

CÂRHANĂ, Ion
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Romanian
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In this interview, Ion Cârhană, born on January 21, 1921, in the village of Hirova, in Telenești county, Romania (currently part of the Republic of Moldova), describes the shooting of 82 Jews who were brought to his village during World War II. He talks about the role of the villagers in the Jews' shooting and burial. He explains that about 40 people from his village were taken to the forest to bury the Jews who were shot there by four gendarmes and four villagers. Ion and two other men were forced to load the corpses into a cart and take them to the pits. The four villagers who participated in the shooting were later imprisoned during the Soviet era. Most of the Jews' property was stolen by the local peasants.

File 1 of 1

[01:] 00:00:00 – [01:] 32:56:12
00:00 – 32:36

[01:] 00:32:10 – [01:] 03:29:13
00:12 – 03:09

Q: Please tell me your name and surname.

A: Mine?

Q: Yes.

A: Cârhană Ion Federovici.

Q: What year were you born?

A: In 1921. My mother had me on the 21st of January, in the winter.

Q: And where were you born?

A: Here, in Hirova. I lived in the middle of the village—[with] my parents. But I got married. I came [to live] with my woman, here.

Q: A couple of weeks ago, we were at your house and you told us about what you saw, and personally, about what happened to the Jews in your village. So, we have come now and would like to ask you to remember again, in front of the video cameras, and tell us about what you saw back then.

A: To see where?

Q: In Hirova. Did you see what happened with the Jews, back then in [19]41?

A: Yes, oh man, we went to bury them. I picked up all of them. I picked them up by their heads, and one, a boy—but he's already dead—[picked them up] by their feet. And an old man, it was old Petre Halcă, [picked them up] by their backs. We were throwing them onto the cart. The cart belonged to the Jews, but it was taken to the pit by Tănase Purcel. There were three pits—so—and they filled them all with Jews. They filled them all with Jews. And they covered them with soil and branches—brought from the forest—and we finished covering them with branches. The chief told us, "You are free, go home!" We came home and I couldn't sleep anymore. I was very scared because they were all butchered and ripped into pieces [by the bullets]. And we had an old man [in the village] who freed me from the evil spirits; then I could sleep again. I couldn't sleep, I was young back then—I was just—I had children, I had a woman. Women, I buried two. Two women, I buried. This one is my third. *[He is referring to his wives.]*

Q: Do you remember, were there many Jews in your village before the war?

A: There weren't many here. But there were 82 total. They gathered them from Vlad, from **Bălți [Bold]** *[the name of the place is unclear]*, from Telenești. But there weren't [many living] here...

Q: Did you see when they gathered them?

A: No, because they took me during the night and we guarded them in that house where they were.

Q: Where were they? In which house?

A: In a house, there, in the center, where that one lives, Costea Ciubotaru. ___ and there is also a well around there.

Q: So you are saying that this was Costea Ciubotaru's house back then, or now?

A: Costea Ciubotaru lives there now. But that house belonged to the Jews. And that was a long house, and they all fit there, in the shed and in the house.

[01:] 03:29:14 – [01:] 06:12:20

03:10 – 05:52

Q: That's where they gathered all these...?

A: That's where they gathered them. And from there, they tied their hands with wire and took them to the forest. At the forest—there were 40 people from this end of the village, chief of the gendarmerie, mayor. "Go and bury the Jews! Bury the Jews!" [Said the mayor.]

Q: So, let's go over it in order.

A: We went out of fear. We went to [bury] the Jews out of fear and necessity. Because they were saying, "If you don't go, fuck your mother's cross!" He said, "I will shoot you just like the Jews." That was what he was saying. There was a chief of the gendarmerie, his name was Golgojan. The worst gendarmerie chief in Romania was sent here. Bitterness in my soul. He was out to get me some were saying.

Q: So, you were saying that the Jews were gathered in a house in the center. But who gathered them there?

A: Who? I don't know who gathered them. They gathered. On their own. But I know that there were relatives. There was one from this village, but he was living in Vlad. Now, that one from Vlad...

Q: They gathered on their own in that house?

A: On their own. On their own. On their own. On their own, they gathered there.

Q: But there, were they with or without guards?

A: What?

Q: In that house, were they or weren't they guarded?

A: We were guards outside. Outside, not in the house. Not inside.

Q: I see.

A: But outside—well, we were about ten men guarding that house. So they wouldn't __, so they wouldn't hang themselves, wouldn't kill themselves.

