

ȚURCAN, Gheorghe  
Moldova Documentation Project  
Romanian  
RG -50.572\*0052

Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Gheorghe Țurcan, born in 1931, discusses his life in Inești when the war began there in 1941. He explains that he was 11 during the events he describes in the interview. He focuses on an event that took place there during the war, when Jews were shot in the center of the village and then their dead bodies thrown into a grave. He mentions a case in which a little girl was thrown into the hole alive and had dead bodies thrown on top of her. He also mentions that the houses of the Jewish people were burned down.

**[01:] 00:32:16 – [01:] 04:14:09**

He explains that he was in Inești in 1941, when the war began; says that back then, there were three Jewish families living in Inești; comments that one had a store and that the second had a vineyard in Inești but was living in Telenești; explains that when the Romanians came, they rounded up all of the Jewish people, shot them, and then threw them into a mass grave; comments that the Jews who left with the Russians were saved; talks about the Jewish people in Telenești; says that half of the people living there were Romanians, while the other half were Jews; says Telenești was a large village, with more than a thousand inhabitants; states that he did not see people being shot; describes one incident in which he saw a little girl being taken to a mass grave, get shot at but not shot down, and thrown into the grave alive; describes how his father's wagon was used to carry the dead bodies to the grave; describes how he went behind his father's wagon to see what was happening and saw the dead bodies being taken to the grave; says that it is believed that the Romanians shot them but he does not know for sure; describes how everything was set on fire afterwards.

**[01:] 04:14:10 – [01:] 10:53:02**

He says that his father was forced by the Romanians to carry the dead bodies with his wagon; describes how a gendarme came and took his father and forced him and others to move the corpses with wagons; describes how the wagons went to the center of the village where the dead bodies were; says that the soldiers had shot them and left; describes how the people driving the wagons were the ones loading the bodies into the carts; says that the dead bodies were carried for about 2 kilometers; points out that there were no soldiers accompanying the wagons; describes how when they got to the unloading place, the bodies were thrown away like garbage; comments on the fact that people were made to dig the grave; says that by the time he got there, the grave was almost full; describes the grave and says it was as big as the room he is in (2.5 by 5 meters) and was not deeper than 2 meters; says that it was the only grave.

**[01:] 10:53:03 – [01:] 17:13:11**

Explains that it took around four trips to move the bodies from the center of town to the mass grave; says that all this happened during one day; says that there was a Romanian soldier supervising the work; describes how the bodies had their clothes on when thrown into the grave; says that he did not see the grave being covered and that he did not stay until the end to see if all the bodies were taken to the grave; claims that he did not hear the shots when the Jewish people were being shot; talks about a girl, around 12 years old, who was brought to the grave by a gendarme; says that he saw how she was shot at, but the gendarme did not aim well and she was not hit; describes how the gendarme took her and threw her into the grave alive; comments on how she was screaming in Yiddish or Hebrew, but he could not understand her; says he did not see any other shootings in other places except for this one.

**[01:] 17:13:12 – [01:] 21:57:18**

He describes how the houses of the Jewish people were burnt down; says he saw the flames of the fire all the way from his house; explains that most people believe that it was a Russian who set the houses on fire; describes how the Jewish people were first shot and then had their houses set on fire; describes how the fire lasted for a week and everything was burnt down; says that the soldiers did not stay in town during the war; explains that there were Roma in Telenești back then but most of them were chased back to their countries of origin during the war; says that the Germans wanted to get rid of the Jewish people and that even if they tried to hide, most were still found; says the girl thrown into the grave alive was buried there; says he did not see people throwing soil on top of her but that he saw other dead bodies thrown on top of her; states that he spent around two hours behind his father's wagon but that was it.