

PASTRAVANU, Grigore Traian
Romania Documentation Project
Romanian
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Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, the former engineer Grigore Traian Pastravanu talks about the pogrom in his birthplace of Iași on June 28, 1941. He remembers what happened to the 57 Jews from the Second Division, Seventh Regiment [of?] Roșiori, Cuza Vodă during that time. Pastravanu focuses on the situation of these 57 Jews and their status in the army. In addition, he discusses his family's involvement in the rescue of neighbors and Jewish friends, and in particular in the rescue of these 57 Jews.

[01:] 00:40:00 – [01:] 10:51:59

He introduces himself and his family; discusses his first assignment in a military institution, which was responsible for the provision of the first line battlefield; describes his duties as letter carrier; talks about his brother Decebal (they both have ancient Romanian leaders' names); describes his father's duties; presents the structure of his father's administrative division; remembers the professions that Jews had in this division; comments on the location of Jews in Iași (Târgu Cucului; Podul de Fier; **Socola**, **Niculina**; Podu-Roș, Pădurari); recalls his friendship with the electrician **Belhu Mendel Ionel**.

[01:] 10:52:00 – [01:] 20:15:59

He talks about his personal involvement in some events around the pogrom in Iași; remembers how his father managed to hide all 57 Jews from the Second Division, Seventh Regiment [of?] Roșiori, Cuza Vodă and saved them from being killed; describes the way in which his father found out from an elementary teacher in Neamț that the Jews would be shot; talks about the way in which his father saved all 57 Jews pretending that they are Romanian betrayers brought from the battlefield; comments on his actions regarding saving his family's Jewish friends and neighbors (**Segal** family, **Herman** family, Iancu **David**, Iancu **Ziberman**) by hiding them at his parents' house on Spancioc Street in the Tătărași neighborhood; remembers that on Sunday, on **Brătianu** Street (present-day Independence Boulevard), on Tătărași Street, on Podu de Fier (the Iron Bridge) and on Saint Spiridon Market he saw 5-6 dead bodies; discusses that one of the dead was Iancu **Schneider**, a friend of his father; mentions also seeing two old men and a younger one.

[01:] 20:16:00 – [01:] 24:15:59

He comments that by Sunday evening there were no more dead bodies in the streets; recalls that the 16 people that his family and he saved by hiding them at their house were quiet and good people; discusses young people of around 20 years of age being among them; comments on his father coming home at night and returning to his division after a short while; talks about the Jews' houses being robbed by Christians.

[01:] 24:16:00 – [01:] 32:06:59

He talks about how he, along with other soldiers, on Wednesday evening, took the 57 Jews back to their homes at Târgu Cucului, Podu de Fier; discusses that they were all dressed in Romanian military clothes to cover the Star of David; remembers that his father was accused of being philosemitic and a communist; recalls the evacuation and retreat to Filiași-Dolj; talks about his father's entrance into the General Staff and how he received the assignment as commander at a military high school in Câmpulung.

[01:] 32:07:00 – [01:] 37:21:00

He talks about Iancu **Schneider** and that he and other people were moved by **Schneider's** death; says that at night he has nightmares; comments that in some occasions a human being becomes a beast, and all of this could have been avoided [*tears*].