of Beder's daughters (can't remember).

Ber Aba

Old Man. He fought in Africa in 1905. Then he returned to Zeimialis in 1917-1918. He had his own house, there was a tavern there. It was forbidden for Lithuanians to sell vodka in the tavern. One day we kids were running around, digging in the snow, and we found a bottle of vodka, sealed properly. We took it out, brought it home. What did he live off of? The kids were in Africa, in Johannesburg. They were sending money - ten pounds, fifteen pounds.

Berman Benjamin

И. I don't know Benjamin Berman at all.

I know the Bermans - there were Zyamka Berman, Israel Berman, Leibka Berman, Itzka Berman, Hoda Berman. They were my relatives - cousins. My father and mother Hodka Berman were brother and sister. And there were no other Bermans here.

Boyarsky Mendel

И. He's the one who was working on the bus. Hana? There was Hanka Boyarsky and Avremka Boyarsky. Boyarsky Mendka.

Brukhin

И. I hadn't heard of it.

Burshtein Azriel

И. I told you about him. Sheina, Etka, and son Yitzhak. There are two pictures of him. Yitzhak died (The sheet is marked 26 years old). Burstein lived like all Jews, buying and selling, no specialization and no shop.

Haeshi

(Nothing additional to what was said earlier, except the answer below).

А. What did Freida Haesch sell? I think she had a china store.

И. It's been closed for a long time.

Ehrlich

И. They all died. I knew them all. Buzya, we called him, (Boruch) he was from Poland. The age is given incorrectly. He was younger, 47-48 years old, Zelik 17 years old, second son Israel 12-13 years old. There was no son Boruch, that is incorrect (written).

Ehrlich Welwell

И. He was not a young man. He was a Hazan (cantor) in the Beit Knesset. He sang well. He had a grocery store, everything was there, on the corner, near Shulgeifep. Their children didn't live here. They were in South Africa. He was over seventy, but a stout old man he was. Rachel was about five years younger.

Fleischmann

И. I know them all. He was a balagola. Rachel's (Rachel) and Notka's (Nathan) children. Rachel. She was a beautiful girl. Very beautiful. Notka was a friend of mine, two years younger than me. But a sly and clever guy! Rachel was older - about 17 or 18 years old in 1941. She went to the gymnasium in Yoniskis. Very beautiful. She died.

Notka and I created a secret language. And we spoke it. And Batya, my sister, understood everything. Every word in Yiddish was divided in half and swapped the halves. And we spoke it fluently for about two or three years. We came up with a name for this language, "harazis moraisim habovei" - we didn't understand the name ourselves. The words that didn't split in half were left unchanged.

Geitel.

И. Gutel Yudelievich, he had a wife and two children. Blondes. They were poor people. Husband Gutel, wife Rachel, children Girshka and Mina. He was 42-43 years old, she was 38, children younger than me, born 1929-1931 I guess. The boy was older.

Goldin Gita

И. Where's the husband? He was very strong, I think his name was Aharon, I don't remember well.

Gil Israel.

И. They had a store and land. He had a father, he was definitely alive, his name was supposedly Shmuel (can't remember the family well). He sat in the store and did nothing, and his wife sold in the store. Israel was a man who promoted not going to Russia because his mother sold a gold spoon there for a glass of flour. Many people didn't leave because of his propaganda. He could have left, too.

А. He was relatively young, 1901? Was he about 40 years old?

И. Yes, yes, young. No more than that. He left Russia in 1921. The Soviets were there. "Better to die here in Zeimyalis than to starve to death there in Russia." In his store you could find ropes and groceries, horseshoes for horses, a whip.

Ger Teibe

И. I know Trumpf was a dentist. Han Trumpf's daughter was a dentist. I used to go to her to get my teeth fixed. Ger Teiba I remember well. She lived in Kaunas after the war. She didn't die. She was an old lady.

Girzon Meichet.

И. Girzon Masha.

А. The one who met the Cossacks?

И. Yes, she didn't have a husband. Her husband was so fat-fat. He died young. Had three children. She was a bit promiscuous. She lived where the bathhouse was. She had a room there. Three children were left behind. Shmuel (Shmulka) 1926, was a Komsomol member, died at the front in the Lithuanian division, (earlier) under Soviet rule he worked in a military factory in Radviliškis, near Šauliai, they were evacuated in 1941, from where he was mobilized, Masha and two children died in Žeimialis. Masha was 42-43 years old. Daughter Itka 14 years old and son Gershka.

