



## JANKO NIKOLIĆ

(Budrovci, Austro-Hungarian Empire/Republic of Croatia, 1884 – unknown)



Janko Nikolić was born in the village of Budrovci (Đakovo area) in 1884, where he lived with his wife, mother and 11 other Roma family members. His son, Tihomir Nikolić, was born on March 2, 1918, in the village of Budrovci, where he married and had two children.

Ustaša authorities tried to deport them in August 1942 to the Jasenovac concentration camp. “One day at the end of August 1942, early in the morning, while we were still sleeping, **the Ustašas came and surrounded our house, but only my son and I, Tihomir, escaped.** We hid away in the village of Budimci, and later we crossed over to Bačka.” (Croatian State Archives, Javno tužilaštvo SR Hrvatske, Optužnica Pavelić – Artuković sign. HR-HDA-42, box 128).

© Motl, Dejan; Mihovilović, Đorđe, Zaboravljeni: knjiga o posljednjim jasenovačkim logorašima. Jasenovac: Spomen-područje Jasenovac - Zagreb: Savez antifašističkih boraca i antifašista RH, 2015., p. 493.

In the fall of 1941, the Ustaša authorities arrested them and returned them to the village of Budrovci, but they were not deported to the Jasenovac camp until

January 1943. In his testimony, Nikolić senior described his detention in the Jasenovac camp, from which he managed to escape, and thereafter joined the partisans: “As a Jasenovac camp internee, I occasionally went to the forest for forced labour, and one day, while being on forced labour, I managed to escape. Wandering through the forest, I came across partisans, applied to be a fighter, and thus **stayed in the People’s Liberation Struggle until the liberation in April 1945.**” (Testimony of Janko Nikolić).



## Sources:

1. Testimony of Janko Nikolić, Croatian State Archives, sign. HR-HDA-421, Javno tužilaštvo SR Hrvatske [Public Prosecutor's Office of the Socialist Republic of Croatia], Box 128.
2. Motl, Dejan; Mihovilović, Đorđe, Zaboravljeni: knjiga o posljednjim jasenovačkim logorašima. Jasenovac: Spomen-područje Jasenovac - Zagreb: Savez antifašističkih boraca i antifašista RH, 2015., pp. 492 – 493.

This biography has been written by Daniel Vojak