

LESSON PLAN

1. Title

The Fate of the Possert Family and the Volksdeutsche in Djakovo and Slavonia During and Immediately After World War II

2. Subject / Topic

History – Experiences of the Volksdeutsche (Folksdojčeri) in Slavonia during WWII and in the early post-war period (property confiscation, internment, social stigma).

3. Target Group

Secondary school students (suitable for students aged 14–18).

4. Duration

45 minutes

5. Guiding Question

How can personal documents and photographs of one family's story (covering both World War II and its aftermath) help us understand the broader historical context of minority groups in Yugoslavia?

6. Introduction for the Teacher

The lesson script is intended for students aged between 14 and 18. The subject matter discussed can be used in interdisciplinary classes in history, culture, media education, and social sciences. The material has been divided into three parts:

1. The Lesson Scenario

- A structured plan of activities that guides teachers on how to introduce and develop the topic, engage students in discussion, and lead them toward a deeper understanding of both the personal narrative and its broader historical context.

2. A Set of Source Materials

- Photographs (e.g., apprenticeship scenes, wedding images, family portraits) and key documents (baptismal and marriage certificates, ID cards, handwritten statements, official decrees) that illustrate the story of the Possert family and the experiences of the Volksdeutsche during and immediately after World War II.

3. A Worksheet of Exercises

- Targeted tasks to be done either in a group or individually. These exercises help students analyze and interpret the source materials, reflect on the significance of personal narratives in understanding history, and build critical-thinking skills across multiple subject areas.

This approach encourages students to explore the interplay between personal testimony and official historical records, fostering empathy and a nuanced view of historical events.

6. Learning Objectives / Aims

• Knowledge and Understanding

- Students learn about who the Volksdeutsche (Folksdojčeri) were, including their wartime context and their position in Slavonia after World War II.
- Students understand the specific case of the Possert family (from Djakovo) and how it reflects the broader fate of the German minority during WWII and in the immediate post-war period.

• Skills

- Students develop the ability to analyze and interpret historical sources (photographs, official documents).
- Students practice critical thinking regarding the credibility and importance of personal testimonies in historical research.

• Values and Attitudes

- Students cultivate empathy for those who suffered wartime and post-war hardships.

- Students learn to respect minority experiences and appreciate the complexity of historical events and transitions.

7. Teaching methods

- Short interactive lecture
- Photograph analysis (visual analysis)
- Inquiry-based work with primary sources (documents)
- Group work and collaboration
- Teacher-led discussion / whole-class debate
- Critical thinking and reflection
- Short written assignment / essay (formative assessment)
- Exhibition corner (optional)

8. Materials and Resources

1. Photographs of the Possert Family

- Portrait of Martin Possert in his youth.
- Photo of Martin Possert during his shoemaking apprenticeship (group photo in a workshop).
- Wedding photo of Martin and Julijana (1927).
- Family photo of Martin, Julijana, daughter Rozalija, and son Josip.

2. Documents

- Baptismal certificates for Martin, Julijana, Rozalija, and Josip Possert.
- Marriage certificate of Martin and Julijana Possert (1927).
- Josip Possert's report cards from the German Civil School in Đakovo.
- Personal ID cards of Martin, Julijana, and Rozalija issued on April 30, 1945.
- A 1947 decree declaring Martin Possert a free citizen of the FNRJ (after internment).

- A handwritten statement by Martin Possert describing the family's escape from the Velika Pisanica camp in 1945, their work on local farms, his non-membership in enemy organizations, and collaboration with partisans.

3. Support Tools

- Board or projector for displaying photos/documents.
- Printed copies of documents for small-group analysis.

9. Lesson Summary (Overview)

In this lesson, students will use original family photographs and documents to explore the experiences of a Volksdeutsche family in Đakovo, both during World War II and in its immediate aftermath. By examining the fate of the Possert family, learners will connect personal narratives to the broader contexts of war, internment camps, forced labor, property confiscation, and shifting societal perceptions of German minorities in Yugoslavia. The lesson ends with a discussion on the significance of personal sources in understanding history.

