

BRĂGUȚĂ, Anastasia
Moldova Documentation Project
Romanian
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In this interview, Anastasia Brăguță, born in 1925 in the village Olănești, Republic of Moldova, talks about the deportation of the Jews and the Roma of her native village and their transportation over the Dniester River. She talks about events she witnessed as a child and things she heard back then during the beginning of World War II.

Tape 1 of 1

[01:] 00:32:20 – [01:] 09:11:16
00:00 – 09:31

Anastasia Brăguță talks about the beginning of World War II; notes that at that time she was a child living in Olănești; remembers when the Jews were crowded to the riverside of Nistru, with children crying and soldiers loading them on cars; describes the place on the riverside of Nistru; recalls how the German soldiers were crowding the Jews into the cars; notes that there were many Jews; says she was a child at that time and was crying with other children while witnessing these things; says there were many Jews in the village; mentions that Olănești was a very poor village and that many of the Jews owned stores and thus were wealthy; talks about a man in the village who hid a Jew and gave him secretly food, but that both of them were captured and never seen again; mentions a Jewish woman who was about to give birth and people around her were screaming that she was in labor; says these people were guarded by the German army with whips and guns; remembers none of the Jews having items with them, as they were confiscated upon capture; recalls many without shoes; does not remember the season, but does remember that it was not that cold; says the Germans loaded the Jews over several days and took them over the Dniester.

[01:] 09:11:17 – [01:] 18:21:14
09:32 – 19:04

Brăguță remembers some of the native Jews of Olănești who were deported by the Germans; lists some of those she knew and says she recognized some on the riverside as they were waiting to be deported; mentions again the fact that the people from the village were poor, but that the Jews who owned shops were wealthy; mentions a Jewish family who managed to escape; does not know what happened with the houses or the belongings of the Jews, but comments that some of the houses belonging to Jews still exist in the village in today.

[01:] 18:21:15 – [01:] 29:00:00
19:05 – 27:57

Brăguță is asked about the man who hid a Jew; comments that she cannot recall the name of the man who hid the Jew; says she heard about this case from other people, she did not witness it; asked whether she saw other cases of violence, murders or if Roma were present in the village, she notes that there were Roma in the village but most of them were mixed-race

and could not speak Romani; notes they were not deported and that some still live in the village today; talks about other Roma who lived in tents, says they were brought to the riverside in order to be deported; says the Roma were deported a few months after the Jews; says that they were also lead by German soldiers; asked if she witnessed or saw other cases of violence in the village, she talks about a case wherein some Russian spies were discovered in the village and were hanged; describes the way they were dressed; asked if there were other cases of people hiding Jews, and responds that there was not.