Prin întuneric

Povestiri grafice despre Holocaust

Dans la nuit

Histoires illustrées de l'Holocauste

In the darkness

Graphic stories about the Holocaust

Caietul elevului / Cahier de l'élève / Student's notebook

Editura Eurostampa
2025

Material realizat de elevii și profesorii Liceului Teoretic „Iulia Hasdeu” Lugoj

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Descrierea CIP a Bibliotecii Naţionale a României
Prin întuneric : povestiri grafice despre Holocaust : caietul elevului = Dans la nuit : histoires illustrées de l'Holocauste : cahier de l'élève = In the darkness : graphic stories about the Holocaust : student's notebook / coord.: Suciu Horaţiu, Suciu Monica. - Timişoara : Eurostampa, 2025
ISBN 978-606-32-1572-8
I. Suciu, Horaţiu (coord.)
II. Suciu, Monica (coord.)

94
323.1

Editură acreditată C. N. C. S. pe domeniile:
FILOLOGIE, ISTORIE ŞI STUDII CULTURALE,
ARTE VIZUALE, MUZICĂ.

Editura Eurostampa
Timişoara, Bd. Revoluţiei din 1989 nr. 26
Tel.: 0256-204816
edituraeurostampa@gmail.com
www.eurostampa.ro
Tipărit la Eurostampa

Material realizat în cadrul proiectului	
# Facts not Fiction	
Coordonatorul proiectului	EuroClio Inspiring History and Citizenship Educators
Partenerii proiectului	TERRA FORMING www.terraforming.org
	Institutul Intercultural Timisoara
	Arolsen Archives International Center on Nazi Persecution
	Co-funded by the European Union

Introducere

Între 1930 și 1940 șeful statului român a fost regele Carol al II-lea. În această perioadă, viața politică din România a fost cuprinsă de violență, în special datorită acțiunilor membrilor Legiunii Arhanghelui Mihail, un partid care schimbat numele în Garda de Fier și, din 1934, în Partidul Totul pentru Țară.

Sub conducerea regelui Carol al II-lea, în 1938, guvernul Goga-Cuza adoptă primele legi antisemite din perioada interbelică. Guvernele următoare au continuat să ia noi măsuri împotriva populației evreiști. În 1938, regele Carol al II-lea, introduce un regim dictatorial, iar autoritățile folosesc, la rândul lor, violența împotriva adversarilor politici.

În contextul izbucnirii celui de la Al Doilea Război Mondial, în 1940, România e forțată să cedeze teritorii către U.R.S.S., Ungaria și Bulgaria, iar regele Carol al II-lea e forțat să abdice.

Datorită pierderilor din vara anului 1940, generalul Ion Antonescu este numit în funcția de prim-ministru. Încercând să se apropie de Germania hitleristă, Ion Antonescu aduce la guvernare, alături de el, mișcarea legionară cunoscută pentru legăturile strânse cu naziștii germani. Pe 14 septembrie 1940, România e proclamată „Stat Național Legionar”. Ion Antonescu se proclamă „Conducător al statului”, iar Horia Sima, conducătorul Legiunii, devine vicepreședinte al Consiliului de Miniștri.

Odată cu instaurarea regimului Antonescu situația evreilor din România se degradează. Imediat ce preiau puterea, la sfârșitul anului 1940, legionarii încep confiscarea averilor deținute de evrei. Pentru asta, ei se folosesc de teroare și violență, amenințări și șantaj.

În ianuarie 1941, Ion Antonescu renunță la alianța politică cu Mișcarea Legionară și, până în 1944, conduce România cu ajutorul armatei, instaurând un regim de dictatură militară. Legile antisemite se înmulțesc. Evreii sunt obligați să presteze muncă obligatorie, le sunt confiscate locuințele și proprietățile, le este interzis să intre în anumite magazine și sunt eliminați din școli și grădinițe.

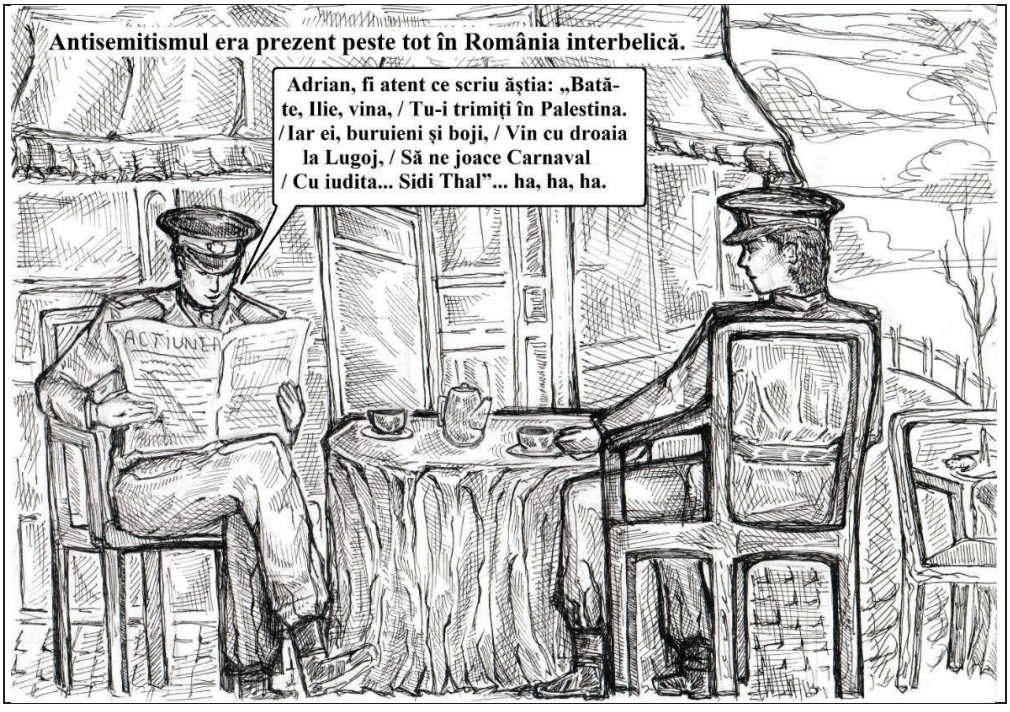
În 22 iunie 1941, România se alătură Germaniei naziste în atacul împotriva U.R.S.S.-ului, implicându-se în cel de Al Doilea Război

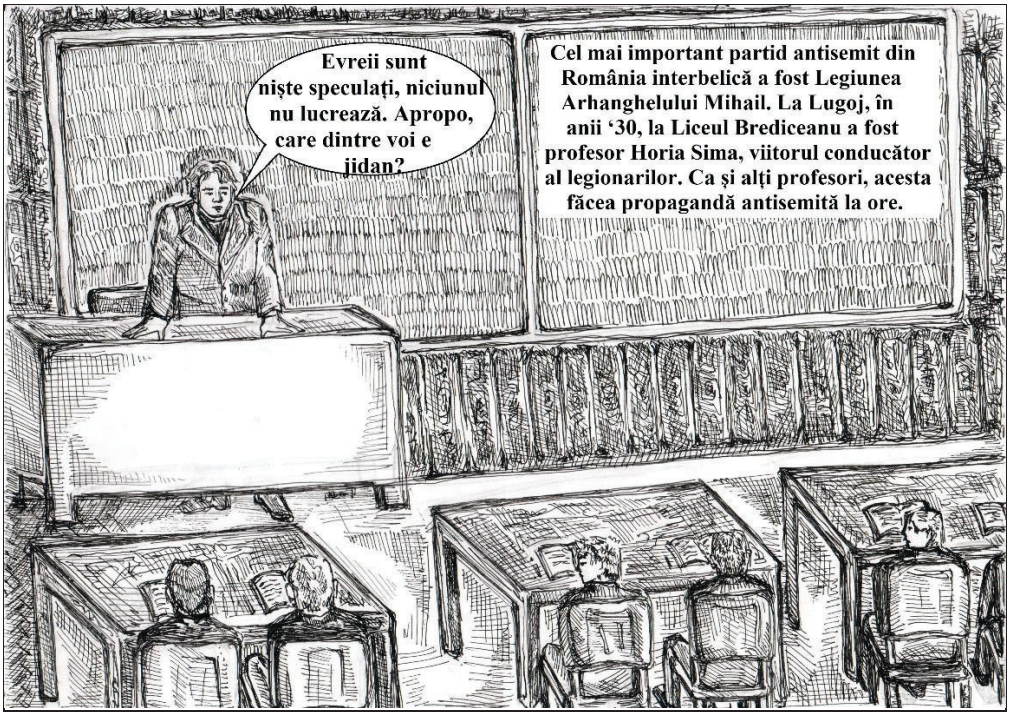
Mondial. În toamna anului 1941, Ion Antonescu hotărește să profite de situație și să deporteaze evreii din Bucovina și Basarabia în Transnistria, regiunea dintre Nistru și Bug. În următorii ani, mii de evrei au murit sau au fost uciși în această regiune. Alături de evrei, au suferit și romii, un număr mare fiind deportați în Transnistria.

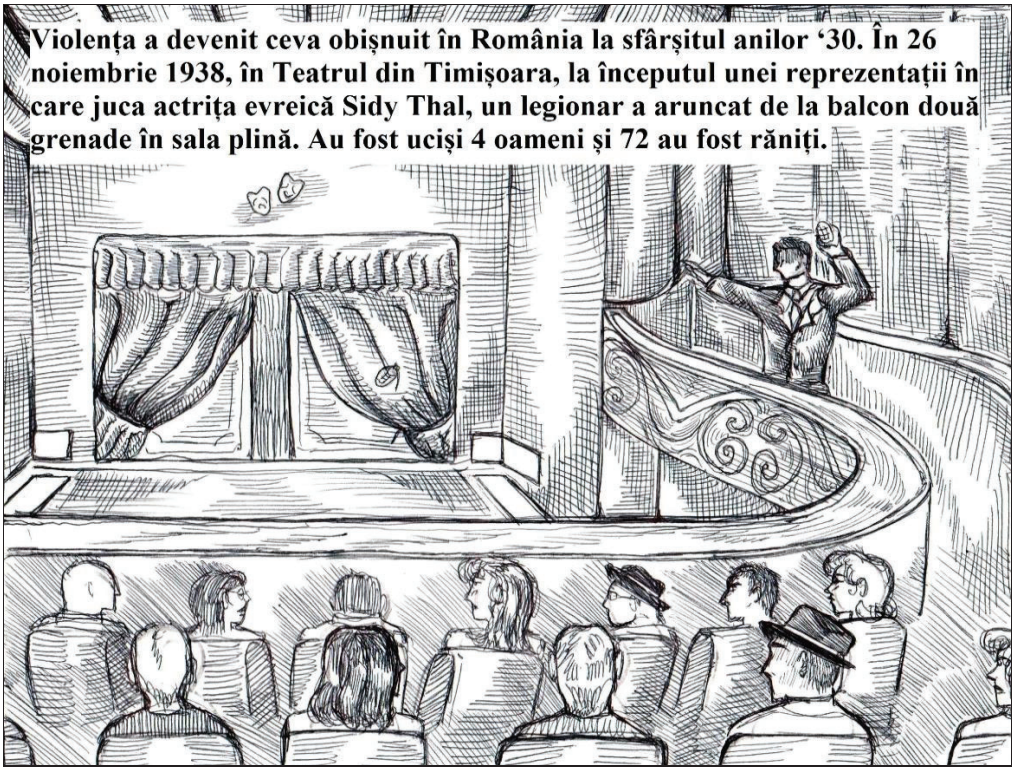
Poveștile care urmează să le citiți arată modul în care măsurile antisemite din România anilor 1938-1944, au afectat viața populației evreiești. Toate se bazează pe mărturiile victimelor și pe documente din epocă, creatorii lor fiind preocupați de respectarea adevărului istoric.

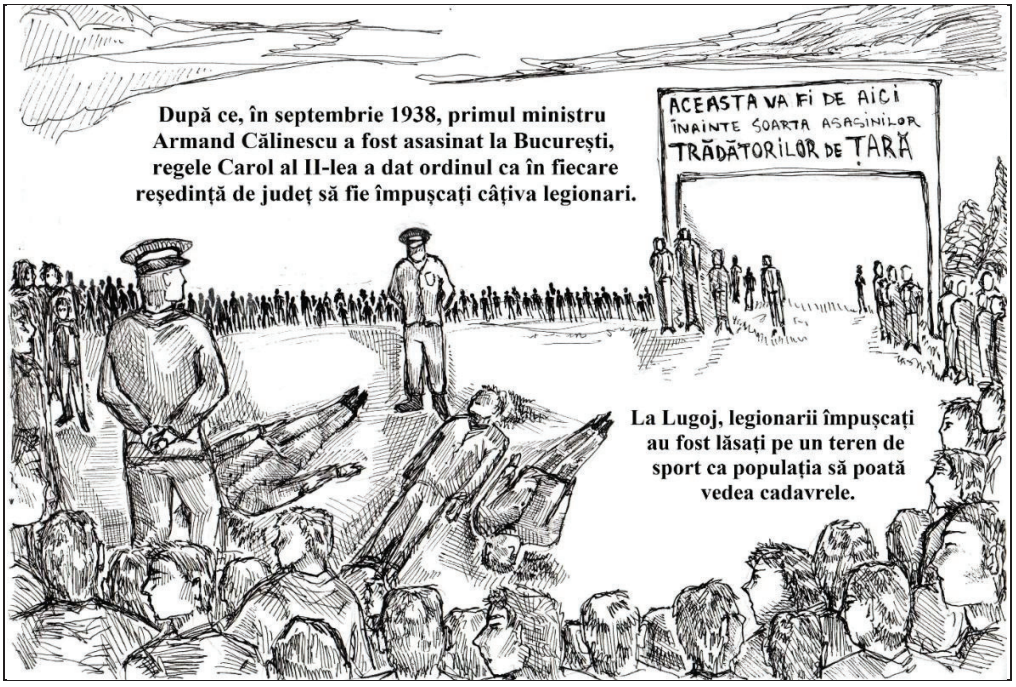
1. Căderea


Ceea ce urmează s-a întâmplat la Lugoj, capitala județului Severin, în anii '30-'40. Povestitorul e Adrian Dumitru, un ofițer al armatei române care își făcea serviciul militar în acest oraș din Banat. Îndrăgostit de Elli, o fată cu origini evreiești din Târgul Mureș, el nu acceptă antisemitismul atât de prezent în România acelei perioade.

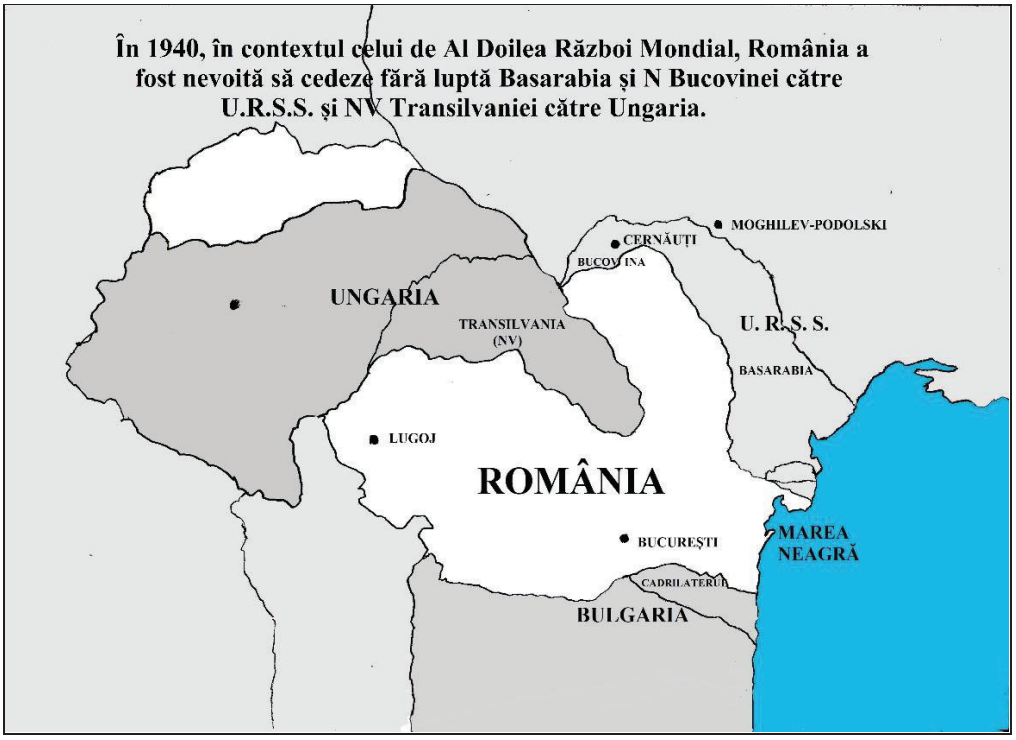

Antisemitismul era prezent peste tot în România interbelică.
Adrian, fi atent ce scriu ăștia: „Bată-te, Ilie, vina, / Tu-i trimiți în Palestina. / Iar ei, buruieni și boji, / Vin cu droaia la Lugoj, / Să ne joace Carnaval / Cu iudita... Sidi Thal"... ha, ha, ha.
ACȚIUNEA

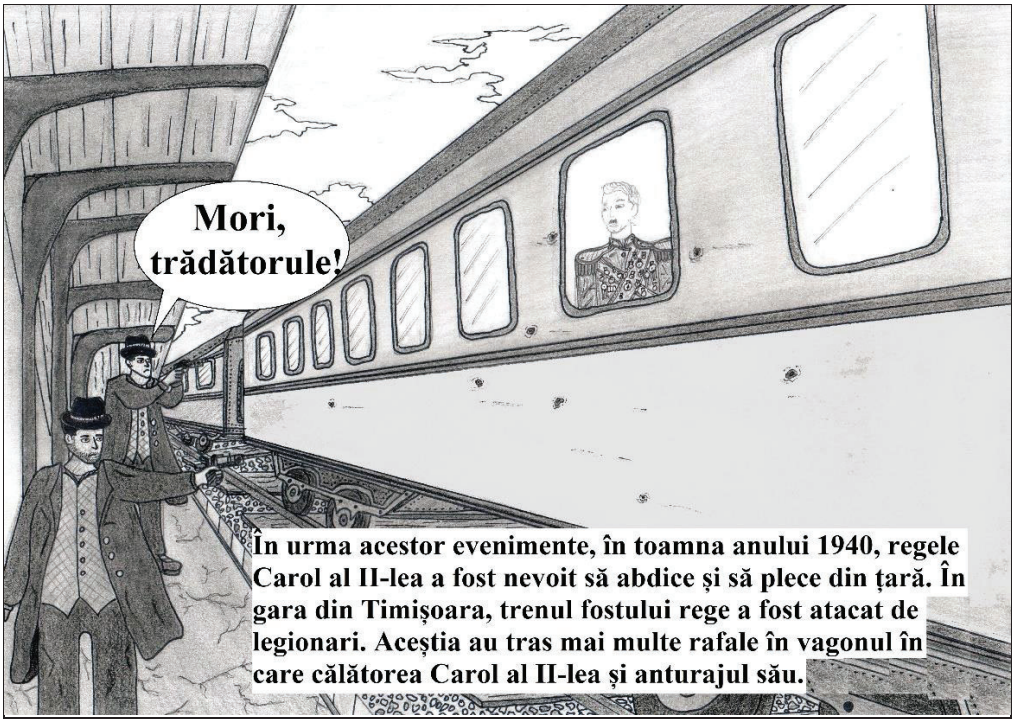

Evreii sunt niște speculați, niciunul nu lucrează. Apropo, care dintre voi e jidan?
Cel mai important partid antisemit din România interbelică a fost Legiunea Arhanghelului Mihail. La Lugoj, în anii '30, la Liceul Brediceanu a fost profesor Horia Sima, viitorul conducător al legionarilor. Ca și alți profesori, acesta făcea propagandă antisemită la ore.

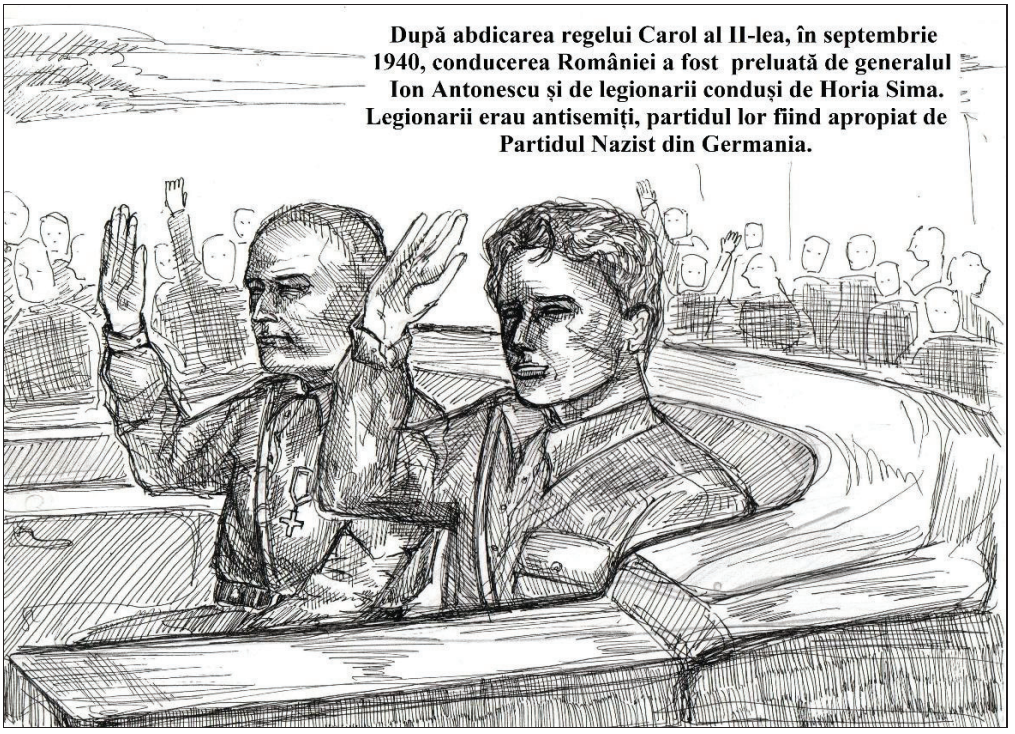

Violența a devenit ceva obișnuit în România la sfârșitul anilor '30. În 26 noiembrie 1938, în Teatrul din Timișoara, la începutul unei reprezentații în care juca actrița evreică Sidy Thal, un legionar a aruncat de la balcon două grenade în sala plină. Au fost uciși 4 oameni și 72 au fost răniți.