10. Step-by-Step Lesson Activities

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

- **Motivation and Context**

- Teacher's opening statement:

"Today, we will look at authentic documents and photographs to discover the story of the Possert family from Đakovo, a German minority (Volksdeutsche) family, in order to understand the challenges they faced both during World War II and immediately after its end."

- Emphasize how personal photographs and documents can shed light on everyday realities not always captured in general historical summaries.

2. Presentation of Photographs (10 minutes)

1. Viewing and Observing

- Display (project or circulate) the photographs: Martin as a shoemaker's apprentice, wedding photo, family portrait, etc.

- Guiding questions:
 - “What does this workshop scene reveal about wartime or pre-war occupations and living conditions?”
 - “What might the wedding or family photos indicate about social customs before the war?”

2. Brief Discussion

- Encourage students to infer how these images capture the family’s social status, daily life, and potential changes during the WWII era and right after.

3. Analysis of Documents and Historical Context (15 minutes)

1. Group Work (3–4 students per group)

- Each group reviews a set of document copies (IDs, baptismal/marriage certificates, the 1947 decree, Martin’s handwritten statement, etc.).
- Students note key points, such as:
 - Timeline of events from WWII through the post-war period.
 - Martin Possert’s need to justify himself regarding his role during the war.
 - Property confiscation, internment, or forced labor experiences.

2. Connecting to the Broader Context

- The teacher explains the position of Volksdeutsche in Yugoslavia: suspicion or hostility during WWII, confiscations, and internment immediately afterward.
- Students compile a brief chronology of the Possert family’s wartime and post-war experiences, comparing it with general knowledge about German minorities in this period.

4. Discussion and Comparison (10 minutes)

1. Group Presentations

- Each group shares (2–3 minutes) what they discovered:

- Crucial details (dates, official stamps, statements).
- Emotional inferences (fear, relief, uncertainty).
- How the Possert story illustrates or diverges from the broader Volksdeutsche experience.

2. Whole-Class Debate

- Possible teacher questions:

“What factors made the Volksdeutsche vulnerable during WWII and after the war? How did the broader conflict affect families like the Posserts?”

“Why is it important to supplement official historical records with personal documents and testimonies?”

5. Conclusion (5 minutes)

- **Summarizing Key Points**
 - Reiterate how personal sources (photographs, documents) offer deeper insight into wartime and post-war transitions.
 - Emphasize the hardships endured by the Possert family (loss of property, internment, escape).
 - Remind students of the complexity of minority experiences both during WWII and the immediate post-war period.
- **Reflection and Evaluation**
 - Encourage students to consider: “What have we learned about the significance of first-hand accounts in shaping our understanding of war and its aftermath?”
 - A short essay or reflection could be assigned, focusing on how the family documents altered the students’ perspective on wartime/post-war history.

11. Assessment / Evaluation

- **During Discussion**

- The teacher observes student engagement, document interpretation skills, and question-asking.
- **Short Written Task**
 - Students write a brief response on how the photos and documents of the Possert family shaped their view of wartime and immediate post-war events.

12. Possible Follow-Up / Homework

1. Explore Family Archives

- Encourage students to ask relatives about any WWII/post-war documents, photographs, or stories they might have.

2. Mini Exhibition

- If feasible, create a small classroom display to showcase the photos and key documents with captions (mindful of careful handling and privacy).

13. Notes and Recommendations

- Stress the importance of empathy and understanding the varied experiences of individuals during major historical turning points.
- Reinforce that personal stories often fill gaps or correct oversimplifications in official narratives, particularly for wartime and immediate post-war periods.

14. Keywords

Volksdeutsche / Folksdojčeri, Djakovo, Slavonia, World War II, Post-war Yugoslavia, Minority rights, Internment camps, Property confiscation, Personal documents, Family photographs, Primary sources, Martin, Julijana, Josip, and Rozalija Possert, Collaboration / Resistance, Historical context, Critical thinking, Empathy / Understanding

15. A Set of Source Materials

1. Photographs



A photograph of Martin Possert in his youth.



