



TIHOMIR NIKOLIĆ TIKO

(Budrovci, Austro-Hungarian Empire/Republic of Croatia, March 2, 1918 – Slavonski Brod/ Yugoslavia/ Republic of Croatia, January 20, 1988)



© Motl, Dejan; Mihovilović, Đorđe, Zaboravljeni: knjiga o posljednjim jasenovačkim logorašima. Jasenovac: Spomen-područje Jasenovac - Zagreb: Savez antifašističkih boraca i antifašista RH, 2015., p. 492.

Tihomir Nikolić, the son of Janko Nikolić, was born on March 2, 1918, in the village of Budrovci, where he married and had two children.

The Ustaša authorities tried to deport him and his family in mid-1942. Nikolić claims this happened in late spring, while his father claims it happened in August.

On August 18, 1951, Nikolić senior testified in the District Court of Vinkovci: "One day, at the end of August 1942, early in the morning, while we were still sleeping, the Ustašas came and surrounded our house. **Only my son, Tihomir, and I escaped. We hid away in the village of Budimci, and later we crossed over to Bačka.**"

In the fall of 1942, 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. Nikolić worked in the Jasenovac camp in Working Group D, which was responsible for burying detainees. Later, his father managed to escape from the Jasenovac camp. Nikolić remained in the Jasenovac camp until the end of the war.

During the breakout of the Jasenovac camp in April 1945, Nikolić, chained, hid in a barrel filled with lime (this was used to cover the corpses in the tombs). **During the night he successfully escaped from the camp and fled into the woods.** He moved exclusively at night and fed on reeds. He managed to return to Budrovci, where **his father did not initially recognise him** since

he was covered in wounds and scabs. Only then were his shackles removed, which left scars for the rest of his life.

After the war, he lived in Vinkovci, where he remarried and worked as a horse trader. He died in 1988.

Sources:

1. 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