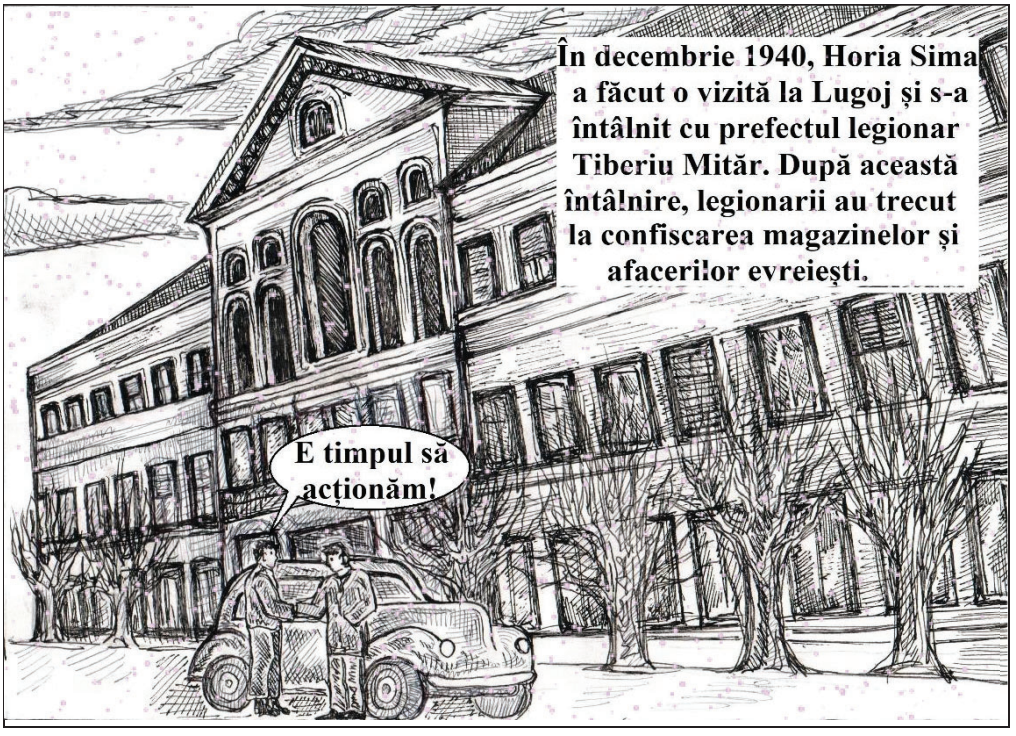

După ce, în septembrie 1938, primul ministru Armand Călinescu a fost asasinat la București, regele Carol al II-lea a dat ordinul ca în fiecare reședință de județ să fie împușcați câțiva legionari.
ACEASTA VA FI DE AICI ÎNAINTE SOARTA ASASINILOR TRĂDĂTORILOR DE ȚARĂ
La Lugoj, legionarii împușcați au fost lăsați pe un teren de sport ca populația să poată vedea cadavrele.

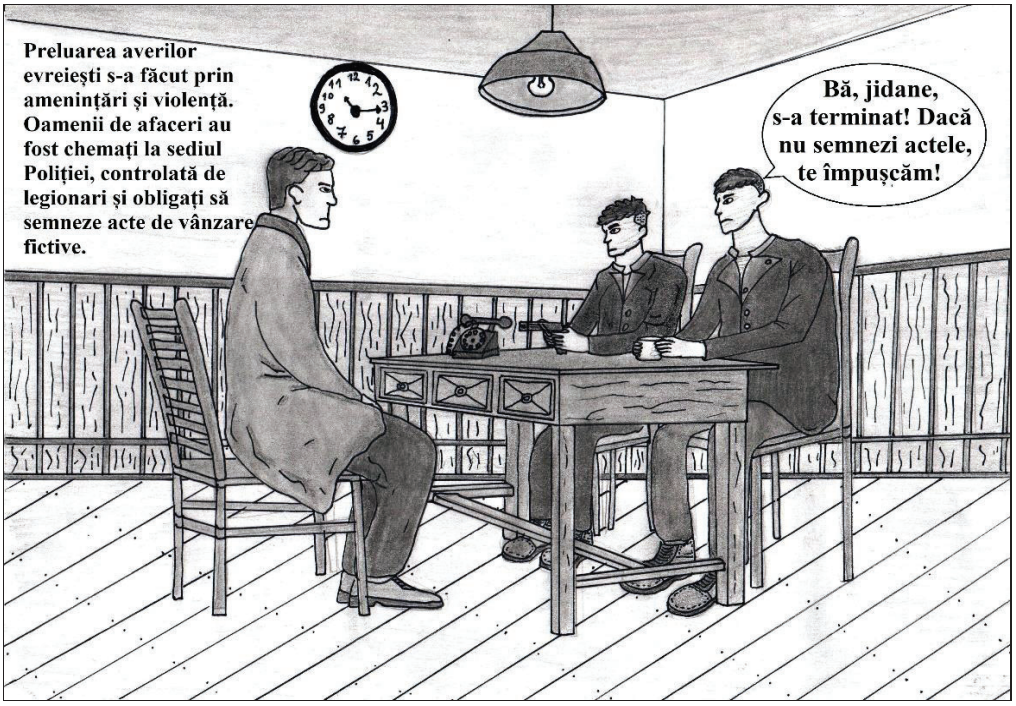

POLONIA
CEHOSLOVACIA
MOGHILEV PODOLSKI
CERNĂUȚI
U. R. S. S.
UNGARIA
ROMÂNIA
LUGOJ
YUGOSLAVIA
BUCUREȘTI
MAREA NEAGRĂ
BULGARIA

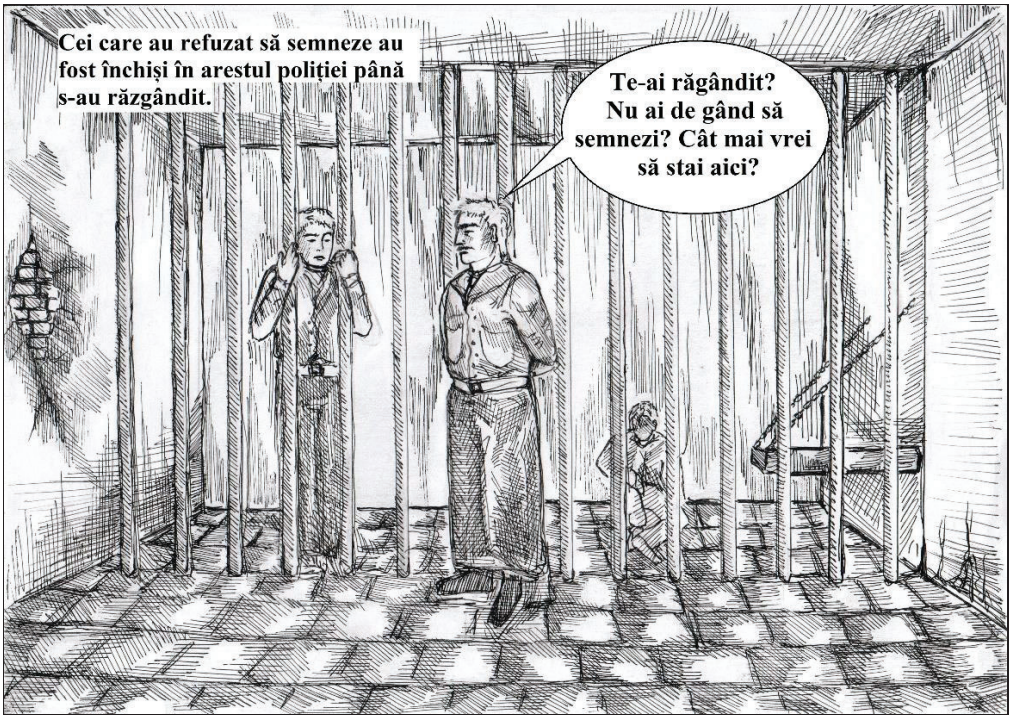

În 1940, în contextul celui de Al Doilea Război Mondial, România a fost nevoită să cedeze fără luptă Basarabia și N Bucovinei către U.R.S.S. și NV Transilvaniei către Ungaria.
MOGHILEV-PODOLSKI
CERNĂUȚI
BUCOVINA
UNGARIA
TRANSILVANIA (NV)
U. R. S. S.
BASARABIA
LUGOJ
ROMÂNIA
BUCUREȘTI
MAREA NEAGRĂ
CADRILATERUL
BULGARIA


Mori, trădătorule!
În urma acestor evenimente, în toamna anului 1940, regele Carol al II-lea a fost nevoit să abdice și să plece din țară. În gara din Timișoara, trenul fostului rege a fost atacat de legionari. Aceștia au tras mai multe rafale în vagonul în care călătorea Carol al II-lea și anturajul său.

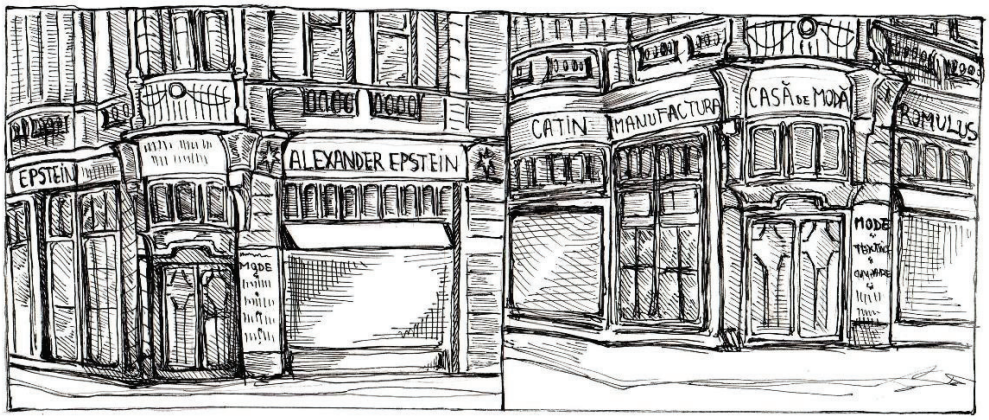

După abdicarea regelui Carol al II-lea, în septembrie 1940, conducerea României a fost preluată de generalul Ion Antonescu și de legionarii conduși de Horia Sima. Legionarii erau antisemiți, partidul lor fiind apropiat de Partidul Nazist din Germania.


În decembrie 1940, Horia Sima a făcut o vizită la Lugoj și s-a întâlnit cu prefectul legionar Tiberiu Mitără. După această întâlnire, legionarii au trecut la confiscarea magazinelor și afacerilor evreiești.
E timpul să acționăm!

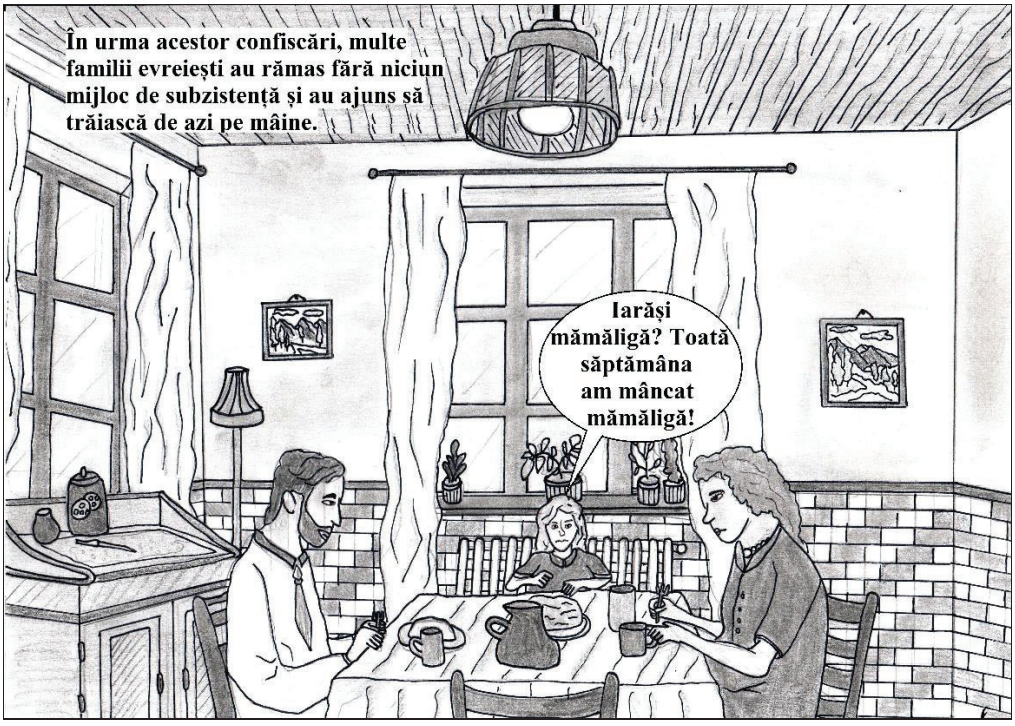

Preluarea averilor evreiești s-a făcut prin amenințări și violență. Oamenii de afaceri au fost chemați la sediul Poliției, controlată de legionari și obligați să semneze acte de vânzare fictive.
Bă, jidane, s-a terminat! Dacă nu semnezi actele, te împușcăm!


Cei care au refuzat să semneze au fost închiși în arestul poliției până s-au răzgândit.
Te-ai răgândit? Nu ai de gând să semnezi? Cât mai vrei să stai aici?

Astfel afacerile și magazinele evreiești și-au schimbat proprietarii. Noi proprietari erau tineri controlați de legionari.

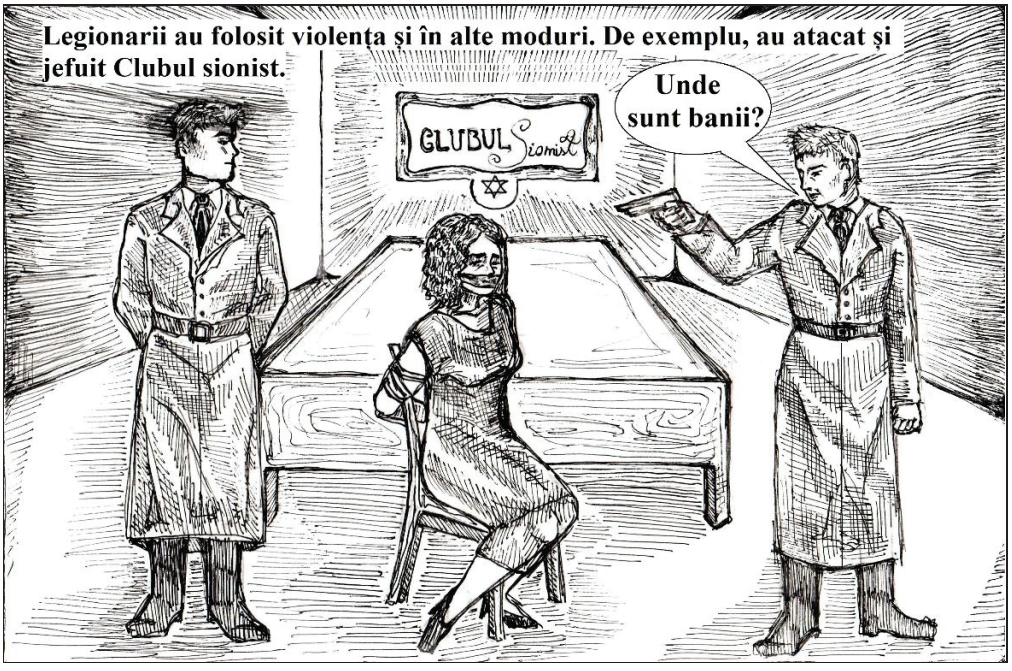


Magazinul lui Alexander Epstein a fost preluat de Romolus Catin.

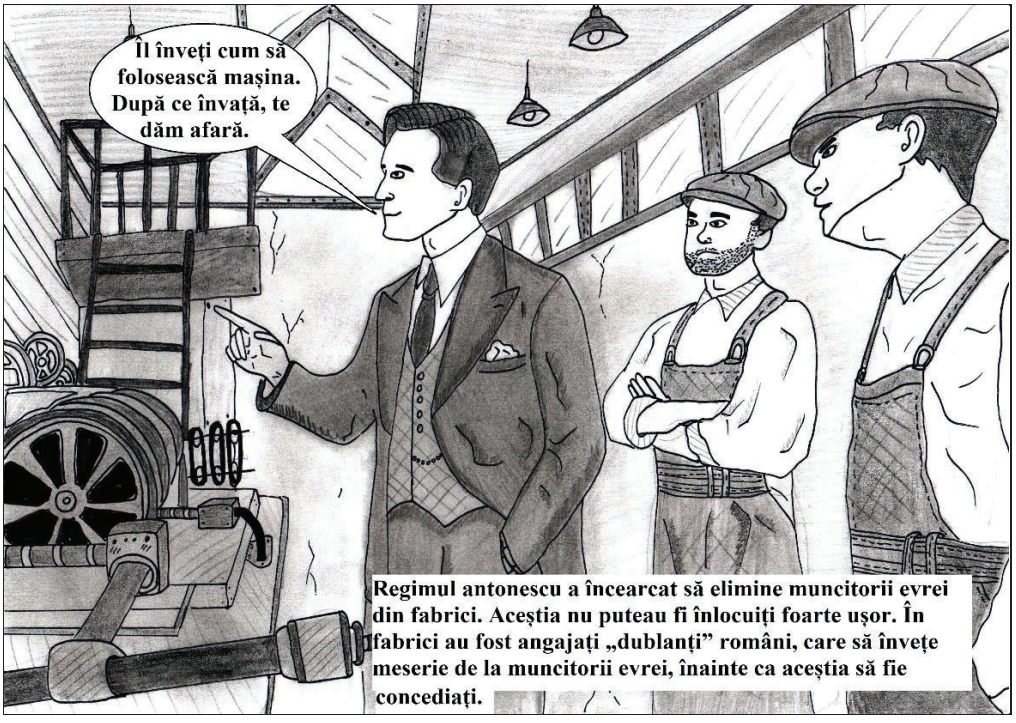




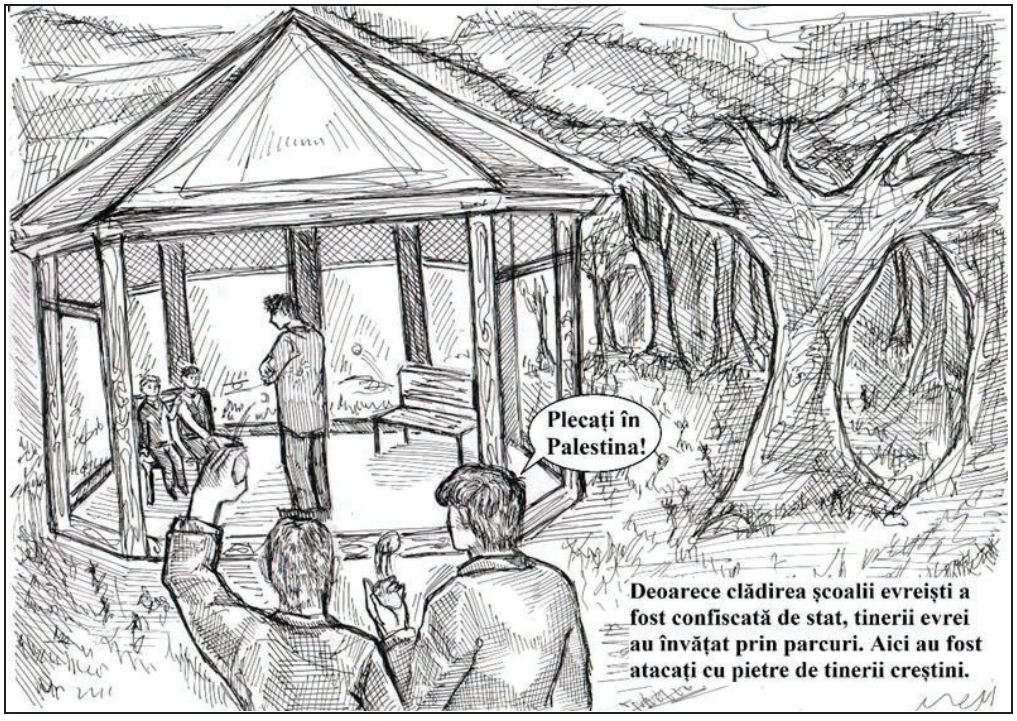
Noaptea, legionarii atacau casele evreilor bogați forțându-i să le cedeze averile.

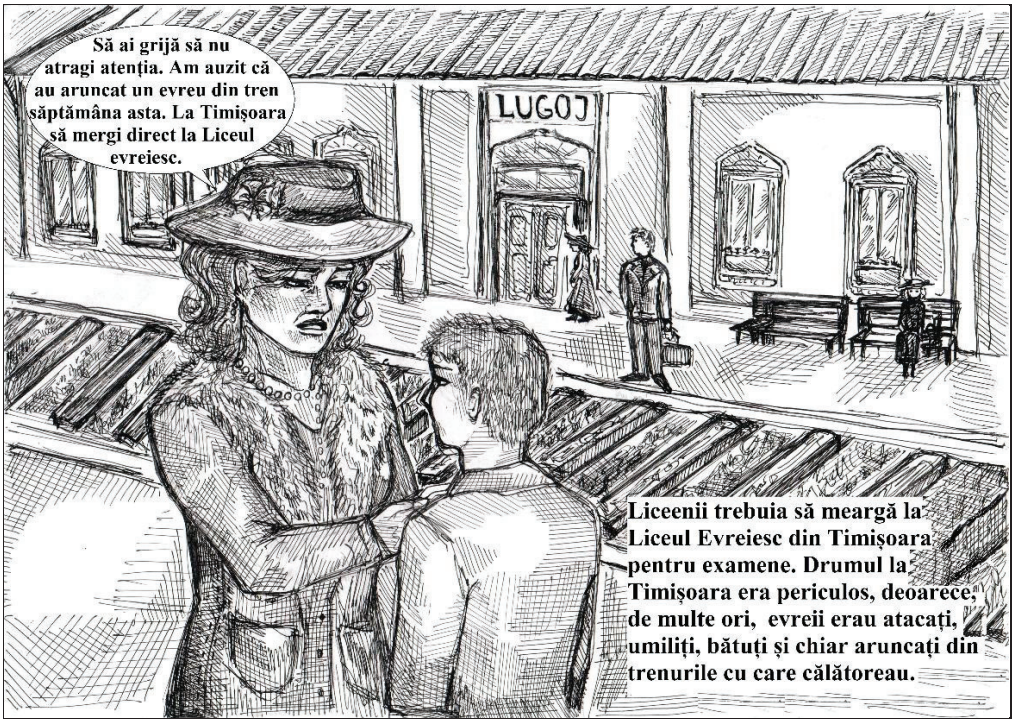



În ianuarie 1941, Ion Antonescu i-a înlăturat pe legionari de la conducerea României. Cu toate acestea măsurile antisemite au continuat. Prin așa numită românizare, guvernul român a confiscat băncile, fabricile și pământurile deținute de evrei.
Se vând pământurile evreilor. Le-au luat și fabricile. Nu mai au nimic.
ACTIUNEA


Îl înveți cum să folosească mașina. După ce învață, te dăm afară.
Regimul antonescu a încearcat să elimine muncitorii evrei din fabrici. Aceștia nu puteau fi înlocuiți foarte ușor. În fabrici au fost angajați „dublanți" români, care să învețe meserie de la muncitorii evrei, înainte ca aceștia să fie concediați.