A photograph of Martin Possert as a shoemaking apprentice (first on the right).



A photograph from the wedding of Julijana and Martin Possert (1927).



A photograph of the Possert family: Martin, Julijana, Rozalija, and Josip.

2. Documents

Br. 889/945
Nr. 889/945

D. F. Jugoslavija
Nezavisna Država Hrvatska
Status independens Croatiae
Biskupija: Bosansko-Srijemska
Dioecesis Bosniensis et Sirmiensis

KRSTNI LIST
Testimonium Baptismi.

U Matici KRSTENIH rimokatol. župe sv. *Ime Svetih* u *Đakovu*
svezak *VII* strana *535* broj *389* ubilježeno je ovo:

In libro BAPTIZATORUM rom. cath. parociae S. in
tom. pag. Nr. inscriptum est:

Godine: *Trinajdesetstotinapete* 1905 rođen :
Anno:
mjeseca: *prosinca* dana *sedmoj* 7. XII. na
mense: die
a godine: 1905 dana *8. prosinca* kršten je:
anno vero: die baptizat est:

Ime krštenika: Nomen baptizati:	<i>Martin</i>	
Zakonit ili nezakonit: Legitimus vel illegitimus:	<i>zakonit</i>	
Roditelja, ime, prezime, stališ: Parentum nomen, cognomen, conditio:	oca (patris): <i>Jakob Possert, nadničar</i>	majke (matris): <i>Eva Feder</i>
Vjera: Religio:	<i>kat.</i>	<i>kat.</i>
Prebivalište: Locus domicilii:	<i>Viškovci</i>	
Kumova ime, prezime, stališ i vjera: Patrinorum nomen, cogn., conditio et religio	<i>Martin Federer, nadničar iz Viškova, kat.</i>	
Krstitelj ime, prezime i služba: Baptizantis nomen, cognomen et officium:	<i>Luško Cepelić, vadi. Fugm. b.</i>	
OPASKE: OBSERVATIONES.	<i>Upućen 13. XII. 1927 sa Julijanom Eberhardt</i>	

Tisak i naklada Bisk. tiskare Đakovo.

Da se ovaj izvadak iz gore spomenute matice krštenih s tom maticom posve slaže, potpisani svjedoči vlastoručnim potpisom i župskim pečatom.
Extractum hunc e supradicto libro baptizatorum cum eodem libro concordare, infrascriptus testatur propriae manus subscriptione et appensione sigilli parocialis.

U *Đakovu* dana *17* mjeseca *rujna* godine 19*45*
Datum anno
L. Vukobrat

SVETI SVETI
U ĐAKOVU

Baptismal certificate of Martin Possert.

Br. 887/945
Nr.

KRSTNI LIST
Testimonium Baptismi.

D. F. Jugoslavija
Nezavisna Država Hrvatska
Status independentis Croatiae
Biskupija: Bosansko-Srijemska
Dioecesis Bosniensis et Sirmiensis



U Matici KRSTENIH rimokatol. župe sv.

sv. Petel

Đakovo

svezak VIII. strana 47. broj 58. ubilježeno je ovo:

In libro BAPTIZATORUM rom. cath. parociae S.

toni pag. Nr. inscriptum est:

Godine:

Trinaeststotina osma

1908

rodjena :

mjeseca :

veljače

dana

šestnaestoga

16. II

na

mense :

a godine :

1908

dana

16. veljače

krštena je :

anno vero :

die

baptizat est :

Ime krštenika: Nomen baptizati:	Julijana	
Zakonit ili nezakonit: Legitimus vel illegitimus:	zakonita	
Roditelja, ime, prezime, stališ: Parentum nomen, cognomen, conditio:	oca (patris): Stjepan Eberhardt, ratar	majke (matris): Eva Detel
Vjera: Religio:	kat.	kat.
Prebivalište: Locus domicilii:	Đakovo kbr. 409.	
Kumova ime, prezime, stališ i vjera: Patrinorum nomen, cogn., conditio et religio	Terezija Kurz, žena Ivana Franzema, posniša krovova, kat.	
Krstitelja ime, prezime i služba: Baptizantis nomen, cognomen et officium:	Lilko Lepelić, vodj. župnik	
OPASKE: OBSERVATIONES.	Vještina 13. 11. 1927 sa kumom Possert	

Tisak i naklada Bisk. tiskare Đakovo.

