

DUBALARU, Dumitru

Moldova Documentation Project

Romanian

RG-50.572\*0007

Box 1, Tape 1

Q: Please tell me your name.

A: Dumitru, Dubalaru Dumitru.

Q: And where were you born and when?

A: I was born in Parcani, here, in this village.

Q: And in what year?

A: '27, but I do not remember what month, but in '27 I was born.

Q: Do you remember if you were here when the war started in 1941?

A: In '41 I was 14 years old and here in Dumbrăveni; it was a Jewish village in **Solhostul** Dumbrăveni; here were Jews, 500 of them, and then Romanians and Germans came, and they ran, poor creatures, and they caught them and they took them in a concentration camp in the center of Russia, and they walked through here on **Volovin** Hill during summer months, in July; the heat was high and it was one person from Parcani, Anton **Baciu**, a Romanian gendarme, he was, and he found this job to take them, to drive them to the concentration camp, to take the Jews in columns, and those poor ones who couldn't walk, they fell down, they were old and tired, and they shot them, and they threw them on the side of the road.

Q: Did you see all this?

A: Well, I was with sheep on the hill, I was, I was grazing the sheep up there; we were three who were grazing sheep... Ionica **Baciu**, Ionica **Valuscov** who died; under this peak, on the edge of Parcani, here was the road.

Q: So you were far from the convoy that passed away? How far?

- A: We were here and the convoy passed 2 meters away. And we were taking water; they, men begged for water; we took a small bucket, but they did not let us give them water; they were chasing us away.
- Q: And you saw how they shot them?
- A: Of course I saw how they were shot, poor creatures. They were shot on the side of the road, and nobody took them and they were bulging; here the woman is a witness, she knows how it was back then. My God, what was back then, mockery; a lot of fortune the Jews had in Dumbrăveni; they were very rich, not like us; they had stores; they had fortunes; they were evacuated, lifted over and their houses remained empty; and ours, poor creatures, left from there... come on, come on, they were taking chairs, tables, come on let's take them, what should we take... and they took (everything?) to one called **Foca Baraghina** from City Hall, where there were Romanian gendarmes and they gave everything (in exchange?) for alcohol, the chair, table, it was war...they gave it for alcohol and they drank.
- Q: And you were saying that the Romanian gendarme Baciu...
- A: Anton **Baciu**.
- Q: That one, did you see him shoot?
- A: Well even that (one?) shot the Jews; from Parcani he was.
- Q: What type of gun did he have, do you remember?
- A: Romanian one, with 5 bullets, how they used to be at that time.
- Q: And the soldiers, did you see the soldiers shoot?
- A: Anton **Baciu** was shooting; the soldiers walked behind, and if someone remained in the back, who remained was shot and left on the verge of the road, poor them.
- Q: And what happened with the dead bodies; what happened with the corpses?
- A: They were buried, they were gathered around and buried, and people could not walk, I am ashamed to tell, because when a man dies, from the heat he bloats, and God forbid...

Q: And who buried them?

A: Our people, they gathered them around and buried them.

Q: People from the village.

A: People from the village, the gravediggers, they could not go, I am ashamed to tell, a man when he stays in the sun, he bloats, a man that dies and stays 2-3 days, he smells heavily, but a man that stays in the front of the sun with his stomach bloated, God forbid, big trouble, we poor people, what we went through.

Q: Thank you very much.

A: How was it? I'm not telling lies, here the woman is present, she is one or two years older than me; she knows how it was.