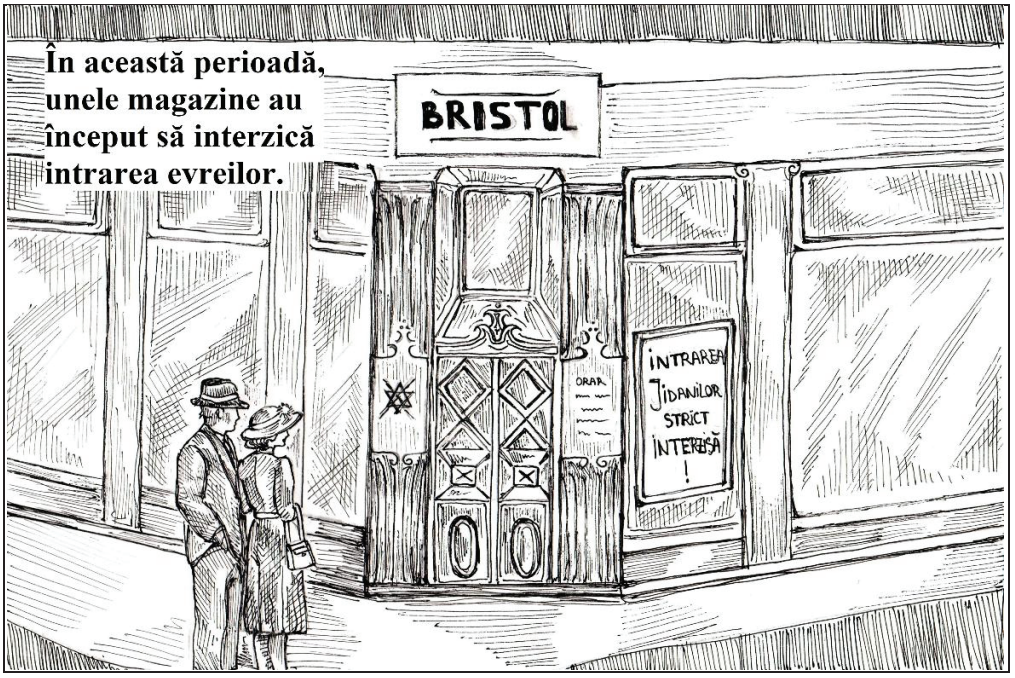

Jozsi, ce ai pățit?
Mi-au zis să plec de la grădiniță pentru că sunt evreu.
Legile rasiale ale guvernului Antonescu au desființat toate instituțiile religioase și culturale evreiești, iar proprietățile comunitare au fost confiscate. Copiii evrei au fost eliminați din școli și din grădinițe.


Plecați în Palestina!
Deoarece clădirea școalii evreiști a fost confiscată de stat, tinerii evrei au învățat prin parcuri. Aici au fost atacați cu pietre de tinerii creștini.


Să ai grijă să nu atragi atenția. Am auzit că au aruncat un evreu din tren săptămâna asta. La Timișoara să mergi direct la Liceul evreiesc.
LUGOJ
Liceenii trebuia să meargă la Liceul Evreiesc din Timișoara pentru examene. Drumul la Timișoara era periculos, deoarece, de multe ori, evreii erau atacați, umiliți, bătuți și chiar aruncați din trenurile cu care călătoreau.


Și asta trebuie s-o scoatem din Bibliotecă. Poetul ăsta, Barbu Nemțeanu e de fapt evreu. E unul Benjamin Deutsch.
Nu doar elevii evrei au fost dați afară din școli. Și cărțile cu autori evrei au fost eliminate din bibliotecile școlare.


AUSPITZ · ADOLF
ÎNȘTIINȚARE
Fiind război, bunurile erau raționalizate și se puteau cumpăra doar cantități limitate. În comparație cu populația creștină, cantitățile pe care le puteau cumpăra evreii erau mult mai mici.

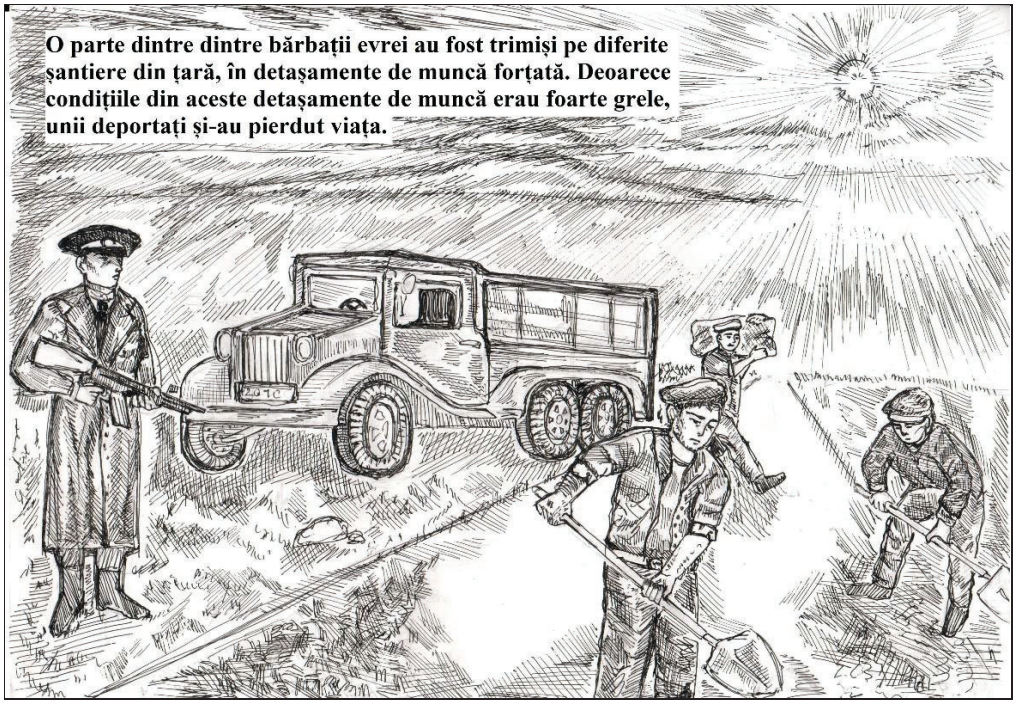

În această perioadă, unele magazine au început să interzică intrarea evreilor.
BRISTOL
ORAR
INTRAREA JIDANILOR STRICT INTERZISĂ !

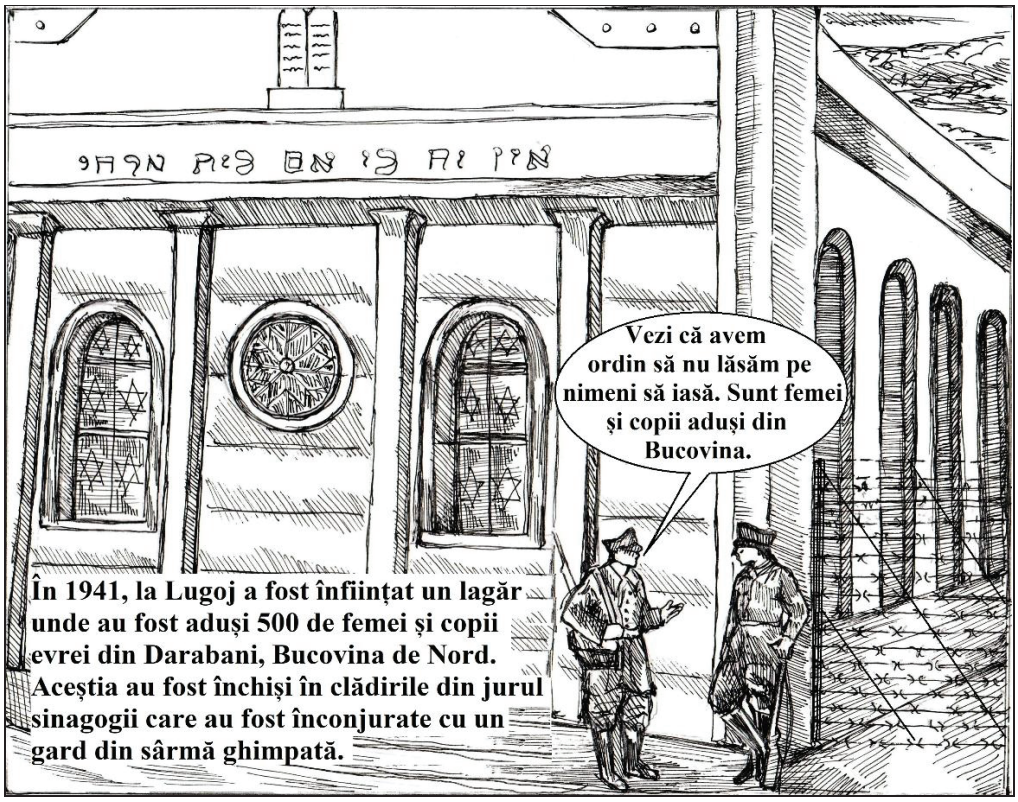

Evreii au fost obligați de regimul antonescu să predea haine, pantofi, șosete, lenjerie, așternuturi de pat pentru armata română. De asemenea, de la populația evreiească au fost confiscate aparatele de radio.
Fi atent! Acum evreii trebuie să dea și ciorapi pentru armată. Vai de țara asta!
RĂSUNETUL


Evreilor le-au fost confiscate locuințele, ei fiind obligați să se mute cu chirie.
Acest club nu mai există. Trebuie să vă mutați de aici.
Unde să ne mutăm?
SIONIST


Aveți trei ore să vă strângeți lucrurile. Toți jidanii trebuie să se mute la Lugoj.
Dar unde o să locuim acolo?
La sfârșitul anului 1940, Antonescu ordonă ca toți evreii care locuiau în sate să se mute în orașele reședință de județ. În județul Severin, evreii au fost forțați să se mute la Lugoj, centrul județului.

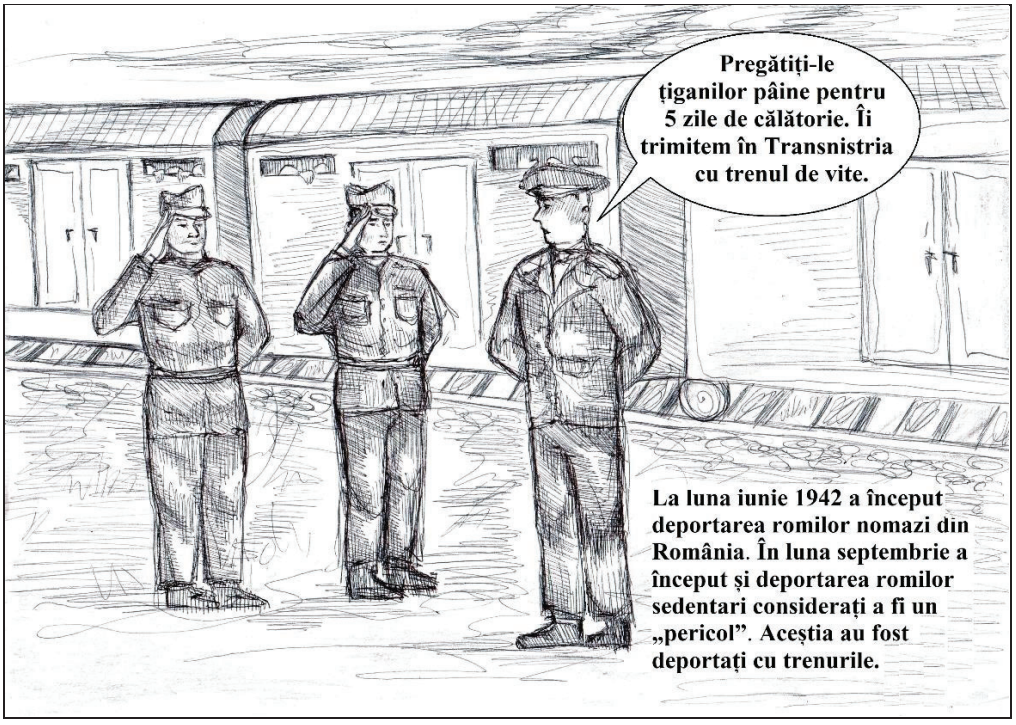

La Lugoj, ca și în celelalte orașe din țară, bărbații evrei au fost obligați să păstreze muncă forțată, fiind puși să sape șanțuri și adăposturi în parcuri, să repare drumuri sau să curețe zăpada pe străzi.

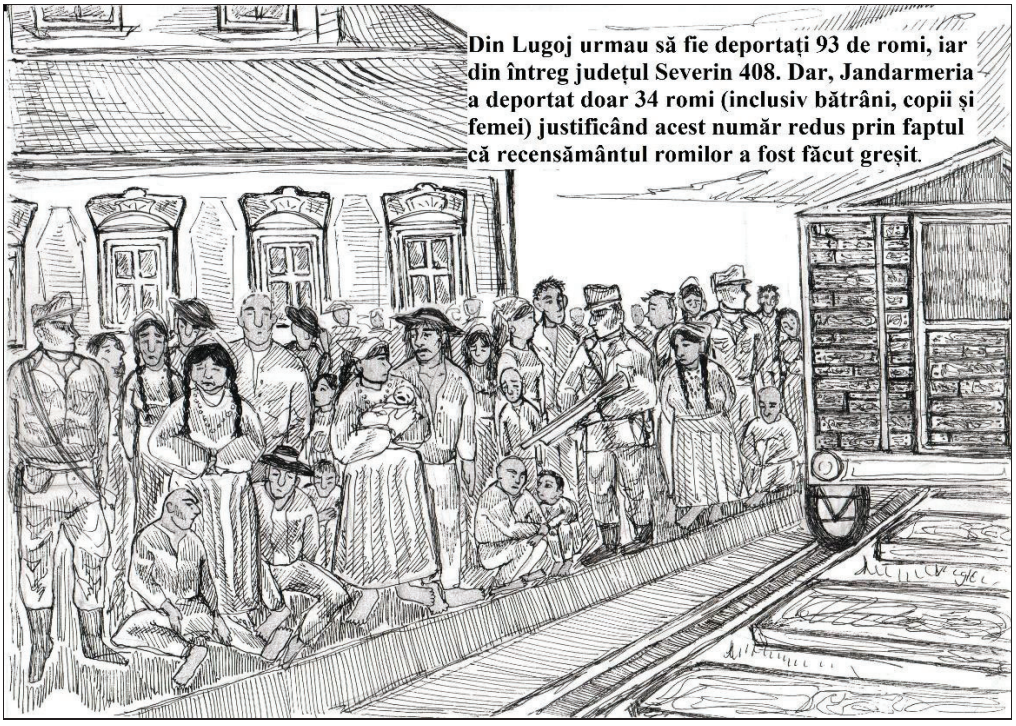

O parte dintre dintre bărbații evrei au fost trimiși pe diferite șantiere din țară, în detașamente de muncă forțată. Deoarece condițiile din aceste detașamente de muncă erau foarte grele, unii deportați și-au pierdut viața.

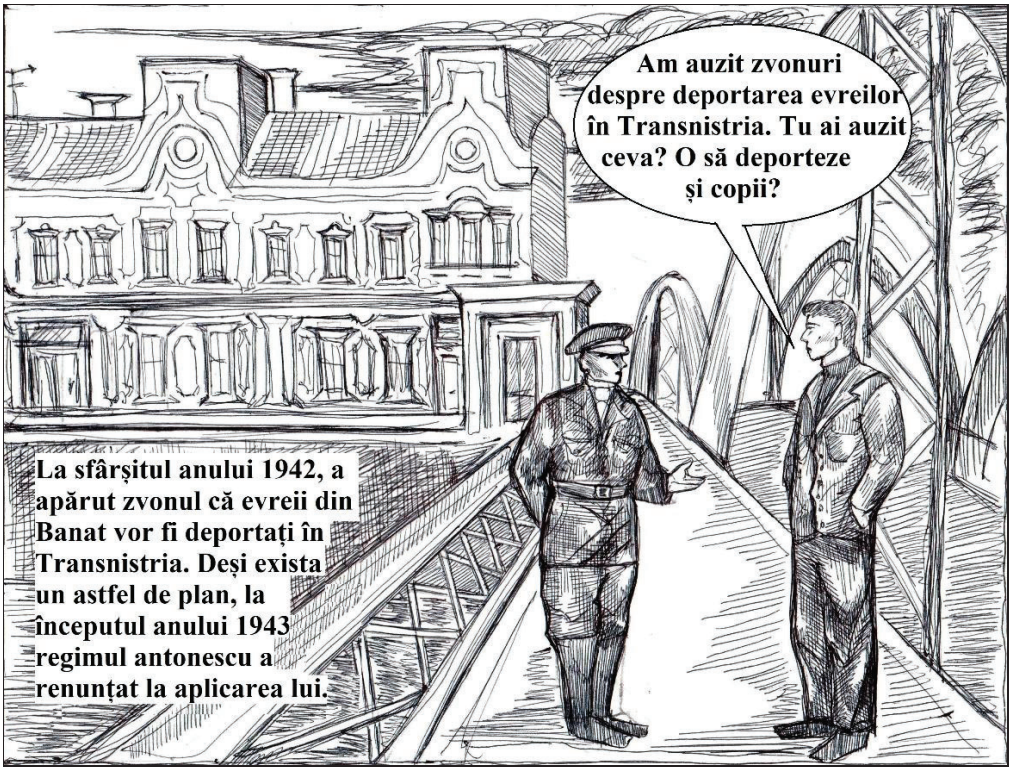

Vezi că avem ordin să nu lăsăm pe nimeni să iasă. Sunt femei și copii aduși din Bucovina.
În 1941, la Lugoj a fost înființat un lagăr unde au fost aduși 500 de femei și copii evrei din Darabani, Bucovina de Nord. Aceștia au fost închiși în clădirile din jurul sinagogii care au fost înconjurate cu un gard din sârmă ghimpată.

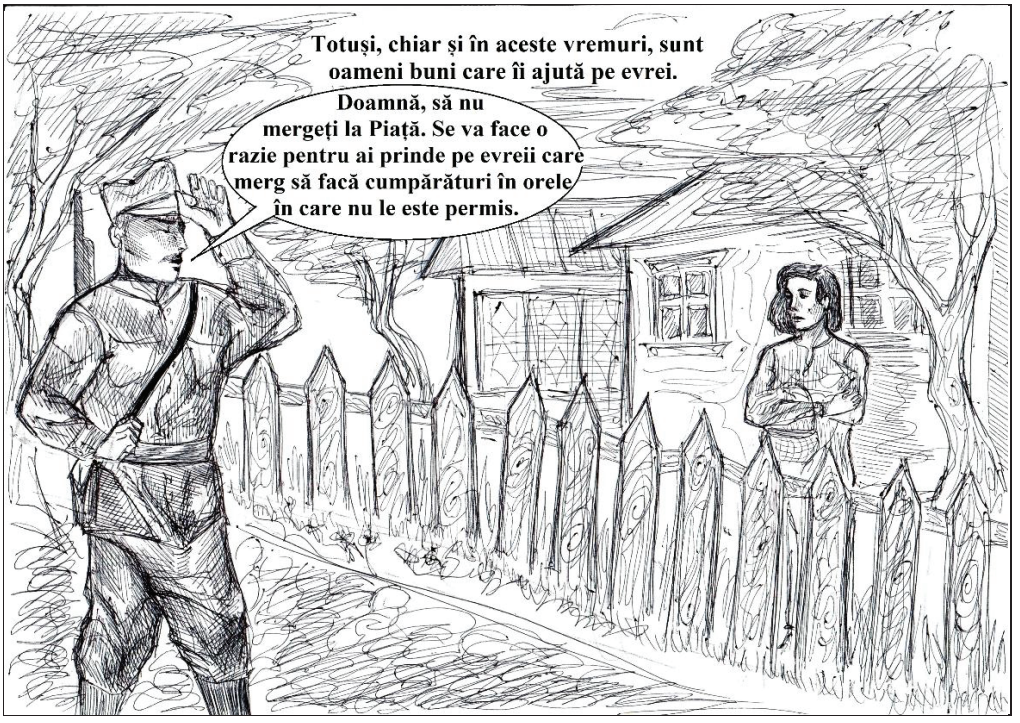

În Transnistria cu voi, comuniștilor! Nu o să vă mai întoarceți de acolo.
Sub acuzația că sunt comuniști, 12 evrei lugojeni au fost arestați și deportați în Transnistria. Patru au fost împușcați în lagărul de la Vapniarka, dar cei mai mulți sau întors la Lugoj, după ce autoritățile au recunoscut că nu erau motive ca ei să fie arestați.

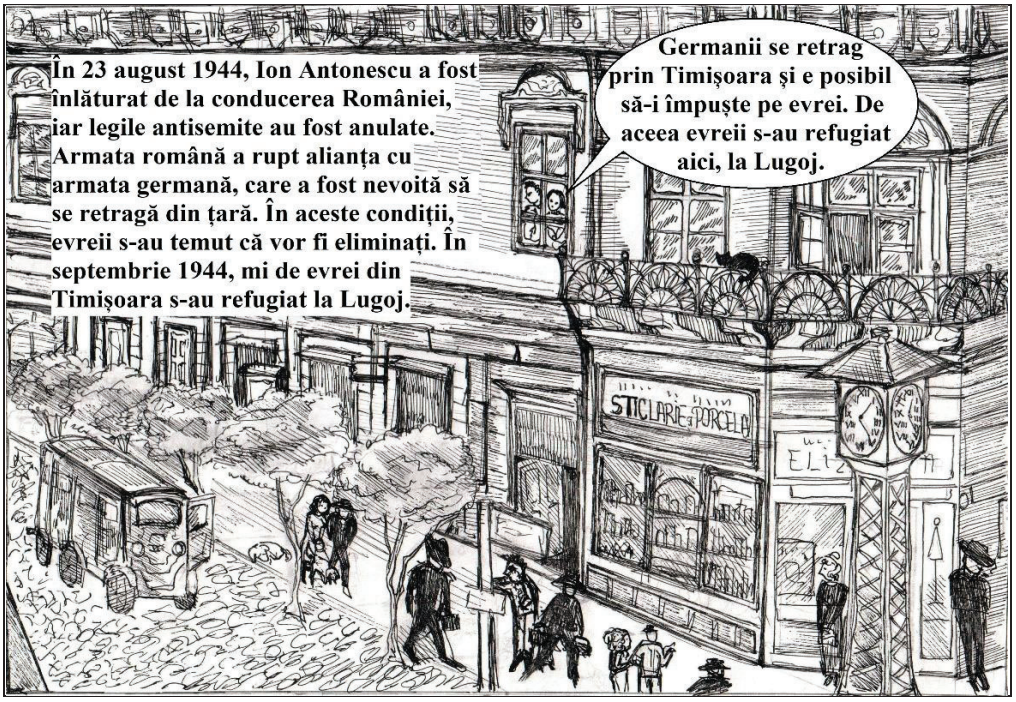

Am primit ordinul să facem recensământul țiganilor după următoarele categorii: 1. Țigani nomazi: căldărari, lingurari etc. 2. Țigani stabili... sau care nu au mijloace de existență sau ocupație precisă.
Nu doar evreii au avut de suferit în această perioadă, ci și romii. În 1942 autoritățile au ordonat realizarea unui recensământ al romilor.

