

BUZATU, Ioana  
Romania Roma Documentation Project  
Romanian  
RG-50.574\*0003

Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Ioana Buzatu talks about her and her family's deportation from Zimnicea (Romania) close to the Bug River. She remembers the road to the Bug River, the living conditions there and gives background information on her family.

**[01:] 00:41:18 – [01:] 10:12:16**

She talks about her and her family's deportation from Zimnicea to the Bug River; discusses the Roma being transported in Roma wagons to Turnu Măgurele, where they were transported to Russia by train; says that the Roma were promised houses and tractors in order to be deported; remembers the bad living conditions, having no clothes and your hair being shaved in order to prevent lice infection; discusses the lack of sanitary facilities; says that she didn't think she would survive; mentions her little brother, who was screaming because of the hunger; mentions her father, who went to the Russians to ask for food; talks about the "silversmiths," who were bad Roma who stole and were shot by the Germans; mentions a mill from which they gathered grain; says that because of the lack of food, they even had to pick grain out of the droppings of horses.

**[01:] 10:12:17 – [01:] 21:41:13**

She talks about her family and the number of family members she had; discusses the planned escape of her brother and his death afterwards; reminisces how she caught and ate raw fish from the Bug River and how she drank salty water from the river; mentions a little store room where they lived; says that they kept the dead in there until they were taken to the Bug in Roma wagons and dropped in a soil pit next; mentions her father, who wished to bury her brother in a Russian cemetery, but had no power to transport him; talks about the number of people who died in a week as approximately 10-15; mentions her family and only three members coming back to Romania; talks about their trying to beg from the Germans and how they were chased away by having stones thrown at them.