

RG-50.421.0001

Interview with Ion Caldarar on August 15, 1995 at Cornetu village, Ilfov county

Summary

Ion Caldarar, has seven children, almost all married, grandchildren that are in school. When he was around 10 years old, his family and their whole nation lived in the village of Ghimpeți, Giurgiu county. In 1941 [not sure if 1940, or 1942], by the order of Ion Antonescu all the Romanians had to move to the Bug, in Transnistria. They owned gold coin necklaces, gold, carts, horses, mules, all kind of possessions. Part was taken by the Kolkhoz, part was exchanged for food. Worked at the Kolkhoz, lots of them died, almost three quarters of them, of cold, malnutrition, German bullets and being drowned in the Bug river. They returned in 1944 after several years. Before the war they worked making brass brandy boilers, sold them all over the country. Describes how they were transferred to Transnistria. One day the Police came and gave the order to move. From their village were 10 carts, 200 people. Took with them money, gold and what they could. It took them a month to reach the border at Tighina, until then they were escorted from village to village, by the local Police with the hope they would get tractors and fields. From Tighina they were transferred to Gradiovca, Bolta, Dimonovka, Tighina, each place depending on size 50, 100 or 200 families. They worked at the Kolkhoz, got from them some food, corn, flour, potatoes. Living conditions very bad, sometimes they are 100 families in one stable, sleep on the floor, lots of them died of typhus. Talks about the visit of Queen Maria.

After three years, Romanian soldiers advise them to leave Transnistria to return home to Romania. They left sometime in February by foot. It took them two months to reach Galati. At Galati, the Red Cross took care of them for one week, [gives them clothes, food, washed them up]. From Galati they traveled by train to Bucharest.