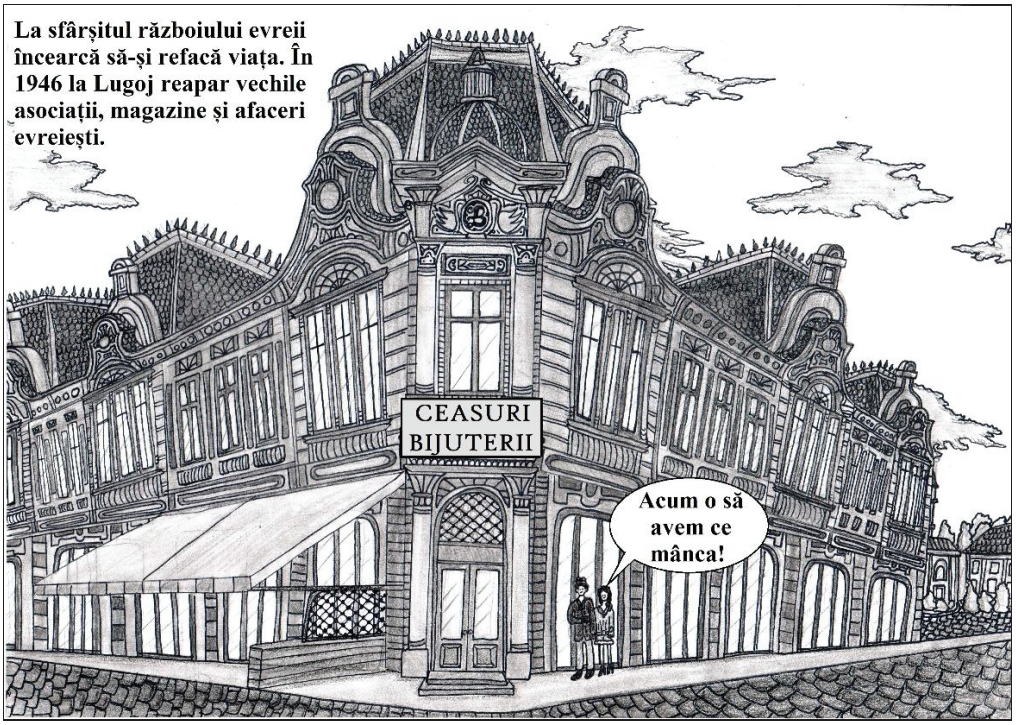

Pregătiți-le țiganilor pâine pentru 5 zile de călătorie. Îi trimitem în Transnistria cu trenul de vite.
La luna iunie 1942 a început deportarea romilor nomazi din România. În luna septembrie a început și deportarea romilor sedentari considerați a fi un „pericol”. Aceștia au fost deportați cu trenurile.

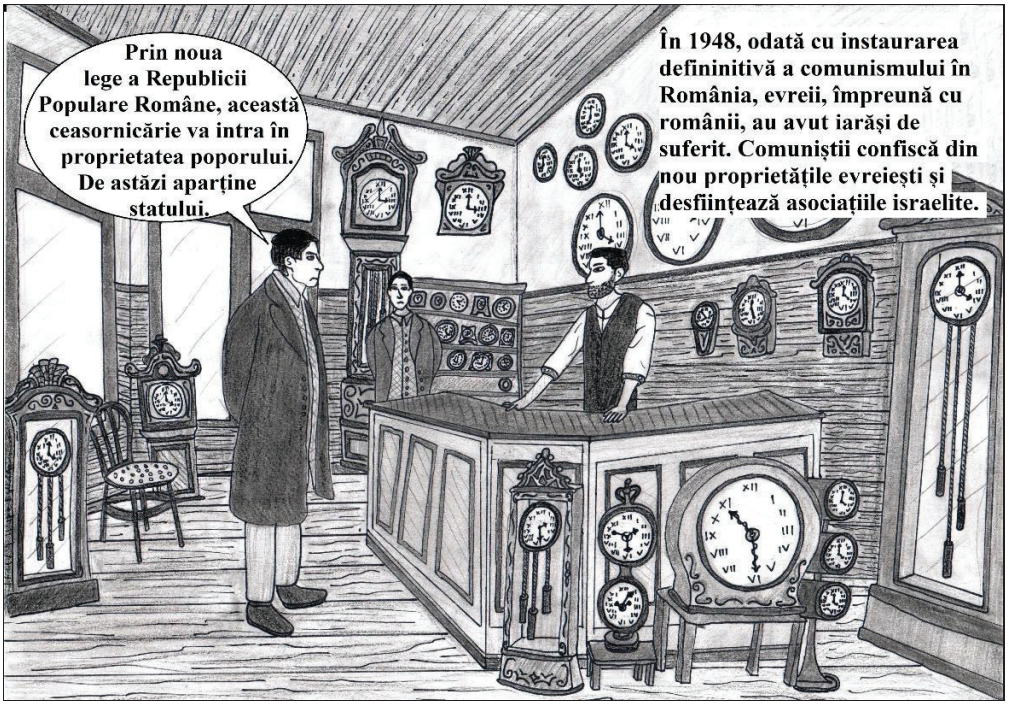

Din Lugoj urmau să fie deportați 93 de romi, iar din întreg județul Severin 408. Dar, Jandarmeria a deportat doar 34 romi (inclusiv bătrâni, copii și femei) justificând acest număr redus prin faptul că recensământul romilor a fost făcut greșit.


Am auzit zvonuri despre deportarea evreilor în Transnistria. Tu ai auzit ceva? O să deporteze și copii?
La sfârșitul anului 1942, a apărut zvonul că evreii din Banat vor fi deportați în Transnistria. Deși exista un astfel de plan, la începutul anului 1943 regimul antonescu a renunțat la aplicarea lui.


Totuși, chiar și în aceste vremuri, sunt oameni buni care îi ajută pe evrei.
Doamnă, să nu mergeți la Piață. Se va face o razie pentru ai prinde pe evreii care merg să facă cumpărături în orele în care nu le este permis.


În 23 august 1944, Ion Antonescu a fost înlăturat de la conducerea României, iar legile antisemite au fost anulate. Armata română a rupt alianța cu armata germană, care a fost nevoită să se retragă din țară. În aceste condiții, evreii s-au temut că vor fi eliminați. În septembrie 1944, mi de evrei din Timișoara s-au refugiat la Lugoj.
Germanii se retrag prin Timișoara și e posibil să-i împuște pe evrei. De aceea evreii s-au refugiat aici, la Lugoj.
STICLARIE PORCELA
ELIZ


La sfârșitul războiului evreii încearcă să-și refacă viața. În 1946 la Lugoj reapar vechile asociații, magazine și afaceri evreiești.
CEASURI
BIJUTERII
Acum o să avem ce mânca!


Prin noua lege a Republicii Populare Române, această ceasornicărie va intra în proprietatea poporului. De astăzi aparține statului.
În 1948, odată cu instaurarea defininitivă a comunismului în România, evreii, împreună cu românii, au avut iarăși de suferit. Comuniștii confiscă din nou proprietățile evreiești și desființează asociațiile israelite.


Gata, e timpul să părăsim România. În Israel ne va fi mai bine.
În aceste condiții, în anii ’50, sute de evrei din Lugoj (și sute de mii de evrei din România) a emigrat în Israel. Astfel, comunitatea evreiască din România s-a redus foarte mult.

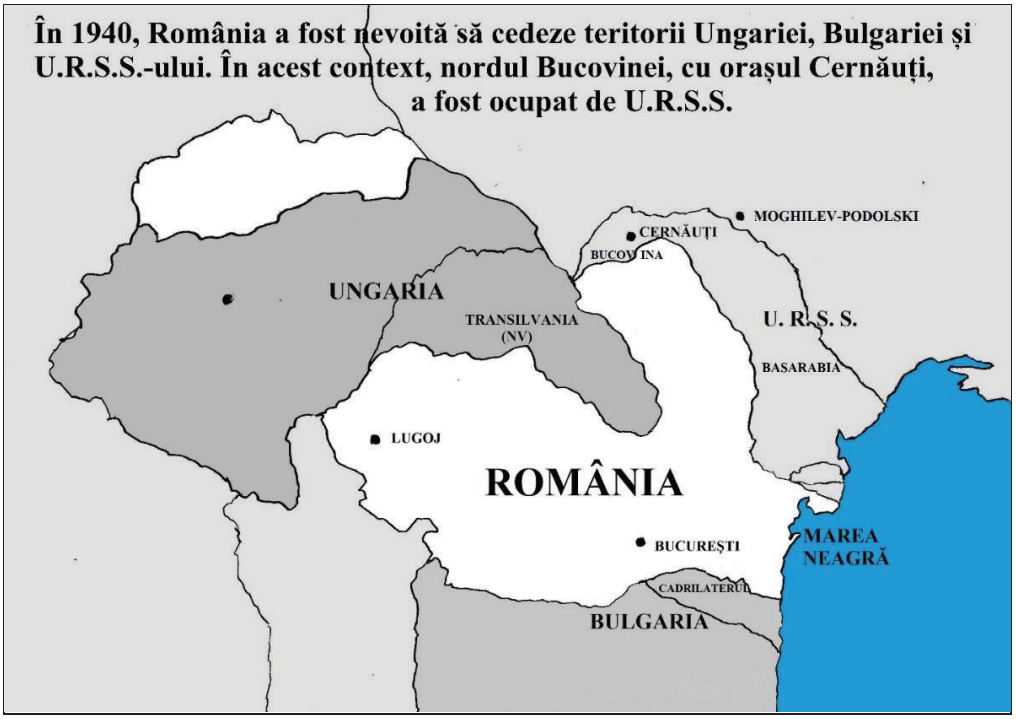


2. Întoarcerea la lumină


Povestea familiei Gottlieb începe la Cernăuți în 1941. Familia Gottlieb era formată din Elemer și Rosza și micuța Katița, care se născuse de curând. În anii celui de Al Doilea Război Mondial, familia Gottlieb n-a avut timp să fie fericită.


România în perioada interbelică (1918-1940)
POLONIA
CEHOSLOVACIA
MOGHILEV PODOLSKI
CERNĂUȚI
U. R. S. S.
UNGARIA
ROMÂNIA
LUGOJ
YUGOSLAVIA
BUCUREȘTI
MAREA NEAGRĂ
BULGARIA

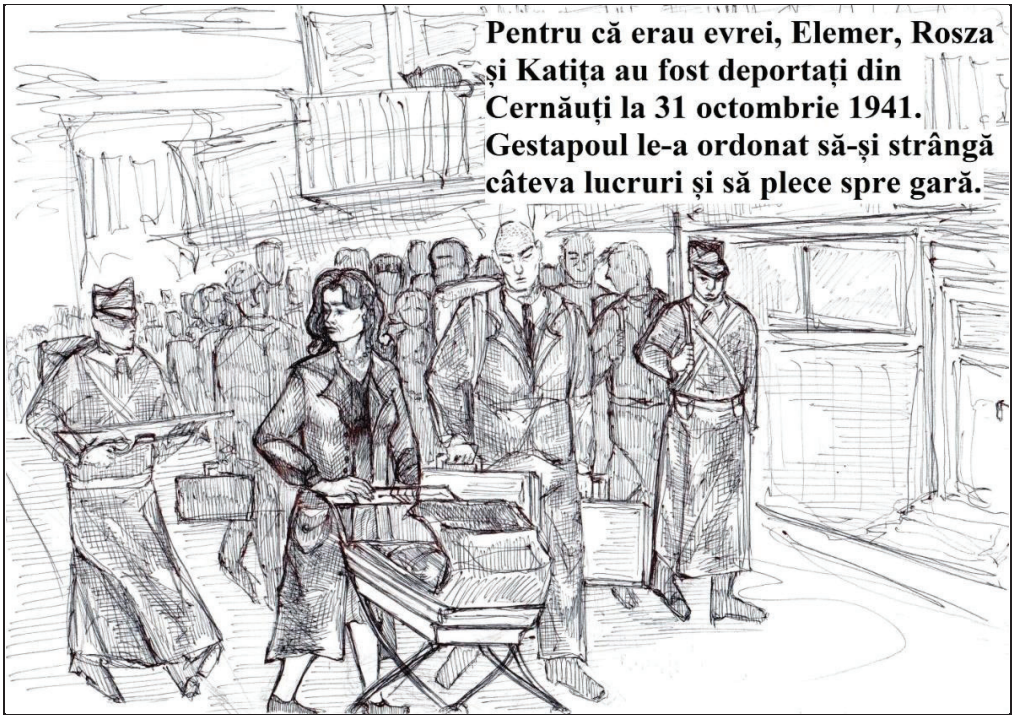
În 1940, România a fost nevoită să cedeze teritorii Ungariei, Bulgariei și U.R.S.S.-ului. În acest context, nordul Bucovinei, cu orașul Cernăuți, a fost ocupat de U.R.S.S.





După pierderea acestor teritorii, România, condusă de generalul Ion Antonescu, s-a aliat cu Germania nazistă și, în vara anului 1941, armata română s-a alăturat armatei germane în atacul împotriva U.R.S.S.-ului.


Ca urmare a acestei acțiuni militare, Bucovina, cu orașul Cernăuți, a revenit în granițele României.
GERMANIA
CERNĂUȚI
BUCOVINA
MOGHILEV PODOLSKI
UNGARIA
TRANSNISTRIA
BASARABIA
LUGOJ
ROMÂNIA
BUCUREȘTI
MAREA NEAGRĂ
BULGARIA

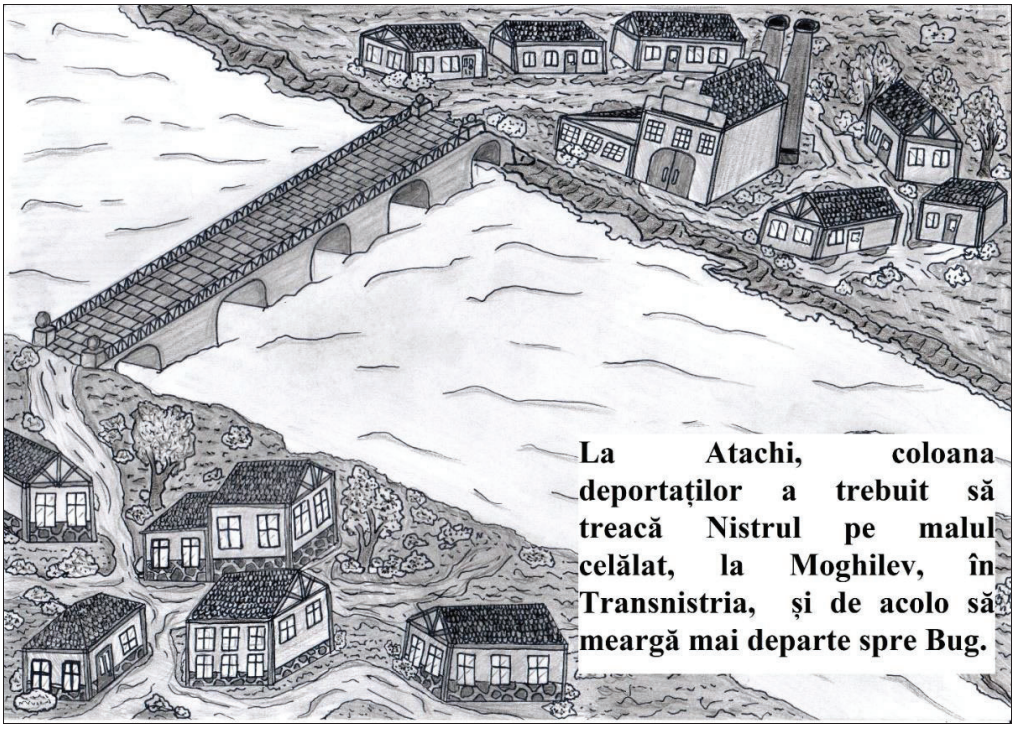

Pentru că erau evrei, Elemer, Rosza și Katița au fost deportați din Cernăuți la 31 octombrie 1941. Gestapoul le-a ordonat să-și strângă câteva lucruri și să plece spre gară.

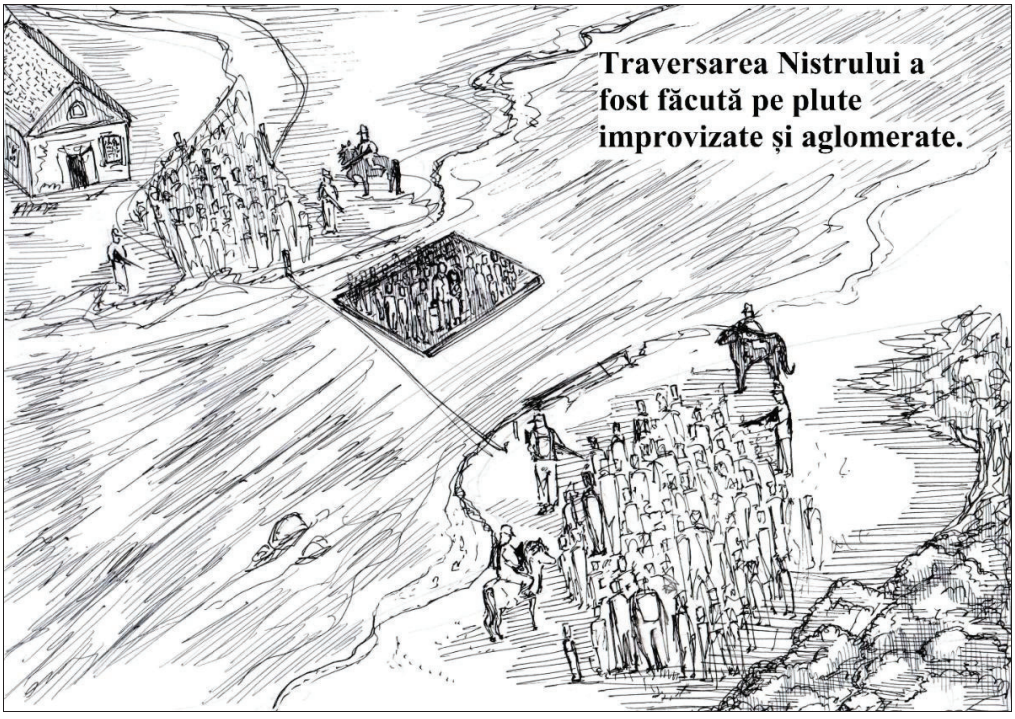

La gară, deportații evrei din Cernăuți au fost încărcați în trenuri de vite și trimiși spre est, într-o direcție necunoscută.


Călătoria cu trenul n-a durat mult. După o vreme, deportați au fost coborâți din tren și au continuat drumul pe jos, prin noroi. Mulți și-au pierdut bagajele și chiar viața.

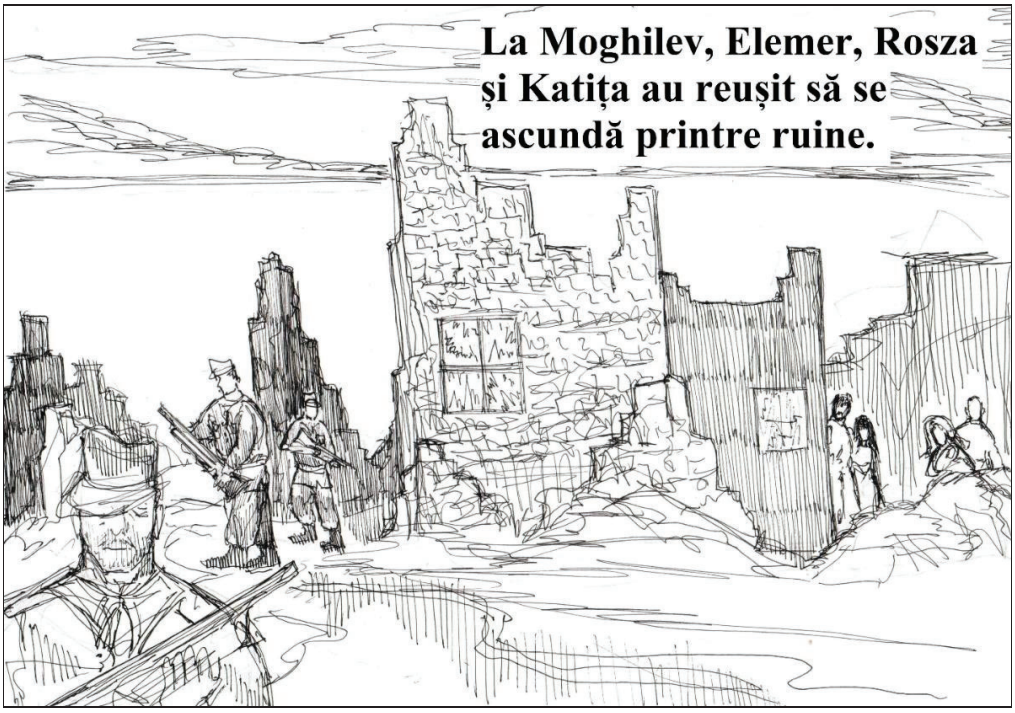

Pe drum, deportații au fost atacați de țăranii din satele din jur pentru a-i jefui.


Într-un final, Elemer, Rosza și Katița au ajuns pe malul Nistrului, la Atachi.
CERNĂUȚI
ATACHI
MOGHILEV PODOLSKI
BUCOVINA
TRANSNISTRIA
BASARABIA


La Atachi, coloana deportaților a trebuit să treacă Nistrul pe malul celălat, la Moghilev, în Transnistria, și de acolo să meargă mai departe spre Bug.


Traversarea Nistrului a fost făcută pe plute improvizate și aglomerate.

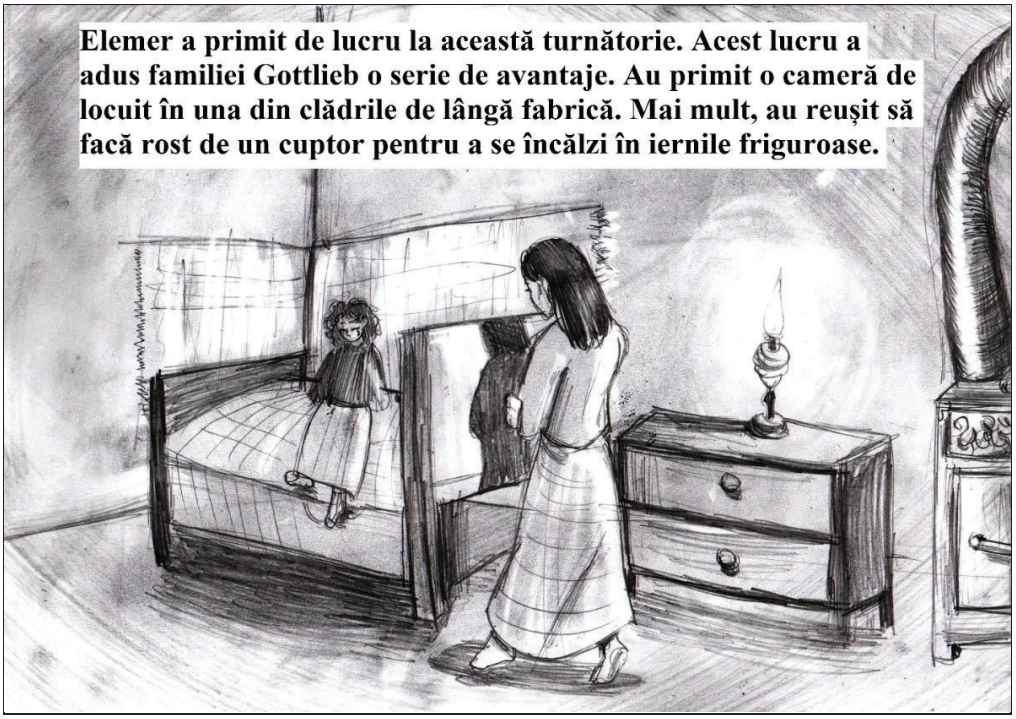


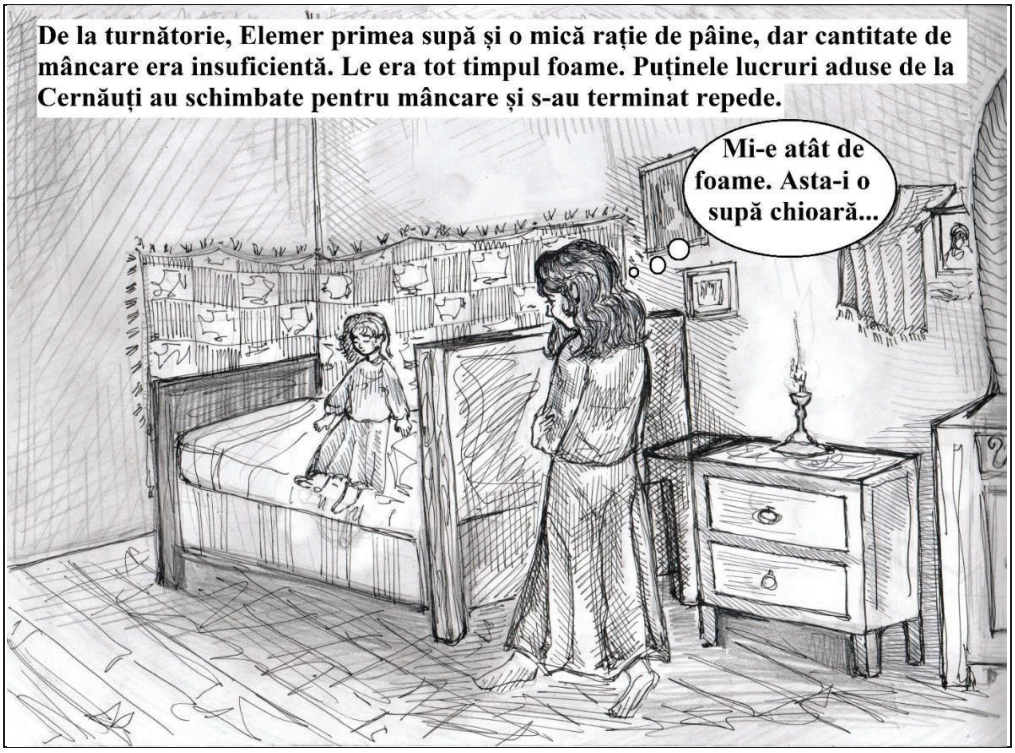

La Moghilev, Elemer, Rosza
și Katița au reușit să se
ascundă printre ruine.


