

Survey of Jewish History and Holocaust-Related Sites in Moldova
Initiated by Stuart Saffer, JDC Country Director for Moldova and Ukraine, in 2004.
Donated to CJA in 2021.

Memorial complex to those who were killed by Nazi in Dubossary

Type of site:

Killing Site
Burial Site

Briefly describe the significance of the site:

In the beginning of September 1941 by order of commandant V. Keller local population from the nearest villages – Lunga, Magal, Korjevo, Bolishoi Fontan and Jews from city ghetto started to dig holes (14 meters length and 4 meters depth). These holes were meant for killed Jewish population. Nazi said that the holes were meant for potatoes and for the confirmation of this they ordered to put straw on a bottom of the holes. Chief of a police Vitez, engineer Polyakov and others under the direction of commandant Keller run the works.

Jewish men said that they dug graves for themselves.

Eyewitness, local resident Petr Ignatiev remembering those events said: «... at first people believe, then something frightful began, ... nearly whole September of 1941 Jews by groups 10 – 20 people were undressed to underwear, and urged along from tobacco factory to the prepared holes... But before the execution people Nazi take off all valuable. After this Nazi forced them to their knees, and by command of the chief, shoot ...»

Execution continued during 4 – 5 hours every day. When a hole was full of killed people it was buried and was protected for some days, in order no one could creep out, as there were alive people.

So 18000 Jews were killed.

Site designated as:

protected site
historic site
landmark

Size of site: 400 m * 150 m

Various components or inter-related areas of site (such as camp and killing site; ghetto and cemetery:

There was a ghetto in 300 meters from the killing site

Deliberate changes to the site since the Holocaust such as: new roads, buildings, landscaping, etc.

After the Second World War there was a waste in this place, overgrown with shrubs, then all 11 graves were enclosed by border. Dimension of every grave is 14*7 meters and depth is 4 meter.

Address of the object: Dubossary, st. Zoi Kosmodemyanskaya 13

Date of established: 1989

Financing of operations on memorial:

Government administration, local non-Jewish donors, Jewish Communities of USA and Israel

Design by: Semion Shoihet

The inscriptions are:

russian – «На этом месте покоятся мирные Советские граждане, расстрелянные фашистами в годы Великой Отечественной Войны»

moldavian – «Аич зак четэцень Советичь пашнич ынпушкаць де фасчишь ын аний Марелуй Рэзбой пентру апэраря Патрией»

English translation: “On this place peaceful Soviet citizens lie, killed by Nazi during the Second World War”

The site and monument cared for today:

Annually land improvement works are carried out activity on the site

Suggestions/Recommendations for further intervention at the:

Leaders of community want to change the monument, because it was established in Soviet time and it doesn't correspond the spirit of the memorial. A project of the new monument is made from gypsum, but community hasn't financial for its establishing.

Bibliography:

- “The tragedy in Dubossary, September 1941. Documentary story”, A.M. Moskalev (Veksler), Dubossary 1999
- “Light the candle in the day of victory...”, Michael Becker, Kishinev 2002