

09/25/2006

BABINEȚCHI, Eugenia
Moldova Documentation Project
Romanian
RG-50.572*0028

In this interview, Eugenia Babinețchi, born on August 18, 1931 in the village Pârlița, Bălți district, talks about a convoy of Jews transported by German soldiers that passed through her village. The said convoy came from a concentration camp in the Răuțel forest.

Box 1 of 1

[01:] 00:33:00 – [01:] 08:40:03
00:00 – 08:59

Babinețchi notes that at the beginning of the war she lived in Pârlița, the village she was born in; mentions that before the war approximately three Jewish families lived in the village, all of whom disappeared at the beginning of the war; says that she does not know what exactly happened to these families; notes that they left and she never saw them again; recalls a convoy of Jews passing through the village during the war; mentions that the convoy was led by Germans and that there were both living and deceased Jews in the carriages as well; recalls that many Jews were imprisoned at the Răuțel camp; notes that hundreds of Jews were dying there daily; points out that the Jews in the convoy were hungry and sometimes beaten, some had luggage, clothing and other things they wanted to give to the villagers in exchange for food; mentions that the villagers were not allowed to approach the Jews; notes that she knew the leaders of the convoy were Germans by their language clothing; recalls that the convoy remained at her village for three or four days; comments on the fact that the Jews who were stronger came on foot, next to the carriages and the weaker ones traveled in the carriages; emphasizes again that those leading the carriages were neither Jewish nor local, but German; notes that the Germans were wearing uniforms and briefly describes the uniforms; points out that they were armed and that the convoy was guarded so that the Jews could not flee.

[01:] 08:40:04 – [01:] 15:10:00
09:00 – 15:46

Babinețchi points out that the convoy had come from a concentration camp in Răuțel and that it was heading towards Florești; mentions that the Jews were simple people and that the deceased were among them; remembers personally seeing two dead Jews: a child and an old woman; notes there might have been more as the convoy was very long. She recalls that only some soldiers allowed the Jews to drink from a stream; emphasizes that she did not understand what the Jews were saying, as they were speaking Hebrew amongst themselves, but she adds that the Jews who lived in the village also spoke Romanian; mentions that she tried to feed a Jewish girl, but was not successful because she was caught by a soldier; recalls that the Jews were not allowed to eat, because the soldiers had been given orders to keep them hungry; notes that the Jews' belongings were not taken from them, as many had clothes and gold with them in the carriages and were trying to give the belongings away in exchange for food.

[01:] 15:10:01 – [01:] 21:15:10
15:47 – 22:06

Babinețchi mentions that the convoy stopped in the village in order to rest; adds that the Jews were guarded so as to prevent them from fleeing or hiding in the village; recalls that at night they slept in the carriages and on the ground; notes she did not see any villagers speak with the Jews and repeats that she herself tried to feed a Jewish girl but did not succeed; points out that she did not hear any gun shots throughout the duration of the convoy's stay in the village; mentions that the soldiers only shot a horse and took another one from a villager; notes that she saw the departure of the convoy; remembers that the majority of the people traveled on foot, whereas the elderly and young children sat in the carriages; states that she does not know how many carriages there were, but mentions that the convoy was long and that all these happened in September or October, although she does not remember the exact date.

[01:] 21:15:11 – [01:] 26:48:19
22:07 – 27:52

Babinețchi points out that she did not see other ethnic groups being persecuted and that all the soldiers accompanying the convoy were Germans, she did not hear or see any Romanian soldiers; mentions that she knew from her parents that the people who arrived with the convoy were Jews and comments on the peaceful relationship between villagers and Jews before the war; notes that hundreds of Jews died in the concentration camp in the Răuțel forest; mentions that she herself did not see the camp during the war but she did go there after the war as a "pioneer", after a summer house was built there; adds that she knew about the concentration camp in the forest from her parents' conversations.