

## KRASLAVA JEWISH MASS GRAVE II (DAUGAVA RIVERSIDE)

Other names: Kraslawe | Kreslau | Kreslavka

LO TISHKACH ID NO.: 10767

ADDRESS: Town outskirts, Kraslava, Kraslava municipality, Latgale, LATVIA



**EXECUTION DATE:** July - August 1941  
**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE BURIED:** 200  
**CURRENT SIZE:** Unknown  
**PRESENT USE:** Memorial

**DETAILS OF ACCESS:** The mass grave is located on the bank of Daugava River, behind the Jewish cemetery. Access is open to all.

**LOCATION & DEMARCATION:** The site is situated in a suburban location, on flat land. The territory is not fenced.

**GRAVES, GRAVESTONES, MEMORIAL MARKERS & STRUCTURES:** In 2008, the Council of Jewish Communities in Latvia erected a red granite monument with a Star of David and inscription in Latvian. The inscription bears the following text: "In July and August 1941, about 200 Jews from Kraslava were killed on the river bank".

**JEWISH COMMUNITY ESTABLISHED:** 1764  
**CURRENT JEWISH POPULATION:** 10 - 1,000

**HISTORY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY:** The community was founded by few dozen Jewish families from Vilnius in 1764. Until the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, all the Jews in Latgale region were registered in the Kraslava community. In 1897, Jews made up 51% of the total number of 4,051 persons in Kraslava. In the 1935 census, there were 1,444 Jews (34% of the total). During the Russian revolution of 1905 in Russia, two members of a Russian Jewish revolutionary organization killed the head of the police in Kraslava. One of these terrorists escaped across the border, another - Eliyahu Elchik, was sentenced to death, later commuted to life imprisonment. He was released in 1917. One of first leaders of the Kraslava town council was Moisei Rabinovich, who designed the Kraslava coat-of-arms. In the 1920's eight of the twenty deputies on the city council were Jews who worked together as one faction, despite belonging to different political parties. In 1933, a few local farmers tried to organize an attack on the Jews on a market day but they were thwarted by Jewish self-defense activists, thereby preventing a pogrom. (Another version of this story says that it was avoided because of cavalry troops sent to Kraslava by the government). In 1934, the town's newly-elected mayor started to express anti-Semitic views and to oppress the local Jews. With the beginning of WWII, around 200 Jews managed to escape to Russia, 89 of which joined the Red Army. Fifty-two of these Jews died at the front.

When the German army occupied Kraslava in July 1941, some of the local Jews were executed in the town, others were transported to the ghetto in Daugavpils and mostly killed there.

After WWII, around 40 Jewish families returned to Kraslava. The synagogue was opened and the cemetery operated. In the course of time, most of these Jews moved to Riga or emigrated and the census of 2001 shows only 21 Jews still living in the town though there is no organized community.

**CURRENT STATE:** The mass grave territory is owned by the local municipality. Since the site sits on the bank of the river, it is used for commercial/industrial needs, as well as recreation area.

**FURTHER DETAILS:** A perimeter wall should be installed to prevent misuse of the sacred site. Contact Lo Tishkach to find out how to help.

## LITENE JEWISH MASS GRAVE

Other names: Lytene | Myza Lytene

LO TISHKACH ID NO.: 10853

ADDRESS: Town outskirts, Litene, Gulbene municipality, Latgale, LATVIA



**EXECUTION DATE:** August 9, 1941  
**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE BURIED:** 224  
**CURRENT SIZE:** 10 x 8 Perimeter - Linear Meters  
**PRESENT USE:** Memorial

**DETAILS OF ACCESS:** To reach the site, go from Litene southwards for about 2,5 km. The mass grave is located after the Padedze river, near Sils farmyard, in the forest.

**LOCATION & DEMARCATION:** The site is situated in an isolated suburban location, on flat land. The territory is not fenced. Access is open to all.

**GRAVES, GRAVESTONES, MEMORIAL MARKERS & STRUCTURES:** No fence surrounds the site, but a memorial sign at the mass grave bears the following inscription in Latvian: "Here in 1941 German occupiers and their collaborators, Latvian nationalists, killed hundreds of civilians".

Approximately 230 Jews from Gulbene and neighbouring areas were killed and buried here in August 1941. It is possible that not all of those murdered were Jewish. No reburial was made.

**JEWISH COMMUNITY ESTABLISHED:** 1925  
**CURRENT JEWISH POPULATION:** None

**HISTORY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY:** The name of Litene is associated with one of the most tragic pages of Latvian history. In the twenties and thirties of the 20th century a Latvian Army summer camp was located nearby, where in the summer of 1941 Latvian officers faced the communist terror: Nearly five hundred officers of Latvian army were sent to Norilsk in Siberia, some of whom was shot and secretly buried in the nearby forest.

At the end of the summer of 1941, about 230 civilians, mostly Jews, were shot there by the army of Nazi Germany. The Jews were from Litene itself and nearby settlements.

**CURRENT STATE:** The mass grave territory is owned by the regional government. It is in good condition and is properly maintained.

**FURTHER DETAILS:** Litenes pagasta parvalde - Pagastnams 1, Litene, Litenes pagasts, Gulbenes novads, LV-4405; +371 64472213; litenes.pagasts@gulbene.lv



## LIVANI JEWISH MASS GRAVE I (GREIVAS FOREST)

Other names: Lievenhof | Livengof

LO TISHKACH ID NO.: 10778

ADDRESS: Town outskirts, Livani, Livani municipality, Latgale, LATVIA



**EXECUTION DATE:** July 24 - 26, 1941  
**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE BURIED:** 180, of whom 170 were Jews  
**CURRENT SIZE:** 70 meters<sup>2</sup>  
**PRESENT USE:** Memorial

**DETAILS OF ACCESS:** In order to reach the site, exit the town using the A6 road towards Daugavpils, continue for 300 meters until you see a road sign on the left.

**LOCATION & DEMARCATION:** The mass grave site is located in a suburban area, on flat land. There is a road sign which reads: "Fašisma upuru kapi" (Translation: Graves of victims of fascism). Access to the memorial is open to all. The territory is surrounded with a row of trees.

**GRAVES, GRAVESTONES, MEMORIAL MARKERS & STRUCTURES:** There is a Soviet monument, a granite stele bearing an inscription in Russian which reads: "Eternal memory to the deceased population of Livani, shot by German invaders in the years 1941-1944. People, be aware!".

On July 26, 1941 about 100 Jews and 8-12 Soviet activists were brought here and shot down in groups of 15-20 people. The victims had to undress before the shooting. On July 27, a further 70 Jews were brought and killed at this site. In 1944, the Germans exhumed and burnt the bodies.

**JEWISH COMMUNITY ESTABLISHED:** Early 19<sup>th</sup> century  
**CURRENT JEWISH POPULATION:** None

**HISTORY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY:** The first Jews settling in Livani came from Lithuania. With the beginning of WWI, November 9, 1915, and before the approach of German troops, the commander of the Russian Fifth Army, ordered the immediate evacuation of Livani's Jews. After the war, only two-thirds of the Jews returned to the town. In 1935, out of 3,527 residents, 28% were Jews. They owned almost half of the town's small businesses. By the end of the 1930's, economic situation of the Jewish dealers had deteriorated due to government promotion of the establishment of peasant cooperatives.

At the outbreak of WWII, 50-60 people were able to evacuate to Russia. Others reached Varaklani, but moved back on the advice of district rabbi, Yitzhak Gavartin. The killing of Jews took place in several stages and in different places, probably supported by local members of the Perkonkrusts group. The final killings took place on September 3-4, 1941. After the war seven Jews returned to Livani, others settled in Riga.

Among the notable natives of this community was Natan Barkan (1923-2003) - Chief Rabbi of Latvia 1989-2003

**CURRENT STATE:** The territory is owned by the local municipality. Some restoration has been undertaken.

**FURTHER DETAILS:** Livanu novada dome - Rigas iela 77, Livani, Livanu novads, LV - 5316 +371 65307260; dome@livani.lv

## LIVANI JEWISH MASS GRAVE II (STEKU FOREST)

Other names: Lievenhof | Livengof

LO TISHKACH ID NO.: 12188

ADDRESS: Town outskirts, Livani, Livani municipality, Latgale, LATVIA



EXECUTION DATE:	August 1941
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE BURIED:	30
CURRENT SIZE:	20 meters <sup>2</sup>
PRESENT USE:	Memorial

**DETAILS OF ACCESS:** In order to reach the site, go along Dzirnau Str., past the railroad crossing, for 1,5 km, then turn left into the forest, the mass grave site will be on your left.

**LOCATION & DEMARCATION:** The mass grave site is located in an isolated suburban area, on flat land. The territory is not fenced and no road sign marks the site. Access to the memorial is open to all.

**GRAVES, GRAVESTONES, MEMORIAL MARKERS & STRUCTURES:** There is a gray stone with a black granite plaque bearing a Star of David and the date 1941. This monument was erected by local residents in the late 1980's.

JEWISH COMMUNITY ESTABLISHED:	Early 19 <sup>th</sup> century
CURRENT JEWISH POPULATION:	None

**HISTORY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY:** The first Jews settling in Livani came from Lithuania. With the beginning of WWI, November 9, 1915, and before the approach of German troops, the commander of the Russian Fifth Army, ordered the immediate evacuation of Livani's Jews. After the war, only two-thirds of the Jews returned to the town. In 1935, out of 3,527 residents, 28% were Jews. They owned almost half of the town's small businesses. By the end of the 1930's, the economic situation of the Jewish dealers had deteriorated due to the government promotion of the establishment of peasant cooperatives.

