

BARBASCUMPA, Gheorghe
Moldova Documentation Project
Romanian
RG-50.572*0011

Tape 1

[01:] 00:00:01 – [01:] 00:06:00

Q: Please tell me your name.

A: Gheorghe.

Q: And your family name?

A: Barbascumpa.

Q: In what year were you born?

A: In '27.

Q: Where?

A: Here, in **Bahranesti**.

Q: Here, in **Bahranesti** village. The name of the village needs to be heard.

Tell me, were you here in the village when the war started in 1941?

A: Yes.

Q: What happened when the war started? Do you remember what happened with the Jews?

A: Well yes. Here in Marculesti Germans bombed, here and there, and there were people running. They shot the houses...well...it was terrible. They were running, they went to a bed of reeds. There was a guy who came from the battlefield with all the ammunition. He had an automatic gun, and there he shot the Jews; they were running to the valley in masses and he was mowing them all down.

Q: Did you see all of this?

A: Yes.

Q: And do you recall the name of that guy?

A: Yes, of course.

Q: What was his name?

A: **Ilie Taranul**. He ran from in front; he ran along with the ammunition, home with everything. He came here and he shot those who ran into the valley from the other side. He was mowing them down and they were falling down before they made it to the valley.

Q: And where were you? How far from him were you, when he...?

A: I was right here. He was shooting there, but we were here close to them, not far.

Where we were it was high up and we saw it happen from up there.

Q: And what happened with the corpses?

A: They "petrified" there on the ground, they remained like that.

Q: You do not remember if someone buried them?

A: If this happened, I do not know. They were lying down there, and I do not know if someone gathered up all of the bodies. Then they took the rest of the Jews there and put them in a concentration camp in Marculesti. All of them were put into the

- concentration camp until they were brought to another concentration camp far up to the North Valley. After that I do not know what happened.
- Q: And did you see them in the concentration camp
- A: Hm?
- Q: You saw them in the concentration camp?
- A: Yes, I saw them in the concentration camp.
- Q: Did you see if there were soldiers who guarded them?
- A: Yes.
- Q: Romanians or Germans?
- A: Romanians.
- Q: And you saw them beating or killing someone from the concentration camp?
- A: No, no beating, no. Only that guy made a stupid thing with the machine gun but there were no beatings, no. They were taken to forced labor camps. There were some houses there, and they slept there, and then they were taken to the other side.
- Q: Do you remember what happened to **Ilie Taranul** after the war?
- A: What happened? Yes, of course. After that, after a while, they arrested him and then they took him and put him on trial. He was sentenced to ten years for his crimes, because he shot there, he shot the Jews there.
- Q: Do you know who convicted him?
- A: He was judged in Floresti and then was sent to Siberia. He was not home for ten years. He was away for ten years because he shot people. He was not back home long before he died.
- Q: Do you remember when the Jews were brought by the Romanian soldiers and shot in the valley near Marculesti?
- A: No, no shooting there, none. Only **Ilie Taranul** did that stupid thing, the rest no. They just came and took all Jews to the concentration camp. From there I do not know what they did or where they took them.
- Q: When was the concentration camp built?
- A: Yes, in the years 1941–1944.
- Q: It took long, how long did the concentration camp last?
- A: It lasted about two months, but then it was destroyed because everyone was taken away. After that, it was over, and there was not a concentration camp there anymore.
- Q: Here, in this village, were there many Jewish families?
- A: There were.
- Q: And what happened with them, do you remember?
- A: Nothing happened with them, most of them fled, went to Chisinau or someplace else. There were many here who had their own stores.
- Q: Do you recall the name of one Jewish family from this village?
- A: Yes. I used to remember them all back then. I do not remember now; they were old.
- Q: Can you tell me one more time the name of the person who shot the Jews?
- A: **Ilie, Ilie Taranul, Taranul**, from the **Taranul** family. Everyone knew **Ilie** to be insane.
- Q: What did the people from the village say?

- A: What did they say? They asked why are the Jews being shot? They are also humans and have a soul, but he said no they were not and shot them then soon he was arrested, convicted and sent to Siberia.
- Q: Thank you very much.