

ILINITSKAYA, Elena  
Moldova Documentation Project  
Russian  
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Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Elena Ilinitzkaya, born in 1930 and a native of **Erjova** village in the Rybnitsa region of Moldova, talks about persecution of local Jews and life under the Romanian occupation during World War II.

[00:] 00:00:30 – [00:] 00:04:29

She gives her name, **Elena Pavlovna Ilinitzkaya**, and her year and place of birth as 1930 in **Erjova**, in present-day Moldova; discusses how her family was deported to **Ochakovo** in the fall of 1942 and returned to **Erjova** in the spring of 1943; notes that only Ukrainians were expelled and that the Moldovans were allowed to stay; mentions that her family had nine children; describes how they were forced to live in one room of a local house in **Ochakovo**.

[00:] 00:04:30 – [00:] 00:05:29

She explains that there were few Jews in **Erjova**; remembers one family that eventually moved to Palestine.

[00:] 00:05:30 – [00:] 00:10:19

She describes a basement in the local kolkhoz (collective farm) where Jews were being incarcerated during the spring of 1943; mentions that the basement was guarded by Romanian soldiers; explains how her mother sent her and her siblings over to the basement in order to give some food (milk and borscht) to the Jews; talks about seeing how Jews were later put onto large wagons and driven away; mentions that there were men, women, and children among them; explains that on the wagon there were people who were both dead and alive; says that they were escorted by armed Romanians; explains that the rumors were that Jews were taken to the bridge and drowned in the Dniestr River.

[00:] 00:10:20 – [00:] 00:12:39

She talks about two fugitives, a Jewish man, **Yasha**, and a Jewish woman; explains that **Yasha** passed himself off as a relative of the **Ilinitzky** family, stayed at their house, and later went with them to **Ochakovo**; explains that the Jewish woman had escaped from the basement and was hiding in the fields but later disappeared.

[00:] 00:12:40 – [00:] 00:16:39

She returns to the subject of taking food to Jews in the basement; recalls that her family was given 16 kg of corn and 16 kg of wheat after their return to **Erjova**; explains how their cow was seized by

neighbors, how her mother took it back and then had to appear in court in order to keep it; explains how local volunteers served Romanians and Germans, who occupied the empty houses after the expulsion of the Ukrainian families to **Ochakovo**; mentions that they spoke Ukrainian.

**[00:] 00:16:40 – [00:] 00:23:29**

She talks more about the Jews imprisoned in the basement; mentions that Romanians took some of the food for themselves; explains that the basement was large, more than eight by five meters, but overcrowded with people; explains that it smelled terrible; notes her family's poverty and lack of food; believes that her father knew **Yasha** before the war and that he had probably come from Rybnitsa.

**[00:] 00:23:30 – [00:] 00:28:09**

She explains how two local youths—**Ivan Sukuisky**, born in 1925 and **Efim**, born in 1927—were executed for insubordination and exhibiting support for the Soviet Union; mentions seeing **Ivan** being escorted by Romanians to be shot and explains that he was buried near the Dniestr; talks about hearing that **Efim** was killed in the backyard of a local house.

**[00:] 00:28:10 – [00:] 00:30:10**

She returns to discussing the Jews in the basement; estimates that they were taken out for execution in the summer of 1943; mentions that **Yasha** returned to **Erjova** with the **Ilinitkys** but later disappeared.