At the outbreak of WWII, 50-60 people were able to evacuate to Russia. Others reached Varaklani, but moved back on the advice of district rabbi, Yitzhak Gavartin. The killing of Jews took place in several stages and in different places, probably supported by local members of the Perkonkrusts group. The final killings took place on September 3 - 4, 1941. After the war seven Jews returned to Livani, others settled in Riga.

Among the notable natives of this community was Natan Barkan (1923-2003) - Chief Rabbi of Latvia 1989-2003.

**CURRENT STATE:** The territory is owned by the local municipality. Some restoration has been undertaken.

**FURTHER DETAILS:** Livanu novada dome - Rigas iela 77, Livani, Livanu novads, LV - 5316 +371 65307260; dome@livani.lv

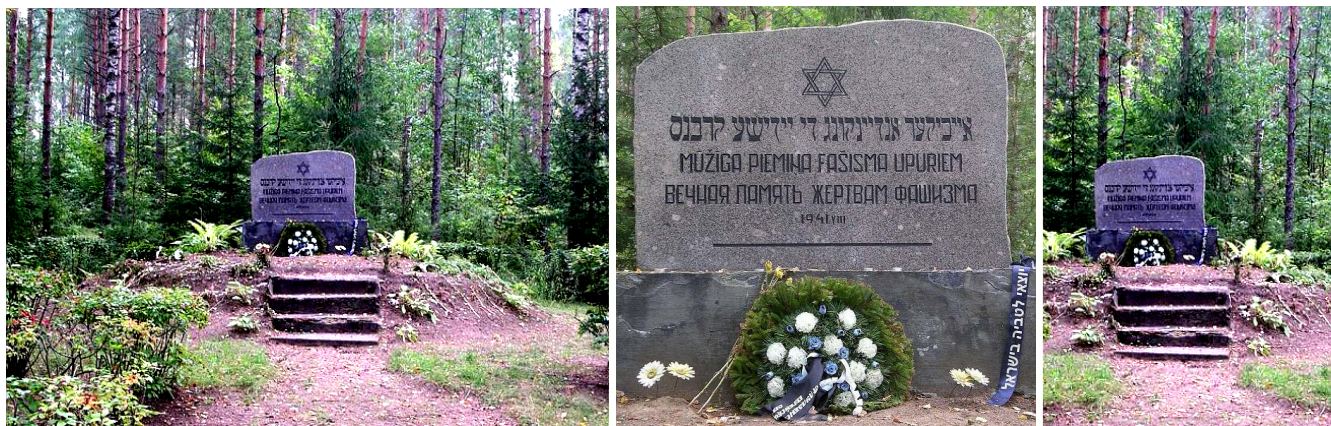


## LUDZA JEWISH MASS GRAVE I (CIRMA LAKE)

Other names: Lucyn | Ludsen | Lutsi | Lytsin

LO TISHKACH ID NO.: 10762

ADDRESS: Town outskirts, Ludza, Ludza municipality, Latgale, LATVIA



**EXECUTION DATE:** August 1941  
**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE BURIED:** 640  
**CURRENT SIZE:** 25 meters<sup>2</sup>  
**PRESENT USE:** Memorial

**DETAILS OF ACCESS:** The site is located 7 km away from Ludza. Go along Ludza - Berzgale road, turn left after Zvirgzdene towards the lake Cirma, after about 3 km go left into the forest for 500 m.

**LOCATION & DEMARCATION:** The mass grave site is located in an isolated suburban area, in a forest by the lake Cirma. There is no road sign. Access to the memorial is open to all. The mass grave is surrounded with a row of trees.

**GRAVES, GRAVESTONES, MEMORIAL MARKERS & STRUCTURES:** There is a granite memorial stone, with 4 stairs leading towards it. There is an inscription on the stone in 3 languages: Yiddish, Latvian and Russian. The inscription reads: "Mūžīga piemiņa fašisma upuriem. Вечная память жертвам фашизма (Eternal memory to the victims of fascism)".

On August 17 or 18, 1941 about 50 men were brought from Ludza ghetto to the Cirmas lake and Pogulianka. These men were told to dig graves. During the day, several more groups of people were taken to the site and shot. A further 40 people were murdered here on August 27, 1941.

**JEWISH COMMUNITY ESTABLISHED:** Late 18<sup>th</sup> century  
**CURRENT JEWISH POPULATION:** 10 - 1,000

**HISTORY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY:** In the first half of the 19th century, Ludza community grew rapidly because Jews were forced to leave areas of the local countryside. In 1835, several families moved to the agricultural colonies of Kherson and Ekaterinoslav provinces. Dozens of other families went to the same areas in 1846-1848. The Jews of the city largely worked in the trade of agricultural products and handicrafts. Forty percent of the craftsmen were tailors. In the 1840's, artisans created a mutual aid society, Poalei Tsedek. During the short reign of the Bolsheviks in 1919, a Jew named Levin who was head of city soviet demanded from other Jews to open their stores on Saturdays. Rabbi Benzion Don Yichye managed to persuade him to cancel the order. In 1938, Ludza was heavily damaged by fire, which burned 212 homes and 117 shops and stores. Most of the burned properties belonged to Jews. 140 families lost everything. Other Jewish communities and the Latvian government helped them.

On June 14, 1941, Soviet authorities deported 13 Jewish families from Ludza to Siberia. In the early days of the war, a local former police officer, Virze, advised his fellow Jews to go to Rabbi Don Yichye and persuade him to leave Ludza and to call on the community to leave. However, the rabbi refused to leave the city. His decision undoubtedly influenced the further tragic fate of the Jews in Ludza as most of them remained in town. Several hundred people went to Russia. A ghetto was set up in a small area between the streets of Latgale, Baznicas and Ventspils to the Kr. Barona Street. The majority of Jews were shot on August 17, 1941 at Lake Cirma some 7km from the town. The next mass shootings took place on August 27. The remaining Jews were killed on May 2, 1942 in a forest not far from the town. The community was re-established in 1944-1945. There were around 100 Jews in town and the synagogue was re-opened. A rabbi served the community also acting as shochet. The Jewish religious community of Ludza was re-constituted in 1991 and became a member of the Council of the Jewish Communities of Latvia.

**CURRENT STATE:** The territory is owned by the local municipality. Some restoration has been undertaken. The site is properly maintained.

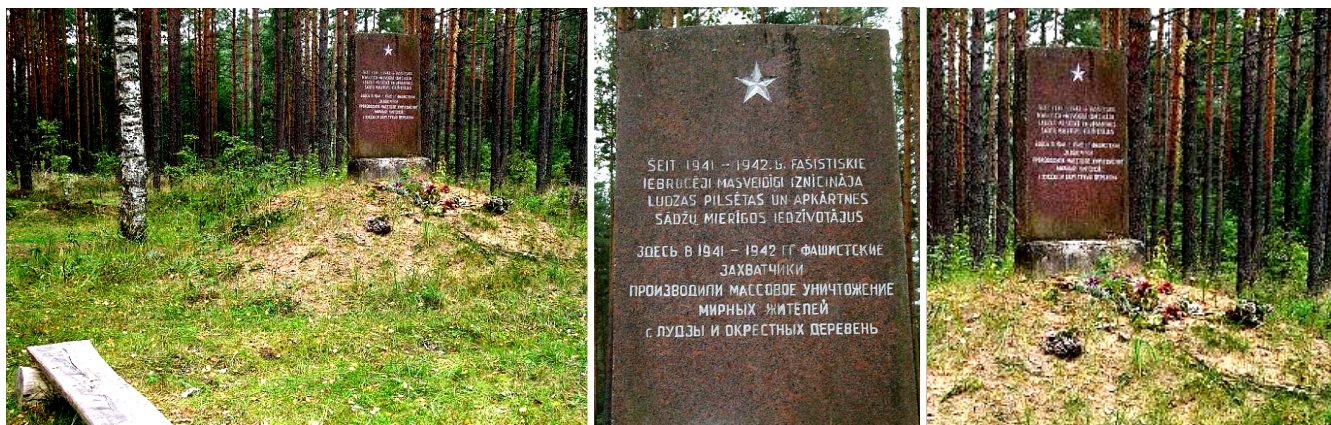
**FURTHER DETAILS:** Ludza municipality - Raiņa 16, Ludza, Ludzas novads, LV - 5701; +371 65707401; +371 65707402; dome@ludzaspils.lv

## LUDZA JEWISH MASS GRAVE II (GARBARI FOREST)

Other names: Lucyn | Ludsen | Lutsi | Lytsin

LO TISHKACH ID NO.: 12190

ADDRESS: Town outskirts, Ludza, Ludza municipality, Latgale, LATVIA



**EXECUTION DATE:** April 2, 1942  
**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE BURIED:** 700, most of whom were Jews  
**CURRENT SIZE:** 18 meters<sup>2</sup>  
**PRESENT USE:** Memorial

**DETAILS OF ACCESS:** In order to reach the site, take the A12 (E22) road Ludza - Rzekne until Garbari, turn right to the road to Makasani, go for about 900 m. The site is located in the forest, to the left of the road.

**LOCATION & DEMARCATION:** The mass grave site is located in an isolated suburban area, in the wood. There is no road sign. Access to the memorial is open to all. The mass grave territory is not fenced.

