

## MASSACRES, DEPORTATIONS, AND DEATH MARCHES FROM BESSARABIA, FROM JULY 1941



With the return of Soviet rule to Bessarabia in June 1940, all Jewish institutions were closed, and on June 13, 1941, many of the Jewish leaders, as well as wealthy Jews, were exiled to Siberia, where many died. But with the arrival of the Nazi killing squads in July 1941, the scale of murder, as indicated in this map, exceeded anything previously known.

Following the initial killings, internment camps were set up throughout the province. At the camp in Edineti, after the initial slaughter, 70 to 100 people died every day in July and August 1941, most of starvation. Then, in September, the Jews of Bessarabia were forced out of the province in hundreds of death marches, some of which are indicated in the map. In all, more than 148,000 Bessarabian Jews perished in the ghettos and camps of Transnistria. During these marches, more than half of the victims died of exposure, disease, hunger, thirst and the savage brutality of the Romanian and German guards, who would often pick out a group of marchers at random, order them aside, and shoot them.

Map and text credits:

*Atlas of the Holocaust*, rev. ed. by Sir Martin Gilbert (New York: William Morrow, 1993).

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