

BERBERYAN, Larisa  
Moldova Documentation Project  
Russian  
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Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Larisa Berberyan, born in 1931 and a native of Odessa (in present-day Ukraine), describes her experiences during the German occupation. She does not concentrate on anything specific, rather gives account of her experience with German and Romanian troops in Odessa along with her eye witness accounts of Jewish proceedings in Odessa and two hangings. She also recollects stories about Jewish experiences in and outside Odessa as heard from her family and expresses surprise at the lack of Jewish resistance to the terror.

**[01:] 00:09:23 – [01:] 08:31:00**  
**00:00 – 08:46**

She introduces herself and gives her date and place of birth as June 8, 1931, in Tiraspol; says that before and during World War II she lived in Odessa; remembers the beginning of the war; says there was a city wide air raid on the second day of the war and it was bombarded intensely until the end of September; says the city was abandoned except for domesticated animals and explains where the people relocated; clarifies that Odessa was occupied by Germans on October 16 [1941], explains how she saw their arrival in the city; talks about life under German occupation throughout the fall, about terror; talks about multiple killings, Jewish registration; recalls an incident in which she saw two men hanged in front of a crowd and her impressions; talks about seeing more hangings and the behavior of bystanders.

**[01:] 08:31:01 – [01:] 15:27:22**  
**08:47 – 16:00**

Berberyan says the majority of people avoided going outside and mostly stayed at home; says that Jews were required to register, describes the registration process and says that her neighbors who went to register disappeared; believes that the majority of Jews in Odessa were gathered and murdered this way; gives the names of the two neighbor families: **Walstein** and **Gonoradskiy**; recalls an incident when a woman had an extramarital child from a Jew and someone reported on her; says she was put in jail, but her husband saved both her and the child; says there were around ten Jewish families in her neighborhood before the war, and while most of them evacuated, two remained; says that women and the poor could not afford to flee; describes the Stars of David that Jews were forced to wear on their shoulder, noting its shape and color; comments on the obedience of the Jews, and notes that they did not try to trick the authorities; recalls a time when her father brought home a German newspaper to read to them.

**[01:] 15:27:23 – [01:] 21:55:10**

**16:01 – 22:43**

She continues talking about different kinds of literature and books published in that period; talks about the languages studied in school; says she did not realize at the moment that Jews were being executed; recounts an incident when her uncle accidentally stumbled upon a barrack where there was evidence that Jews were executed there, says he saw paperwork with victims' names on it; says that Communists were not registered but executed on the spot without any trial; in answer to interviewer's question, describes the processing of Jewish victims through the streets, says she did not realize they were being led to execution; explains that all Jews remaining in the city were killed either because they reported for registration or someone reported on them.

**[01:] 21:55:11 – [01:] 30:43:06  
22:44 – 31:53**

She returns to the column of Jews led to execution, elaborates on numbers; says that there are archives with historical materials in Odessa; says that at this period of the war, there were many Germans there, but later only Romanians; describes the Germans and their behavior in Odessa, then describes the Romanians and says they were very friendly and appeared to have been recruited from poor, small villages and easily corrupted; returns to the description of the column, guards, behavior of the victims, their clothing, things they carried, the weather at the time; in answer to a question, says she does not know of any Odessa Jew who survived after the executions except for those who fled; says that the property abandoned by the Jews was partially occupied by the locals during the war and was returned to the Jewish owners upon their return to Odessa; says that according to rumors there were many people burned at grecheskoi ploschad, but did not personally see it.