**GRAVES, GRAVESTONES, MEMORIAL MARKERS & STRUCTURES:** In 1961, a memorial stela was erected. There is an inscription in Latvian and Russian: "Šeit 1941. - 1942.g. fašistiskie iebrucēji masveidīgi iznīcināja Ludzas pilsētas un apkārtnes sādžu mierīgos iedzīvotājus. Здесь в 1941-1942 гг. фашистские захватчики производили массовое уничтожение мирных жителей г. Лудзы и окрестных деревень" (In the years 1941-1942, the fascist invaders arranged here a mass murder of civilians from Ludza and surrounding villages).

**JEWISH COMMUNITY ESTABLISHED:** Late 18<sup>th</sup> century  
**CURRENT JEWISH POPULATION:** 10 - 1,000

**HISTORY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY:** In the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Ludza community grew rapidly because Jews were forced to leave areas of the local countryside. In 1835, several families moved to the agricultural colonies of Kherson and Ekaterinoslav provinces. Dozens of other families went to the same areas in 1846-1848. The Jews of the city largely worked in the trade of agricultural products and handicrafts. Forty percent of the craftsmen were tailors. In the 1840's, artisans created a mutual aid society, Poalei Tsedek. During the short reign of the Bolsheviks in 1919, a Jew named Levin who was head of city soviet demanded from other Jews to open their stores on Saturdays. Rabbi Benzion Don Yichye managed to persuade him to cancel the order. In 1938, Ludza was heavily damaged by fire, which burned 212 homes and 117 shops and stores. Most of the burned properties belonged to Jews. 140 families lost everything. Other Jewish communities and the Latvian government helped them.

On June 14, 1941, Soviet authorities deported 13 Jewish families from Ludza to Siberia. In the early days of the war, a local former police officer, Virze, advised his fellow Jews to go to Rabbi Don Yichye and persuade him to leave Ludza and to call on the community to leave. However, the rabbi refused to leave the city. His decision undoubtedly influenced the further tragic fate of the Jews in Ludza as most of them remained in town. Several hundred people went to Russia. A ghetto was set up in a small area between the streets of Latgale, Baznicas and Ventspils to the Kr. Barona Street. The majority of Jews were shot on August 17, 1941 at Lake Cirma some 7km from the town. The next mass shootings took place on August 27. The remaining Jews were killed on May 2, 1942 in a forest not far from the town. The community was re-established in 1944-1945. There were around 100 Jews in town and the synagogue was re-opened. A rabbi served the community also acting as shochet. The Jewish religious community of Ludza was re-constituted in 1991 and became a member of the Council of the Jewish Communities of Latvia.

**CURRENT STATE:** The territory is owned by the local municipality. Some restoration has been undertaken. However, the site suffers from a serious vegetation threat.

**FURTHER DETAILS:** Ludza municipality - Raiņa 16, Ludza, Ludzas novads, LV - 5701; +371 65707401; +371 65707402; dome@ludzaspils.lv



## LUDZA JEWISH MASS GRAVE III (AT JEWISH CEMETERY)

Other names: Lucyn | Ludsen | Lutsi | Lytsin

LO TISHKACH ID NO.: 10770

ADDRESS: J.Soikana Street 22, Ludza, Ludza municipality, Latgale, LATVIA



**EXECUTION DATE:** 1941  
**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE BURIED:** 35  
**CURRENT SIZE:** 2 x 3 Perimeter - Linear Meters  
**PRESENT USE:** Memorial

**DETAILS OF ACCESS:** The mass grave is located by the lake - Mazais Ludzas ezers.

**LOCATION & DEMARCATION:** The mass grave site is located at the Jewish cemetery, within the town of Ludza. Access is open to all. The site is surrounded with a continuous concrete fence.

**GRAVES, GRAVESTONES, MEMORIAL MARKERS & STRUCTURES:** There are two reburials of Holocaust victims at the cemetery, 35 people in total. 34 people are reburied in 1 mass grave, and there is a separate grave for rabbi Benzion Don-Yichye. The victims were killed in July 1941, and reburied in the late 1950's.

In late July 1941, 35 elderly prisoners of Ludza ghetto, who were unable to work, were killed at the end of Rezeknes Street. At the reburial site of 34 victims there are 3 steles.

The first monument was erected in the early 1950's, and bears the following inscription in Russian "Жертвам фашизма. 1941" (Translation: To the victims of fascism. 1941)

A second monument, a stele of red granite with a 5-pointed star, was erected in the 1960's, and bears the following inscription in Latvian and Russian: "Здесь в 1941 г. происходило массовое уничтожение мирных жителей гор. Лудзы немецкими фашистами". (Translation: Here in 1941, a mass murder of Ludza civilians by German fascists took place).

A third monument was erected in the 1990's by the relatives of the deceased residents of Ludza. The monument is of black granite with a Star of David, and bears the names of 12 people and an inscription in Russian: "Жертвы фашистских убийц в августе 1941 года" (Victims of fascist murderers in August 1941).

At the site of reburial of rabbi Benzion Don-Yichye there is a granite tombstone and a matseva with inscription: Rabbi Ben Cion Donehin, and a text in Hebrew.

**JEWISH COMMUNITY ESTABLISHED:** Late 18<sup>th</sup> century  
**CURRENT JEWISH POPULATION:** 10 - 1,000

**HISTORY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY:** In the first half of the 19th century, Ludza community grew rapidly because Jews were forced to leave areas of the local countryside. In 1835, several families moved to the agricultural colonies of Kherson and Ekaterinoslav provinces. Dozens of other families went to the same areas in 1846-1848. The Jews of the city largely worked in the trade of agricultural products and handicrafts. Forty percent of the craftsmen were tailors. In the 1840's, artisans created a mutual aid society, Poalei Tzedek. During the short reign of the Bolsheviks in 1919, a Jew named Levin who was head of city soviet demanded from other Jews to open their stores on Saturdays. Rabbi Benzion Don Yichye managed to persuade him to cancel the order. In 1938, Ludza was heavily damaged by fire, which burned 212 homes and 117 shops and stores. Most of the burned properties belonged to Jews. 140 families lost everything.

On June 14, 1941, Soviet authorities deported 13 Jewish families from Ludza to Siberia. The majority of Jews were shot by Nazis on August 17, 1941 at Lake Cirma some 7km from the town. See page 36 for more historical information.

**CURRENT STATE:** In addition to the Ludza municipality, a small local Jewish community (15 people) are taking care of the cemetery. The territory is overgrown with forestation. This serious vegetation threatens the site.

**FURTHER DETAILS:** Ludza municipality - Raiņa 16, Ludza, Ludzas novads, LV - 5701; +371 65707401; +371 65707402; dome@ludzaspils.lv



## MADONA JEWISH MASS GRAVE

Other name: Modohn

LO TISHKACH ID NO.: 12192

ADDRESS: Smeceres forest, Madona, Madona municipality, Latgale, LATVIA



**EXECUTION DATE:** August 8, 1941  
**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE BURIED:** About 700 people, of whom 250 were Jews  
**CURRENT SIZE:** 10 x 5 Perimeter - Linear Meters  
**PRESENT USE:** Memorial

**DETAILS OF ACCESS:** The mass grave site is located behind the rotary intersection at the route P37 Madona - Playinas. Go for about 800 meters, turn right into the forest and go for 150 m. There is a road sign "Fašisma terora upurkapi" (Burial place of Nazi terror victims).

**LOCATION & DEMARCATION:** The mass grave site is located in the forest, on flat land. Access is open to all. The road sign is a typical inscription with white letters on red background. The territory is not fenced.

**GRAVES, GRAVESTONES, MEMORIAL MARKERS & STRUCTURES:** There is a granite statue in the form of a skull, about 1 meter high. It was erected in 1993 and designed by Gvido Buls. In 2006, a small memorial stone was erected next to the monument. It bears the following inscription in Latvian: "Piemīņas vieta 1941. gada vasarā pēc nacistiskās Vācijas karaspēka ienākšanas nogalinātajiem Madonas un tās apkārtnes iedzīvotājiem". (Translation: A memorial to the residents of Madona and surrounding villages, killed in summer 1941 after the occupation by Nazi German troops). In Soviet times, the site was surrounded by poles and marked with a monument which has not preserved.

**JEWISH COMMUNITY ESTABLISHED:** Early 20<sup>th</sup> century  
**CURRENT JEWISH POPULATION:** None

**HISTORY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY:** In 1920 there were 19 Jews in Madona (3% of the total population), in 1925 - 36 (3%), in 1930 - 97 (4%), in 1935 - 115 Jews (5%).  
On July 2, 1941 the Nazi troops occupied Madona. On August 7-8, 1941 all local Jews were murdered in the woods outside the town.

**CURRENT STATE:** The mass grave site is taken care of, the territory is regularly cleaned.

**FURTHER DETAILS:** Madona municipality - Saieta laukums 1, Madona, Madonas novads, LV-4801; +371 64860567; dome@madona.lv

## MALTA JEWISH MASS GRAVE I (BALDAS FOREST)

Other name: Silmala

LO TISHKACH ID NO.: 10854

ADDRESS: Baldas forest, Malta, Rezekne district, Latgale, LATVIA



**EXECUTION DATE:** August 8, 1941  
**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE BURIED:** About 80  
**CURRENT SIZE:** 36, 40, 35 meters<sup>2</sup>  
**PRESENT USE:** Memorial

**DETAILS OF ACCESS:** In order to reach the site, go from Malta along the road P57 for 6 km towards Dagda. The mass grave is located to the left of the road, 10 meters into the forest.

**LOCATION & DEMARCATION:** The mass grave site is located in the forest, on flat land. Access is open to all. There is no road sign. The territory is not fenced.