Itkin Boruch.

И. He was not living in Žeimelis when the Germans came to Žeimelis. I think he lived in Riga. He was my friend, my comrade, and we lived near each other.

А. So he didn't live in Zeimelis?

И. Maybe he came, I can't say.

Itkin Leia

И. Boruch's mother. She died. There was also Haimke Itkin. He was three or four years younger than me. He died in Zeimyalis, I know that.

Israelson Isher.

И. Israelson Isher, Brian's wife, Berka, Mendka, Dworka's daughter, Berka was 17 years old, there is a picture of him. Mendka was 12 years old, Dworka was 9-10 years old. He was rich, was a gabai in the synagogue, but didn't know prayers well. He had a hardware store, sold gasoline, something else. He had a big yard. I don't know their son Shmuel.

Yakushok Ita

И. This is the one whose mother, Esther, was taken out on a wagon, she was 102 years old. Ita was 75-78 years old. They lived in the room where the bathhouse was. The mother was already insane from old age. She couldn't walk. These are our third generation relatives. Esther's brother, Yankel Yakushok, died in 1939. They had 3-4 children in Africa and those sent them money to live on.

Yankeljevich Elia, wife of Rochl.

И. They lived in Zeimelis. They were not young people. About 60-70 years old. My wife was about three years younger. I remember them well. They were about 70 years old. They were very religious. I told you about the Yankelevichs when I talked about Schulgeifer (referring to Yankelevich's daughter's child). He was a director of the Volksbank. Then the daughter came from Kaunas. She finished her studies there. She was 36-37 years old. Then she became a director of the Volksbank. What was her name exactly, I don't remember, maybe Maya, Mania. She was an intellectual. She always walked important. She died.

He was the first to have a radio. We went to them in 1932 to listen to it, music, etc.

Kagn Elle.

И. Her name was Eta. There is a picture (I couldn't find it). Pesya's daughter was studying somewhere. There was also Daniel Kagn. He died, I think he was handicapped, played soccer with us. Danilka Kagn, Eta was 47-48. Didn't have a husband (widow). He was deceased. Daughter did not live in Zeimyalis, came for vacations.

Kremer Cherna.

И. She had a hotel in Zeimelis on the second floor of Linkovskaya Street. Five or six rooms, bunks. Everything is ruined there now. The employees of "Kliačkinis" firm from Joniškis came there to sell goods. And she used to take them there. And Faivel Zagorski's mother, she wasn't actually a mother. His mother died in Russia.

А. I don't know something about that.

И. Rasha Zagorskaya was his aunt. Not his mother. She raised him. She, too, had an inn, three beds, gave food and lived from that. Cherna Kremer was in her sixties.

Lakunishok Joseph

И. Here in Israel lives another Lakunishok - Yeshua Lakunishok. They were all in Israel. The Lakunishok who lives in Holon is alive. Yosif died together with Gershka Tarutz in Zhagar. He escaped from the Soviet army (from encirclement), came back to Zeimyalis, fled from the pogrom and in Zagar they were killed, he and Gershka Tarutz.

Lakunishok Israel.

И. He didn't die in Zeimyalis, he died in the army, in the Lithuanian division.

А. Neither of them were married?

И. Yes. There are also Berka, Zelda, Haimke, Yeshua. The first three died in Israel. One Yehoshua is alive. He has a different name, Yaakov now. Would you like to meet him?

А. Yes.

Lepar Havka

И. Lepar, this is a large family (that is, there were other Lepars). The Lepars were husband and wife, she was 36 years old and he was 32-34 years old. The children are two 4 years old and a year and a half. She married already being older than him. He was very poor. And she was nothing - she had a store that sold everything, household goods, colonial goods.

Mann Joseph.

И. Joselle Man was 75 years old. Leyser Man was even older. They lived in the last house on Yoniskis Street. Some of the Manes went to Africa. Leyser Man died. Josel Man also died in Zeimelis. All of the houses from the square on Yoniskis Street were Jewish. The Man's had a long wooden house on two sides. A corridor like this on one side and on the other side. Zorokhovich lived there, who made sausage. Yerukhimke Man lived in another house.

One got into a story with the butchers. Leyser Man lived alone, the children had gone to Africa, and he was getting pounds from them.

Iosel Man is the one whose daughter Feiga was married to Zorokhovich. Zorokhovich was not from Zeimyalis.

