

DUMITRU, Nicolae
Romania Roma Documentation Project
Romanian
RG-50.574*0008

Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Nicolae Dumitru talks about his experiences during the two years he spent as a deportee and forced laborer in Transnistria.

[01:] 00:32:06 – [01:] 11:01:05

In the beginning, as he is asked when and where he was born, he says he does not remember the year or even the month or day, he only remembers it was in Zimnicea, but even regarding this information he is not 100 percent sure; remembers the beginning of World War II and the Germans starting to burn children and to kill Jews; discusses being taken as a young boy together with his entire family to the shores of the Bug River, in Transnistria; mentions that after two years of hard work he was the only one who survived, the rest of his family died; talks about his duties of maneuvering an agricultural plowing machine and working in the fields under German supervision; talks about the German soldiers occasionally killing some of the Roma there by beating them with a bat; assumes that they killed far more Jews than Roma; discusses the bodies of the Jews being thrown in the trenches and burned by the soldiers; explains why there were a lot of forced laborers that worked with him who threw themselves into the waters of the river with the faint hope to escape the killings and the beatings; focuses on the severity of their situation, the bad conditions, and the poor quality of the food.

[01:] 11:01:06 – [01:] 15:49:05

He comments on the question of how many Jews were in Transnistria during his stay there; tries to provide a certain number; assumes that those who killed the Jews were Russians since they were speaking Russian; mentions that they were soon moved to another place to work and did not see any more Jews.