**GRAVES, GRAVESTONES, MEMORIAL MARKERS & STRUCTURES:** There are three rectangular graves. In 2004, The Council of Jewish communities of Latvia erected a black granite monument with a Star of David and an inscription in Latvian and English: "Maltas, Silenes un Pigožņu ebreju piemiņai, kurus šajā vietā no 1941. gada jūlija līdz septembrim noslepkavoja nacistiskie okupanti un viņu vietējie palīgi. In memory of Jews of Malta, Silene and Pigoshni who had been murdered by the Nazi occupants and their local collaborators in July to August 1941."

The Jews from Malta and surrounding villages were brought on trucks. Three ditches were dug beforehand. In 1944, before their retreat, the Germans exhumed and burnt the corpses.

**CURRENT STATE:** The territory is regularly cleaned and properly maintained.

**FURTHER DETAILS:** Maltas pagasta pārvalde - Skolas iela 24; Rēzeknes novads, Maltas pagasts, Malta, LV-4630; +371 64621401; info@malta.lv

## MALTA JEWISH MASS GRAVE II (HOUSE OF CULTURE)

Other name: Silmala

LO TISHKACH ID NO.: 12191

ADDRESS: 1 Maija Str., 80, Malta, Rezekne district, Latgale, LATVIA



EXECUTION DATE:	Late September 1941
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE BURIED:	About 200
CURRENT SIZE:	Unknown
PRESENT USE:	Memorial

**DETAILS OF ACCESS:** The mass grave is located on a wasteland, at the rear wall of the House of Culture.

**LOCATION & DEMARCATION:** The site is situated in an isolated urban location, on flat land. Access is open to all. There is no road sign. The territory is not fenced.

**GRAVES, GRAVESTONES, MEMORIAL MARKERS & STRUCTURES:** The grave has not been preserved; the bodies were exhumed and burnt in 1944.

Next to the place of mass murder, the Council of Jewish communities of Latvia erected a black granite monument in 2004. The monument bears a Star of David and an inscription in Latvian, English and Hebrew. The inscription reads: "In memory of Jews of Malta who had been murdered here by the local policemen - the voluntary collaborators of the Nazi occupants in September of 1941".

The Jews from Malta and the vicinity were escorted in groups of 4-5 people from the police department to the basement of the building at 1. Maija Str., 76. The prisoners were shot there, and the corpses were buried at the waste land by the House of Culture.

**CURRENT STATE:** The mass grave site is currently not used, however it is not fenced or protected and therefore, due to its urban location, it is prone to suffer from future construction.

**FURTHER DETAILS:** The full area of the mass grave site should be demarcated and a fence erected. Contact Lo-Tishkach to find out how to help.



## PREILI JEWISH MASS GRAVE

Other names: Preiliai | Preiļi | Preil | Prely

LO TISHKACH ID NO.: 12195

ADDRESS: Town outskirts, Preili, Preili municipality, Latgale, LATVIA



**EXECUTION DATE:** July - August, 1941  
**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE BURIED:** 600  
**CURRENT SIZE:** 12 x 6 Perimeter - Linear Meters  
**PRESENT USE:** Memorial

**DETAILS OF ACCESS:** The mass grave is located on the south-western outskirts of the town, near Cesu Str.

**LOCATION & DEMARCATION:** The site is situated in a suburban location, on flat land, near the Jewish cemetery. There is a low concrete fence surrounding the mass grave. Access is open to all. There is a road sign which reads: "Holokausta upuru pieminēklis 0,1" (Translation: Monument to Holocaust victims 0,1).

**GRAVES, GRAVESTONES, MEMORIAL MARKERS & STRUCTURES:** In Soviet times, a black granite monument was established at the mass grave. It bears an inscription in Yiddish and Russian: "We will always mourn about our parents, brothers and sisters, who were killed by fascists in 1941".

On August 8, 2004 a memorial was opened here at the initiative and funds of former Preili resident (currently a US citizen) David Zilberman. The memorial consists of several plates and obelisks, with inscriptions in Latvian, Yiddish and Hebrew. It also contains a fragment of diary written by a Jewish girl Shayna Gram. She was shot in Preili during WWII. Under the central obelisk, a capsule with names of Jewish victims from Preili was buried.

Starting from July 26, 1941 the Jews were taken in small groups to the massacre site. The wealthy ones were shot down first. On August 9 - 10, a mass shooting action took place. In 1944, the Germans began to exhume and burn the bodies of the victims. This heinous cover-up attempt was not done "properly", and corpses and fragments of clothes were later discovered.

**JEWISH COMMUNITY ESTABLISHED:** Early 19<sup>th</sup> century  
**CURRENT JEWISH POPULATION:** None

**HISTORY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY:** The first Jews settling in Preili were the timber trader Skutel and the blacksmith Cemel. In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the community was one of the largest in the Latgale region. In 1847, there were 284 Jews in the town and by 1897, this number had reached 1,375. In 1902, the disappearance of a Christian boy led to the threat of a pogrom, but this was prevented by the Daugavpils district authorities following a request by Rabbi Meir David Grodsky. In 1920, Red Army soldiers, retreating after a short occupation, looted all the property of the town's inhabitants. Assistance was made available to the Jewish community from the "Joint". In 1935, the Jewish population was 847 persons or 51% of the total. There was a six-grade Jewish school and four synagogues in the town. In 1940, following the Soviet occupation, Jews held senior positions on the town council with Reuven Arsh serving as mayor with Michael Kagan as his deputy.

During the Nazi occupation, two Jews - Skutelsky and Schechtner - tried to burn the Gestapo building but they were arrested and executed. On July 28 and August 8, 1941, about 800 local and refugee Jews were executed.

A few dozen Jewish families settled in Preili again after 1944, though the community was not officially re-formed.

**CURRENT STATE:** The territory is clean and vegetation has been cleared. The land belongs to the local municipal authorities.

**FURTHER DETAILS:** Preiļu novada dome - Raiņa bulvāris 19, Preiļi, LV-5301; +371 65322766; + 371 65307323; dome@preili.lv

## REZEKNE JEWISH MASS GRAVE I (ANCHUPANU MOUNTAINS)

Other names: Rāisaku | Rezica | Rositten | Rzeżyca

LO TISHKACH ID NO.: 10784

ADDRESS: The Hill of Anchupani, Rezekne, Rezekne municipality, Latgale, LATVIA



**EXECUTION DATE:** August 1941 - early 1944  
**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE BURIED:** Over 15,000, about 6,000 of whom were Jews  
**CURRENT SIZE:** 15 x 26 Perimeter - Linear Meters  
**PRESENT USE:** Memorial

**DETAILS OF ACCESS:** The mass grave is situated outside the town, in an isolated location in the forest, on Anchupani hill.

**LOCATION & DEMARCATION:** In order to reach the site, go along Rigas Street (road P36) until the intersection with Vilakas Str., turn right after the bus stop "Makarovka" and continue for 700 meters until the memorial. There is a low stone wall surrounding the site. The mass grave territory is covered with concrete slabs. There is a road sign which says: "Nacistiskā terora upuru kapi" (Translation: Mass grave of Nazi terror victims.)

**GRAVES, GRAVESTONES, MEMORIAL MARKERS & STRUCTURES:** The memorial was opened in 1973. The entrance gate bears an inscription "Vīņi mira, lai dzīvotu tu" (Translation: They died to let you live.) The memorial was designed by Alfons Kishkis. There is a sculpture of a woman holding a child in her hands created by Rasa Kalnin-Grinberg.

**JEWISH COMMUNITY ESTABLISHED:** Late 18<sup>th</sup> century  
**CURRENT JEWISH POPULATION:** 10 - 1,000

**HISTORY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY:** The first mention of Jews in Rezekne was in 1712 and a community was founded in the last quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In 1784, mention is first made of the existence of a Jewish house of worship and by 1864, there were six synagogues and prayer houses in the city. In 1851, Jews were allowed to settle in the new city, but not near the Orthodox church on the main street. In 1815, there were 1,072 Jews (90% of the total population) in Rezekne; in 1897 - 6,478 Jews (54%), and by 1914 - over 11,000, around half of the city's inhabitants. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the city had 270 Jewish businesses and shops, compared with 93 owned by non-Jews. In 1918, during the short occupation and rule of the Soviets, the local commissar (also a Jew) ordered the closure of all of the synagogues. This order was cancelled after Rabbi Lubotzky persuaded the commissar to change his mind. Before the Bolsheviks left the city in February 1918, they looted many houses with the help of some local farmers and criminals. A delegation of significant Jewish leaders subsequently asked the incoming German army to restore order in the town and this was soon achieved. In January 1920, following the final expulsion of the Red Army and before the Latvian state authority took over control of the city, looting continued. Jewish butchers and balagoles organized resistance and drove away looters. In 1922, there were 13 Jewish members of the city council out of a total of 30.

Rezekne was occupied by the Nazis on July 3, 1941. The first mass shootings of Jews occurred already the next day at the Jewish cemetery in the village of Ancupani. Those Jews able to work were separated and transported to the Daugavpils ghetto and later to the Kaiservald labour camp in Riga. Only two adults and a few children from Rezekne survived.

After the war, some Jews returned to Rezekne and by the 1950's, the Jewish population had reached a few hundred people.