Q: So, you and about ten other people were guarding that house.

A: Yes, yes, yes, yes.

Q: Were you pre-military back then?

A: What?

Q: Were you pre-military?

A: Pre-military. I was pre-military.

Q: And the other ones that were guards, all of them were pre-militaries?

A: They were old. Old they were.

Q: They were old.

A: Old ones too, and there were also young ones like me, but more of them were old. They were old men around 60-70 years old.

Q: But was there...?

A: They were taking them out—the gendarmerie chief and the mayor. [They said], “Well, what can we do if all the Jews are gathered here in Hirova, we have to do something with them.” The gendarmerie chief received an order from Hitler— you know about Hitler, right?

Q: Yes.

A: Hitler gave orders because he didn’t want a Jew in sight. He was the one who gave the order. Hitler gave [the order] to shoot those Jews.

Q: Then...

A: What was those poor Jews’ sin? My father was buying from them all summer and autumn, either walnuts, or plums or grapes. He was negotiating with the Jew, he was a rich Jew—Oh boy, how much suffering! Lord have mercy, I don’t wish such suffering on anybody.

[01:] 06:12:21 – [01:] 09:00:05

05:53 – 08:39

Q: Could you please tell me how long they were kept in that house?

A: They did what?

Q: How long were they kept together in that house? You said you were guarding them. How many days did you keep them in that house?

A: How many days?

Q: Yes.

A: About three days.

Q: They kept them about three days.

A: Yes, yes.

Q: But while they were kept there, did they feed them? Did they give them food?

A: Where?

Q: In that house, while they were locked up.

A: What do I know? You think I saw them eating, poor people? Did they still want to be fed? If they were taken there, they were shot, poor people, as soon as they were taken to the forest, a big open meadow. The gendarmerie chief yelled—there were four with guns from here, and there were four gendarmes with eight guns—“At once, boys. I don’t want to see one [alive]! Into pieces!” he said. They slaughtered the poor people. Their heads were torn to pieces. Their bones were torn to pieces. There was one Jew, called Şaier. He had four kids, four boys. Three of them were coming with a cart driver. And that cart driver was coming from shooting the Jews. ”__ shoot through my heart so I don’t suffer anymore!” said the Jew to Gheorghe Teleşcu. And Gheorghe Teleşcu bang, shot him. Gone was Şaier with his four sons and his woman. It was __, it was a time of necessity.

Q: Besides Gheorghe Teleşcu, who else was there from the village?

A: Well, there was Ilarion Proca. __. Proca Ilarion Vasilevici.

Q: I see, and who else was there?

A: Purcel, Purcel Vasile Federovici. This one lived here with me. That old man died a long time ago. Who else was there? Man, I forgot. Well—there were many of them. 40 people were taken out—

Q: But out of these four whom you mentioned were shooting with the gendarmes, which of them was from this village?

A: These ones, Proca Larion, Teleşcu Gheorghe and Tănăsescu Nicolae. But one of them, I have forgotten. I don’t know, because he’s been dead for a long time or—I don’t know. But these other ones I know.

Q: And you saw how they were shot there?

A: We were sitting in the back. We just heard bang, bang, bang, bang. Poor people didn’t even have time to scream. They were slaughtered...

[01:] 09:00:06 – [01:] 11:33:20

08:40 – 11:13

Q: How far away were you sitting?

A: We were sitting something like from here to the road. *[Indicates direction towards the street.]* We went a little bit aside in the forest, so we were not right there with them.

Q: About how many meters away were you?

A: About 20 meters away.

Q: From there, from 20 meters away, could you see...?

A: We could see, we could see, because it was open. There weren't trees there. An open meadow.

Q: And did you see, were these the Jews who were locked in that house in the center?

A: Yes, yes, yes, yes.

Q: And who brought them to the forest? Did you or someone else bring them?

A: They did. They brought them. The four who were with guns and the gendarmes.

Q: So those eight?

A: There were gendarmes with guns in front and in the back.

Q: I see.

A: And the ones from here...

Q: And you at the same time with them...?

A: Surrounded. They were surrounded...

Q: Did you go at the same time with them to the forest? Or later? Or sooner?

A: What?

Q: Did you go at the same time with the column? Did you all go to the...?

A: We went the same day.

Q: At the same time?

A: The same day.

Q: Right then or at another time? Earlier or...?

