

TĂTARU, Spiridon  
Romania Documentation Project  
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Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, war veteran Tătaru Spiridon, native of the town of Hotin (Khotyn, present-day Ukraine), talks about the ghetto in Cernăuți (Chernivtsi, present-day Ukraine) and how he helped some Jews to escape to other countries. In addition, he comments on the bombing that he experienced in Bucharest and gives information about the fate of some Jews whom he has known.

**[01:] 00:29:07 – [01:] 09:04:06**

He talks about his father's occupation and accompanying him to Hotin and to Hârlău (Iași district); talks about **Leiba [Laiba]** being the Jewish associate of his father; describes the period during which he was in the army on a ship; comments on the bad conditions on the ship; talks about the beginning of the war; focuses on the happenings on the ship, where there was only one Jew among the Romanians; he remembers **Alexiuc Vasile [Alecsiuk Vasile]**, a spy, who was also serving on the ship; he comments on **Alexiuc** pretending to be dumb and playing religious songs on the accordion.

**[01:] 09:04:07 – [01:] 19:10:19**

He talks about an incident in 1942, which happened after he returned to his hometown to see his family and an old friend, **Nadia Coloneschi [Coloneski; Colonesci]**; comments on **Nadia's** marriage to a Jewish doctor, who died together with their daughter in Auschwitz; talks about the good relationships between the Romanians and the Jews in his hometown Hotin; mentions that all Jews in Hotin were expelled; describes being sent to the ghetto, while looking for someone to repair his watch in Cernăuți; focuses on the experience with **Sanda**, a six-year-old Jewish girl whom he took from the ghetto to her parents in Bucharest; mentions that he returned to the ghetto after two months to let the girl's grandparents know that she was safe with her parents; remembers seeing dead bodies on the ground up to Clișcăuți (present-day Republic of Moldova); comments on the fact that the ghetto was empty by the time he arrived; comments on the transportation of the dead bodies in trucks.

**[01:] 19:10:20 – [01:] 26:52:01**

He talks about the living conditions in the ghetto; comments on the impact that the things he had seen had on him; he talks again about **Nadia Coloneschi** who married the Jewish doctor **Hoisch** and lost her mind after losing her family; mentions the sister of **Nadia** who gave him this information.

**[01:] 26:52:02 – [01:] 36:04:19**

He discusses the fact that he was a captive of the Russians in 1941 in Ismail (present-day Ukraine) and that he managed to escape; mentions **Stoienescu Nicolae [Nicolaiie]** as the

reason why he did not receive a decoration; remembers the bombing of Bucharest; discusses his living in Bucharest for one year while attending a school for car mechanics, “Școala de Instructori, Maiștrii Tehnicienii și Tehnicienii Auto”; mentions being sent to Brăila, where he got married.

**[01:] 36:04:20 – [01:] 44:59:00**

He remembers the bombing of Bucharest on July 4; comments on the happenings in Canalul Măcin from 1939 in which he helped a Jewish architect with two or three children flee to England; mentions **Sanda** and her family again who managed to flee to Palestine.

**[01:] 44:59:01 – [01:] 53:19:07**

He remembers discussing the reasons for the killings with a German who was responsible for food supplies in **Kamyanets Podilskyy [Kamenec-Podolskij; Kamenets-Podolsky]**; comments on the day he went to București to get his refugee booklet and on leaving without it; mentions a colleague named **Mihailovici Aurel** or **Nicolae** who showed him the location of the ghetto in Cernăuți as being on Olarilor or Frânghiilor Street; discusses the same colleague telling him that the Jewish Mrs. **Ackermann [Akerman]** was shot; talks about the destruction of the synagogue in Hotin; mentions Mr. **Weinberg [Vainberg; Vaynberg]** who managed to return from Siberia.

**[01:] 53:19:08 – [02:] 05:15:09**

He expresses his opinion on the Holocaust; discusses how elderly people who could not get into the trucks were shot immediately by German soldiers; comments on the places to which the dead bodies of Jews were transported; mentions the park Grădina Publică in Cernăuți, where the Jews were buried; remembers a henchman being shot at the entrance of the ghetto; mentions the occupation of **Sanda's** parents.