

## FROM A DOCUMENT CONCERNING THE MASSACRES OF THE JEWISH POPULATION OF LEOVA RAION (REGION) BY THE FASCISTS <sup>1</sup>

7 December 1944

...In the first half of July 1941, as soon as the locality of Leova Region was occupied by German and Romanian troops, the Jewish population of the city of Leova, 1558 people <sup>2</sup>, including children, were arrested at the instruction of Lt. Col Petr Georgievich Muntean of the 4th Romanian Border Guards Detachment, and sent in the direction of the city of Kishinev. On the way outside the village of Sarateni, at the instruction of the above Lt. Col. Muntean, 55 of the aforementioned Jewish population were shot as weak and elderly <sup>3</sup>. One group of 20 people was shot in the northern part of the village 500 meters from Sarateni, and a second group of 35 250 meters from Sarateni. The bodies were not buried for a long time and after some time some ground was covered, as a consequence of which after three years the bodies had almost decomposed in the ground's surface. Thirty Romanian soldiers under the command of Lt. Col Muntean participated in the shooting.

The 2nd Romanian border guards detachment headed by Capt. Viktor Geolenscu passed through the territory of the Bestemac, Cazangic, and Sarata Noua village soviets (councils). At his instruction the entire Jewish population living in these village councils was arrested - a total of 210 people were arrested, of which 10 people were shot on the site. In the village of Cazangic, in the northern part, 300 meters away 78-year-old Yakov Markovich and his wife, Malka, of the same age were shot <sup>4</sup>; in the village of Bestemac <sup>5</sup>, also behind the village, in the eastern part, seven people were shot, a woman with three children; the rest were old men...

In the village of Sarata Noua, Ios'ko, the Secretary of the village council, was shot at the southern edge <sup>6</sup>. Officers of this unit Gheorghe Stanculescu and Ion Ionescu participated in the executions. The bodies lay on the surface of the ground for a long time; in addition to this, at the instruction of Capt. Bolyanescu, eight beautiful women of the Jewish population were selected and sent to the village of Seliste, 500 meters from the village of Cazangic where they were raped for two days in a priest's empty house. Bolyanescu and two officers, Gheorghe Stanculescu and Ion Ionescu, participated in the rapes, after which the entire Jewish population was herded in the direction of Kishinev, their fates unknown...

Chairman of the Commission N. G. Mikhaylov

Members: A. M. Yeremenko, L. I. Isakov, F. P. Rannev, Z. S. Kogan, and V. N. Kharlamov.

NA RM [National Archive of the Republic of Moldova]

F.1026, Op. 2, D. 22, L. 71, front and back. Original

<sup>1</sup> The introduction of the document with a listing of the composition of the Commission and the posts of its members, and material about massacres of Soviet activists by punitive organs and ?formations? was omitted [Translator's note: the word printed was postoreniya, vice postroyeniya]

<sup>2</sup> The document of the city commission notes that all 360 Jewish families of the city of Leova were arrested (L.58, front and back). See document N° [left blank] for the list of those arrested and herded away.

<sup>3</sup> In the Commission's document the village of Sarateni (see L. 50, 51) said with respect to 55 Jews shot that it was one of various population centers which it had been possible to evacuate into the interior of the country. In as much as they were from different places the Commission could not establish the surnames of those shot.

<sup>4</sup> As follows from the Commission document of the village of Cazangic, 105 Jews were arrested (L. 67). Attached to the document is a list of heads of families who were arrested and the number of family members in parentheses (see L. 68). Among them are P. F. Shmulevich (6), F. Shneiderman (4), Rakhil' M. Blinderman (4), Moisei Davidovich Kogan (3), Rubin M. Rot (3), Isyr L. Geykhman (4), Aron F. Kvitsys (4), Moisei Sh. Rubinger (6), Mendel' A. Barash (2), Pinya M. Argintar' (3), F. S. Kukhman (5), Moisei S. Grindinberg (7), A. M. Plashovich (4), S. M. Bikhman (5), A. M. Berkovich (4), Moisei A. Nukhimovich (6), F. A. Komolonovich (4), Moisei S. Shafer, A. Sh. Kukhman (3), Yankel A. Markovich (2), F. S. Peisakhovich (5), Sh. F. Vainshenker (3), Yehuda M. Rubinger (4), and Sh. I. Baltsan (7).

<sup>5</sup> According to the Commission document of the village of Bestemac, of the seven shot five were Jews: Mariya Zelenger, Aleksandr Semenovich (a doctor), Khaim Boiangiu, Khaim Solomonovich, and Itsik Kotorlits. The remaining two shot were Pvt. Ivan Kirilovich Yefimov and local resident Kondraty Georgiyevich Rusu (L. 69). A total of 103 Jews were arrested. Attached to the document is a list of heads of families who were arrested and the number of family members in parentheses. Among them were Lyusya Gol'shteyn (3), Usher Solomonovich (6), Itsik Kotorlits (9), A. Semenovich (3), Khaim Solomonovich (3), Doctor Berkovich (3), Mariya Zelenger (6), Khaim Boiangiu (3), Itsik Shinberg (3), Leyb Khaimovich (3), Khaim Fishman (5), Yankel' Shinberg (10), Perets Kremer (2), David Croitor (5), Avram Berenshteyn (5), Itik Zeidman (4), and Mariya Solomonovich (4). In a number of cases only a first name or only the surname of the family member was indicated: Shim' (7), Srul' (6), Loshek (4), and Shornik (4).

<sup>6</sup> This is Iosif Mikhaylovich Veigman. In the Commission document of the village of Sarata Noua it said that Veigman was shot on the way to the village of Sarateni (L. 63).