A: The same day. So they don't ___. And carry—and the people—well, those 40 people made four big holes, four pits like cellars—and they carried them. And there was a chief there with them. And he was cursing them, "Your God and your cross and—if you don't [work], I'll shoot everyone here. Jews, ___ Jews." [*The description is confusing;*

apparently the chief was cursing both the men who were digging the pits and also the Jews.]

Q: I want to understand more clearly how everything happened. So, those who were staying in that house in the center...

A: Huh?

Q: I want to understand exactly how everything happened, all right? They took them from the house and brought them to the forest.

A: To the forest. To the forest.

Q: Were the pits already made or were they just digging them right then?

A: They were digging. They were digging.

Q: So, they dug them right then.

A: They dug them right then.

Q: But you said there were 40 people who were digging.

A: There were 40 people there who made the pits and then covered them. And it was the three of us from this end of the village who loaded the cart. And the man with the cart was Tănase Purcel. The cart was the Jews' cart, but since the Jews were taken away, the cart was left for Tănase to do whatever he wanted with it. I don't know because Tănase also died. All of them died. They were gone.

[01:] 11:33:21 – [01:] 13:49:10

11:14 – 13:29

Q: I see. When you arrived in the forest, were those 40 people digging the pit?

A: They were working.

Q: They were working there.

A: They were working, they were working.

Q: And the Jews who were there, who were they? Were they men, or women, or children? Who were...?

A: Jews?

Q: Yes.

- A: There were also women, and girls, and old people, and all kinds of people. Because 82—Do you realize?—82 is a lot. The ground was full of Jews, with pieces of Jews.
- Q: Were they all taken there on foot or by cart?
- A: On foot. On foot. With their hands tied.
- Q: Were they tied individually or were they...?
- A: Two. Three. Two or three [tied together], so they could go on the road.
- Q: But, last time you told me that there were some in the cart as well. You said there was an old woman and...
- A: An old woman, Hinda. The old woman was taken by cart. And a gendarme took her from the cart and threw her off. And with the gun, bang! Straight into the head. Her head was blown apart. She no longer moved at all. She no longer screamed. He killed her so the old woman didn't struggle much. And I grabbed her with Andrei **Chiochimari** and Petre Halcă, loaded her in the cart, and she was taken to the pit right away. And after about two weeks, God sent rain that took all those Jews from those pits ___. There was no Jew left in that pit. Terrible—Much hardship they had to go through! They were taken by that rain. The rain came, one or two meters, and took all of the Jews from the pits. And when I was in Vlad—and on the way back from Vlad I said, "Let's go by there"—we were about three men—"Let's go by there and see the Jews." When we went "Look, empty, there is nothing."—That's how life was back then. Lots of suffering they had to go through. But now, you see, I don't know, are there any Jews in this country? There aren't any around here.

[01:] 13:49:11 – [01:] 16:27:24

13:30 – 16:07

- Q: When the column arrived there, at the forest, did they shoot them at the same time or did they wait?
- A: At the same time. At the same time.
- Q: And how did they shoot them? One by one or all of them together?
- A: Together. They were shot all together. There were some who were checking to see—one person escaped—he had cracked lips—called Colman. And he escaped by—I don't know how. He played dead? And he came to the village and ___. And my fellow villagers found him. There was one called Vanea, Rusu Vanea Sacajiu—communist. And the communist—and the other one [*unclear to whom he is referring*] asked where Colman was. And Vanea, helpless, told him. And they took and shot Vanea as well, because "he is also a communist". And he [Vanea] was shot with Colman, the Jew, at the pear tree, there at the priest's house, where the town hall is. I think you've been to the town hall. That's where it was...

Q: How do you know about this case, about Colman and about Vanea Rusu?

A: Well, if—we were then ready to go to the forest. We knew all that.

Q: But did you or didn't you see when Rusu and Colman were shot?

A: No, I didn't see. I heard that he was shot. "He is shot, Colman and Vanea Rusu. He is shot," they said. There at the pear tree. And they made a pit there. All came there, Tănase with Colea Bârdăhan and they buried them there.

Q: But did you see them shot there or not?

A: Those ones I didn't see. When I saw it, the grave was already covered.

Q: You saw only the grave.

A: Yes, yes, yes.

Q: But this happened during the same day when...?