**CURRENT STATE:** Although the memorial is cleaned from time to time, it looks abandoned.

**FURTHER DETAILS:** The fence and plates should be repaired. Contact Lo-Tishkach to find out how to help.



## REZEKNE JEWISH MASS GRAVE II (AT JEWISH CEMETERY)

Other names: Rāisaku| Rezica| Rositten| Rzeżyca

LO TISHKACH ID NO.: 12196

ADDRESS: Rezekne Jewish cemetery, Rezekne, Rezekne municipality, Latgale, LATVIA



**EXECUTION DATE:** August 1941  
**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE BURIED:** 2500  
**CURRENT SIZE:** 14x2.5; 16x2.5; 30x2.5 Perimeter - Linear Meters  
**PRESENT USE:** Memorial

**DETAILS OF ACCESS:** The mass grave is located at lower part of the cemetery, by the river. One should enter the cemetery from Upisa Street.

**LOCATION & DEMARCATION:** The site is situated within Jewish cemetery, on a hillside. There are no road signs. The mass grave itself in the older (lower) part of the cemetery is surrounded by poles. A decorative chain surrounds the monument at the newer part.

**GRAVES, GRAVESTONES, MEMORIAL MARKERS & STRUCTURES:** Rezekne Jews erected two monuments - one in the shape of matseva is located by the river, at the shootings place. It bears inscriptions in Hebrew. The second monument of grey granite is located at the newer part of the cemetery, it has inscriptions in Yiddish, Latvian and Russian: "Mēs mūžīgi sērosim par mūsu vecākiem, bērniem, brāļiem un māsām bojā gājušiem no fašisma terora 1941.gadā". Мы вечно будем скорбеть о наших родителях, детях, братьях и сёстрах, погибших от рук фашистов в 1941 году. (We will always mourn our parents, brothers and sisters, who were murdered by fascists in the year 1941).

The Jews of Rezekne were being shot at the cemetery every morning for two weeks, in August 1941.

**JEWISH COMMUNITY ESTABLISHED:** Late 18<sup>th</sup> century  
**CURRENT JEWISH POPULATION:** 10 - 1,000

**HISTORY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY:** The first mention of Jews in Rezekne was in 1712 and a community was founded in the last quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In 1784, mention is first made of the existence of a Jewish house of worship and by 1864, there were six synagogues and prayer houses in the city. In 1851, Jews were allowed to settle in the new city, but not near the Orthodox church on the main street. In 1815, there were 1,072 Jews (90% of the total population) in Rezekne; in 1897 - 6,478 Jews (54%), and by 1914 - over 11,000, around half of the city's inhabitants. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the city had 270 Jewish businesses and shops, compared with 93 owned by non-Jews. In 1918, during the short occupation and rule of the Soviets, the local commissar (also a Jew) ordered the closure of all of the synagogues. This order was cancelled after Rabbi Lubotzky persuaded the commissar to change his mind. Before the Bolsheviks left the city in February 1918, they looted many houses with the help of some local farmers and criminals. A delegation of significant Jewish leaders subsequently asked the incoming German army to restore order in the town and this was soon achieved. In January 1920, following the final expulsion of the Red Army and before the Latvian state authority took over control of the city, looting continued. Jewish butchers and balagoles organized resistance and drove away looters. In 1922, there were 13 Jewish members of the city council out of a total of 30.

Rezekne was occupied by the Nazis on July 3, 1941. The first mass shootings of Jews occurred already the next day at the Jewish cemetery in the village of Ancupani. Those Jews able to work were separated and transported to the Daugavpils ghetto and later to the Kaiservald labour camp in Riga. Only two adults and a few children from Rezekne survived. After the war, some Jews returned to Rezekne and by the 1950's, the Jewish population had reached a few hundred people.

**CURRENT STATE:** The Rezekne Jewish community maintain the site.

**FURTHER DETAILS:** Jewish community of Rezekne - Daugavpils 35A, Rēzekne, LV-4600 +371 28685744



## REZEKNE JEWISH MASS GRAVE III (LESCINSKA GARDEN)

Other names: Rāisaku | Rezica | Rositten | Rzeżyca

LO TISHKACH ID NO.: 12197

ADDRESS: Dzirnau Str., 17, Rezekne, Rezekne municipality, Latgale, LATVIA



**EXECUTION DATE:** July 15, 1941  
**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE BURIED:** 120  
**CURRENT SIZE:** Unknown  
**PRESENT USE:** Memorial

**DETAILS OF ACCESS:** The mass grave is located at the intersection of Dzirnau and Krasta streets.

**LOCATION & DEMARCATION:** The site is situated in an isolated urban location, on flat land. There are no road signs. The mass grave territory is not fenced.

**GRAVES, GRAVESTONES, MEMORIAL MARKERS & STRUCTURES:** In 2006, the Council of Jewish Communities of Latvia erected a black granite monument in the garden. The monument bears two Stars of David and the following inscription in Latvian, Hebrew, Russian and English.

“Šajā vietā 1941. gada 15. jūlijā vietējie nacisti un viņu atbalstītāji nošāva 120 Rēzeknes ebrejus”

“На этом месте 15 июля 1941 года местные нацисты расстреляли 120 резекненских евреев”

“120 Rēzekne’s Jews were shot down on this place by the local nazis on July 15, 1941.”

The local Nazis made the Jews exhume the bodies of NKVD victims and proclaimed the Jews guilty of killing the Latvians. The Nazis started shooting, the Jews tried to escape and hide in the Lescinska garden, and were killed there. The graves have not preserved.

**JEWISH COMMUNITY ESTABLISHED:** Late 18<sup>th</sup> century  
**CURRENT JEWISH POPULATION:** 10 - 1,000

**HISTORY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY:** The first mention of Jews in Rezekne was in 1712 and a community was founded in the last quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In 1784, mention is first made of the existence of a Jewish house of worship and by 1864, there were six synagogues and prayer houses in the city. In 1851, Jews were allowed to settle in the new city, but not near the Orthodox church on the main street. In 1815, there were 1,072 Jews (90% of the total population) in Rezekne; in 1897 - 6,478 Jews (54%), and by 1914 - over 11,000, around half of the city’s inhabitants. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the city had 270 Jewish businesses and shops, compared with 93 owned by non-Jews. In 1918, during the short occupation and rule of the Soviets, the local commissar (also a Jew) ordered the closure of all of the synagogues. This order was cancelled after Rabbi Lubotzky persuaded the commissar to change his mind. Before the Bolsheviks left the city in February 1918, they looted many houses with the help of some local farmers and criminals. A delegation of significant Jewish leaders subsequently asked the incoming German army to restore order in the town and this was soon achieved. In January 1920, following the final expulsion of the Red Army and before the Latvian state authority took over control of the city, looting continued. Jewish butchers and balagoles organized resistance and drove away looters. In 1922, there were 13 Jewish members of the city council out of a total of 30.

Rezekne was occupied by the Nazis on July 3, 1941. The first mass shootings of Jews occurred already the next day at the Jewish cemetery in the village of Ancupani. Those Jews able to work were separated and transported to the Daugavpils ghetto and later to the Kaiservald labour camp in Riga. Only two adults and a few children from Rezekne survived. After the war, some Jews returned to Rezekne and by the 1950’s, the Jewish population had reached a few hundred people.

**CURRENT STATE:** The mass grave site shows no signs of maintenance or care.

**FURTHER DETAILS:** Regular maintenance should be instated. Contact Lo-Tishkach to find out how to help.

## RIEBINI JEWISH MASS GRAVE

Other name: Ribinski

LO TISHKACH ID NO.: 12193

ADDRESS: Aizupishu forest, Riebini municipality, Latgale, LATVIA



**EXECUTION DATE:** August 23, 1941  
**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE BURIED:** 271 (or 381 according to other data)  
**CURRENT SIZE:** 24 meters<sup>2</sup>  
**PRESENT USE:** Memorial

**DETAILS OF ACCESS:** The mass grave is located in the forest outside the town of Riebini, on flat land.

**LOCATION & DEMARCATION:** In order to reach the site, go from Riebini along the road P58 towards Vilani. After the second bridge across the Feimanka river, continue for 400 meters and go left into the forest for 100 meters. Access is open to all. There is no road sign. The territory is surrounded with a row of trees.

**GRAVES, GRAVESTONES, MEMORIAL MARKERS & STRUCTURES:** The monument was erected in 1955 by local municipal authorities and relatives of the victims. It is an obelisk of black granite with inscription in Russian: Вечная память евреям местечка Риебини, трагически погибшим от руки немецко-фашистских оккупантов 23 августа 1941 года Родственники" (Eternal memory to the Jews from Riebini, brutally murdered by German fascist invaders on August 23, 1941. From the relatives).

On August 23, 1941 the Jews were locked in one of the prayer houses, and later in the evening taken in trucks to Aizupishksy forest, to the place of shootings.

**JEWISH COMMUNITY ESTABLISHED:** Early 19<sup>th</sup> century  
**CURRENT JEWISH POPULATION:** None

**HISTORY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY:** The Jewish community of Riebini was founded in the first half of the 19th century on land belonging to a local landlord. Rabbi Zeev Volf Zioni was appointed the community's first rabbi in 1843. In 1897, there were 533 Jews in Riebini, making up 91% of the town's total population. In the late 19th century, many Jews were unable to pay off their debts to the local landlord, the famous Polish engineer and builder of the Trans-Siberian railway, Stanislaw Karbedza, so they were forced to work for him. In the 1920's community was quite poor, there was no mutual aid network and even the Mikveh was only repaired with the assistance of the Joint. At this time, local Jews owned 66 out of the 88 houses in the town. The local Jewish school had five grades, to gain minimum education necessary according to Latvian law. Students who wished to continue their education went to Preili. By 1935, the number of Jews in Riebini had decreased to 317, representing 68% of the town's total population.

