

BRANDNER, Valentina  
Ukraine Witnesses Documentation Project  
Russian  
RG-50.575\* 0008

Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Valentina Brandner, former resident of an Odessa neighborhood, talks about her wartime experiences during the time of the Romanian occupation of Odessa. She comments on the deportation of two Jewish families and shares her most traumatic experience of seeing dead bodies hanging along the railroad.

**[01:] 00:00:40 – [01:] 00:01:09**

She states her name and gives her date of birth as February 2, 1925.

**[01:] 00:01:10 – [01:] 00:01:39**

Brandner emphasizes that her family lived in **Fontanka**, a remote suburb of Odessa; comments on their place being away from their city apartment, which was situated on **Kolontaevskaya** Street.

**[01:] 00:01:40 – [01:] 00:04:19**

She discusses her witnessing two incidents in which two families were being deported from their apartments on **Kolontaevskaya** Street to an unknown destination; says that the first family consisted of a mother with a child; remembers asking the mother of this family, aunt **Fanya**, where they were going and not receiving an answer.

**[01:] 00:04:20 – [01:] 00:07:34**

She comments on the deportation of the second family which was much bigger than the first one, consisting of grandparents, parents, and three children; describes the fear, confusion, and frustration of the mother of the larger family and the violent response of one Romanian soldier who nudged the screaming mother with a weapon; highlights her first memory of hearing the word “ghetto”; mentions that she heard this word for the first time from women of a Jewish family next door who were ordered to pack up and leave; remembers asking her parents to explain the meaning of the word “ghetto”; says that she never heard from that family after the occupation, while it was said that aunt **Fanya** had come back to her apartment.

**[01:] 00:07:35 – [01:] 00:11:20**

She shares her most traumatic and shocking experience of having seen bodies hanging along the railroad; comments on the question of whether these people were wearing specific clothes or had special signs of recognition on their clothes; describes the reaction of people turning away and crying when passing along the road and seeing the bodies.