

VĂDUVA, Stan
Romania Roma Documentation Project
Romanian
RG-50.574*0004

Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Mr. Stan Văduva, born on February 7, 1923, talks about his deportation to Transnistria. He describes the three months in which the Roma were held in a cave and remembers the conditions they lived in. In addition, he comments on his witnessing the execution of many Jews and talks about how the Roma were sent to work on kolkhozes (collective farms).

[01:] 00:39:07 – [01:] 07:03:23

Mr. Văduva talks about the way back to Romania after the deportation; mentions that the journey lasted eight months, from March 1 until October; remembers that the way back home was extremely difficult because of the lack of food; remembers the deportation; mentions that the police issued papers for them that contained a list of things they were allowed to take with them; discusses that all animals and goods were taken from them at their arrival at Tighina at the customs post; remembers that approximately 60 families were deported in big cars to the Bug River, where they were held in a cave for three months; discusses their carrying out forced labor after they were transferred to kolkhozes; mentions that many people died while staying in the cave, around 25%; and another 25% died on the way back to Romania.

[01:] 07:03:24 – [01:] 17:39:00

He remembers that at the kolkhozes where they were taken after the three months spent in the cave, the locals were Russians, but the sector was led by a Romanian Lieutenant Major; mentions that the Russians repeatedly tried to kill the Roma, but they were threatened by the leader of the sector, because the Roma had been brought to the kolkhozes in order to work; remembers that the Roma who stole animals were shot by the Russian police; discusses witnessing such executions from a distance of 200-300 meters; explains that while the Roma were taken into the cave, the Jews remained at the surface; discusses the Jews being forced to dig pits, aligned and shot by approximately 20 Russians; remembers seeing the execution from a distance; mentions that 100-200 Jews were shot; comments on the difficulties of the three months spent in the cave; remembers that they drank dirty water and had to eat grass and even their own shirts.

[01:] 17:39:01 – [01:] 21:30:20

He explains that after three months they were transported to kolkhozes in wagons; mentions that not all corpses were buried; talks about the fact that around seven members of his family were deported, but only three returned to Romania; comments

on the fact that he lost everything he owned through the deportation and was never reimbursed for the damages.