Ceilalți evrei ajunși la Moghilev au închiși în fosta cazarmă, iar mai apoi trimiși în lagărele morții din Transnistria. Acolo, cea mai mare parte dintre deportați și-au pierdut viața în locuri precum Vapniarca, Râbnița, Bogdanovska.


La Moghilev, o parte a orașului a fost transformată în gheto. Evreii care trăiau aici erau folosiți de autorități pentru diverse munci grele. Mulți trăiau în clădiri ruinate și sufereau de foame și de frig.

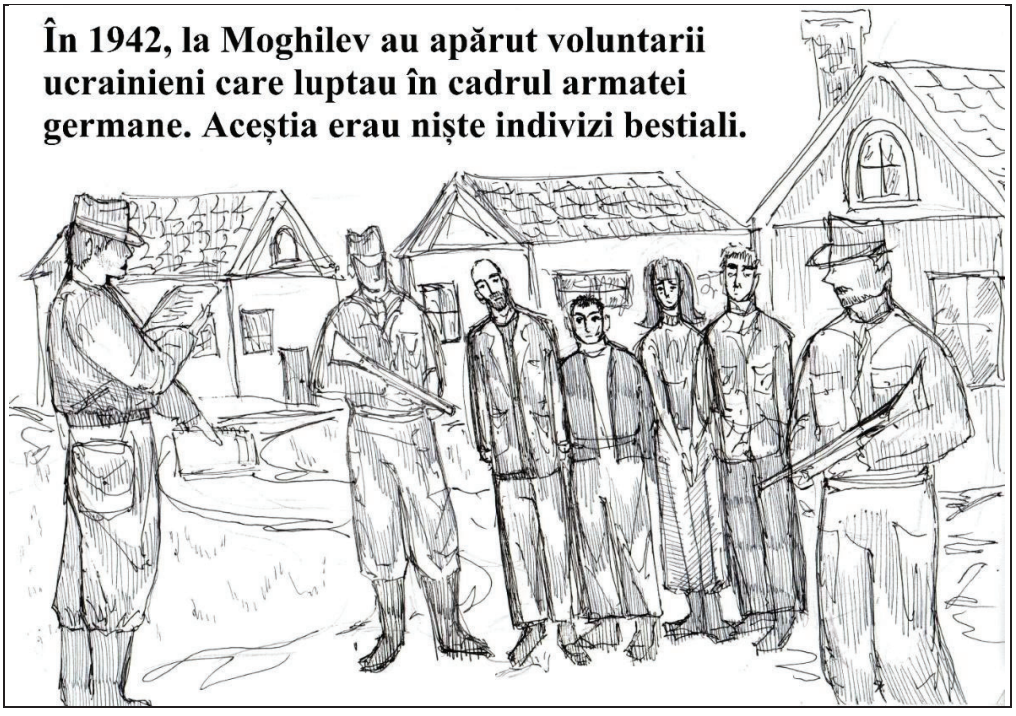

Lângă oraș era o turnătorie distrusă de bombardamente. Un inginer din Bucovina a fost desemnat de autoritățile române să repună în funcție uzina. Mâna de lucru era asigurată de deportații evrei.


Elemer a primit de lucru la această turnătorie. Acest lucru a adus familiei Gottlieb o serie de avantaje. Au primit o cameră de locuit în una din clădrile de lângă fabrică. Mai mult, au reușit să facă rost de un cuptor pentru a se încălzi în iernile friguroase.


De la turnătorie, Elemer primea supă și o mică rație de pâine, dar cantitate de mâncare era insuficientă. Le era tot timpul foame. Puținele lucruri aduse de la Cernăuți au schimbate pentru mâncare și s-au terminat repede.
Mi-e atât de foame. Asta-i o supă chioară...


Evreii din ghetou au avut o situație foarte grea în iarna dintre anii 1941-1942.
Lasați-mă în pace! N-am ce să vă dau...
Oamenii mureau de foame sau de frig. Drumurile erau pline de oameni înghețați și de copii care cerșeau. Cei mai mulți nu au supraviețuit iernii.


Dacă autoritățile române nu se prea preocupau de deportați, germanii arestau evreii din ghetou și deportau spre lagărele morții din Transnistria.
Gata paraziților, la Bug cu voi!


În 1942, la Moghilev au apărut voluntarii ucrainieni care luptau în cadrul armatei germane. Aceștia erau niște indivizi bestiali.

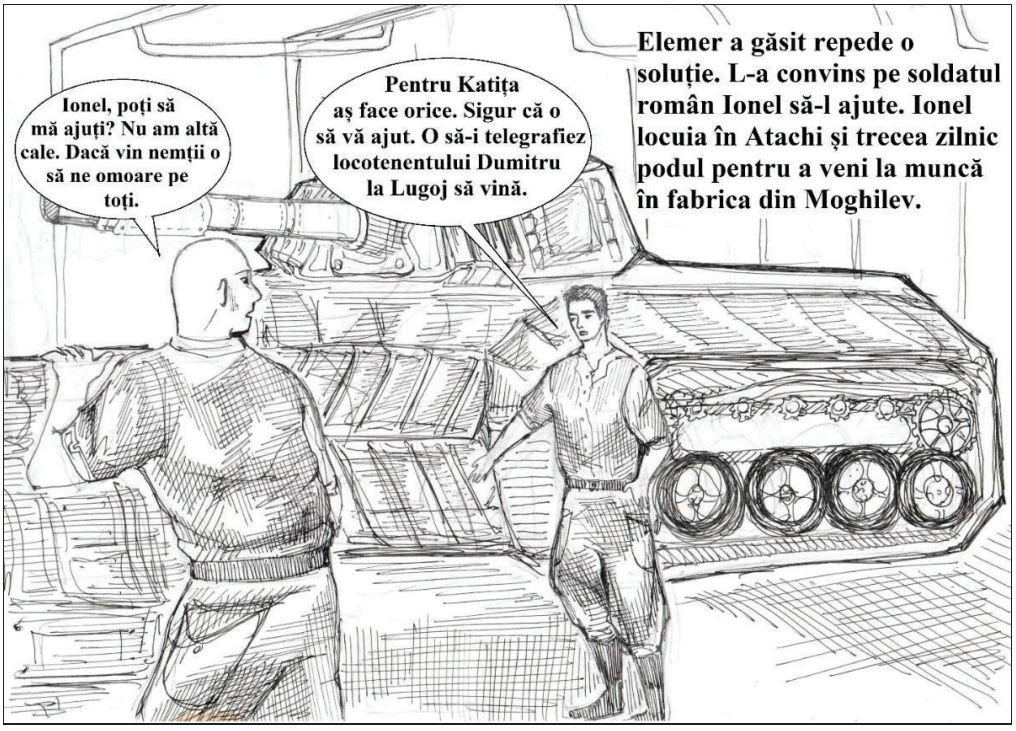

Voluntarii ucrainieni puneau evreii la munci grele şi, câtedată, băteau sau împuşcau oamenii. Rosza era tot mai speriată şi se temea de siguranţa Katiţei.
Trebuie să plec cu Katiţa de aici.


Situaţia s-a schimbat într-o zi vara anului 1943 când Rosza a fost chemată la Comandatura armatei române din Moghilev. Aici o aştepta ofiţerul român Adrian Dumitru... logodnicul surorii sale, venit tocmai de la Lugoj.
Am venit să vă ajut. Trebuie să vorbim în altă parte, unde suntem în siguranţă.

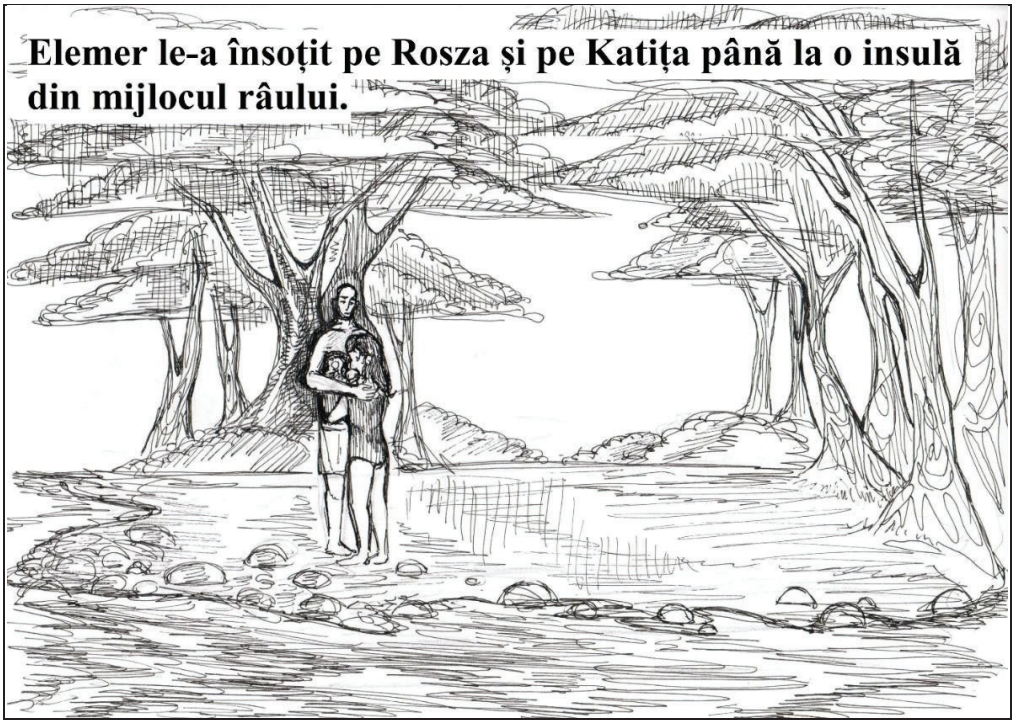

Feriți de ochii curioșilor, Elemer, Rosza și Adrian s-au întâlnit mai târziu, pe malul Nistrului.
Am aflat că sunteți aici de la verișoara ta din Brașov. Vreau să vă ajut.


Nu pot s-o iau doar pe Katița. E prea mică. Trebuie să vi și tu.
Poți s-o iei pe Katița de aici?
Pe măsură ce discutau, cei trei au început să conceapă un plan pe baza căruia Rosza și Katița să părăsească Transnistria, speriați de faptul că germanii care se retrăgeau ar fi putut extermina toți evreii.

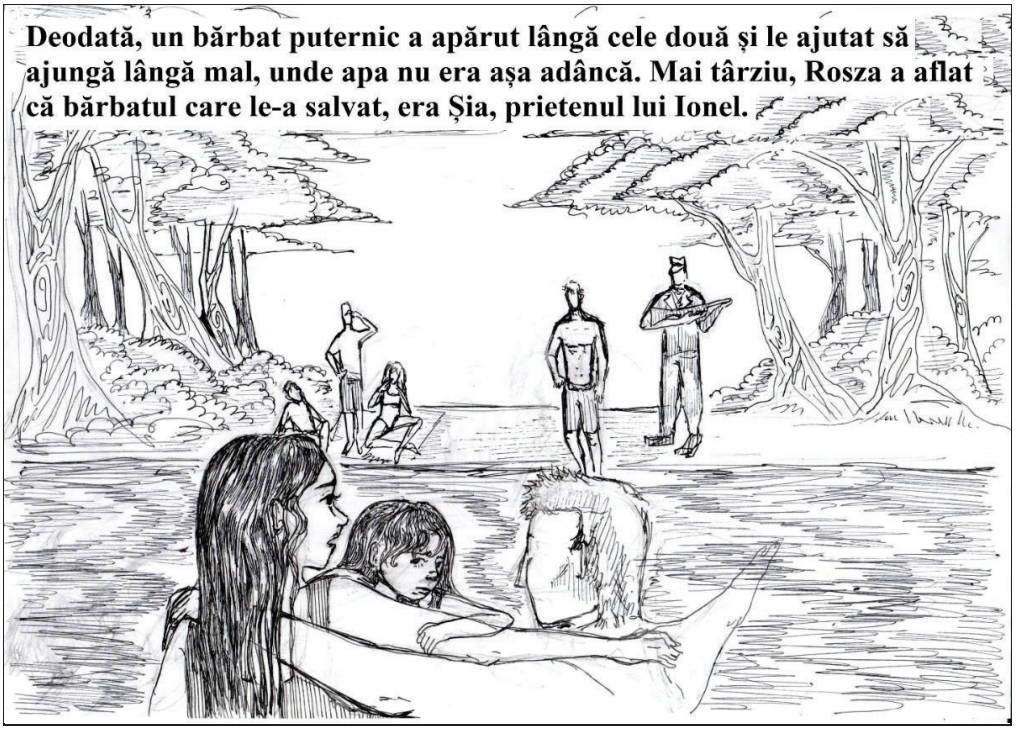

Trebuie să treceți Nistru în Romania și nu se poate să treceți pe podul dintre Moghilev și Atachi. După ce treceți dincolo, vin să vă iau.
Bine, dar cum o să facem toate astea?
Situația era însă foarte complicată, deoarece Rosza trebuia să treacă împreună cu Katița pe malul românesc al Nistrului, fără ajutorul lui Adrian.


Ionel, poți să mă ajuți? Nu am altă cale. Dacă vin nemții o să ne omoare pe toți.
Pentru Katița aș face orice. Sigur că o să vă ajut. O să-i telegrafiez locotenentului Dumitru la Lugoj să vină.
Elemer a găsit repede o soluție. L-a convins pe soldatul român Ionel să-l ajute. Ionel locuia în Atachi și trecea zilnic podul pentru a veni la muncă în fabrica din Moghilev.


Ionel i-a telegrafiat lui Adrain și au stabilit ziua în care acesta trebuia să vină după Rosza și Katița. Când a sosit momentul, Rosza și Katița au început traversarea Nistrului, pentru a trece în România, încercând să se amestece printre persoanele care înotau în acea zi caldă.
Ce bine că apa e mică.


Elemer le-a însoțit pe Rosza și pe Katița până la o insulă din mijlocul râului.


De acolo, până pe malul drept, Rosza și pe Katița au continuat traversarea singure. Dintr-o dată apa s-a făcut adâncă. Rosza n-a mai putut să o țină pe Katița care se zbătea speriată. Erau pe punctul să se înece.


Deodată, un bărbat puternic a apărut lângă cele două și le ajutat să ajungă lângă mal, unde apa nu era așa adâncă. Mai târziu, Rosza a aflat că bărbatul care le-a salvat, era Șia, prietenul lui Ionel.


Ce s-a întâmplat dragă? Cum ați ajuns în apa mare?
Imediat ce Rosza și Katița au ajuns pe mal, Ionel a intervenit pentru a abate atenția grănicerilor și a celor care făceau plajă, pretinzând că e soțul Roszei.

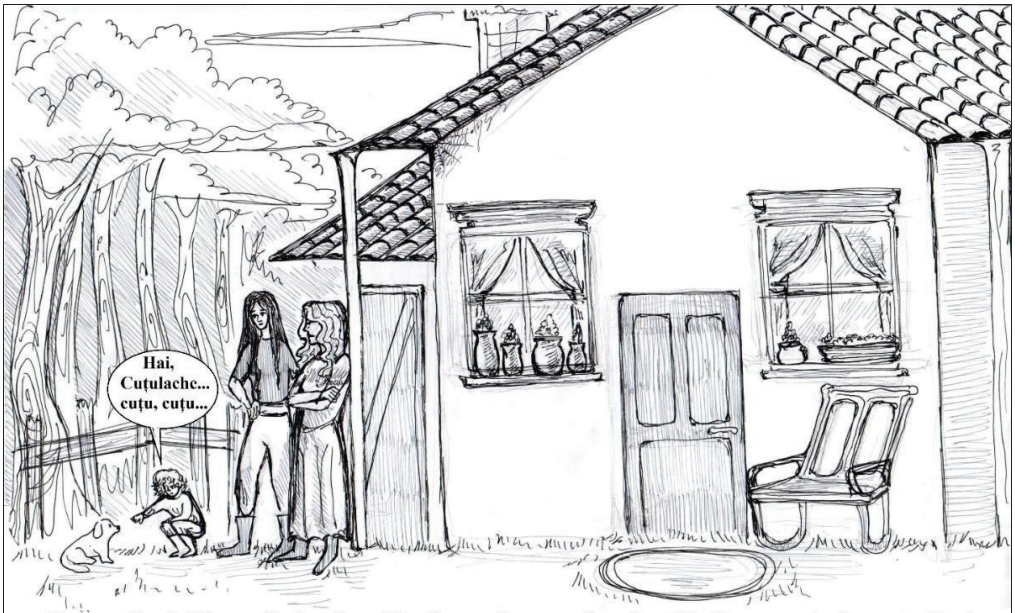

În noaptea asta rămânem aici, dar mâine dimineață plecăm cu trenul la Iași.
În apropiere aștepta și Adrian Dumitru cu o rochie și cu acte false pentru Rosza. În prima noapte după fuga din Transnistria, au dormit la Atachi în casa lui Ionel.


Mama,
mama,
ute, ute!
Deoarece Adrian Dumitru era ofițer, cei trei au reușit să călătorească în siguranță spre Iași, în ciuda faptului că trenurile erau foarte aglomerate.


De la Iași, cei trei au călătorit mai departe la Roman, și de acolo, cu căruța, la Oniceni, unde locuia Tanti, mama lui Adrian.
Ajungem imediat!


CERNĂUȚI
ATACHI
MOGHILEV PODOLSKI
BUCOVINA
TRANSNISTRIA
IAȘI
ONICENI
BASARABIA
ROMÂNIA
BUCUREȘTI
MAREA NEAGRĂ


Nu pot să cred... ce surpriză!
La Oniceni, Rosza a reîntâlnit-o pe sora ei Elli, logodnica lui Adrian. Adrian a ascuns-o aici pe Elli, fiindu-i frică să nu fie deportată. Rosza n-o mai văzuse câțiva ani.



Casa lui Tanti de la Oniceni era izolată de restul satului. Curtea era plină cu animale, spre bucuria Kaiței.



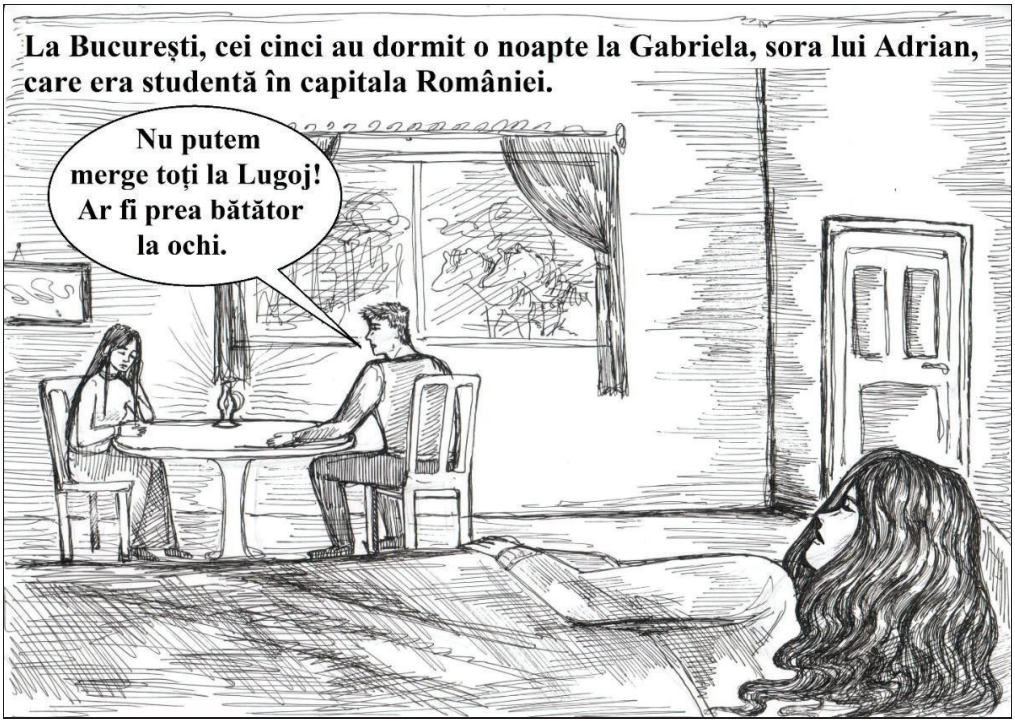
Adrian Dumitru a plecat la Lugoj, dar s-a întors după câteva săptămâni. De la prietenii săi a adus cadouri pentru Katița. Pentru Rosza și Elli a adus haine.

