

PAROKONNAYA, Lidiya
Ukraine Witnesses Documentation Project
Russian
RG-50.575*0009

Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Lidiya Parokonnaya talks about her wartime experiences during the time of the German and Romanian occupation of Odessa. She comments on several mass killings and killing sites around Odessa and discusses her family hiding a Jewish relative in their apartment.

[01:] 00:00:40 – [01:] 00:00:54

She gives her name, place and date of birth.

[01:] 00:00:55 – [01:] 00:04:49

She describes the beginning of the German and Romanian occupation of Odessa and the general atmosphere of fear at that time; summarizes the message on the posters that were put up everywhere in the city ordering all Jews to report to certain locations within a short period of time; comments on the fact that her aunt's husband was Jewish and went to one of those locations listed on the posters; discusses his subsequent imprisonment; recalls visiting him with her aunt and bringing him food; says her aunt was able to have one of her friends forge a Russian passport for her husband and that this helped her aunt get him out of jail; comments on her family hiding him in their apartment for the remaining time of the occupation; discusses her aunt's husband hiding behind a wardrobe when someone came in to visit.

[01:] 00:04:50 – [01:] 00:05:54

She discusses her family's decision to quarter a Romanian officer in one of the rooms of her apartment during the occupation; comments on this officer and another soldier living with their family for two years, without knowing that Parokonnaya's family was hiding her aunt's husband in the same apartment.

[01:] 00:05:55 – [01:] 00:07:59

She describes the end of the German occupation and the fact that her family no longer felt safe hiding her uncle in the apartment due to frequent raids by the German officers; discusses her uncle leaving Odessa for another district (**Kotovskiy** District) where he was accepted by the Russian troops and remained until the end of the war.

[01:] 00:08:00 – [01:] 00:10:19

She talks about a prison in which her aunt's husband was incarcerated; remembers seeing many men but no women there; recalls that most of those inmates were Jews, according to her uncle; comments on the Romanian officers serving as guards in this jail.

[01:] 00:10:20 – [01:] 00:15:59

She talks about seeing women and children walking down the street in a suburban district of Odessa **Slobodka**; says that they were escorted by the Romanian troops and supposedly did not know where they were going; remembers that her relative saw a woman who was marching in this group throw out her child and another woman pick up that child and possibly adopt it afterwards; she comments on the question of other mass killings by describing a sight of people who were hung on **Sobornaya Square** and **Alexandrovskiy Avenue** in Odessa; recalls seeing a burnt down military warehouse in which Jews were said to be rounded-up and burnt.

[01:] 00:16:00 – [01:] 00:18:00

She describes the worrisome feelings in her family when troops of the Soviet Army were entering Odessa and ending the occupation; suggests that many people from occupied Odessa left fearing being accused of collaboration with the occupying forces; comments on these people being sent to labor camps in the Soviet Union, if found.