



MILAN RADOSAVLJEVIĆ

(Novi Jankovci, Croatia 1909 - unknown)

Milan Radosavljević was born in Novi Jankovci (Vinkovci district) in 1909, where he worked as a day worker and a charcoal burner. He married Kaja (born 1922) and had three children.

Radosavljević was deported from Novi Jankovci by the Ustaša authorities in May 1942, along with 830 other Roma, first to Vinkovci, and then to the Jasenovac camp. Immediately upon arrival, the men were separated from the women and children. That evening, together with another male Roma, he listened to the cries of Roma women who had been tortured and raped by Ustaša camp guards. From the following day on, **Radosavljević worked in the camp digging pits and witnessed mass crimes** committed by Ustaša against Roma detainees, as well as the failed attempts of Roma to escape from the camp. After twelve days of pit digging, he and other Roma decided to flee the Jasenovac camp:

“Since we were afraid that we would be executed like the other men from our camp, one night when it was raining, and there was a thick overcast, **we dug a tunnel under the wires and began to run.** We were fired upon, and some of us were killed, but I don’t know who, since I was among the first who had moved beyond the wire. I later met up with Gypsies Tošo and Milan Mitrović, who had escaped from the camp on the same night as I, and managed to save themselves. **I joined the partisans soon after our escape and remained with them until the end of the war.**” (Testimony of Milan Radosavljević).

In his statement, Radosavljević did not describe in detail his joining of, or warfare activities under, the partisans. At the end of his statement, he said, “None of my family members who had been taken to the camp ever returned; they were obviously killed in Gradina and thrown into the pits that I had dug there.” (Testimony of Milan Radosavljević)

Sources:

1. Testimony of Milan Radosavljević, Croatian State Archives, sign. HR-HDA-421, Javno tužilaštvo SR Hrvatske [Public Prosecutor’s Office of the Socialist Republic of Croatia], Box 128.

This biography has been written by Daniel Vojak