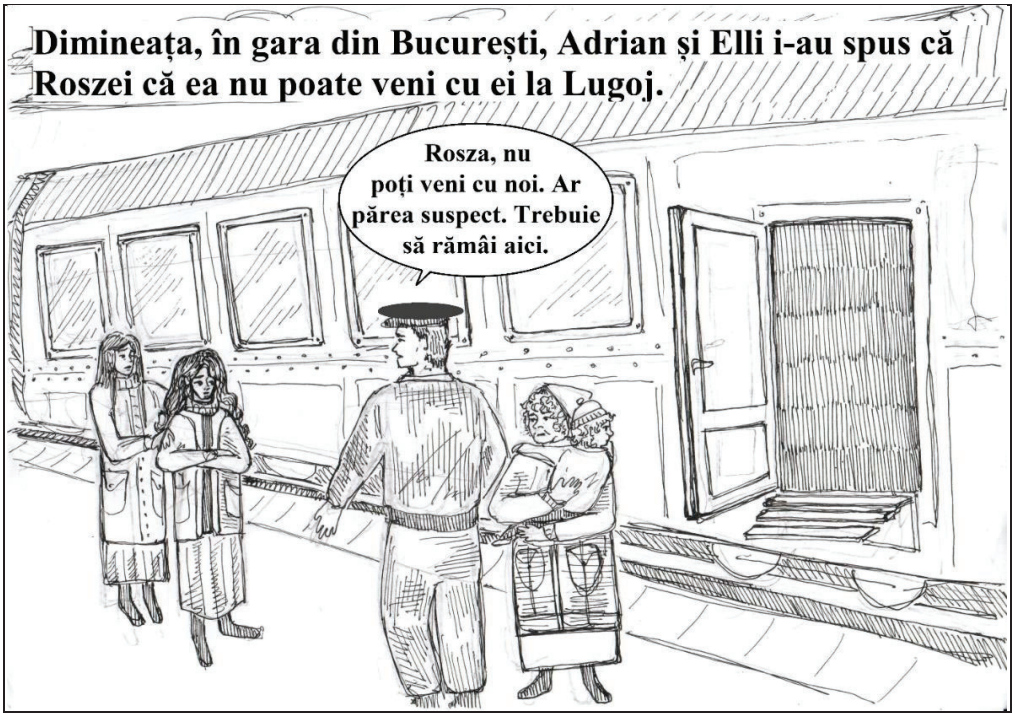
Iarna, jandarmii au venit casa lui Tanti și i-au pus întrebări despre persoanele care locuiesc în casă. Tanti s-a speriat și l-a chemat pe Adrian.



Adrian a venit după trei zile și au hotărât că trebuie să plece cu toți spre București. Pentru a nu atrage atenția, cei patru au mers pe jos, noaptea prin zăpadă, până la gara din apropiere.

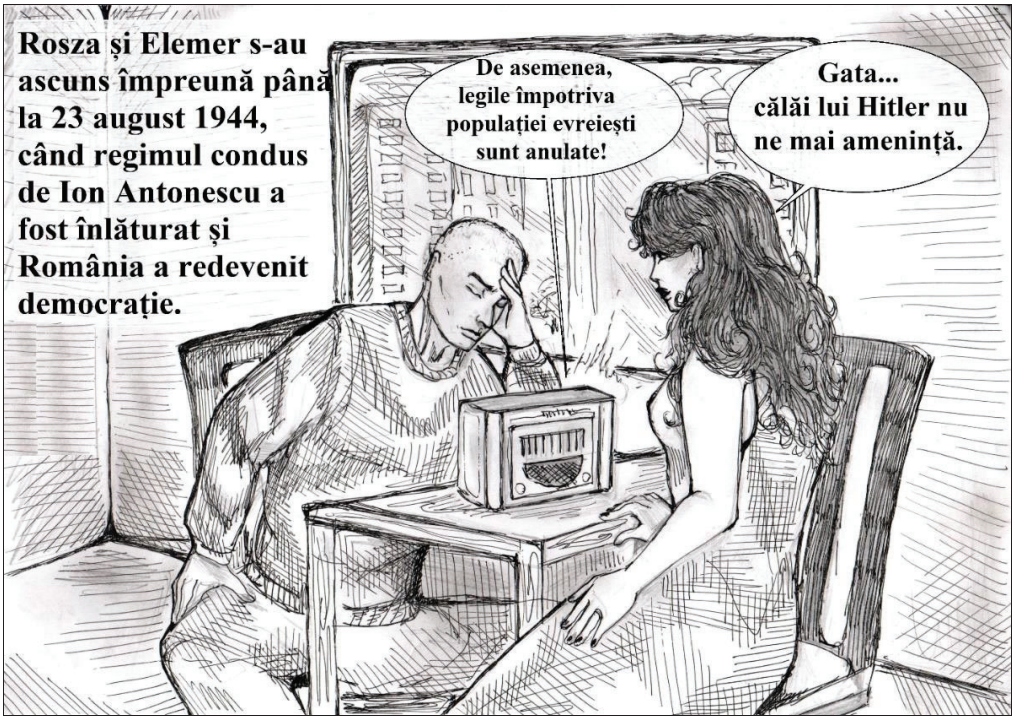


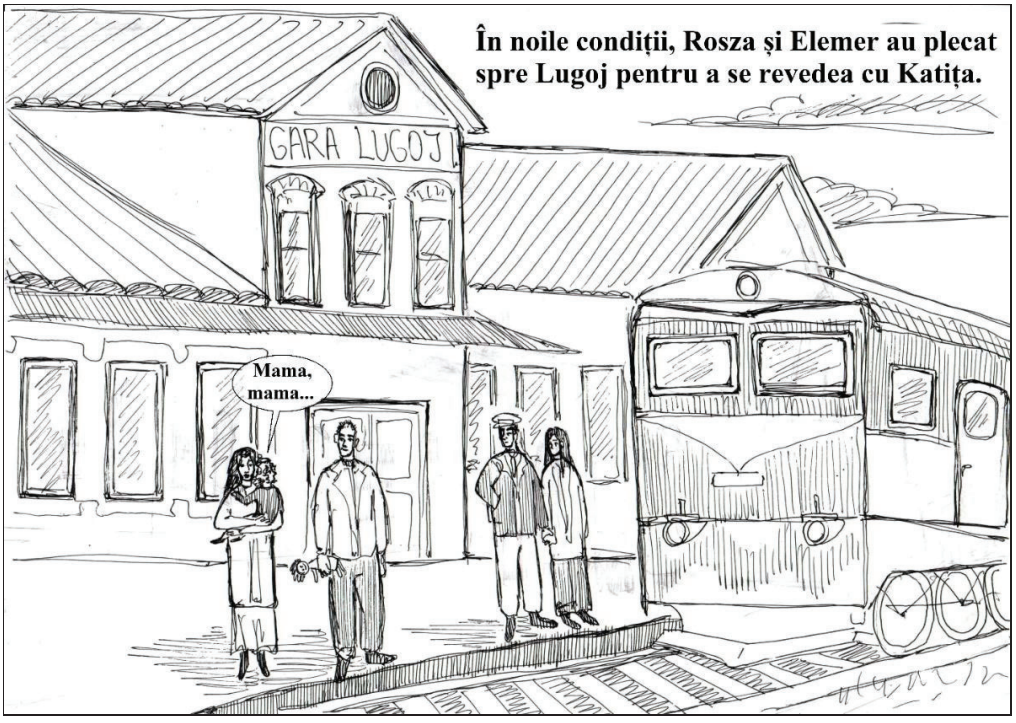

La București, cei cinci au dormit o noapte la Gabriela, sora lui Adrian, care era studentă în capitala României.
Nu putem merge toți la Lugoj! Ar fi prea bătător la ochi.


Dimineața, în gara din București, Adrian și Elli i-au spus că Roszei că ea nu poate veni cu ei la Lugoj.
Rosza, nu poți veni cu noi. Ar părea suspect. Trebuie să rămâi aici.


Mai mult, Adrian și Elli au hotărât să o ia pe Katița cu ei.
Mama... mama...


Rosza s-a ascuns în București până când a aflat că Elemer a fugit din Transnistria și a ajuns la Brașov. Imediat ce a primit vestea, a plecat spre acest oraș pentru a-și întâlni soțul.
Mă bucur să te răvăd! Am primit vești și despre Katița. E bine.

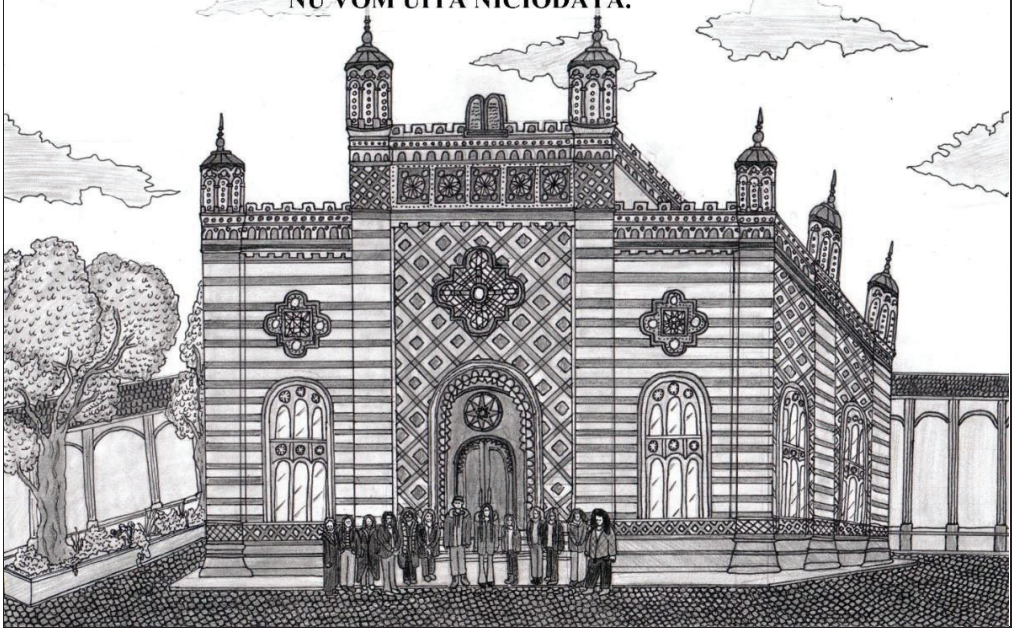

Rosza și Elemer s-au ascuns împreună până la 23 august 1944, când regimul condus de Ion Antonescu a fost înlăturat și România a redevenit democrație.
De asemenea, legile împotriva populației evreiești sunt anulate!
Gata... călăi lui Hitler nu ne mai amenință.


În noile condiții, Rosza și Elemer au plecat spre Lugoj pentru a se revedea cu Katița.
GARA LUGOJ
Mama, mama...

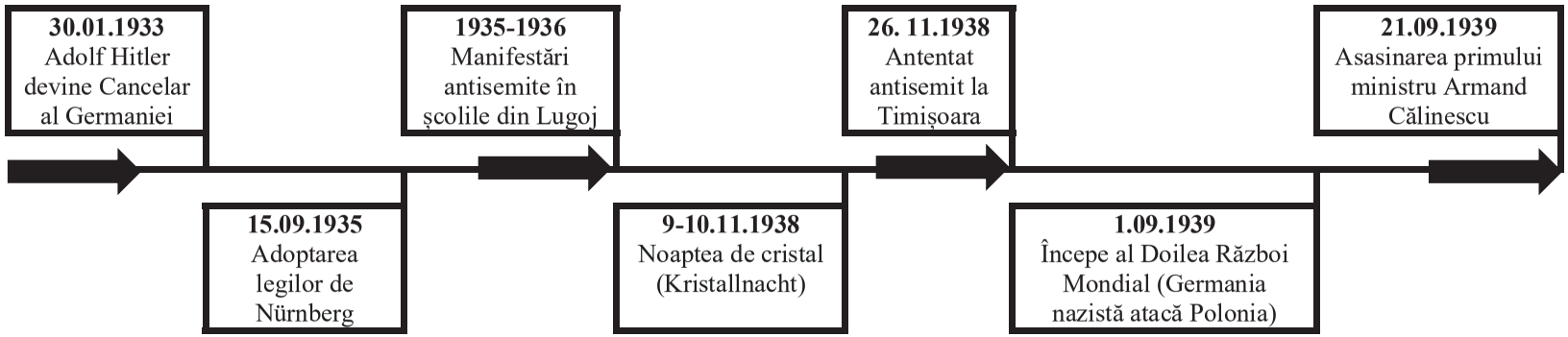
Acestă poveste ne demonstrează că, și în cele mai întunecate momente ale omenirii, așa cum a fost Holocaustul, acțiunile unor oameni buni poate face diferența. După război, Adrian Dumitru, mama sa, Maria, și sora sa, Gabriela, au primit titlul de „Drepți între popoare". Dar au fost și alți eroi, cum ar fi soldatul Ionel și prietenul său, Șia.

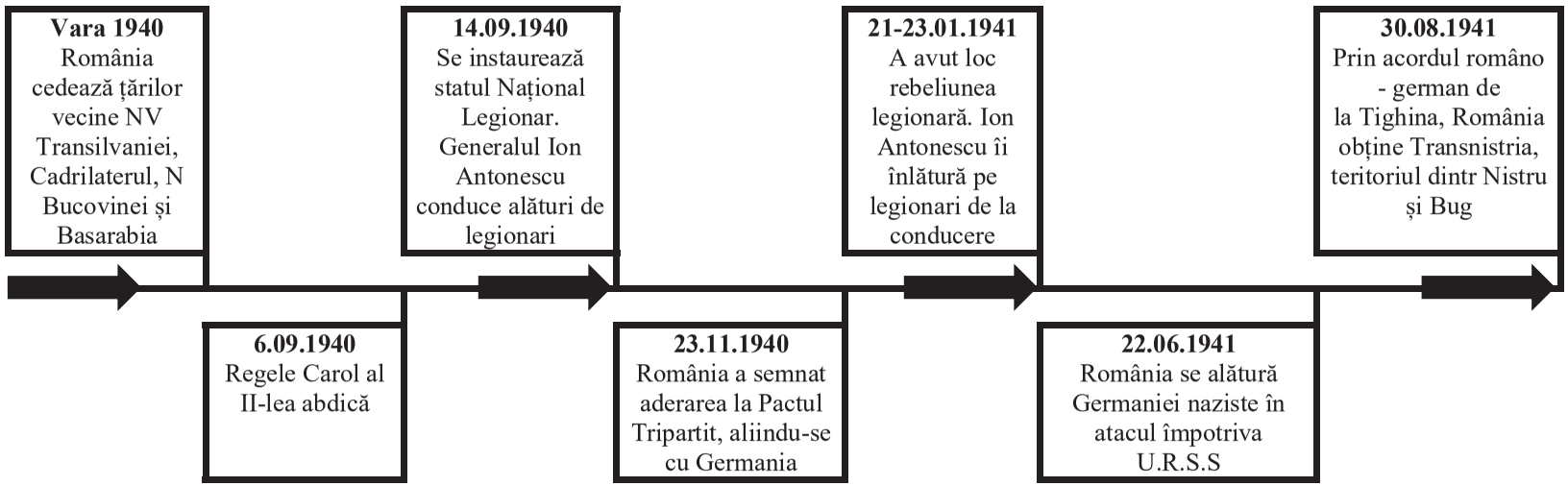


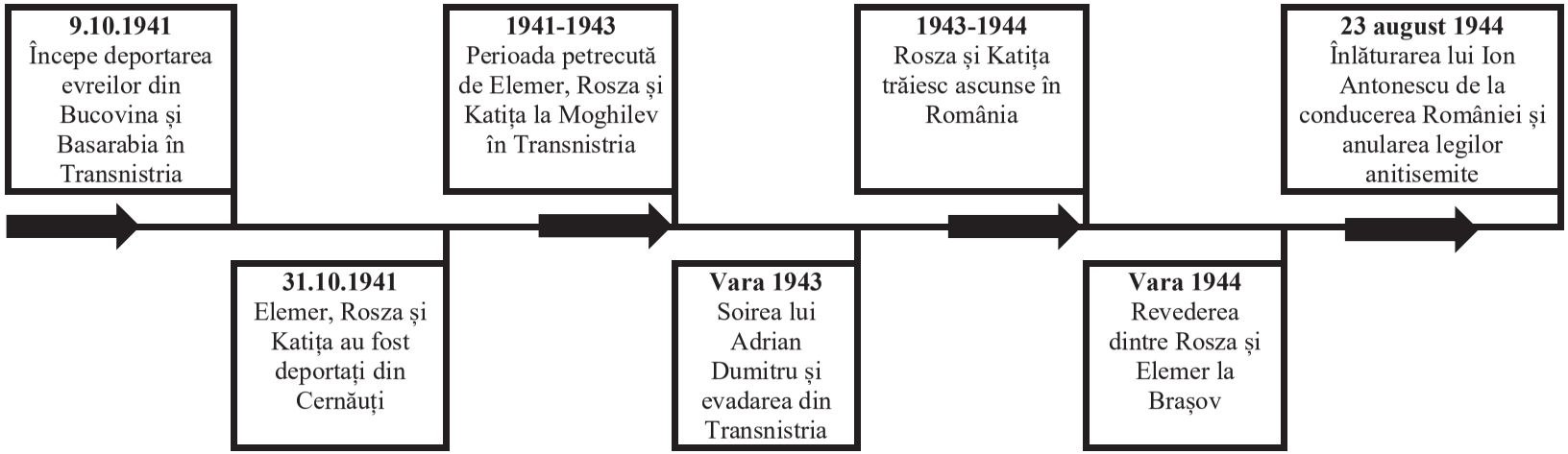
Descoperirea acestor povești a fost pentru noi, elevii Liceului Teoretic „Iulia Hasdeu" din Lugoj, o lungă și frumoasă călătorie care se încheie aici... sau poate nu... pentru că NU VOM UITA NICIODATĂ.

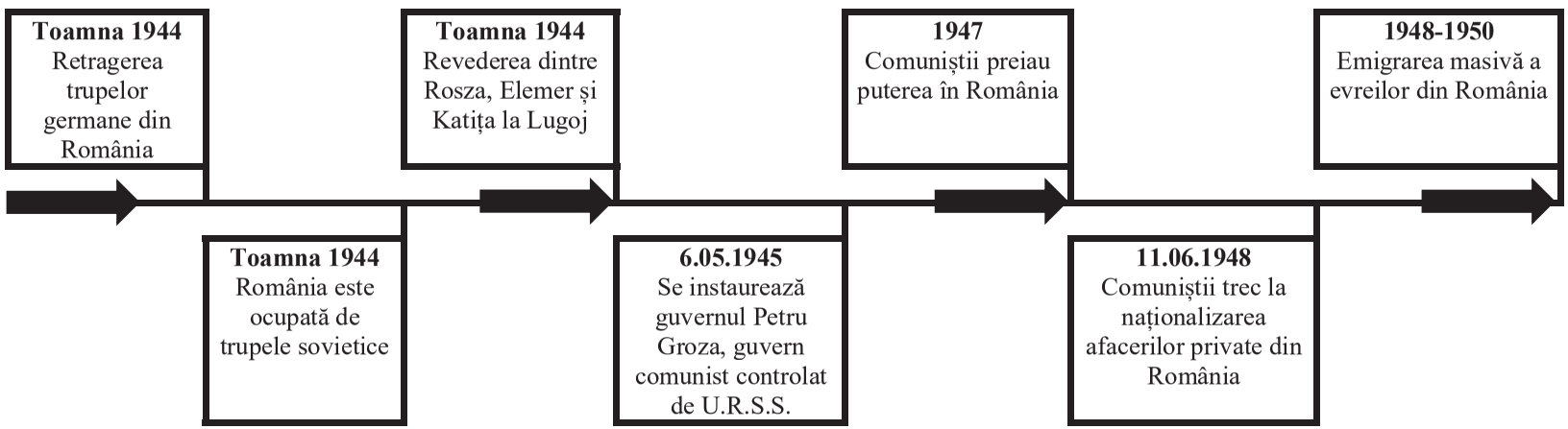


Axa cronologică a evenimentelor din cele două povestiri grafice






9.10.1941
Începe deportarea evreilor din Bucovina și Basarabia în Transnistria
31.10.1941
Elemer, Rosza și Katița au fost deportați din Cernăuți
1941-1943
Perioada petrecută de Elemer, Rosza și Katița la Moghilev în Transnistria
Vara 1943
Soirea lui Adrian Dumitru și evadarea din Transnistria
1943-1944
Rosza și Katița trăiesc ascunse în România
Vara 1944
Revederea dintre Rosza și Elemer la Brașov
23 august 1944
Înlăturarea lui Ion Antonescu de la conducerea României și anularea legilor anitisemite


Toamna 1944
Retragerea trupelor germane din România
Toamna 1944
România este ocupată de trupele sovietice
Toamna 1944
Revederea dintre Rosza, Elemer și Katița la Lugoj
6.05.1945
Se instaurează guvernul Petru Groza, guvern comunist controlat de U.R.S.S.
1947
Comuniștii preiau puterea în România
11.06.1948
Comuniștii trec la naționalizarea afacerilor private din România
1948-1950
Emigrarea masivă a evreilor din România

1. La Chute

Introduction

Entre 1930 et 1940, le chef de l'État roumain était le roi Carol II. Durant cette période, la vie politique roumaine est marquée par la violence, principalement en raison des actions des membres de la Légion de l'Archange Michel, un parti qui changea de nom pour devenir la Garde de fer et, à partir de 1934, le parti „Tout pour le pays".

En 1938, sous la direction du roi Carol II, le gouvernement Goga-Cuza adopta les premières lois antisémites de l'entre-deux-guerres. Les gouvernements suivants continuèrent à prendre de nouvelles mesures contre la population juive. Cette même année, le roi Carol II instaura un régime dictatorial et les autorités eurent également recours à la violence contre les opposants politiques.

Avec le déclenchement de la Seconde Guerre mondiale en 1940, la Roumanie fut contrainte de céder des territoires à l'URSS, à la Hongrie et à la Bulgarie, et le roi Carol II dut abdiquer.

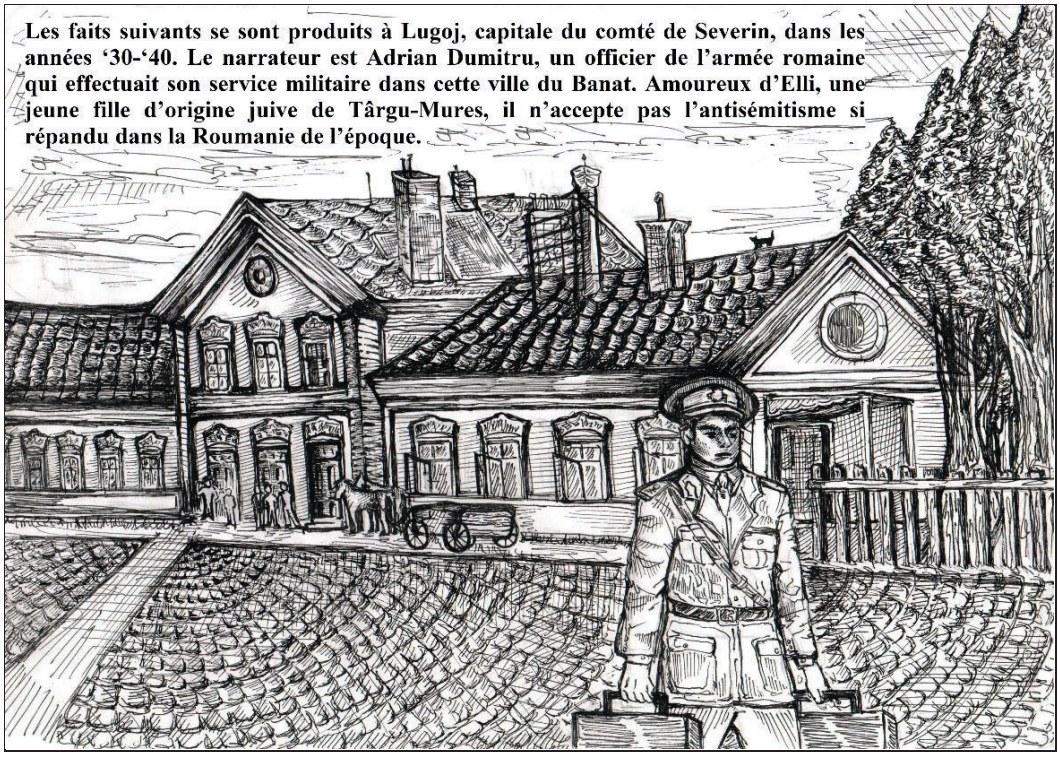
En raison des pertes subies au cours de l'été 1940, le général Ion Antonescu fut nommé Premier Ministre. Dans une tentative de rapprochement avec l'Allemagne hitlérienne, Ion Antonescu fit entrer au gouvernement le mouvement légionnaire, connu pour ses liens étroits avec les nazis allemands. Le 14 septembre 1940, la Roumanie fut proclamée „État national légionnaire". Ion Antonescu se proclama „dirigeant de l'État" et Horia Sima, le chef de la Légion, devint vice-président du Conseil des ministres.

