

Two Pre-Holocaust Photographs of Micháleshik

Annotation by Ruth C. Clarke

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World War I German Postcard photograph of St. Michael the Archangel Church at Micháleshik.

Provenance: michaliszki.blogspot.com/2007-02-01-archive.html (2024).

The World War I German front was close to Micháleshik and German soldiers delighted in sending postcard images of the region home to their friends and family.



Spring Thaw at Micháleshik

Provenance Unknown.¹ Sometime after World War I and before the end of June 1944.

As no bridge existed at Micháleshik until after World War (prior to that time, crossing the river Vileyka at Micháleshik was accomplished by a cable ferry on dragropes), this photograph, showing the bridge at Micháleshik is thought to have been taken between 1920 and 1930. It is unclear whether the bridge was constructed under Soviet or Polish rule.

This bridge was destroyed by Nazi forces as they retreated from Micháleshik in the face of the advancing Soviet Army in late June 1944. Following the liberation of Micháleshik, Urke Blocher was *the highway engineer involved in building bridges on the Polotsk highway between Naroch and Vilne, including the large bridge in Michalishik over the Viliya* [from *My Work for the Stalin's State After Liberation*, pp. 1-2].

¹ This Yizkor Book project will be pleased to appropriately acknowledge the provenance of this photograph if identified.