

**BERCU GOLDFAIN**  
**BORN 191**  
**IASI, ROMANIA**

Bercu Goldfain was born 1911 in Iasi, Romania, a small town near the border with the Soviet Union, where about one-half of the population was Jewish. He comes from a poor family, and both of his parents worked as tailors. There were four children in the family who lived in a poor Jewish district. They were very observant, spoke only Yiddish and his mother was illiterate. There were also well-to-do Jews who lived at the center of the town and generally tried to help the poor Jews of the community. He went to a Jewish school where he was given meals. There also was a Yiddish theater in the town.

Antisemitism in the town was started by University professors and became violent after the German occupation in 1941. There was a massacre prepared by the German army; non-Jewish homes were protected against the mob by special markings. Jews were taken to the police headquarters and many were shot right there. The remaining Jews were taken to the railroad station, severely beaten and taken away in crammed cattle cars. It was in July and extremely hot. Many died on the train which stopped occasionally to remove the dead including his father and one brother. He was unconscious and thought to be dead. When he was thrown into a grave, it was noted that he was still alive and he was taken back to the train. They went to a camp where about 12000 Jews of Iasi died.

After some time at forced labor, he was sent back to Iasi where the Jews had to wear a yellow star and suffered severe restrictions. He was forced to sweep streets. There were lots of beatings and abuses, schools were not allowed and radios were confiscated. Letters to Jews were checked and often not delivered. He survived the war and shows two documents to prove that he was on the "death train" and in the camps. His mother survived and died two years after the war. A sister and a brother also survived and went to Israel. Of his other relatives, only some survived. He does not know about any other survivors from his hometown.

He emphasizes that events were even worse than he could tell and that the story of Iasi is not well known. It is important that people do not forget and he is glad for the opportunity to tell his story.