At the beginning of WWII, a few dozen Jews managed to escape to Russia and more than twenty joined the Red Army. Following the Nazi occupation, a few Jews, notably leftist activists, were arrested with the help of the local Aizsargi organization and executed in Preili prison. Some families were killed in revenge for old conflicts and debts. The remaining Jews were gathered in the synagogue and executed in the nearby forest of Aizupe (4km from Riebini) between August 23-26, 1941.

The names of the 274 victims have been recorded.

**CURRENT STATE:** The territory is being regularly cleaned, there are flowers planted around the mass grave site.

**FURTHER DETAILS:** Riebiņu novada dome - Saules iela 8, Riebiņi, Riebiņu novads, LV - 5326; +371 653243754; riebiņi@riebiņi.lv



## RUGAJI JEWISH MASS GRAVE

Other names: Rugaju| Pyrai

LO TISHKACH ID NO.: 10662

ADDRESS: Smilshu mountain, Rugaji, Rugaji municipality, Latgale, LATVIA



**EXECUTION DATE:** August 6, 1941  
**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE BURIED:** 250  
**CURRENT SIZE:** 6x2.5 Perimeter - Linear Meters  
**PRESENT USE:** Memorial

**DETAILS OF ACCESS:** To reach the site, exit the town of Rugaji bearing south-east, along the road to Tilza. After proceeding for 4,5 km, turn right into the forest and continue for 50 meters.

**LOCATION & DEMARCATION:** The mass grave is located in the forest outside the town of Rugaji, on the crown of a hill. There is a low metal fence on stone poles surrounding the site, however there is no gate. Access is open to all.

**GRAVES, GRAVESTONES, MEMORIAL MARKERS & STRUCTURES:** A Soviet monument, an obelisk of black granite, marks the grave. The monument bears the following inscriptions in Latvian and Russian: "Вечная память жертвам фашистского террора" (Translation: Eternal memory to victims of fascist terror).

Several days before the mass shootings, all Jews from the town and vicinity were gathered in Rugaji. On the day of execution, the men were escorted to the shooting site on foot, whilst women and children were driven there in trucks.

**JEWISH COMMUNITY ESTABLISHED:** Early 20<sup>th</sup> century  
**CURRENT JEWISH POPULATION:** None

**HISTORY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY:** In 1925, 44 Jews lived in Rugaji and the vicinity, in 1930 - 121, in 1935 - 85 Jews (31% of the total population). Jews began to settle in Rugaji in the early 20th century. Most of the Jewish population was engaged in trade. The Jews owned 16 of the 24 shops in the town.

In 1930, local Jews were accused of ritual killing of Christians. In 1933, the local rabbi was Yitzchak Kahan (born in 1912 in Tukum).

After the town's occupation by Wehrmacht troops, the Jews of Rugaji were murdered. The mass shooting took place in the beginning of July 1941 along the road to Tilza village.

**CURRENT STATE:** The site is occasionally cleaned, however it is inadequately secured.

**FURTHER DETAILS:** The fence surrounding the area of the mass grave site should be repaired and the general security enhanced. Contact Lo-Tishkach to find out how to help.



## SILENE JEWISH MASS GRAVE

Other name: Borovka

LO TISHKACH ID NO.: 12194

ADDRESS: Smilgina lake, Silene, Daugavpils municipality, Latgale, LATVIA



**EXECUTION DATE:** July 28, 1941  
**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE BURIED:** 186  
**CURRENT SIZE:** 12 x 5 Perimeter - Linear Meters  
**PRESENT USE:** Memorial

**DETAILS OF ACCESS:** The mass grave is located on the shore of Smilgina lake, 4 km from Silene, along the road P68.

**LOCATION & DEMARCATION:** The mass grave is situated at the lake shore, in an isolated rural location. There is a white metal fence on stone poles, and a gauze gate surrounding the site.

**GRAVES, GRAVESTONES, MEMORIAL MARKERS & STRUCTURES:** In 1957, the former residents of Silene erected a black granite stele bearing inscriptions in Yiddish and Russian. Translation of the inscription: "To the lamented Jewish victims who were killed by the Nazis. July 1941, Borovka. August 1957."

The Jews were told that they would be transferred to Braslav ghetto in Belarus. They were escorted on foot, followed by carts carrying their personal belongings. The children and elderly were also driven on carts. At the lake, the group stopped, and 15 murderers started shooting.

**JEWISH COMMUNITY ESTABLISHED:** 19<sup>th</sup> century  
**CURRENT JEWISH POPULATION:** None

**HISTORY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY:** The Jewish community was founded in the 19th century, and numbered 285 in 1897, with many trading in forest products. In WWI most reached Vitebsk after expulsion by the Russians. In 1935 the Jewish population was 189 whilst the general population numbered 1022.

The Jews were murdered by the Germans in second half of 1941.

**CURRENT STATE:** The mass grave site is regularly cleaned. The perimeter fence has recently been repainted.

**FURTHER DETAILS:** Daugavpils novada dome - Rīgas iela 2, Daugavpils, LV 5401; (+371) 654 22238; (+371) 654 76810; dome@dnd.lv.

## SUBATE JEWISH MASS GRAVE

Other name: Subbath

LO TISHKACH ID NO.: 10759

ADDRESS: Within town, Subate, Ilukste municipality, Latgale, LATVIA



**EXECUTION DATE:** July 21, 1941  
**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE BURIED:** About 300  
**CURRENT SIZE:** 25 x 5 Perimeter - Linear Meters  
**PRESENT USE:** Memorial

**DETAILS OF ACCESS:** The mass grave is situated at the end of Jelgavas Str., behind the bridge across Dzirnavupite river, 150 meters from the Jewish cemetery.

**LOCATION & DEMARCATION:** The mass grave territory is surrounded with a metal fence on poles. Atop the poles are Stars of David. The symbols were covered with paint during Soviet times.

**GRAVES, GRAVESTONES, MEMORIAL MARKERS & STRUCTURES:** There used to be a Soviet monument here, but it was replaced with two newer steles of red granite, bearing Stars of David and the following inscription in English: "To genocide victims Subate 1941".

On July 20, 1941 all Jews in the town were arrested and placed in two barns. The next day the prisoners were taken in columns of 30-50 people to the execution site. The ditches had been dug beforehand.

**JEWISH COMMUNITY ESTABLISHED:** Early 19<sup>th</sup> century  
**PRE-WAR JEWISH POPULATION:** 10 - 1,000  
**CURRENT JEWISH POPULATION:** -

**HISTORY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY:** In 1897, there were 978 Jews in Subate, who constituted almost half of the total population. With the beginning of WWI, the Jews of Subate were deported to the inner regions of Russia. After the war, about two thirds of the community returned to the town. In 1920, 533 Jews lived in Subate, or 38% of the total population, but by 1935, this number had decreased to 387 (26%).

In the 1920's some anti-Semites from a Latvian youth organization (name unknown) tried to disturb Jews during their festivities. The police intervened and restored order. In 1928, Jews founded the bank "Halvan Vehisahon" (Loans and savings) along with a Jewish craftsmen society and a pawnshop.

Those Jews who remained in Subate when the Nazis invaded in 1941 were executed in the summer or autumn of that year.

**CURRENT STATE:** The site is properly maintained and cared for by the local municipal authorities.

**FURTHER DETAILS:** Subates pilsētas pārvalde - 1. Maija iela nr. 1, Subate, Ilūkstes novads, LV-5471; +371 65462275; +371 65463138; parvalde@subate.lv



## VARAKLANI JEWISH MASS GRAVE

Other name: Warkelen

LO TISHKACH ID NO.: 10776

ADDRESS: 10a Kapsetas Street, Varaklani, Varaklani municipality, Latgale, LATVIA



**EXECUTION DATE:** August 4, 1941  
**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE BURIED:** 540  
**CURRENT SIZE:** 6 x 4 Perimeter - Linear Meters  
**PRESENT USE:** Memorial

**DETAILS OF ACCESS:** The mass grave is located in the confines of the Jewish cemetery within the town of Varklani. To reach the site, take Riga Street and drive until 10a Kapsetas Street. Inside the cemetery, the grave is behind the fence on the left side.

**LOCATION & DEMARCATION:** Signage concerning the presence of a mass grave can be found on the fence of the Jewish cemetery. The execution site is demarcated with an iron fence, whilst the reburial site is surrounded by a concrete wall and a decorative gauze fence with a gate bearing a Star of David.

**GRAVES, GRAVESTONES, MEMORIAL MARKERS & STRUCTURES:** The mass grave is marked by a Soviet memorial of black granite with a plate which bears a Star of David and inscriptions in Russian and Yiddish. Translation: "We will always remember our parents, brothers and sisters, who were murdered by fascists in 1941."

At the reburial site, within the Jewish cemetery, there is a grey granite stele with inscriptions in Yiddish and Russian. This monument was also erected in Soviet times. The inscription reads: "Eternal memory to the victims of German fascist terror, the Jews of Varaklani, who were brutally murdered on August 4, 1941".