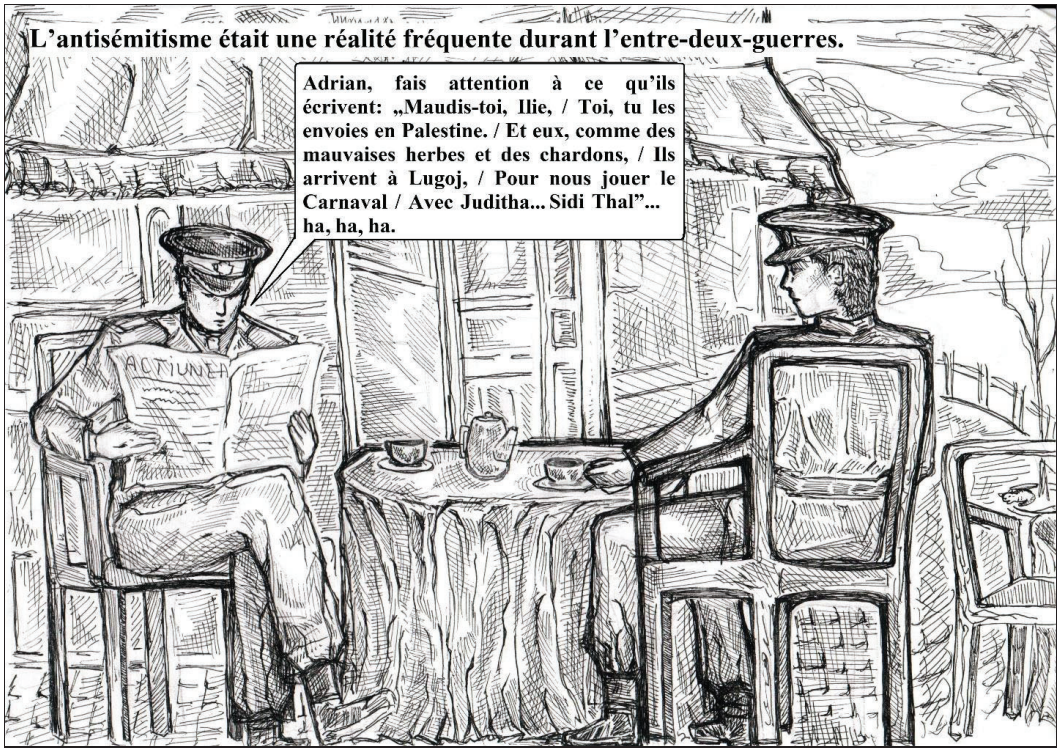
Avec l'instauration du régime d'Antonescu, la situation des Juifs en Roumanie se détériora. Dès leur prise de pouvoir à la fin de l'année 1940, les légionnaires commencèrent à confisquer les biens des Juifs, recourant à la terreur, la violence, les menaces et le chantage.

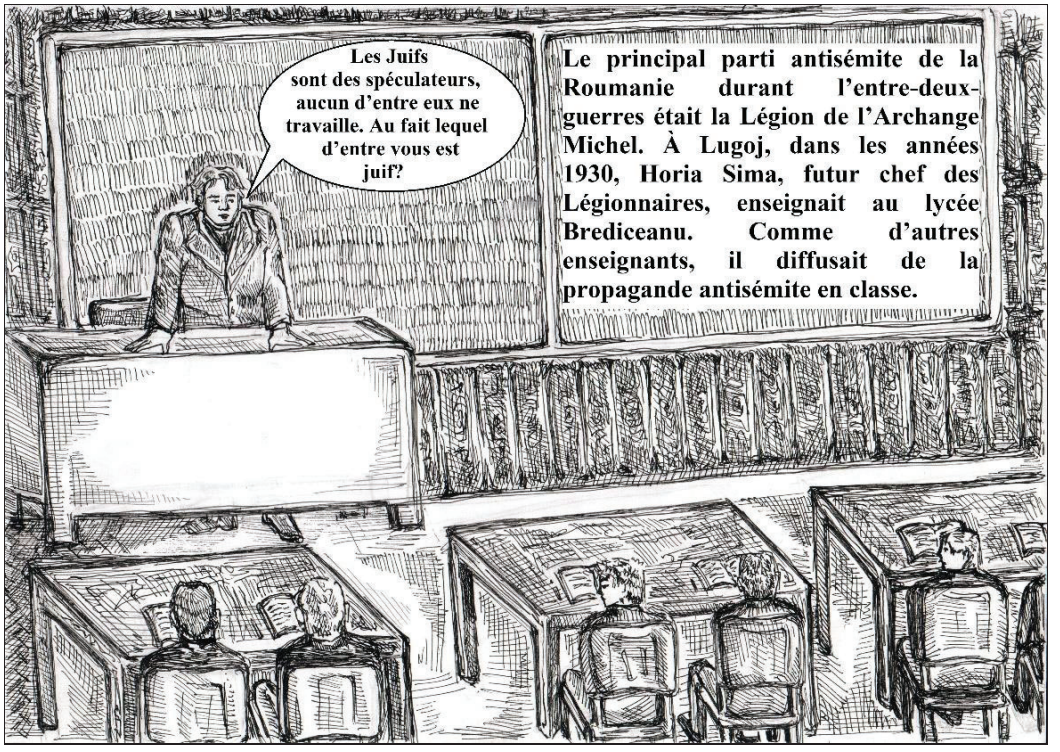
En janvier 1941, Ion Antonescu rompit son alliance politique avec le mouvement légionnaire et, jusqu'en 1944, dirigea la Roumanie avec l'aide de l'armée, instaurant une dictature militaire. Les lois antisémites se multiplièrent. Les Juifs furent astreints au travail obligatoire, leurs maisons et leurs biens confisqués, certains magasins leur furent interdits, et ils furent expulsés des écoles et des jardins d'enfants.

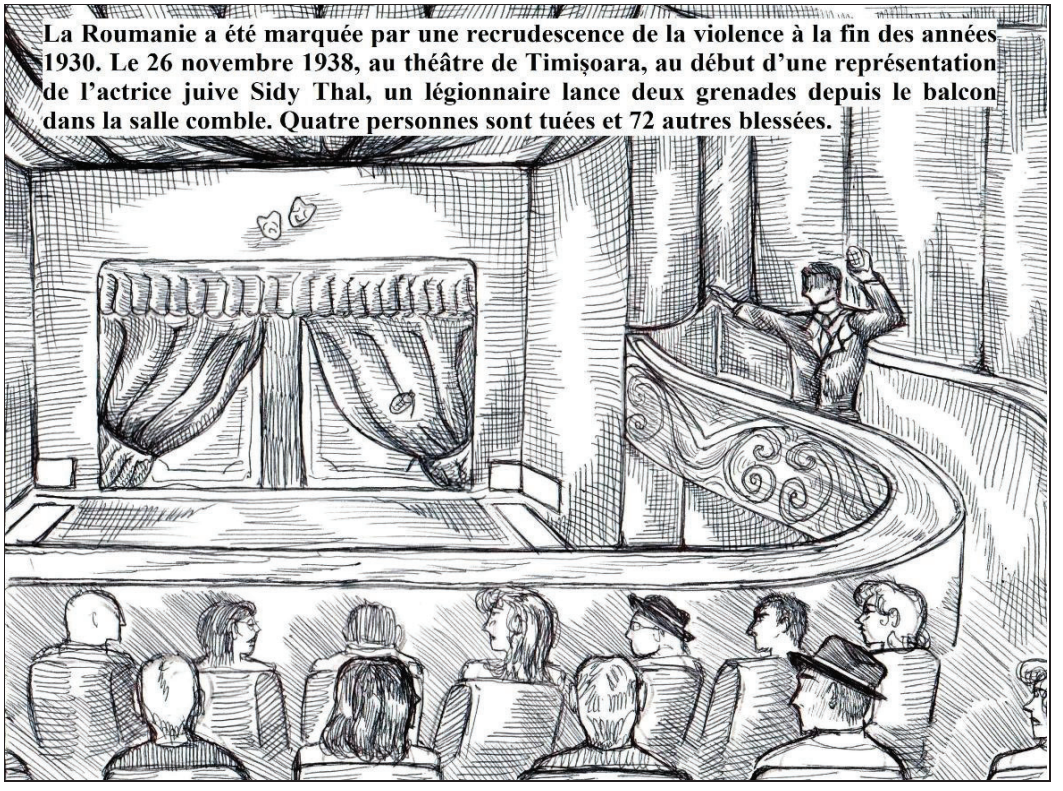
Le 22 juin 1941, la Roumanie se joignit à l'Allemagne nazie dans son attaque contre l'URSS, s'engageant ainsi dans la Seconde Guerre mondiale. À l'automne 1941, Ion Antonescu décida de profiter de la situation et ordonna la déportation des Juifs de Bucovine et de Bessarabie vers la Transnistrie, une région située entre le Nistru et le Bug. Dans les années qui suivirent, des milliers de Juifs moururent ou furent tués dans cette région. Outre les Juifs, les Roms souffrirent également, un grand nombre d'entre eux étant déportés en Transnistrie.

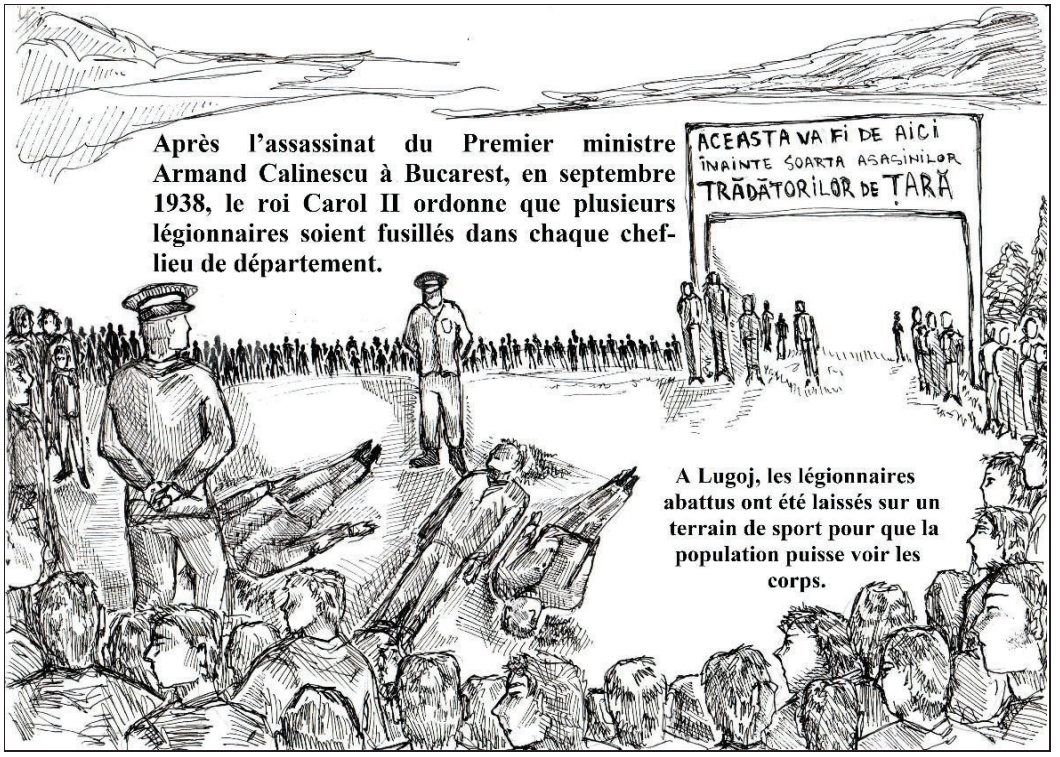
Les histoires que vous allez lire montrent comment les mesures antisémites prises en Roumanie entre 1938 et 1944 ont affecté la vie de la population juive. Elles sont toutes basées sur des témoignages de victimes et des documents de l'époque, et leurs auteurs ont veillé à respecter la vérité historique.


Les faits suivants se sont produits à Lugoj, capitale du comté de Severin, dans les années '30-'40. Le narrateur est Adrian Dumitru, un officier de l'armée romaine qui effectuait son service militaire dans cette ville du Banat. Amoureux d'Elli, une jeune fille d'origine juive de Târgu-Mures, il n'accepte pas l'antisémitisme si répandu dans la Roumanie de l'époque.


L'antisémitisme était une réalité fréquente durant l'entre-deux-guerres.
Adrian, fais attention à ce qu'ils écrivent: „Maudis-toi, Ilie, / Toi, tu les envoies en Palestine. / Et eux, comme des mauvaises herbes et des chardons, / Ils arrivent à Lugoj, / Pour nous jouer le Carnaval / Avec Juditha... Sidi Thal"... ha, ha, ha.
ACTIUNEA


Les Juifs sont des spéculateurs, aucun d'entre eux ne travaille. Au fait lequel d'entre vous est juif?
Le principal parti antisémite de la Roumanie durant l'entre-deux-guerres était la Légion de l'Archange Michel. À Lugoj, dans les années 1930, Horia Sima, futur chef des Légionnaires, enseignait au lycée Brediceanu. Comme d'autres enseignants, il diffusait de la propagande antisémite en classe.

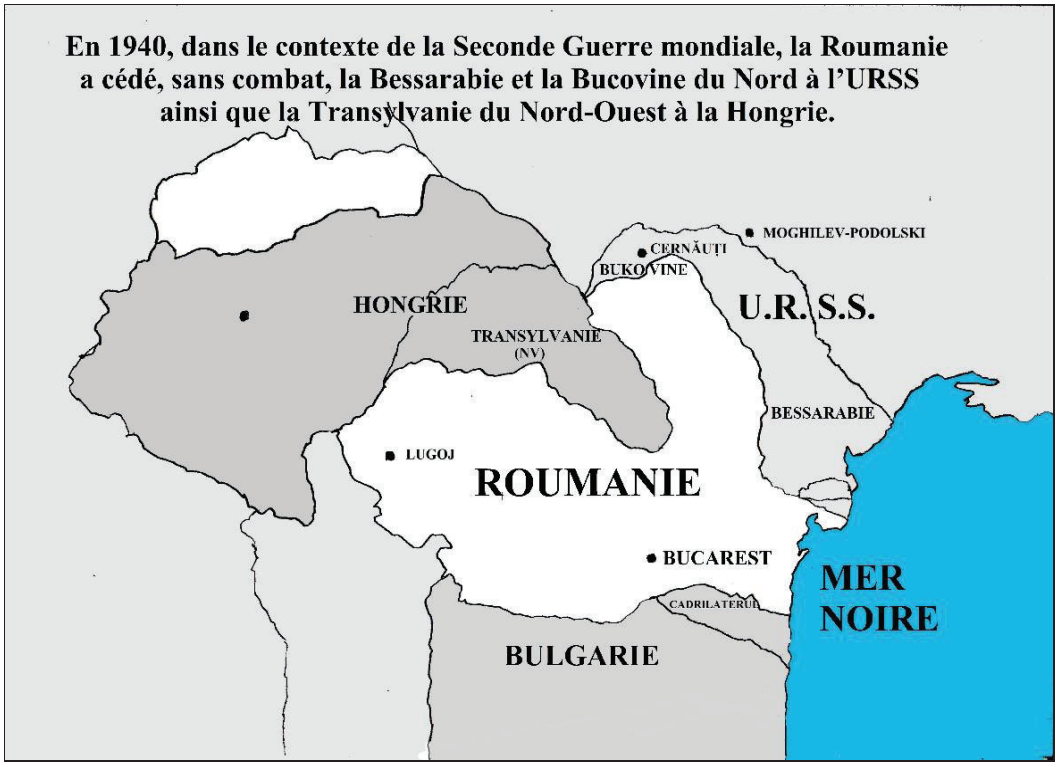

La Roumanie a été marquée par une recrudescence de la violence à la fin des années 1930. Le 26 novembre 1938, au théâtre de Timișoara, au début d'une représentation de l'actrice juive Sidy Thal, un légionnaire lance deux grenades depuis le balcon dans la salle comble. Quatre personnes sont tuées et 72 autres blessées.

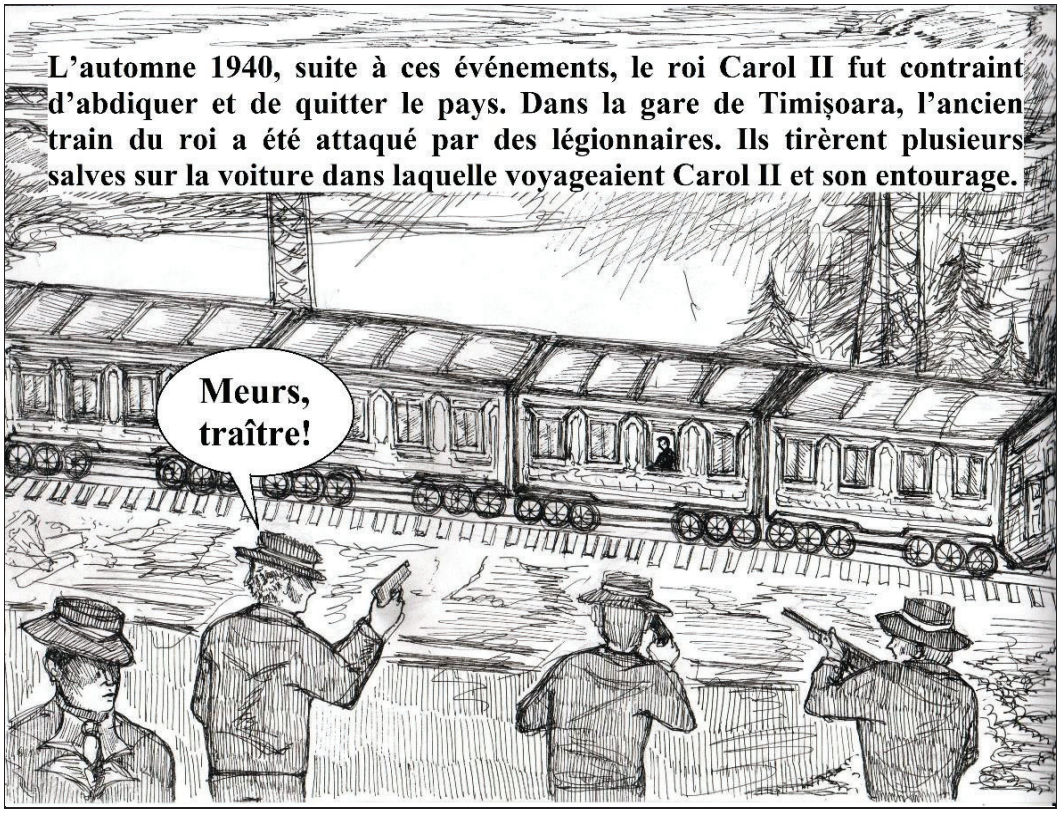


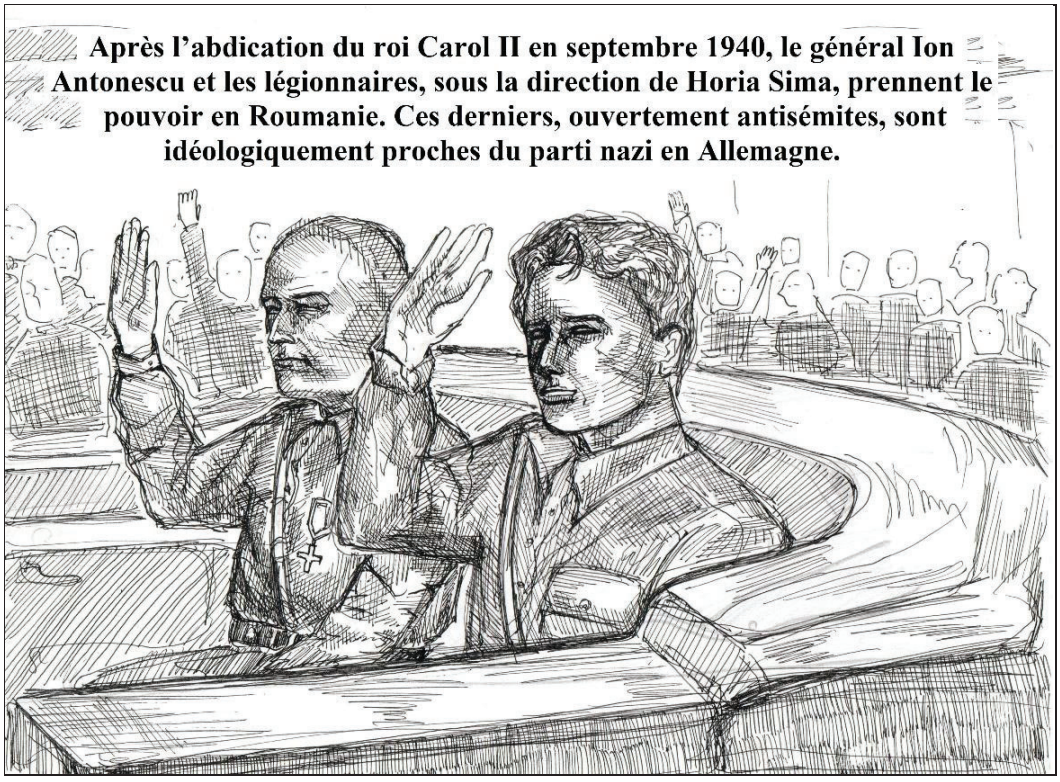
Après l'assassinat du Premier ministre Armand Calinescu à Bucarest, en septembre 1938, le roi Carol II ordonne que plusieurs légionnaires soient fusillés dans chaque chef-lieu de département.

