



BACRO KVEC

(Poland, 1931 – unknown)



Kvec Bacro was a nomadic, Kalderash Roma, born in Poland in 1931. Due to the invasion of Poland by Nazi Germany in 1939 during World War II, over 50,000 Poles, military and civilians took refuge from Nazi oppression in Romania. For Kvec Bacro, at the age of 11, Romania became his new home. The country was considered a space that could offer him protection at a time when acts of extermination on racial and eugenic grounds were becoming more and more widespread.

However, in June 1942, the Romanian state decided to deport more than 25,000 nomadic and sedentary Roma to Transnistria. **Kvec Bacro, together with his family, was part of the first wave of nomadic Roma to be deported.** He survived with his entire family in Transnistria, returning to Romania in 1944 to settle in Hunedoara. There he worked as a foreman in the Hunedoara steelworks, where he was employed due

to his excellent blacksmithing skills.

Why is he considered a hero of Transnistria? Because **he kept the memory of his nomadic life and deportation to Transnistria alive in his community by creating a dedicated museum in his home.** This was his form of resistance to deportation to Transnistria. Kvec Bacro often invites his grandchildren and great-grandchildren inside his museum, and each time he recites this poem to them:

*„Mar Devla le'Antoneskos/
Vi les, vi leske karaja/
Ke ov dinea ordin pe-l gava/
Te tzirden le Romen sea/
Le Romen le nomatza/
Kai ci keren e armata/
Nakhabghia len trjn paja/
Thaj shutea len ando-l lagărea”*

*God beat Antonescu,
On him and his soldiers
That he gave orders over the
villages
To take all the Roma nations
The Roma, the nomads
He crossed them over three waters
And he put them in the camps.*

Kvec Bacro, Roma survivor of the Deportation to
Transnistria,
77 years old in 2008, interviewed by Adrian-Nicolae
Furtuna

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Further information:

Documentary film: Sostar na rovas, Why don't we cry. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3ZhyHNF4ww&t=10s>

This biography has been written by Adrian-Nicolae Furtună