**JEWISH COMMUNITY ESTABLISHED:** Late 18<sup>th</sup> century  
**CURRENT JEWISH POPULATION:** None

**HISTORY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY:** A Jewish community started to form in Varaklani after 1772. In 1897, there were 1,375 Jews in the town, making up 75% of the total population. After the Bolsheviks were driven off in 1920, some of the locals accused the Jews of collaboration with them and a pogrom broke out in which 4 Jews were killed and their shops were looted. Soon, local Baptists tried to convert the local Jews though they only succeeded with one lonely and disabled person. Later, Rabbi Grodsky was invited by the local pastor to take part in a religious dispute. He agreed, on the sole condition that the New Testament would not be disputed and the location for the debate would not be religious, but neutral. The pastor refused to accept these conditions and the dispute was cancelled. In 1925, five students from Riga took part in anti-Semitic activities in the town. Initially, the students requested that the police remove shop signs from Jewish shops, on the grounds that they were written in incorrect Latvian. The next day the students took away some shop signs and started to abuse elderly Jews on the streets and to offend young girls swimming in the river. When the police failed to respond to Jewish complaints, they organized resistance. The students in turn called the police and 22 Jews were arrested. The case caused an international outcry and two deputies of the Latvian parliament (Dubin and Meisel) intervened and nine Jews were released, while another 13 faced trial in May 1926 in Daugavpils. During the years of the first independent Republic of Latvia, the number of Jews in Varaklani decreased. In 1935, Jews numbered 952 or 58% of the total population (compared to 1,402, 74% in 1920). Nevertheless, Varaklani was still the most Jewish town in Latvia. Following the Nazi occupation, a few hundred Jews managed to escape the town but the remaining Jews were executed on August 4, 1941. During the 1960's, about 20 Jewish families lived in Varaklani but by 2006, there was just one Jew left in the town.

**CURRENT STATE:** The site is properly maintained, and is in good condition.

**FURTHER DETAILS:** Varakļānu novada dome - Varakļāni, Rīgas iela 13, Varakļānu novads, LV-4838; +371 64860840

## VILAKA JEWISH MASS GRAVE

Other names: Vilyaka | Viliaki | Marienhausen | Виляка

LO TISHKACH ID NO.: 10663

ADDRESS: Town outskirts, Vilaka, Vilaka municipality, Latgale, LATVIA



**EXECUTION DATE:** August 11, 1941  
**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE BURIED:** 520  
**CURRENT SIZE:** 6 x 10 Perimeter - Linear Meters  
**PRESENT USE:** Memorial

**DETAILS OF ACCESS:** To reach the site, take Abrenes Street (the road from Vilaka to Pitalovo) and go for 1.5 km. Then turn right and go 100 m across the field.

**LOCATION & DEMARCATION:** The mass grave is situated in an isolated suburban location, on flat land. The memorial is surrounded with a white painted wooden fence. No road signs mark the site, however it is mentioned in a local area tourist guide.

**GRAVES, GRAVESTONES, MEMORIAL MARKERS & STRUCTURES:** There are two red granite monuments marking the mass grave. The larger monument has inscriptions in Latvian, Russian and Yiddish: (Translation) "Eternal memory to the victims of fascist terror, 1941-1945". The smaller monument bears an inscription in Latvian and Russian: "Вечная память жертвам фашистского террора август 1941 г. Mūžīga piemiņa fašisma terora upuriem 1941. g. augusts". (Translation: Eternal memory to the victims of fascist terror, August 1941).

520 Jews from Vilaka were killed in August 1941. In 1944, the prisoners of war from the Red Army were brought to the site in order to exhume and burn the corpses. This is the execution site of the men, whilst women and children were shot at a different location 1.5 km away from this site. Their remains were reburied here in the 1960's.

**JEWISH COMMUNITY ESTABLISHED:** Late 18<sup>th</sup> century

**CURRENT JEWISH POPULATION:** -

**HISTORY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY:** Jews first began to settle in Vilaka after the region was annexed to Russia in 1772. The local Polish landowner became interested in expanding this tiny village and he tried to attract Jews to live around his estate. During the first 70 years of the nineteenth century, around 23 Jewish families settled in the area. By 1903, the Jewish community numbered 102 families, or 540 individuals. For a long time the Jews formed the majority of the town's population. Some of them came from the nearby village of Kalishes, where they had worked the land.

The community's first rabbi was Rabbi Benzion Don Yichiye of Lutzin (Lodz), who was appointed to the rabbinate in 1900. In the community's only shul there was a separate prayer room (kloiz), which was used by a small number of Chassidim. During the decade immediately preceding the First World War, before a Jewish school was established in the town, several affluent members of the Reform movement would hire private tutors from outside the area to teach their children modern Hebrew and general subjects. However most of the community's children attended two local chedorim.

During the years of the First World War, only a few families left Vilaka. During the period of Soviet rule (1940-1941), most of Vilaka's Jews remained there. After war broke out between the former Soviet Union and Germany in June 1941, they decided to stay where they were. A short while later, when the Germans came, the Jews were expelled from their homes and herded into a ghetto, located in a poor part of town. At the beginning of August 1941, a group of German security officers arrived in the town. After separating the Jewish men from the women and children, the Germans first murdered the men and then the women and children, who were killed in a separate pit about 1,5 km from the town.

**CURRENT STATE:** The site is in good condition. It is properly maintained and regularly cleaned.

**FURTHER DETAILS:** Vilakas novada dome - Abrenes iela 26, Vilaka, Vilakas novads, LV-4583; +371 64507224; +371 64507208; dome@vilaka.lv



## VILANI JEWISH MASS GRAVE

Other names: Vilon | Wielona | Welonen | Велены

LO TISHKACH ID NO.: 12198

ADDRESS: Town outskirts, Vilani, Vilani municipality, Latgale, LATVIA



**EXECUTION DATE:** August 4, 1941  
**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE BURIED:** 484 (according to different estimates, between 300 and 664)  
**CURRENT SIZE:** 8 x 4 Perimeter - Linear Meters  
**PRESENT USE:** Memorial

**DETAILS OF ACCESS:** The mass grave is located on the town outskirts, at the end of Rezeknes Street, behind municipal cemetery.

**LOCATION & DEMARCATION:** The site is located in a suburban location, on flat land, and is surrounded with a hedge and a metal fence.

**GRAVES, GRAVESTONES, MEMORIAL MARKERS & STRUCTURES:** There are two monuments at the site. One is in the shape of a green pyramid (erected in the 1950's) bearing an inscription in Russian. Translation: "Eternal memory to the victims of fascists 4. VIII. 1941".

The second monument was constructed in the 1960's, it is a red granite stele with Menorah symbol bearing the following inscription in Yiddish: "1941 ...הענט פון פאשיסטישע מערדערישע הענט

The Jews who had been kept at the school building were told that they were being transferred to Palestine. They were transported to the forest behind the municipal cemetery; the graves had been dug beforehand. The shootings continued for three hours.

**PRE-WAR JEWISH POPULATION:** 10 - 1,000  
**CURRENT JEWISH POPULATION:** -

**CURRENT STATE:** The mass grave site is properly maintained and regularly cleaned .

**FURTHER DETAILS:** Viļānu novada pašvaldība - Kultūras laukums 1a, Vilani, LV-4650; +371 64628030; novads@vilani.lv

## VISKI JEWISH MASS GRAVE

Other names: Vishky | Wyschki | Wyszki | Вишки

LO TISHKACH ID NO.: 10758

ADDRESS: Within town, Viski, Daugavpils municipality, Latgale, LATVIA



**EXECUTION DATE:** July 12 and 23, 1941  
**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE BURIED:** Several dozen  
**CURRENT SIZE:** 3 x 5 Perimeter - Linear Meters  
**PRESENT USE:** Memorial

**DETAILS OF ACCESS:** To reach the site, go from the town centre towards the technological college; the mass grave is located to the left of road P64.

**LOCATION & DEMARCATION:** The mass grave is situated in an isolated urban location, on flat land. The site is not fenced.

**GRAVES, GRAVESTONES, MEMORIAL MARKERS & STRUCTURES:** Marking the mass grave is a gray stone with a black granite plaque, bearing a Star of David and the following inscription in Latvian: "Višķu un Dagdas ebreju 1941. gada jūlija tragēdijas piemiņai." (Translation: In memory of the tragedy which took place in July 1941 with Jews from Viski and Dagda).

The monument was erected in 2001 at the initiative of a local resident, Eleonora Petrova. The funds were provided by local authorities.

The elderly and disabled Jews who could not go to Daugavpils ghetto on foot were killed here.

**JEWISH COMMUNITY ESTABLISHED:** Late 18<sup>th</sup> century  
**CURRENT JEWISH POPULATION:** -

**HISTORY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY:** Jews began to settle in Viski in the late 18<sup>th</sup> - early 19<sup>th</sup> century. From the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century until the Holocaust, the Jewish community comprised the majority of the inhabitants. The institutions at the service of the community were: a hevra kadisha, a public bath house and "bikkur cholim" (sick visiting society). From the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century for a period of 90 years, the officiating rabbis were from the Plachinski family.

During WWI, many members of the community fled to the interior of Russia. On their return, after the war, many Jews found their homes damaged or destroyed. They were repaired with the assistance of the community council which was elected in 1920 as well as by the "joint" (a relief agency of American Jewry). In 1921, a Jewish elementary school with four classes was opened. Yiddish was the teaching language.

During the years 1920-1940, Viski was part of independent Latvia. After WWI, despite welfare grants by the "Joint", many of the young Jews left the town due to the lack of opportunities for earning a living. In 1935, of the 58 businesses in Viski, 50 were Jewish owned. A mutual credit fund operated in the town between the two world wars. In 1935, there were 423 Jewish residents out of a total population of 750.

In the summer of 1940 a Soviet government was installed. The new regime nationalized businesses and shops, and Jewish public life was liquidated.

On the outbreak of war between Germany and the USSR (June 22, 1941) a number of young Jews escaped to the East. A few days later German forces captured the town. On June 28 the Jews of the town and nearby towns were sent to the Daugavpils ghetto. After several days they were taken to the Pogulianka forest and murdered in the "provincial action".

