

PĂPĂNĂU, Călina
Romania Roma Documentation Project
Romanian
RG-50.574*0005

Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Călina Păpănău, born on March 9, 1930 in Suhaia, talks about how she and other Roma were taken away across the Prut River, where they spent two years in horrible conditions. She comments on their daily life during these years and describes witnessing the killings of many Roma. In addition, she discusses her deportation back into the country by the Romanian army.

[01:] 00:50:09 – [01:] 05:00:12

Ms. Păpănău discusses how she was taken away from Zimnicea together with her family; remembers being taken to Turnu (probably Turnu Măgurele, a city in the county of Teleorman) in carriages and being transported from there across the Prut River in freight cars; describes their shelter in windowless buildings without doors and how they had to spend two years in terrible conditions; talks about their everyday life, about the misery, dirt, and constant hunger they had to live through; mentions that many of them died of starvation and that the dead were thrown into mass graves; comments on the fact that nine people were taken away from her family and only four returned, including herself.

[01:] 05:00:13 – [01:] 14:39:23

She continues to talk about the conditions they lived in and the people who died of starvation; comments on what they were forced to eat in that state of extreme hunger: seeds picked out from cow dung, fish caught by the Russians and left on the bank of the Bug River, raw horse meat; describes how she saw many Roma being shot only 50-60 meters away from where she was staying; comments on the nationality of the shooters as possibly Germans or Russians; discusses the reason for killing the Roma; remembers many people being killed, but some managed to flee; talks about how Romanian soldiers came to get them and transported them back into the country in wagons and by cars; comments briefly on an aerial bombing she witnessed on their way back.