A: The same day when they shot the Jews there. And that one came right then, the same day. He was caught. He was found. They discovered Colman. Hadea found him. He brought him here. But Vanea was an old helpless man__. "Hey you, dog! You are a communist, you are a dog! Go, so they can shoot you with Colman!" There were two gendarmes, seemed German. Germans, Russians? I don't know what they were...Romanians?—bang! bang! They tossed them in the pit, and there you go, that's how they did__. Vanea Rusu was finished and Colman was also finished. Do you understand? I am speaking Moldovan.

[01:] 16:27:25 – [01:] 19:21:08

16:08 – 19:00

Q: I understand. So, when they were shooting all these Jews in the forest, were they shooting all of them at the same time near the pit or...?

A: Not near the pit. They were carrying them. From off the ground they were carried to the pits. It was some distance. Not a big distance. Just like from here to the road. To the road, just like that. [*He indicates the direction of the road with his arms*].

Q: About 20 meters?

A: Uh-huh. That is where the pits were made, in a row. And there was a place where the cart could stop. They were shooting, digging—Vasile Bunu—one was putting...

Q: How many carts were there?

A: Cart, there was only one cart.

Q: Only one cart.

A: Only one cart carried them. In 10 trips they were all taken. They were loaded just like you would load anything else. They carried them all, __ they buried them.

Q: Did you start loading them in the cart?

A: "Go home," he said. The chief said, "You are free, go home."

Q: Was the chief of the gendarmerie there with you in the forest the whole time?

A: No, he didn't stay there the whole time. The chief didn't stay there the whole time. The gendarmes were there all the time, but the chief didn't stay. The chief left with the cart. He was with the old man Ilarion with the cart. He left the gendarmes there. He yelled, "Pay attention boys, so you don't leave anything out, don't lose anything, cover everything nicely, because I will come and see." He then—everything was buried—he came again. He stepped down from old Ilarion's cart—Ilarion got off and went to look—[they were] covered in the grave.

Q: He came at the end again.

A: Yes, yes.

Q: So, he came at the beginning and he came at the end.

A: At the beginning and at the end as well. They buried the poor souls.

Q: Were they shot first and then did you start to load them? Or were they shooting while you were loading?

A: Afterwards. We didn't touch anything. Like they wouldn't check whether there were any still alive...

Q: And you loaded them afterwards.

A: Yes, yes. After that.

Q: And you said that there were 82 of them. Did you count them or how do you know?

A: 82. They all went through my hands—children and women and girls and old men—and if they were all loaded into the cart, how could I not count them. I picked them up with my hands and threw them in the cart.

Q: Were those Jews from your village or from somewhere else?

A: There were some from my village. It was like this: one family, two, three, four, five families were from our village.

Q: You knew them, right?

A: Well, they were from our village. The others came here, from wherever they came from—all kinds.

[01:] 19:21:09 – [01:] 22:18:12

19:01 – 21:58

Q: Do you remember the surname of those who you knew?

A: No, no, no, I don't even know any family [names].

Q: You don't remember.

A: That's how it is miss.

Q: You were saying that they were then taken there to—there were four pits. And were they throwing them in all four pits or only in one of them?

A: Three pits. Three pits, not four.

Q: There were three pits.

A: Three pits. They filled them all.

Q: All the pits.

A: They filled them all. They were all close to each other. They filled one up, then they moved to the next one. ___ was saying, "Ready, did you gather everything?" A man went—he was the owner there, a forester—he went where they shot them and he stared. He went and he couldn't believe his eyes. We gathered everything. We gathered everything with the old man Petre Halcă and Andrei. We put them in the cart and they took them.

Q: Did you not find any objects...?

A: They weren't butchered too badly. But when the bullet hit one's head, it entered this way and [came out] this way. *[Raises his hand to his head indicating that the bullet went in one side and left from the opposite side.]* It blew their heads to pieces. They were torn to pieces. Those who were hit in the heart died even quicker—Poor us, I was very scared.

Q: But these 40 men...

A: I was very scared. Can you imagine, miss? I had a young wife who was scared to sleep in the same house with me. She said, “You, what have you done? You went to bury the Jews?”—Nobody came, until now, nobody asked me anything, anything, what can I say.

Q: Were there any belongings left behind?

A: Yes, there were, but the Moldovans took them. They were plundering as much as they could. As much as they could. But I said, “I don’t want a piece of this, anything of theirs.”

Q: But you said that Petre Halcă found money?

