

Summary of the most important events in Viski

Content: The following sums up the most important events which happened in Viski in the 2WW. It includes information from online sources as well as information from the analyse of primary sources (see also the document: "Chronic of German military movements in the area Daugavpils_Viski", which is in the same folder as this one)

30.06.41

- Viski is occupied by Wehrmacht (3. mot. Krafratrabatalion of 4. Panzerarmee)¹
- One source quotes a diary of war, which states that 3. mot. Krafratrabatalion was also part of shooting some of the Jewish residents (this needs to be further investigated, more information will follow)²

Juli

According to some sources, including interviews with locals, which couldn't be proven:

- Jewish residents of Viski were arrested and ought to be executed in Ostrov forest near Viski by local collaborators
- the operation was canceled by a German order last minute and Jewish people of Viski were deported to Daugavpils Ghetto³
- Some of the Jewish residents tried to hide at the Jewish cemetery and were shot there⁴

25.07.41

- Jewish residents of Dagda were arrested and forced to go in the direction of Daugavpils (where the Ghetto was located)
- According to the webpage of the University of Latvia some of the residents were shot in a forest near Dagda (no source given)
- According to Museum „Jews in Latvia“ some people were shot at Jewish cemetery on 01.08 (no source given)⁵

most likely until the end of July
(Dagda-Viski would take two to four days per foot)

- on their way to Daugavpils Ghetto they reached Viski, were some of them were executed on Kalnaviski hill with the help of Lettvians (no proof of that could be found, however it corresponds with interviews with Viski locals)⁶

Daugavpils Ghetto

- Records can be found about a handful of people from Viski and Dagda who were in Daugavpils Ghetto

¹ see "Chronic of German military movements in the area Daugavpils_Viski"

² Usdin, Christina, Marien, Dorothea: Das tragische Schicksal des Genoch Dumesh(1860- 1941) in Vishky im Jahr 1941. Nach den Erinnerungen seines Enkels Leizer Dumesh und den Kriegstagebücher von Kurt Marien, <http://usdine.free.fr/genochdumeshaufdeutsch.html>

³ Pertovs, Leonora: No Višķu pagasta vēstures (translation of the important pages can be found in shared documents: Viski, internet rechere, Library)

⁴ Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Latvia: Daugavpils Municipality, Viski, <http://memorialplaces.lu.lv/memorial-places/latgale/3307-2/>

⁵ Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Latvia: Dagda Municipality, Murāni Pine Forest, <http://memorialplaces.lu.lv/memorial-places/latgale/dagda-municipality-murani-pine-forest/>; Jewish Museum in Latvia: Dagda, <http://memorialplaces.lu.lv/memorial-places/latgale/dagda-municipality-murani-pine-forest/>

⁶ Jewish Museum in Latvia: Dagda Municipality, Murani Pine Forest, <http://memorialplaces.lu.lv/memorial-places/latgale/dagda-municipality-murani-pine-forest/>; Pertovs, Leonora: No Višķu pagasta vēstures (translation of the important pages can be found in shared documents: Viski, internet rechere, Library)

(however to actually reconstruct how many people got there lists of the Ghetto need to be seen through)⁷

- Between 1941 and 1943 many people from the Ghetto were executed in Meszciems (Pogulanka) Forest
- Survivors were deported to concentration camp in Mezaparks (Kaiserwald)⁸

25.08.43

“Unternehmen Sommerreise”

- arrest of people (partisans, mostly civilians) who were considered “political and deportation to camp Salaspils including a few from Viski
- According to German order they were supposed to be 3284 persons⁹

17.-31.07.44

- Region including Daugavpils and Viski is occupied by Soviet Troops¹⁰

27.07.44

- Aerial photograph of Wehrmacht dated on 27.07.44 shows that synagogue still existed¹¹ (Soviet Troops had most likely already reached Viski)

44/45

- according to the report of the archaeologists from the summer camp in 2023 the synagogue burnt down during the war (reason unclear) and its place was used as a fuel storage by Soviets¹²
(no source proving this information)

⁷ Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Latvia: Jews of Latvia. Names and fates 1941-1945, <https://www.names.lu.lv> (search by Ghetto and filter by Place before the War - Viski/Dagda, Place during the War - Daugavpils)

⁸ Valentina Talerko, Tilman Plath: Dünaburg/Daugavpils. In: Online-Lexikon zur Kultur und Geschichte der Deutschen im östlichen Europa, 2021, ome-lexikon.uni-oldenburg.de/p32371

⁹ see “Chronic of German military movements in the area Daugavpils_Viski”, Paula: A Dual Legacy: Reviewing the New Exhibition at the Former Nazi Camp Salaspils, <https://www.cultures-of-history.uni-jena.de/exhibitions/a-dual-legacy-reviewing-the-new-exhibition-at-salaspils#fn-text8>

¹⁰ Nogli, Bernd: Von der Lagekarte 1944 zur heutigen Grafik, <https://zms.bundeswehr.de/de/zmsbw-aktuelle-karte-bagrations-1944-5386500> (you can see a map showing the attack of the SU in 1944)

¹¹ Reiner from Amra has this one as well, sadly we can't share this with you

¹² Archeological report from 2022 can be found in German and Latvian: Reports from past Summer Camps, Archeological Reports 2022