Milunsky Leyser

А. Wife Mina, son Mendel.

И. There was also a daughter. She was thin. When my brother came from Kaunas on vacation after Shavuot, he was home in the summer, she was in the 7th or 8th grade of the gymnasium, she always came to do math and physics lessons. My brother knew physics and math well, Gemorah had them too. He always helped her do her homework. Elka Milunsky was her name. Elia's full name was Elia. She was 21-22 years old, a year or two older than me. She was very thin, but a nice girl in general.

They had a store near the Latvian church. Leyser had a mill. He lived from the mill. It was in the center (near Havka Lepar), there was a mill on the corner of Joniskis Street. Not really on the corner. There was a bakery on the corner.

Milun Genesa

И. Lived near the mill. This is where Tarutz lived. This is where we lived. Genessa had a colonial store. Pesa's daughter over 30, unmarried.

Moyshe Milunsky

И. Had two children. I don't remember the children's names. It was like he was an unofficial lawyer. He wrote letters, I carried them. They lived on Linkowski Street near the Lutheran church. Their yard was always locked.

Elia Milunsky

И. I don't remember.

Penisiewicz

И. He didn't live in the Jaimeleys. He was the Yankelievich who had a store, who was a bank director, whose daughter was said to be Shulgeifer's adopted son, her child. Penisiewicz did not live in Zeimelis.

Schneider (rabbi)

In 1938 he arrived. A young man, 32 years old. Two small children. He ran away together with us.

А. Is he back?

И. My father said: "Why did you leave the Jews? You're a rabbi and you're coming with us. Without you there was a kegila left." And he went back.

А. So your father is responsible for his death.

И. Yes! Schneider couldn't take it. He was carrying children in his arms, small children of two or three years old. There were two of them. Joseph Schneider, rabbi. He was a very handsome man. A young man. After Krenitz he was. Krenitz in 1937 went to Anikschiai.

Schulgeifer Avrom

И. Shulgeifer was 50, she was 52-53, and they had a boy, Joseph.

Simahovich Feiga

I don't know.

Tzofnas

И. Tzofnas Rachel I know. There were two children, Aba-Leibka, there are photos, and Etka. Aba-Leibka was 23-24 years old, Etka 19-20 years old. All three of them died. They lived off the money sent by relatives.

Tobacco.

И. There were many of them. Avraham, Mina, 52 (for some reason I say she was from Zhagare). What were the daughters' names - I don't know. They bought something from peasants and sold it. One daughter went to Africa. Motel Yakushok walked with one. She was a beauty. There is a picture.

Tobacco This.

И. I think there was a dressmaker. Tabaks was related to Manami, I think.

Tarutz.

И. Tarusa had an iron store. They sold shoes and leather goods. Everything the peasants needed. In the yard there was a lot of iron, large sheets. Building materials. There were four brothers. The father died a long time ago. Benjamin is the oldest. The second was Shmuel Tarutz. He was an electrician in Netanya. He left in 1934-1935 for Palestine**.** Not all are written here. There were five of them. Gershka (Gershon) Tarutz, the youngest of the brothers, died in Zhagar. Genahke and Girshka Tarutz died in Zeimyalis.

Tosche Hone

И. The children in my years were. Itzka Toshe was 18-19 years old, he was studying to be a locksmith at ORT, and Ruvka (Ruven) Toshe was younger, 16-17 years old. Toshe Honon. Wife, I think Rachel, I don't remember exactly.

Trumph Khan

И. She was unmarried. She didn't die in Zeimelis. I met her in Kaunas after the war. She lived on Maironas Street. That's where she died. She was a dentist. Hatzke was swollen with toothache. They called her in at night. This was in Žeimelis before the war. Hatzke treated her teeth and he always reeked of medicine afterwards. She lived on Joniskis Street. I even know which place.

Vilenchik Ginda

И. Mother of two brothers, Shmuel 43-44 years old and Simcha 40-42 years old. Shmuel's wife Feigah, they had two children, I don't remember their names. Simcha, who lived on the farm, also had two children, Leah and Tuke. I don't remember his wife's name. The Vilenchiks all died. His farm is still standing. Both of them were buying grain and flax at first. Then a black cat passed between them, the older one slipped the younger one some money, Simha bought 12-13 hectares of land and went to the farm. He built a beautiful house.

