

DMITRENKO, Tamara  
Ukraine Witnesses Documentation Project  
Russian  
RG-50.575\*0005

Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Tamara Dmitrenko, a witness of Odessa under the occupation by Romanians and Germans, tells about the fate of some Jews at that time. She recalls Jews being forced to leave their homes and move to the ghetto in the suburb of Slobodka. She discusses the attitude of local residents toward Jewish people.

**[00:] 00:38:23 – [00:] 10:43:59**

She remembers about the first days of occupation of Odessa by Romanians and Germans on October 18, 1941; tells about an order issued on October 19-20, 1941, to keep all the doors open; tells about the raid on Jewish families and their persecution; comments on how Jews were driven out of doors and forced to move to the ghetto; discusses attempts of some Jews to hide away; tells about the behavior of the persecuted Jewish people on the street and the attitude of local inhabitants to this procession as well as the behavior of the escort toward the Jews; discusses the details of life of Jews in the ghetto; tells about how local inhabitants brought them food; tells about the length of the Jews' stay in the ghetto and how they were driven away from the ghetto to the place where there was a blasting-powder storage area and where they were supposedly burnt; tells about her seeing people on the street that had been hanged.

**[00:] 10:44:00 – [00:] 15:57:12**

She tells about her neighbor in the house, the Jewish family **Zeidmann [Seidman]**, and remembers an attempt of Mrs. **Zeidmann**, when driven to the ghetto, to save her baby and suitcases by leaving them at the witness's family; discusses the return of this woman on the next day to take the baby away; tells about the movement of Jews from Slobodka to a jail; comments on her mother bringing food to the Jews in the jail; discusses the efforts of other Jews to hide themselves in the villages and outskirts; tells about one acquaintance, whose husband was a Jew; remembers a hiding place this woman had made for her husband and her success to save her Jewish spouse this way; tells about understanding of what was happening at that time due to radio and newspapers.

**[00:] 15:57:13 – [00:] 21:39:59**

She recalls the lack of water in the city and going with her father to the center of the city looking for water; she tells about seeing a Jewish family on the street driven by Romanians and seeing then members of the family being hanged at the Greek Square; she

comments on the Greek Square as a permanent place of execution where there were gallows erected; comments on the summer of 1942 as an escalation of the massacre; talks about the attitude of local inhabitants toward Jews; tells about Odessa after a while coming to life and appearance of cinema, conservatory, and market in the city during the occupation period.

**[00:] 21:40:00 – [00:] 30:16:14**

She recalls the rooms abandoned by Jews that were later occupied by their neighbors in the communal flats; comments on seeing people stealing clothes and other things from these empty apartments; tells about her studying before the war in a German school where the highest percentage of pupils were Jews; tells about losing a lot of her Jewish school friends; comments on the belief of her neighbors **Zeidmann** “everything was a Soviet agitation” and not wanting them to flee; remembers an order to keep all the doors and windows opened; tells about Romanians coming in houses and driving Jews out; tells about Romanians coming during the night and violating women.

**[00:] 30:16:15 – [00:] 35:49:09**

She remembers one more time a crowd of Jews that was driven out like livestock; tells about the arrival of the Red Army and the liberation of the occupied people; comments on the attitude of the Red Army’s soldiers toward the occupied people and those occupied toward the Red Army; tells about a memorial that is planned to be erected in the area of a former Jewish cemetery.