Da se ovaj izvadak iz gore spomenute matice krštenih s tom maticom posve slaže, potpisani
svjedoči vlastoručnim potpisom i župskim pečatom.

Extractum hunc e supradicto libro baptizatorum cum eodem libro concordare, infrascriptus testatur propriae
manus subscriptione et appensione sigilli parocialis.

U

Datum

Đakovo

dana 17. mjeseca
mense

lipnja

godine
anno

1945



L. Vihor
kapelan

Baptismal certificate of Julijana Possert.

Br.
Nr.

688/1910



KRSNI LIST

Testimonium Baptismi.

Kraljevina: Jugoslavija.
Regnum: Jugoslavia.

Biskupija: Bosansko-Srijemska.
Dioecesis Bosniensis et Sirmiensis.

U Matici KRSTENIH rimokatol. župe sv.

Sv. Svetih

Djarkov

svezak IX strana 194 broj 218 ubilježeno je ovo:

In libro BAPTIZATORUM rom. cath. paroeciae S. in

tom. pag. Nr. Inscriptum est:

Godine:

Anno:

mjeseca:

mense:

hiljadu devetsto dvadeset osme 1928

rođena :

listopada dana dvadeset šestoga 26. X.

na

a godine:

anno vero:

1928

dana

die

27. listopada

krštena je:

baptizat est:

Ime krštenika: Nomen baptizati:	Rozalija	
Zakonit ili nezakonit: Legitimus vel illegitimus:	zakonita	
Roditelj, ime, prezime, stališ: Parentum nomen, cognomen, conditio:	oca (patris): Martin Possert, postlat	majke (matris): Jula Eberhardt
Vjera: Religio:	- rim	
Prebivalište: Locus domicilii:	Djarkovo	
Kumova ime, prezime, stališ i vjera: Patrinorum nomen, cogn., conditio et religio	Rosa Kurtz, žena Nikole Gerlach-a, nadučar, rkt	
Krstitelja ime, prezime i služba: Baptizantis nomen, cognomen et officium:	Mato Kretović, Kapelan	
OPASKE: OBSERVATIONES:	Knjizovna G. N. 1928.	

Tisak i naklada Bisk. tiskare Đakovo.

Da se ovaj izvadak iz gore spomenute matice krštenih s tom maticom posve slaže, potpisani svjedoči vlastoručnim potpisom i župskim pečatom.

Extractum hunc e supradicto libro baptizatorum cum eodem libro concordare, infrascriptus testatur propriae manus subscriptione et appensione sigilli parocialis.

U

Datum

Djarkov

dana

die

26.

mjeseca

mense

lipnja

godine

anno

1920



Jeles

Baptismal certificate of Rozalija Possert.

Br. 1780/1942
Nr.

KRSNI LIST

Testimonium Baptismi.

Nezavisna Država Hrvatska
Status independens Croatiae
Biskupija: Bosansko-Srijemska.
Dioecesis Bosniensis et Sirmiensis.

U Matici KRŠTENIH rimokatol. župe sv. *Brh. Svetih* u *Djakovu*
svezak *18* strana *283* broj *65* ubilježeno je ovo:

In libro BAPTIZATORUM rom. cath. parociae S. In
tom. pag. Nr. inscriptum est:

Godine: *Trinaest deset godina i prve* *1931.* rođen :
Anno : *rujna* dana *obrupova* *21/III.* na
mjeseca : *rujna* die *obrupova* *21/III.*
mense :
a godine: *1931.* dana *3 rujna* kršten je:
anno vero : *1931.* die *3 rujna* baptizat est :

