

SAVITSKAYA, Nadejda
Moldova Documentation Project
Russian
RG-50.572*0076

Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Nadejda Savitskaya, a native of Rashkov, Moldova, talks about her experience during the German invasion of the region in World War II. She focuses on the antisemitic actions of the German and Romanian troops, namely the killings of Jews and also the numerous accounts of rape throughout the occupied region.

[01:] 00:41:20 – [01:] 10:02:05

She talks about the beginning of the German invasion in 1941; recalls her graduation as the night of the beginning of the German invasion; comments on the movement of the troops over the bridge to Dniestr River from Bessarabia; mentions the high position of her father in the town government; recollects her father being instructed to evacuate people from Rashkov, with Jews being the first to be evacuated; refers to **Bashtankov** as the place where her father took her and the rest of the family to escape the invaders; mentions continuous shooting on the way to the settlement; recollects the locals of **Bashtankov** being suspicious of the possibility of her family's Jewish origin and the mistrust coming from the locals; emphasizes the importance of having their German-speaking neighbor fleeing with them in order to gain the trust of the locals and for protecting the family from the Germans and Romanians.

[01:] 10:02:06 – [01:] 20:00:21

She talks about her father bringing the news of **Bashtankov** being surrounded by the enemy; recalls him emphasizing the need to break out of the surrounding ring of troops; remembers herself and one of her sisters, a medical worker, volunteering to go with him; mentions that her father got through and ran away with the Red Army; recollects staying in German-occupied **Bashtankov** for a month without her father and then returning to Romanian-occupied **Razhkov**; describes the number of Jewish inhabitants of prewar **Razhkov** as quite large; emphasizes how there was tolerance among various inhabitants of the town of different ethnicities and beliefs; recalls some Jews having stayed in **Razhkov** despite the evacuation initiated by her father; names among the reasons for that the hastiness of the evacuation process; suggests that further plans the invaders made included destroying the Communists after killing all the Jews; recalls how the remaining Jews of **Razhkov** and other Jews were brought to a sports stadium near her home; talks about being forced by the Romanians to work in the field and raise and collect crops which would later be taken out of town by the enemy.

[01:] 20:00:22 – [01:] 30:02:21

She refers again to the Jews being taken to the stadium and their suffering; recollects her attempts to distract the guards in order to feed the Jews and give them water; talks about adding one year to her actual age to be allowed into the army; recollects saving a Jewish friend of her family's, Aunt **Hannah**, from the Romanian gendarmes and hiding her in their basement; recalls seeing Aunt **Hannah** after the war; describes the basement, or the wine cellar, under the local school building as the place where the Gypsies were kept.

[01:] 30:02:22 – [01:] 40:49:10

She talks about helping the Jews escape from the stadium by digging holes underneath the fence; turns back to Aunt **Hannah's** escape from the gendarmerie and points out that the Jewish woman was hidden in their basement by the end of that day; recalls her 12-year-old sister having been raped in the fall of 1941 by the Romanian gendarmes and that she died soon afterwards; mentions how gendarmes used to look for radio receivers as a reason for raiding her family's home; recalls giving her radio receiver away the night before the rape occurred; remembers listening to the radio and later supplying the latest information in order to print informational war leaflets.

[01:] 40:49:11 – [01:] 48:05:04

She refers to the stadium next to her house again as the place where the Jews were forced to go to; recalls witnessing hundreds of Jews being forced to go there; mentions that there was quite a large number of children present with the Jewish families; comments on the nationality of the convoy officers, mentioning that they were Romanian; talks about the ill-treatment of the Jews by the Romanian gendarmes; admits to not having witnessed any attempts by the Jews to escape from the convoy; remembers that the Jews were not kept in the stadium for long periods of time, only for periods from one to three days; suggests that they were killed regularly; recalls hearing the sounds of gun shots quite frequently.

[0:] 48:05:05 – [01:] 56:26:01

She talks about Romanian soldiers stationed in her house at night when the movement of the troops through the town was taking place; recalls how the soldiers demanded that the villagers cook food for them; remembers her and her sister's fear of being raped; recalls the sudden invasion of partisan troops into the town and thus being saved from being raped by the Romanians; refers again to their German-speaking neighbor as being extremely helpful because her house had a star painted on it, which meant it was protected from the enemy; recounts the story of one of the Jewish women of Razhkov, a school teacher, having become a continuous rape victim of the gendarmes; suggests that she was tortured by them and, as a result, became mentally unstable.