A: He found 25,000. Here, tied to Şeba’s leg. She was a rich Jewish woman. She also had a good husband. She was from Jora. From Jora, she was taken here. She married here in our village. And those 25,000, the old man [wanted] to seize only for himself. He gave us nothing. But one of the ‘guardists’ was sitting there overseeing and he saw him. He wanted 5,000. “If not, I will take all of it from you.” He didn’t give up until he got 5,000. His name was Mitea Coşciuc, the one who took the money from the old man, from Petre Halcă, the 5,000.

[01:] 22:18:13 – [01:] 25:22:11

21:59 – 25:02

Q: When you say ‘guardist’, what do you mean?

A: What?

Q: When you say ‘guardist’, what was that? What was a ‘guardist’ back then?

A: A street sergeant, a street guard. A sergeant. You don’t know what that means? He was responsible for our village.

Q: He was sort of a public guard?

A: There were four of them. They went there [to the forest] with us. They were guarding them. They were guarding the Jews, making sure the Jews didn’t run away, that their corpses were gathered, that they didn’t—they were watching us loading. “You,” he said, “you guys are not very smart.” But what can we do if...

Q: How long did it take to shoot them, to carry and bury them? How long did it all take?

A: They did what?

Q: How much time did it take? From the beginning, how long did it take to shoot them and bury them? How many hours did you stay there?

A: About three hours. In three hours they were all buried. There were many people, 40 people. They had the cart at their disposal. They carried them. In three hours, because that's what they told us over there, "How long was this? Three hours." They covered them; several people brought branches from the forest. Covered them, threw dirt on them. But, there was big water, the water took them, ___. They died, the water took them, only God knows...

Q: But what happened? What happened to the wealth of the Jews from your village?

A: Well, they—as much as they could, as much as they could, those who were there—they stole, they took, they destroyed. I was...

Q: Could you please tell me, these four, who were from your village, Tănăsescu, Proc...

A: Yes, yes, yes. Those.

Q: Later, they...

A: They were in prison for 15 years. Tedeşcu and the other one and Proca. Those men stayed 15 years in jail.

Q: Later, they were brought to trial during the time of the Soviets.

A: They were taken to trial. They were taken to trial. But only Petre Halcă and me, we couldn't be sentenced because we were just gathering the corpses, ___. We weren't out with bludgeons to kill or anything like that. We just gathered them.

Q: And after the war, did anyone come to question you? Did anyone from the militsiya come?

A: I wasn't asked anything. Nobody asked me anything. They just took them. Those 'guardists', the ones with guns who were at the shooting. And Ilarion. That Ilarion was taken. It was said that every day somebody beat him with a bludgeon. Every day, somebody beat him with a bludgeon. In Borcuta, where that Borcuta is...a town, a market. That's where he was.

[01:] 25:22:12 – [01:] 28:14:02

25:03 – 27:53

Q: But did he come home after that?

A: Huh?

Q: He came home after that, right?

A: Who, Ilarion?

Q: Yes.

A: Yes, he came home and lived with one of my sisters-in-law, a sister of my wife. He lived until he died. I buried him. I buried Ilarion. And also Saşa, my brother-in-law. Saşa died here in my house. Well, he didn't have kids...

Q: But all these men, Ilarion, Proca, Teleşcu, were they old or young?

A: They were old, past army service.

Q: So they were about 30 something years old?

A: Yes, yes, yes, they were past army service.

Q: And did they have families or were they lads?

A: This one, Ilarion, he had a family. And the other one, Gheorghe Teleşcu, he also had a family. His wife died in Mongolia. When he was taken to prison, his wife was taken to Mongolia. That's where she died, poor soul. She was called Catinca of Neculică.

Q: Have you heard of cuzists or guardists? Before the war, did you have them in your village?

A: Who?

Q: Cuzists or the Iron Guard, legionnaires?

A: Yes, yes, yes. There were some of those around here, those legionnaires. I did talk to them, because I was in the [army] band. When I was doing pre-military [service], I was in the right flank and I was the one who set the tone before singing. "Wait for the war, ___." [*He sings 2 verses; difficult to understand.*] Then they yelled at me, "Cârhană, set the tone!"—I was—like—how much I suffered too—but the military in Romania—

Q: Please, tell me about the legionnaires.

A: Those legionnaires? They were singing but didn't want to be seen by the gendarmes. They didn't want to be seen by the gendarmes. They were hiding from the gendarmes. They were hiding from them. Didn't want to be in their sight.

Q: But what did those legionnaires want?