Ime krštenika: Nomen baptizati:	<i>Josip,</i>	
Zakonit ili nezakonit: Legitimus vel illegitimus:	<i>zakonit</i>	
Roditelja, ime, prezime, stališ: Parentum nomen, cognomen, conditio:	oca (patris): <i>Martin Posert,</i> <i>postolar,</i> <i>i</i>	majke (matris): <i>Julijana Elberhardt,</i>
Vjera: Religio:	<i>kat.</i>	
Prebivalište: Locus domicilii:	<i>Djakovo</i>	
Kumova ime, prezime, stališ i vjera: Patrinorum nomen, cogn., conditio et religio	<i>Ivrsija Kurtz, udova Josipa Kirchmayer, ratara,</i> <i>kat.</i>	
Krstitelja ime, prezime i služba: Baptizantis nomen, cognomen et officium:	<i>Mato Kretović, kapelan</i>	
OPASKE: OBSERVATIONES.		

Tisak i naklada Bisk. tiskare Đakovo.

Da se ovaj izvadak iz gore spomenute matice krštenih s tom maticom posve slaže, potpisani
svjedoči vlastoručnim potpisom i župskim pečatom.

Extractum hunc e supradicto libro baptizatorum cum eodem libro concordare, infrascriptus testatur propriae
manus subscriptione et appensione sigilli parocialis.

U *Djakovo* dana *10* mjeseca *rujna* godine *1932*
Datum die mensis anno



Nikola Horvat,
kapelan

Baptismal certificate of Josip Possert.

D. F. Jugoslavija
Nezavisna Država Hrvatska
Status independent Croatiae

Br. 885/945
Nr.

Vjenčani list

Testimonium matrimonii

U matici VJENČANIH rimokat. župe sv.

svezak V. strana 261 broj 77. ubilježeno je ovo:

In libro MATRIMONIORUM rom. cath. Paroeciae S.

tom. pag. Nr. inscriptum est:

Godine:

Anno:

mjeseca:

mense:

Trinaeststoletinadvaidesetdeset

1927

studenoga

dana

die

trinaestoga

13. XI.

Vjenčani su:

Copulati sunt:

Ime, prezime i stališ:		Zaručnika: — Sponsi:	Zaručnice: — Sponsae:
Nomen, cognomen et conditio:		Martin Possert, patolar	Julijana Eberhardt
Mjesto rođenja:	nativitatis:	Viškovo	Dakovo
	prebivališta:	Dakovo	
Vjera: — Religio:		skt.	skt.
Doba života:		7. XII. 1905	16. II. 1908
Anni aetatis:			
Mladenci ili udovci:		mladić	djevojka
Status coelebs vel viduus:			
Roditelja ime, prezime, vjera i stališ:		Jakob Possert, nadučar Eva Fieder, skt.	Stjepan Eberhardt, ratar Eva Detel, skt.
Parentum nomen, cognomen, religio et conditio:			
Svjedoka ime, prezime, vjera i stališ:		Martin Federer, ratar Đuro Novek, kupačar iz Dakova	OPASKE: — OBSERVATIONES:
Testium nomen, cognomen, religio et conditio:			
Ime, prezime i služba onoga, koji ih je vjenčao:		po delegaciji: Ivan Lečkar, prebendar	
Copulantis nomen, cognomen et officium:			
Navješteni? Podieljen oprost od navještaja ili od zapreke?		30/X 1.6/XI.	
Num promulgati? Num in bannis et aliquo impedimento dispensati?		Triput bez zapreke	

Tisak i naklada Biskupijske tiskare u Djakovu

U

Datum

Dakovo

dana

die

17

SVI SVETI

DJAKOVU

mjeseca

rujna

godine

anno

1945

L. Vrhovnj
kapelan

Marriage certificate of Julijana and Martin Possert.

UNABHÄNGIGER STAAT KROATIEN NEZAVISNA DR.