**CURRENT STATE:** The site is in good condition and is properly maintained by the Viski parish administration

**FURTHER DETAILS:** Višķu pagasta pārvalde - Skolas iela 17, Špoģu c., Višķu pagasts, Daugavpils novads, LV-5481; +371 65425347; padome@viski.lv

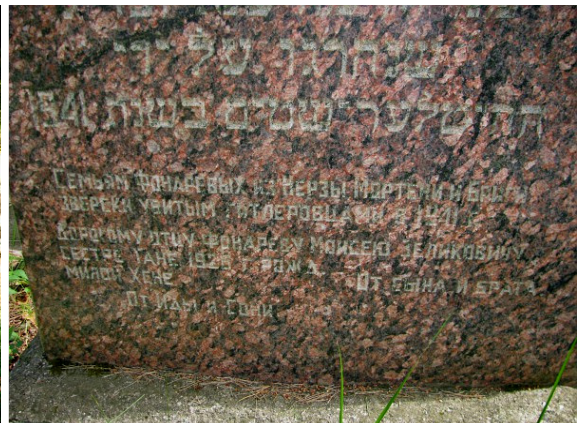


## ZILUPE JEWISH MASS GRAVE I (AT JEWISH CEMETERY)

Other names: Rosenhof | Rozinovsk | Rozenovskoe | Rosenau | Розеново

LO TISHKACH ID NO.: 10773

ADDRESS: Within town, Zilupe, Zilupe municipality, Latgale, LATVIA



EXECUTION DATE:	1941
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE BURIED:	37
CURRENT SIZE:	10 meters <sup>2</sup>
PRESENT USE:	Memorial

**DETAILS OF ACCESS:** The mass grave is located at the end of Berzu street.

**LOCATION & DEMARCATION:** The mass grave site is located within the Jewish cemetery, on flat land. Access is open to all. The site is not fenced.

**GRAVES, GRAVESTONES, MEMORIAL MARKERS & STRUCTURES:** The site is a reburial site of Jews who were killed in the Zilupe area, in Morten' and other places. The mass graves are covered with stone plates.

There are two memorial plaques at the site. The first plaque bears the following inscription in Yiddish and Russian (translation:) "To all Jews, murdered in Zilupe, In memory of those killed by the Nazis. 1941."

The second plaque bears an inscription in Hebrew and Russian (translation:) "In memory of 18 members of the Fonriov family, To the Fonariovs from Nerza, Morten', Skrynja, who were brutally murdered by the Nazis in 1941. To the beloved father Moisey Fonaryov, sister Tanya b.1926. From son and brother. To the beloved Henya from Ida and Sonya."

JEWISH COMMUNITY ESTABLISHED:	1900
CURRENT JEWISH POPULATION:	None

**HISTORY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY:** The Jewish community began c. 1900 with the founding of the town and grew in size reaching around 500 between the World Wars. The Jewish population dropped from 70-75% to 20% of the total when surrounding villages became part of the municipality in the mid-1930's. Jews owned 59 of the town's 69 stores and a few merchants were engaged in the grain, flax, and lumber trade. A Jewish public school was opened in 1923. The Zionists with their youth movements were the dominant force in the community, sending a few dozen pioneers to Palestine.

Under the nationalistic Ulmanis regime (from 1934), anti-Semitism began to manifest itself publicly, and Jewish businesses were undermined by government support of the peasant cooperatives.

Russian rule (1940-41) brought nationalization of Jewish enterprises.

The Germans arrived around the end of June 1941. A number of Jewish families managed to flee to the Soviet Union. The rest were killed with the cooperation of Latvian collaborators.

**CURRENT STATE:** The site is owned by the local municipality. Some restoration has been undertaken. The overall condition of the site is good.

**FURTHER DETAILS:** Zilupes novada dome - Raina iela 13, Zilupe, LV-5751; +371 65707311; dome@vilaka.

## ZILUPE JEWISH MASS GRAVE II (NEAR ZABOLOCKI VILLAGE)

Other names: Rosenhof | Rozinovsk | Rozenovskoe | Rosenau | Розеново

LO TISHKACH ID NO.: 12189

ADDRESS: Town outskirts, Zilupe, Zilupe municipality, Latgale, LATVIA



**EXECUTION DATE:** July and August 1941  
**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE BURIED:** 251, of whom 246 were Jews  
**CURRENT SIZE:** 3.5 x 2 Perimeter - Linear Meters  
**PRESENT USE:** Memorial

**DETAILS OF ACCESS:** To reach the site, take the road A12 from Zilupe towards Ludza. Behind the railway crossing, go for 200 meters to the right of the road, and then a further 100 meters into the forest.

**LOCATION & DEMARCATION:** The mass grave site is located in the forest, at the crown of a hill. Access is open to all. The site is surrounded with a low stone wall.

**GRAVES, GRAVESTONES, MEMORIAL MARKERS & STRUCTURES:** A monument, a stele of red granite with a 5-point star, was erected in 1961. The monument bears the following inscription in Latvian and Russian: "Šeit 1941.gadā vācu fašisti maveidīgi iznīcināja Zilupes mierīgos iedzīvotājus." "Здесь в 1941 году происходило массовое уничтожение мирных жителей города Зилупе немецкими фашистами." (Translation: Here in 1941 mass murder of Zilupe civilians by German fascists took place).

In 2009, the former resident of Zilupe, Ilya Aron, sponsored the establishment of a memorial stone with a Star of David and inscription in Latvian: "1941. gada jūlijā un augusta nacisti un viņu atbalstītāji Zabolockos noslepkavoja 246 Zilupes novada ebrejus un 5 neebreju tautības cilvēkus Par godu savai mānai Etelei ziedoja I. Arons 2009." (Translation: "In July 1941 the Nazis and their collaborators killed in Zabolotski 246 Jews and 5 non-Jews from the Zilupe area").

In summer 1941, the Jews in ghetto were deceivingly told to move to Ludza and take their belongings with them. But in fact they were escorted in groups of 15-20 people to Zabolotskiy hill near the Zabolotskiy village, where open graves had been earlier prepared. In May 1944 the Germans exhumed and burnt the corpses, in an attempt to hide the evidence of their crimes.

**JEWISH COMMUNITY ESTABLISHED:** 1900  
**CURRENT JEWISH POPULATION:** None

**HISTORY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY:** The Jewish community began c. 1900 with the founding of the town and grew in size reaching around 500 between the World Wars. The Jewish population dropped from 70-75% to 20% of the total when surrounding villages became part of the municipality in the mid-1930's. Jews owned 59 of the town's 69 stores and a few merchants were engaged in the grain, flax, and lumber trade. A Jewish public school was opened in 1923. The Zionists with their youth movements were the dominant force in the community, sending a few dozen pioneers to Palestine.

Under the nationalistic Ulmanis regime (from 1934), anti-Semitism began to manifest itself publicly, and Jewish businesses were undermined by government support of the peasant cooperatives.

Russian rule (1940-41) brought nationalization of Jewish enterprises.

The Germans arrived around the end of June 1941. A number of Jewish families managed to flee to the Soviet Union. The rest were killed with the cooperation of Latvian collaborators.

**CURRENT STATE:** The site is owned by local municipality. Some restoration has been undertaken. The overall condition of the site is acceptable.

**FURTHER DETAILS:** Zilupes novada dome - Raina iela 13, Zilupe, LV-5751; +371 65707311; dome@vilaka.





1980  
"The people are not  
the same as before  
they are on  
the way to  
the future"

"MAN AGU PRIENSA  
VSU MCSLEPKAWOTO SEJAR.  
UN LERAS - VSI RAUD."

NO SENAS JAWANG BERTAMBAH  
BETAWA BUKU BUKU AN CUKU  
SOSIAL DAN BUKU A BUKU

"THE FACES OF ALL EXECUTED  
APPEAR BEFORE MY EYES.  
IT SEEMS THEY ARE CRYING."

FROM THE FACE OF THE WHO HAVE GONE  
HERE WITH THE FACES OF THE WHO HAVE GONE

A unique record of the Jewish heritage of Latvia, this publication provides a summary of the current state of Thirty Nine Jewish mass graves in Latvia's Latgale Region.

Produced in co-operation with the Jewish Community of Latvia, and with the support of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference), it presents the results of fieldwork and historical research carried out during the spring and summer months of 2012.

Detailed individual surveys, including a selection of photographs of each site, can be found on the Lo Tishkach Database of European Jewish Burial Grounds (accessible at [www.lo-tishkach.org](http://www.lo-tishkach.org)).



**Lo Tishkach Foundation  
European Jewish Cemeteries Initiative**

Web: [www.lo-tishkach.org](http://www.lo-tishkach.org)

**Project Management & Correspondence Address**

Van Lierusstraat 16, 001  
B-2018 Antwerpen  
Belgium  
Telephone: +32 (0) 3 231 36 98  
E-mail: [data@lo-tishkach.org](mailto:data@lo-tishkach.org)

**Supervising Organisation**

Union of Jewish Organizations of Ukraine  
Schekavitskaya Str. 29, 254071 Kiev, Ukraine  
Office of Chief Rabbi Yaakov Bleich  
Tel: +380 44 463 7085 / Fax: 463 7088  
E-mail: [kievrabbi@yahoo.com](mailto:kievrabbi@yahoo.com)

**Founders**

The Conference of European Rabbis  
87 Hodford Road  
London  
NW11 8NH  
United Kingdom

Established in 2006, the Lo Tishkach Foundation aims to guarantee the effective and lasting preservation and protection of Jewish burial grounds throughout Europe.