Wolfson

И. On Linkowa Street had a store. Colonial goods, iron and leather and everything. A small store, but they had everything. They had a lot of children. Some of them went to Africa.

They lived near my grandmother. Near the school, which used to be on Linkowski Street. Big yard. They bought grain. Ginda lived still, and he, Heskel, died before the war started. They were parents. They didn't live downtown.

It was a large family. They all lived in the same yard (shows the place close to the edge of the 1897 Jeimel plan). It was so dirty. We used to go to the river to bathe. And their yard was always dirty. A big yard. Peasants used to go in there and put horses there and sell them, (the Wolfsons) bought them there. They had warehouses there. Kleit (the driveway where they ate).

Zagorskaya Rohl

И. Rachel. It wasn't his mother, it was his aunt.

А. He never told me that.

И. He didn't tell us, we knew.

Zagorski Nisha.

А. According to Faivel Zagorski, Neeson lived next door to Leiser Haesch.

И. Yes (on the plan confirms uncertainly). He was about 70 years old. Store, sold flour. Mother went to buy from him, 10 kg on Thursday, then she would bake in the oven on Friday. Had two girls. Esther, and the other I don't know her name: Mania, not Mania, I don't remember well. One was tall, the other fat. One was called Esther, I remember well. She wasn't married. She was about 32 or 34 years old. She was studying somewhere.

Zacks

(Reports nothing)

Zalmanovich

И. We talked about Gutel (I object that we were talking about Gutel Yudelievich). There were both Yudelievich and Zalmanovich. Gutel Zalmanovich, I have it written down[[14]](#footnote-14) . She had an affair. Mania was sympathetic to Shulgeifer. They were dating. Zeimelis was a small place, and they knew it. Rosa was of little interest. And he did nothing but play chess with my brother.

I. (On an extraneous subject).

All the monuments in Zeimelis are gone, and my grandfather's monument still stands, from 1935.

А. So they respected your grandfather a lot.

И. A friend of mine was Girshka Jakubovich. He (his father) had a bakery. Yudel Jakubovich, 45 years old. He died. And his son died, Girshka Jakubovich, 15-16 years old. Girshka was younger than me. Here is another episode. Yudel kept a working baker, a young Lithuanian. And his wife ran away with this Lithuanian. Yudel was left with his family. He also had a daughter, Etka, about 12 years old. I don't know the fate of the wife who ran away.

Zorokhovich.

И. He was the one who got into the butcher story. He was not from Zeimelis, he came from Kelme and married Leyser Man's daughter.

(Viewing the list of the dead is over).

1. Editing, formatting and explanations of the text - the author of the publication. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Letters denote questions from the Appendix in InterviewJAI1.docx, questions ***A, E, N, R, U, C, C, Y, and B*** were not asked. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Explanations and additions made while transcribing the audio recording are shown in parentheses. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Probably at that time I knew nothing about where the surrounding Jews were concentrated before the action. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. 57 corresponds to Y57 at [YAKUSHOK - YAKUSHOK (mannbarry.net)](http://www.mannbarry.net/Zeimelis/Photos/Yakushok/album/index5.html) Date of access July 5, 2022. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Israel gave me this picture (See InterviewJAI1.docx, fig. 1) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Israel is clearly mistaken, he is looking at Y26, and he is talking about the event captured in photo Y07. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. [Chana Gel - Chana Gel - Chana 2 TEXT (mannbarry.net)](http://www.mannbarry.net/Zeimelis/Photos/Chana%20Gel%27s%20Photos/album/slides/Chana%202%20TEXT.html) Date of access July 13, 2022. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. In fact, the text in the photo is: "Players of the comedy 'Kleptomania' 11.10.1930". [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. There is a picture of this bus and passengers. At the meeting on 23.04.1999 Israel Yakushok gave a description of it. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. The list was compiled by Barry Mann. He said in a letter dated April 13, 1999: "The names of the people in Zeimelis , which I used in my web site, are from Feivel Zagorski's list and a few names from Yad Vashem. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. The photos were reshot by *Barry Mann*. They are numbered. *Barry Mann* presented copies of them on the Internet, under the same numbers as in Israel Yakushka's album, but with a Y in front of the numbers. The description of the photographs was made by Israel Yakushko at the third meeting with him on 17.05.1999. Therefore, no references to copies of the photos are given here. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Added based on the list of the dead of F. Zagorski. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. The correctness of this entry is questionable, since Zalmanovich previously called Israel Masha. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)