Deutsche Bürgerschule in Djakovo
Njemačka građanska škola u

Zahl: 11. 1943/44.
Broj:

AUSWEIS IZ VJEŠĆE

Possert Josef aus Djakovo
in u St. Kroatien iz rkth.
u Glaubesbekenntnis Schüler
vjere učeni k
des zweiten Jahrganges, ist für das erste Halbjahr des Schuljahres 1943/44 folgendermassen geprüft:
drugog razreda, ocjenjen je za prvo polugodište škol. god. ovako:

Leibeserziehung — Tjelesni odgoj	gut (3) dobar	lobenswert (2) pohvalan
Deutsch — Njemački jezik	gut (3) dobar	
Kroatisch — Hrvatski jezik	gut (3) dobar	
Italienisch — Talijanski jezik	—	
Geschichte — Poviest	sehr gut (2) vrlo dobar	
Erdkunde — Zemljopis	gut (3) dobar	
Musik — Glasba	sehr gut (2) vrlo dobar	
Lebenskunde und Gartenbau — Biologija i vrtljarstvo	vorzüglich (4) izvrsno	
Naturlehre — Prirodopis	gut (3) dobar	
Rechnen und Raumlehre — Matematika i Geometrija	gut (3) dobar	
Zeichnen — Crtanje	sehr gut (2) vrlo dobar	Führung u. Mitarbeit Vladanje i suradnja
Werken (Jungen), Handarbeit (Mädel) — Ručni rad	—	
Hauswerk — Kućanstvo	—	
Religionslehre — Vjeronauk <u>Schreiben - Pisanje</u> <u>Kurzschrift - Brzopis</u>	gut (3) dobar	Ausgeblieben Izostao

In Djakovo, am 31. Januar 1944.
U dne

Der Anstaltsleiter — Upravitelj:

Der Klassenvorstand: — Razrednik:

Noten für den Erfolg: — Ocjene za uspjeh u nauci: vorzüglich - izvrsno (1), sehr gut - vrlo dobar (2), gut - dobar (3), genügend - dovoljan (4), ungenügend - nedovoljan (5).
Für Führung und Mitarbeit: — Za vladanje i suradnja: musterhaft - uzorno (1), lobenswert - pohvalno (2), gut - dobro (3), nicht befriedigend - slabo (4).

School certificate of Josip Possert from the German Civil School in Djakovo (school year 1943/44).

Broj: 336/III 194. 5. 7. 12. 1908



vlastoručni potpis
Robert Martin
 Otisak palca desne ruke


DOZVOLA KRETANJA
 Odobrava se slobodno kretanje po gradu
 za *Robert Martin*
 rođj. *1908* g. u *Biskovici* opć.
Biskovici kotar *Biskovici*
 po zanimanju *postolar* stan
Biskovici ul. br. *gund. kuće* 6

LIČNI OPIS:
 Stas: *srednji* Nos: *pravilan*
 Lice: *okruglo* Kosa: *smeđa*
 Oči: *plave* Brkovi: *podrešeni*
 Zubi: *dobri* Brada: *brzo*
 Usta: *pravilno*
 Osobiti znaci: *nema*

Ova privremena legitimacija vrijedi do opoziva.

SMRT FAŠIZMU-SLOBODA NARODU!
 U *DJAKOVO* dne *30. IV* 194 *5.*
 Za Upravni odjel: *[signature]*

Broj: 335/III 194. 5.



vlastoručni potpis
Robert Julijana
 Otisak palca desne ruke

DOZVOLA KRETANJA
 Odobrava se slobodno kretanje po gradu
 za *Robert Julijana*
 rođj. *1908* g. u *Biskovici* opć.
Biskovici kotar *Biskovici*
 po zanimanju *kućar* stan
Biskovici ul. br. *gund. kuće* 6

LIČNI OPIS:
 Stas: *srednji* Nos: *pravilan*
 Lice: *okruglo* Kosa: *smeđa*
 Oči: *plave* Brkovi: */*
 Zubi: *monoton* Brada: */*
 Usta: *pravilno*
 Osobiti znaci: *nema*

Ova privremena legitimacija vrijedi do opoziva.