A: I don't know what; they were looking for trouble with the gendarmes, those legionnaires. They were from the Iron Guard. That's how it was "Legionnaires, let's dance the hora, in the whole field, because we are at home, in our own country." (He recites verses from the "Hora Legionarilor"/"Legionnaires Anthem" by Simion Lefter.) I was singing ___. They shouted at me and at this other one, Ion Roşca—he also died, poor soul—we were—those

legionnaires—they called us and forced us to sing with them. But the gendarmes were pissed at us. [They said], “Where are you boys going? Keep this in mind, stay around us, because they are going to be gone...”

Q: How did the legionnaires treat the Jews?

A: The legionnaires—well, they didn’t—when the legionnaires came, the Jews had already been shot.

[01:] 28:14:03 – [01:] 31:20:14

27:54 – 31:00

Q: But before that, what kind of relationship did the legionnaires have with the Jews?

A: They weren’t from here. I don’t know where they were from.

Q: There weren’t any from your village?

A: Youths—No they weren’t from our village. Youths who came from Telenești.

Q: Did you have any cuzists?

A: Huh?

Q: Cuzists.

A: Runaways? We didn’t have any.

Q: Cuzists!

A: We didn’t have any.

Q: From the party of Cuza.

A: Cuzists?

Q: Yes.

A: No. There was one, Vasile Sârbu. And he became mayor and they took him away. And he is gone and also died, with his family, including the kids.

Q: The Soviets took him, that’s my understanding.

A: Yes, yes, yes.

Q: After the war, were there any Jews left alive in your village?

A: No. There was one, but he didn't live here in the village. His name was Leizer. He had a daughter and a woman, and he lived on my side of the ditch. And I don't know what it was that he didn't like here in our village__. And he left.

Q: Do you know how come he was left alive?

A: I don't know how he stayed alive. Because he wasn't in the village when...

Q: ...it was evacuated.

A: When they shot those other ones. He wasn't in the village. He came afterwards, after the other ones were already buried. And then, this one, our mayor, he didn't even care about him. "Let Leizer live here." But he didn't live, poor soul. He couldn't find his place, he left. He left and he died, together with the Jewish woman and the daughter.

Q: Besides the Jews, were there other people killed as well?

A: What?

Q: Besides the Jews, were there other people killed back then?

A: No, no, no.

Q: Do you know, did anything happen to the gypsies?

A: No, no, no, no, no. Only the Jews. Only the Jews. 82 Jews altogether including the children.

Q: Thank you.

A: The ones who were found with the money, they had such a beautiful little son. His name was Gyuszika [*Hungarian name*]. He was walking around, poor kid—[hoping] not to be [killed]—"Don't shoot him! Don't shoot him!" [*unclear who said this*]. The devilish gendarme went, bang! He shot him. [*Recalls the event with sadness.*]

Q: There is only one more question I would like to ask. So, when they were taken, there were 82 people...

A: What?

Q: When they took them there to the forest, were they shooting them in groups, one by one or everybody at the same time? How was it?

A: All together.

Q: All together how? Did they put all of them...?

A: They had their hands tied, and there was one [*probably a guard*] and he cut the wires. He took the wires off their hand. Then he lined them up. He lined them up so none of them stayed alive.

Q: And these eight...?

A: He was lining them up where the maple tree is, the big maple tree with green grass, and there was a small brook. And the poor people said, "let us have a sip of water." "What? You want water?" Bang! Bang!

[01:] 31:20:15 – [01:] 32:56:12

31:01 – 32:36

Q: And were all those eight shooting at the same time or taking turns?

A: All of them. All. All of them were shooting. But only from one side, so they didn't hit each other. And in one direction only, towards the Jews. All were aiming at the Jews. Aiming at the Jews.

Q: Before this, did they undress them or were they shooting them with their clothes on?

A: They undressed them afterwards. They undressed some of them. Some of them had their clothes ripped off and they were buried like that.

Q: This means that only some of them were undressed? Or all of them? Or what?

A: Well, those who had better clothes.

Q: Who undressed those who...?

A: The same who were burying them, who were working at the pits.

Q: So, you are telling us that those who...

A: I didn't want anything. I couldn't wait to escape and come home because I was afraid. At night, I could see those eyes and I was very scared ___. It so frightened me when I saw so much slaughtering of those Jews. And I picked up all of them. I put all of them in the cart. There were other men who were shooting them and throwing them in the pits. But here, me, Andrei **Chiochimari** and Petre Halcă, it was us three. Those 82, they all went through our hands.

Q: Thank you.

[01:] 32:56:12

32:36

Conclusion of Interview