

GUBAŠ-TURČAN, Ljubica
Former Yugoslavia Witnesses Documentation Project
Serbian
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Box 1, DVD 1

In this interview, Ljubica Gubaš-Turčan, born in 1922 and a resident of Novi Sad in Vojvodina during World War II, describes the massacre on **Temerinska** Street committed by the Hungarian army upon their invasion of Vojvodina and the state of the city afterwards. She discusses the roundups and deportations of the Jews as well as other persecuted locals. She also speaks of her medical service in two hospitals in Vojvodina. Furthermore, she gives her account of a public hanging of a collaborator that took place after the war in Novi Sad and the locals' reactions to this execution. She describes friendly and neighborly relationships among Serbian and Jewish families in Novi Sad before the war.

[00:] 00:45:02 – [00:] 11:07:25

She gives her name, place and date of birth; explains that at the beginning of the war she was in her freshman year at the Medical College of Belgrade University; describes the students as divided between royalists and Communists; comments on their verbal arguments at the students' club; explains how, after Yugoslavia was invaded and the college closed, she moved to Novi Sad and volunteered at a children's hospital under the supervision of Dr. **Simić**; talks about frequent bombing, fear within the local population, and roundups during the first days of the war; mentions her neighbors the **Morbergers**, a Jewish family, being taken away and that she never heard about them again; explains that all the Jews were taken away; recalls an incident in which her colleague saved some Jews from a group marching past his house by hiding them in his yard; talks about a massacre in **Temerinska** Street in Novi Sad committed by the Hungarian Army on their entering into Vojvodina; comments on the horrible scene she witnessed after the soldiers had left; remembers streams of blood, piles of dead bodies, among which were people she knew personally; describes how the Hungarian soldiers invaded people's homes in search of a place to sleep and how no one dared to protest.

[00:] 11:08:00 – [00:] 18:11:25

She speaks about the terror induced by the occupying authorities after the invasion of Vojvodina; discusses how many people were imprisoned, taken away, or executed; gives details of her job at the hospital; talks about her supervisor Dr. **Simić**; explains that the hospital treated children from **Sárvár** (a Hungarian town that housed a civilian camp during the war); discusses the number of patients in the hospital, the types of health problems they had and their physical conditions upon admittance to treatment [*shows two pictures of hospital workers and patients*]; explains that a very small percentage of children recovered; speaks about what happened to the children who

survived after the liberation; talks about other people who worked in that hospital and the ways they obtained medical supplies.

[00:] 18:12:00 – [00:] 28:12:05

She talks again about the massacre in **Temerinska** Street; explains that the Jews and other imprisoned locals were taken to warehouses where they were loaded on trucks and deported; comments on some of those trucks that she saw; explains that for the major part of the war she worked in the **Sárvár**'s hospital but that after she was demobilized she was transferred to Bečej where an epidemic of typhus occurred that killed almost all the prisoners and soldiers who were brought there for treatment; says that she lived to see the end of the war in Novi Sad; talks about the atmosphere after the war and how people felt; gives her explanation of why there were no cases of personal revenge after the war; gives her account of a public hanging of a collaborator that took place after the war in Novi Sad as well as the public reactions to this execution; talks again about the period that immediately preceded the war and how it was characterized by frequent conflicts about Communism and ethnicity; describes how, during the war, people feared being on the streets and how everybody tried to stay home as much as possible; explains that after the Hungarian Army invaded Vojvodina and took over power, the living conditions drastically worsened; mentions the **Morberger** family again; talks about good neighborly relations between their two families and regrets that she never found out what happened to them; mentions the Jewish trader **Gaiger** who owned a grocery store at the corner of her street in Novi Sad and recalls how all the children from the neighborhood loved to shop there because he would always give them treats; explains that the Serbs and the Jews always lived as friends.