SMRT FAŠIZMU-SLOBODA NARODU!
 U *DJAKOVO* dne *30. IV* 194 *5.*
 Za Upravni odjel: *[signature]*

Broj: 334/III 194. 5.



vlastoručni potpis
Robert Rozalija
 Otisak palca desne ruke

DOZVOLA KRETANJA
 Odobrava se slobodno kretanje po gradu
 za *Robert Rozalija*
 rođj. *1908* g. u *Biskovici* opć.
Biskovici kotar *Biskovici*
 po zanimanju *kućar* stan
Biskovici ul. br. *gund. kuće* 6

LIČNI OPIS:
 Stas: *srednji* Nos: *pravilan*
 Lice: *okruglo* Kosa: *smeđa*
 Oči: *plave* Brkovi: */*
 Zubi: *dobri* Brada: */*
 Usta: *pravilno*
 Osobiti znaci: *nema*

Ova privremena legitimacija vrijedi do opoziva.

SMRT FAŠIZMU-SLOBODA NARODU!
 U *DJAKOVO* dne *30. IV* 194 *5.*
 Za Upravni odjel: *[signature]*

Personal ID cards of Martin, Julijana, and Rozalija Posert (issued on April 30, 1945).

Djakovo izjavljam obojek un poslara 19. VIII 1947

Izjava

Posert Martin jakoba i Eva Fider u 1905 g. u Djakovu
 rođen je. Jakoba Pisanice 1945 g. sa familjom
 izašao u okolnim selima Pisanice sa rođaci njima u
 okupacijama se dostao guriti u odjek un poslara,
 kao kultura nije bio, u okupacijama nije
 bio za vrijeme okupacije u Djakovu bio otac nije
 u okupacijama podvornik škole kraće nema
 ni odjek njima, ni osjećam se krivim,
 kao okupacijama suradimo kao sredok mogu
 namesti Jovan Stjepan Vrpolje Kolar Josip Trnava
 Frajt Josip Cerovac Ognjenović Pero Viskovci
 sastojala se to u pravljenju cipela

Sef obloke
 Bogdan

Djakovo 1947

Stranka
 Posert Martin

Transcription of the Statement:

Djakovo, Administrative Department of Internal Affairs, August 19, 1947

Statement

I, Martin Posert, son of Jakoba and Eva Fider, born in 1905 in Djakovo. I escaped from the Pisanica camp in 1945 together with my family. I worked in the surrounding villages of Pisanica. I reported myself, uninvited, to the Department of Internal Affairs. I was not a member of the Kulturbund, nor did I serve in the enemy army. During the occupation, I was in Djakovo. My father is a school caretaker in Viskovci. I have no brothers. My nationality is German, and I do not feel guilty. Since 1943, I have collaborated with the partisans. As witnesses, I can name: Kovač Stjepan from Vrpolje, Kolar Josip from Trnava, Frajt Josip from Cerovac, Ognjenović Pero from Viskovci. Such collaboration consisted of making shoes.

Djakovo, 1947

Ministarstvo Unutarnjih Poslova pri INO-u kotara Djakovo
dne 27.IX. 1947.god.
Broj: 6566/47

O t p u s n i c a

Riješenjem Ministarstva Unutarnjih Poslova broj 51279/47
od 10.rujna 1947.godine izdaje vam se ova otpusnica Posert Martinu
postolaru iz Djakova, koji je dosad bio logorisan kao pripadnik njemačke ma-
njine, te se od danas smatra slobodnim građaninom. FNRJ.-

Smrt fašizmu Sloboda Narodu!

Šef otprilice
Vujić Slavko

Transcription of the Release Document:

Department of Internal Affairs at the INO of the District of Djakovo

September 27, 1947

No.: 6566/47

Release Document

By decision of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, No. 51279/47 of September 10, 1947, this release document is issued to Martin Posert, a shoemaker from Djakovo, who had been interned until now as a member of the German minority. As of today, he is considered a free citizen of the FNRJ.

Death to fascism, freedom to the people!

Head of the Department:

Slavko Vujić

Worksheet: Photographic Analysis

1. Look at the following photographs:

- Portrait of Martin Possert in his youth.
- Photo of Martin Possert during his shoemaking apprenticeship (group photo in a workshop).
- Wedding photo of Martin and Julijana (1927).
- Family photo of Martin, Julijana, daughter Rozalija, and son Josip.

