

The number of the victims of the Holocaust in the province of Lithuania in the year 1941

According to the K. Jäger report, in the province of Lithuania (with the exception of the biggest cities – Vilnius, Kaunas, Šiauliai, Panevėžys) 65 967 Jews were killed in the year 1941. However, in the Jäger report the data about the murders of Jews in the districts of Kretinga, Mažeikiai, Telšiai, Tauragė, Vilkaviškis (except the 15 of November 1941) and Šiauliai (except the 27 of August in Joniškis and 1941 and the 2 of October 1941 in Žagarė) is not included. There is known, that the murders in the districts which borders on Germany (Kretinga, Tauragė, Mažeikiai, Vilkaviškis and Šakiai) was organized and executed by the brigade of the Gestapo in Tilžė with the aid of local collaborators. The murders of Jews in district of Šiauliai were organized by the 2nd operational brigade of the operational group A. These units of the German's security police and SD were not subordinated to the operational brigade Nb.3 headed by K. Jäger and there was the reason why the statistics about the Jews who were murdered by these units was not included into the K.Jäger report of 1 of December 1941 about the murders of Jews in Lithuania.

A very important documents which helps to define the number of victims of the Holocaust in the province of Lithuania is the unofficial data of the Board of Statistics (1 January 1941) about the national composition of the residents of Lithuania (Lithuanian Central State Archive, documents fund R-743, inventory schedule 5, file 46, 1.172). According to this documents, in the province of Lithuania (except the cities of Vilnius, Kaunas, Šiauliai, Panevėžys) there lived 104 428 Jews (in Lithuania total – 208 437 Jews). Although these statistical data are not very precise, in the author's opinion, they are very near to the reality and the deviation could not be more than 3 - 4 thousand.. Therefore the number of 104 428 is corresponding with the number of Jews who lived in the province of Lithuania on the eve of the Holocaust. The real number must be lower, because on the eve of the Nazi-Soviet war the unknown number of Jews from the province were exiled to Syberia or escaped to the Soviet Union.

Referring to the research of the archival sources and historical literature, the author has settled the approximate numbers of the victims of Holocaust in the districts of Lithuania:

1. District of Alytus – 6165;
2. District of Biržai – approximately 3750;
3. District of Eišiškės – 3446;
4. District of Kėdainiai – 4267;
5. District of Kretinga – approximately – 3900 – 4000;
6. District of Lazdijai – 1690;
7. District of Kaunas – 5082;
8. District of Marijampolė – 6266;
9. District of Mažeikiai – approximately 3000;
10. District of Panevėžys – approximately 3200 (the real number of the murdered Jews must be higher – approximately 5000, because the part of Jews from Panevėžys district were killed together with the Jews from Panevėžys city, but in the Jäger report they were not separated and were noted as the Jews from Panevėžys city);
11. District of Raseiniai – approximately 4725;

12. District of Rokiškis – 4853;
13. District of Šakiai – approximately 1100 – 1200;
14. District of Šiauliai – approximately 4900;
15. District of Švenčionys – approximately 4000;
16. District of Tauragė – approximately 3000 – 5000;
17. District of Telšiai – approximately - 4600 – 4800;
18. District of Trakai – 4319;
19. District of Ukmergė – approximately 7100;
20. District of Utena – approximately – 6200;
21. District of Vilnius – approximately 3904;
22. District of Vilkaviškis – approximately 6200;
23. District of Zarasai – 2800.

Comparing the number of Jews who lived in the province of Lithuania on the eve of Holocaust (104 428) with the approximate number of the murdered Jews in the province (100 867), there is a difference of roughly 4 000 people. There are Jews, which were exiled to the Syberia on the 14 of June 1941, as well as those, which have gone to the Soviet Union, a part of Jewish population from district of Panevėžys, which were ascribed to the murdered Jews from Panevėžys, and those Jews which were rescued by the local people and escaped death. At the current stage of research one could state that approximate number of the victims of Holocaust in the province of Lithuania in the year 1941 is about 100 000 (100 867). This number substantially outreaches the number of victims in the province indicated in the Jäger report (65 967), since in his report was not included the statistics from the districts of Kretinga, Tauragė, Mažeikiai, Telšiai, Šiauliai, Vilkaviškis and Šakiai. Only 4 000 Jews (3,8 %) escaped their death.