2. Write down or discuss in a group:

- Clothing and apparent social status (e.g., is the clothing formal, work attire, etc.?).
- Facial expressions or posture. What might these tell us about the mood or relationships?
- Possible time period cues (e.g., pre-war or wartime context).
- Any clues that show a transition or disruption due to the war.

3. Interpretation questions:

- How does analyzing a single photograph help us understand broader historical events?
- What might be missing from a photograph that other sources (documents, diaries, testimonies) could reveal?

Worksheet: Document Analysis

Exploring Identity and Family Background

Documents to use:

- Baptismal certificates (Martin, Julijana, Rozalija, Josip)
- Marriage certificate (1927)

1. Genealogy and Family Tree

- Examine the baptismal certificates to find each person's name, parents' names, and relevant dates (birth, baptism).
- Look at the marriage certificate of Martin and Julijana (1927). From these details, try to construct a basic family tree.
- Reflection Questions:
 - Which details in these documents confirm family relationships?
 - How might these records also reflect the cultural or religious practices of the period?

2. Cultural and Religious Significance

- Discuss with your group: "Why might baptismal and marriage certificates be especially important in historical research?"
- Consider how religion may have played a role in the social identity of the Possert family.

Worksheet: Document Analysis

Social Context in Education

Document to use:

- School certificate of Josip Possert from the German Civil School in Đakovo (1943/44)

1. Reading the certificate

- Identify the subjects taught, grades received (if visible), the language of instruction, and any official stamps or signatures.
- What does the existence of a “German Civil School” in Đakovo suggest about the presence or status of the German minority (Volksdeutsche)?
- How might attending a German-language school influence one’s experiences or opportunities during and after WWII?

2. Education and war

- Reflect on the date: 1943/44 was near the end of WWII.
- Discussion Questions:
 - How might wartime disruptions have affected schooling?
 - What challenges could a student like Josip have faced in terms of continuing or completing his education during the conflict?

Worksheet: Document Analysis

Identity Documentation in Wartime

Documents to use:

- Personal ID cards of Martin, Julijana, and Rozalija Possert (issued April 30, 1945)

1. Document analysis

- Inspect the dates, locations, authorities issuing the ID cards, and any specific notations regarding citizenship or nationality.
- Notice the timing: April 30, 1945, just before the end of WWII in Europe.
- Group Discussion:
 - What might the issuance of ID cards at this particular moment in history signify?
 - How could these documents impact the family's status or safety?

2. Connection to the Timeline

- Compare these dates to other events you've learned about (such as Martin's statement and the release decree).
- Ask yourselves: "Why are these ID cards critical for understanding the family's legal situation or movements just as WWII was ending?"

Worksheet: Timeline Construction

1. Place Events in Order

- Using the information from various source materials (IDs issued in April 1945, the statement from August 19, 1947, and the release document from September 27, 1947), create a brief timeline of key events for the Possert family:
 - Fleeing from the camp
 - Issuance of personal ID cards
 - Martin's statement in Djakovo
 - Release document / becoming a free citizen

2. Critical Thinking:

- What does the sequence of these documents reveal about the Possert family's changing status?
- Compare this to how quickly or slowly official processes sometimes move in times of conflict or post-war reconstruction.

Worksheet: Document Analysis

- **Look at the transcript of Martin Possert's statement (dated August 19, 1947). Identify the following details:**
 - Year of his birth and place of origin.
 - Reason he fled and where he fled from.
 - Evidence he provides to claim he was not part of the enemy forces.
 - Names of witnesses he cites, and what kind of collaboration he mentions.

- **Interpretation questions:**
 - Why might Martin Possert have needed to write this statement?
 - How does this document give insight into the position of the German minority (Volksdeutsche) in post-war Yugoslavia?

- **Short Written Reflection (2–3 sentences):**
 - Based on this statement, what challenges do you think families like the Posserts faced immediately after WWII?