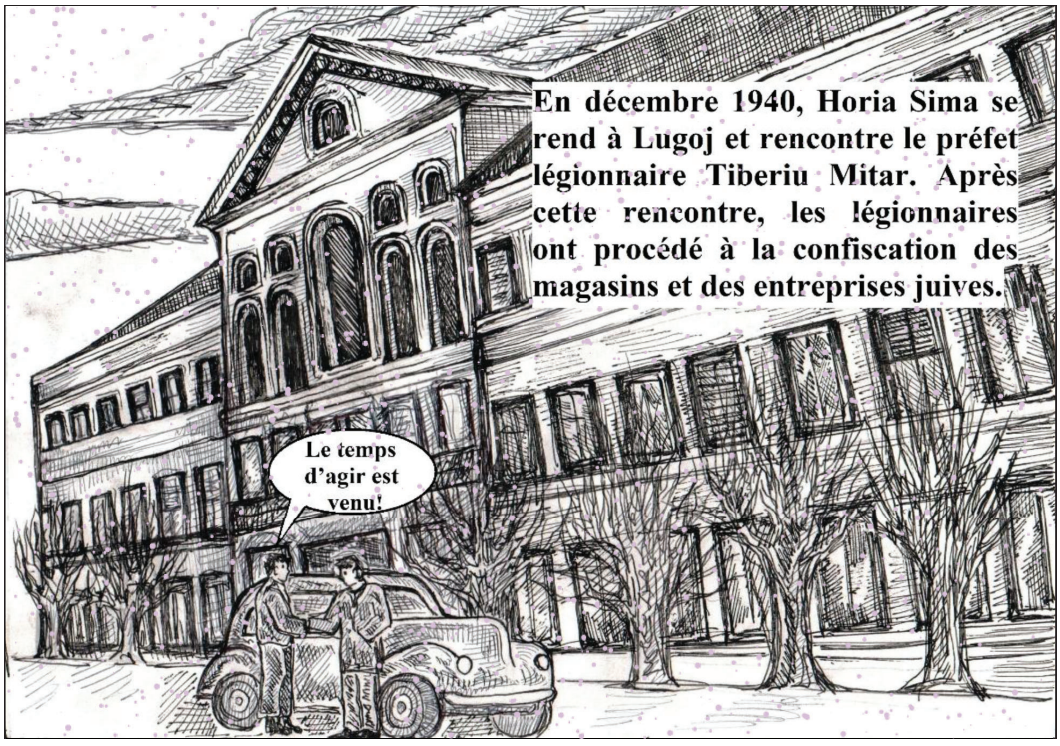
A Lugoj, les légionnaires abattus ont été laissés sur un terrain de sport pour que la population puisse voir les corps.

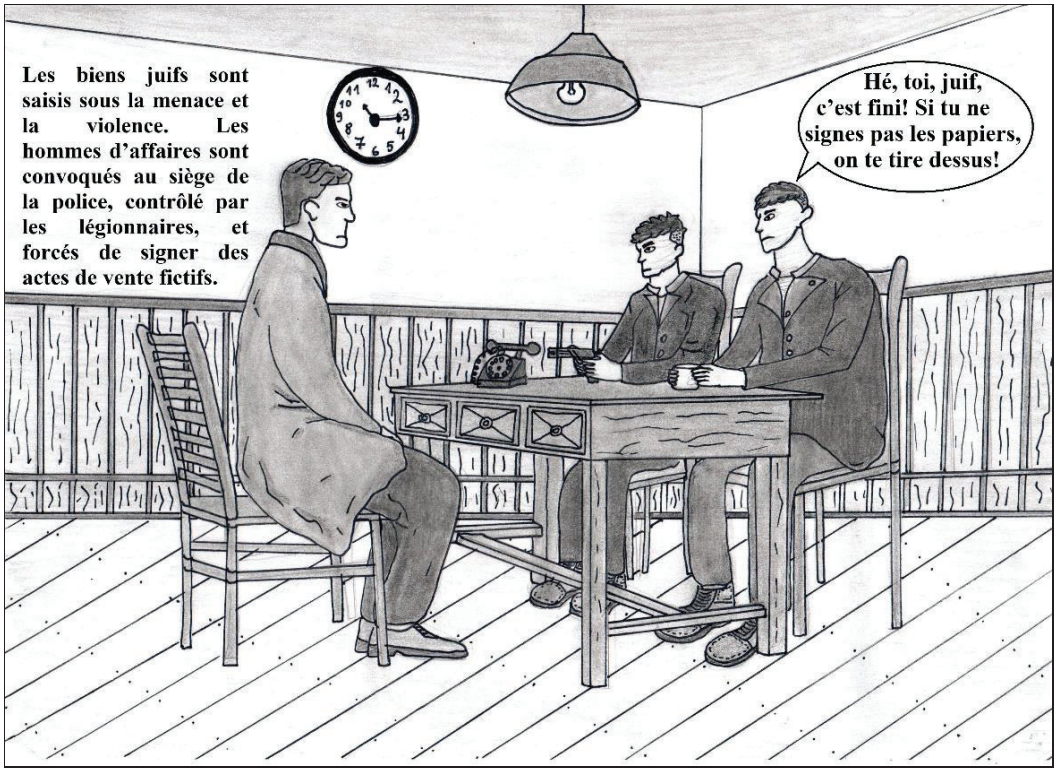


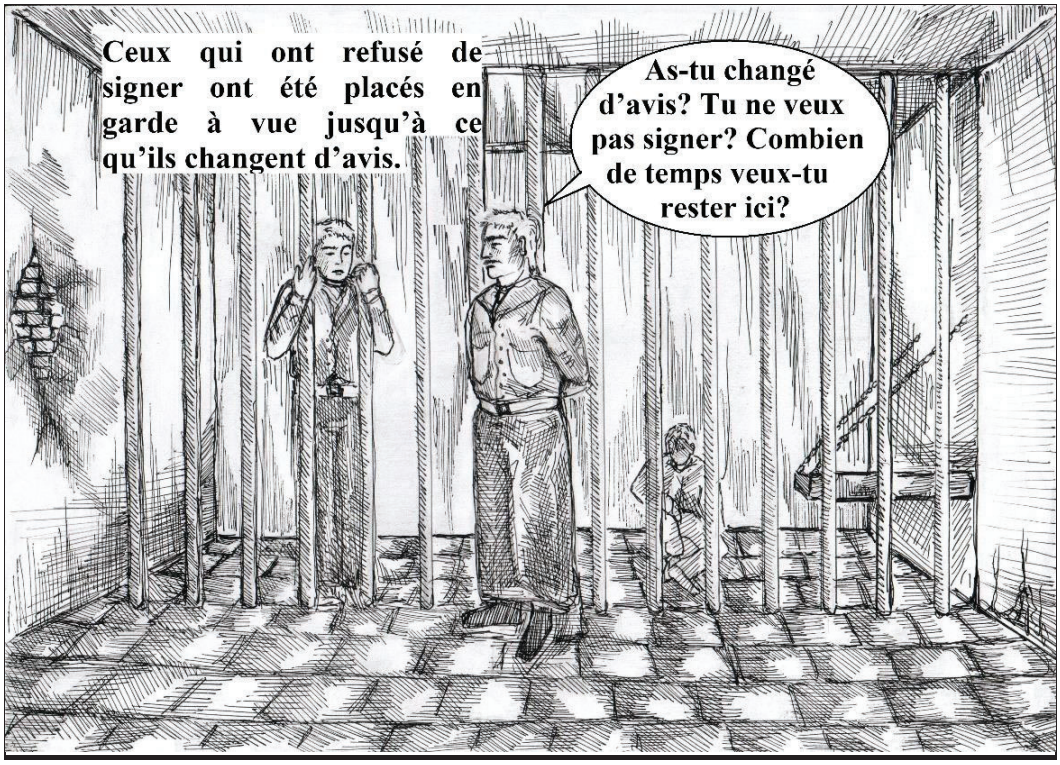

En 1940, dans le contexte de la Seconde Guerre mondiale, la Roumanie a cédé, sans combat, la Bessarabie et la Bucovine du Nord à l'URSS ainsi que la Transylvanie du Nord-Ouest à la Hongrie.
MOGHILEV-PODOLSKI
CERNĂUȚI
BUKOVINE
HONGRIE
U.R.S.S.
TRANSYLVANIE (NV)
BESSARABIE
LUGOJ
ROUMANIE
BUCAREST
MER NOIRE
CADRILATERUL
BULGARIE


L'automne 1940, suite à ces événements, le roi Carol II fut contraint d'abdiquer et de quitter le pays. Dans la gare de Timișoara, l'ancien train du roi a été attaqué par des légionnaires. Ils tirèrent plusieurs salves sur la voiture dans laquelle voyageaient Carol II et son entourage.
Meurs, traître!

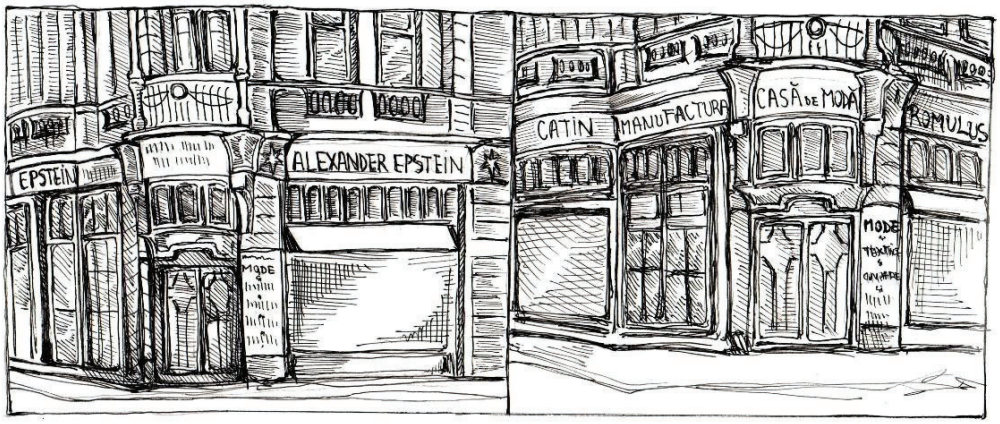

Après l'abdication du roi Carol II en septembre 1940, le général Ion Antonescu et les légionnaires, sous la direction de Horia Sima, prennent le pouvoir en Roumanie. Ces derniers, ouvertement antisémites, sont idéologiquement proches du parti nazi en Allemagne.


En décembre 1940, Horia Sima se rend à Lugoj et rencontre le préfet légionnaire Tiberiu Mitar. Après cette rencontre, les légionnaires ont procédé à la confiscation des magasins et des entreprises juives.
Le temps d'agir est venu!

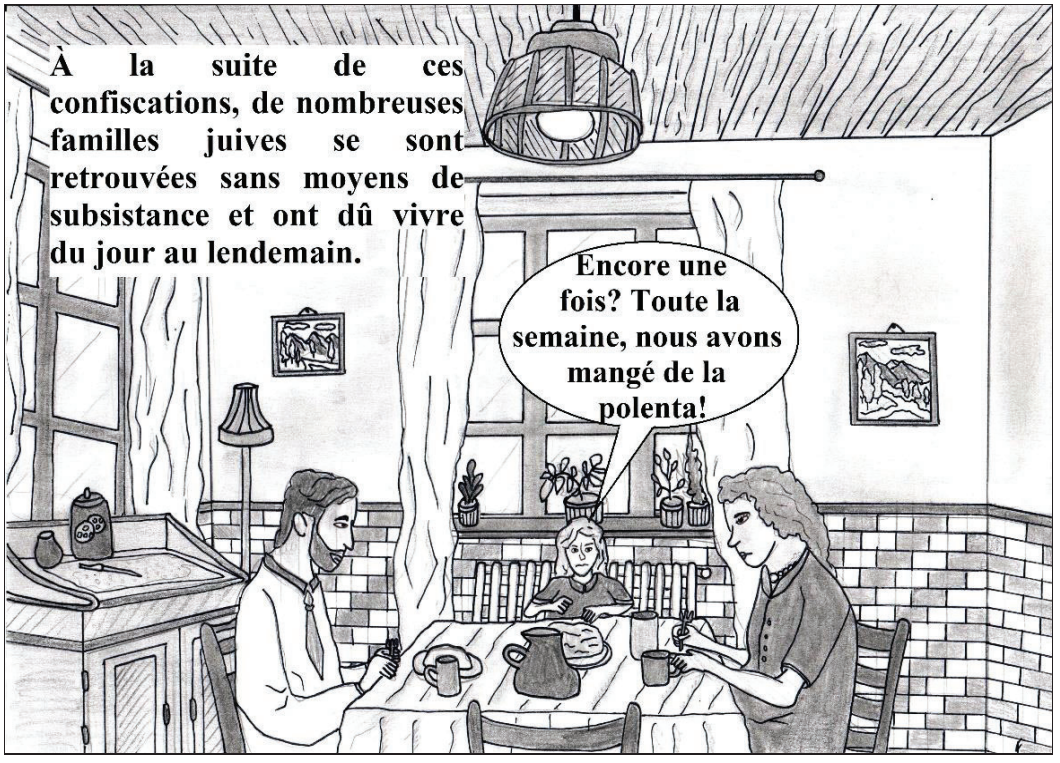

Les biens juifs sont saisis sous la menace et la violence. Les hommes d'affaires sont convoqués au siège de la police, contrôlé par les légionnaires, et forcés de signer des actes de vente fictifs.
Hé, toi, juif, c'est fini! Si tu ne signes pas les papiers, on te tire dessus!


Ceux qui ont refusé de signer ont été placés en garde à vue jusqu'à ce qu'ils changent d'avis.
As-tu changé d'avis? Tu ne veux pas signer? Combien de temps veux-tu rester ici?

Les entreprises et les magasins juifs changent donc de propriétaires. Les nouveaux propriétaires sont des jeunes hommes contrôlés par des légionnaires.

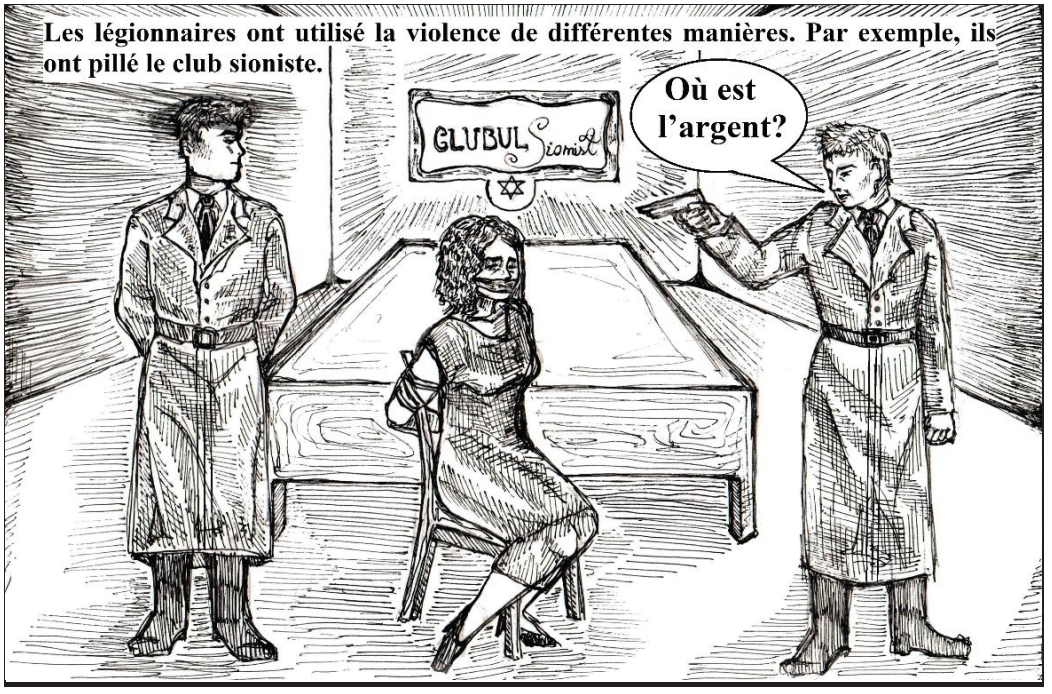


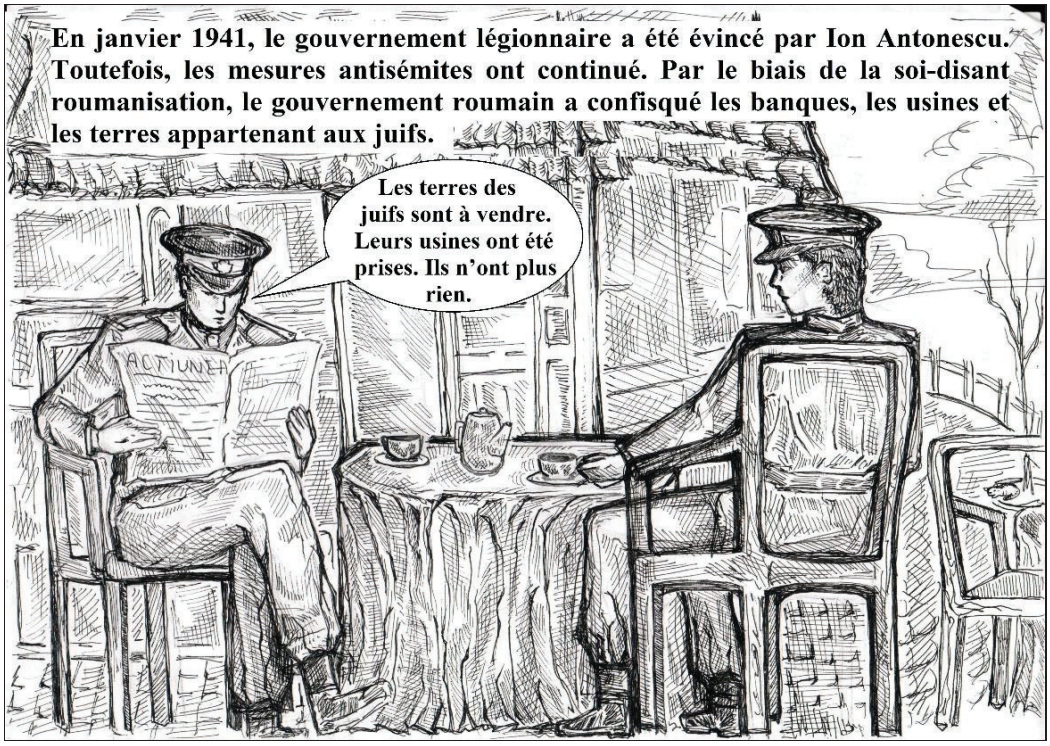
Le magasin d'Alexander Epstein a été repris par Romolus Catin.



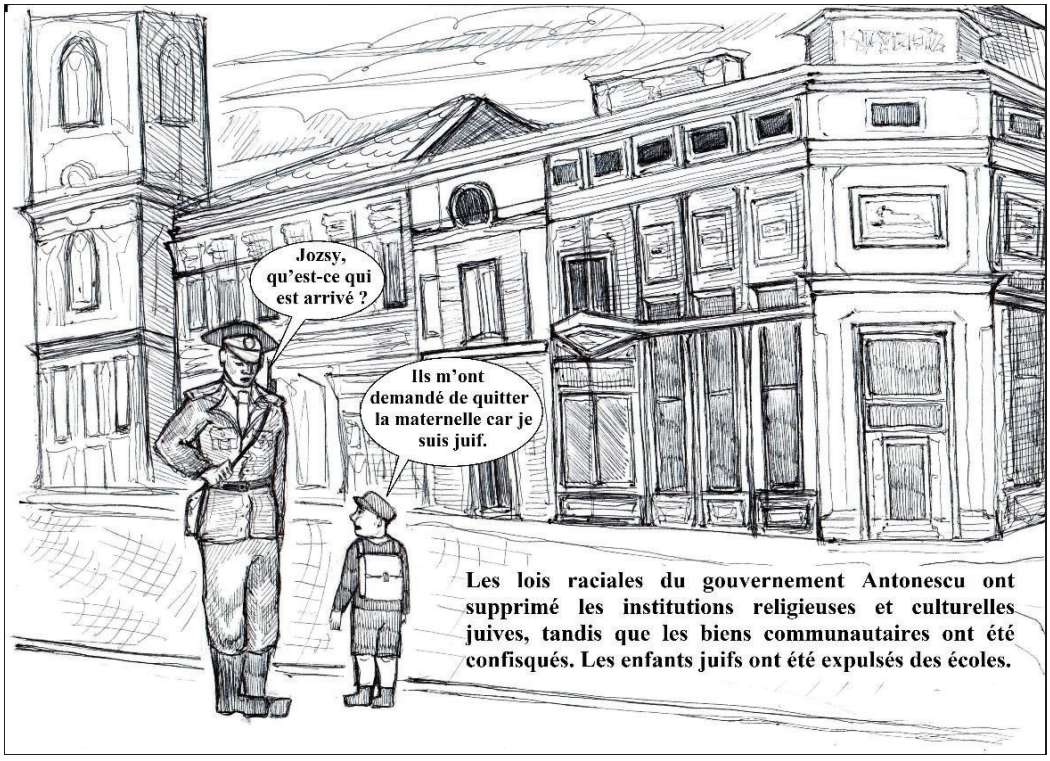


Pendant la nuit, les légionnaires attaquaient les maisons des juifs riches, les contraignant à leur remettre leurs biens.

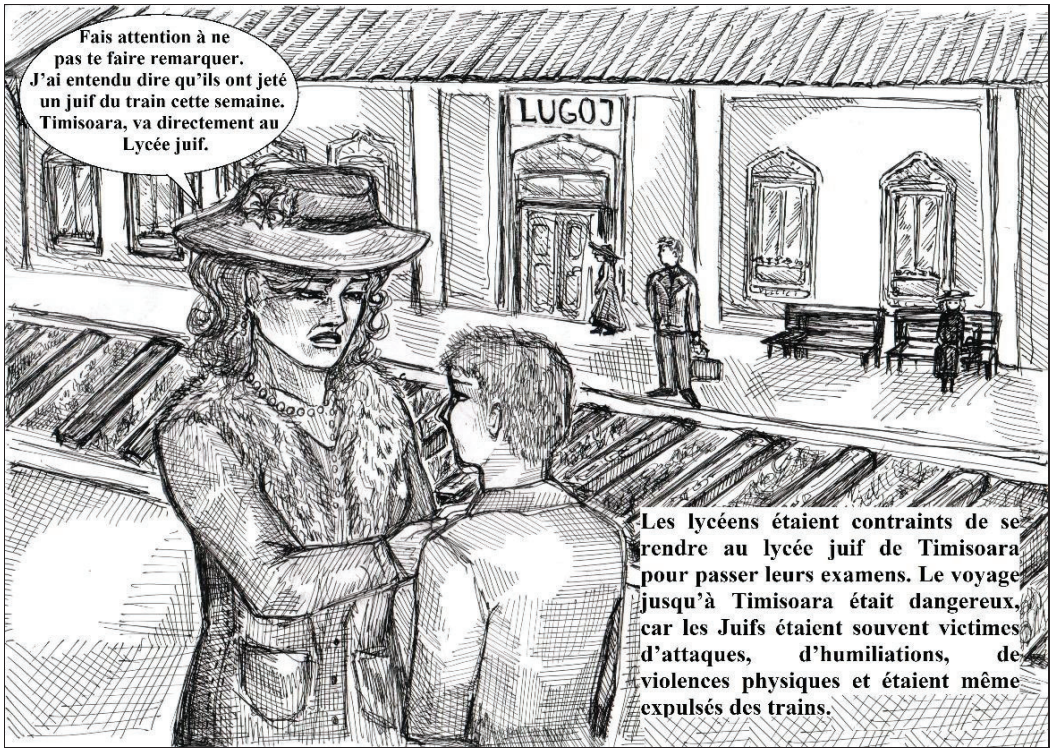


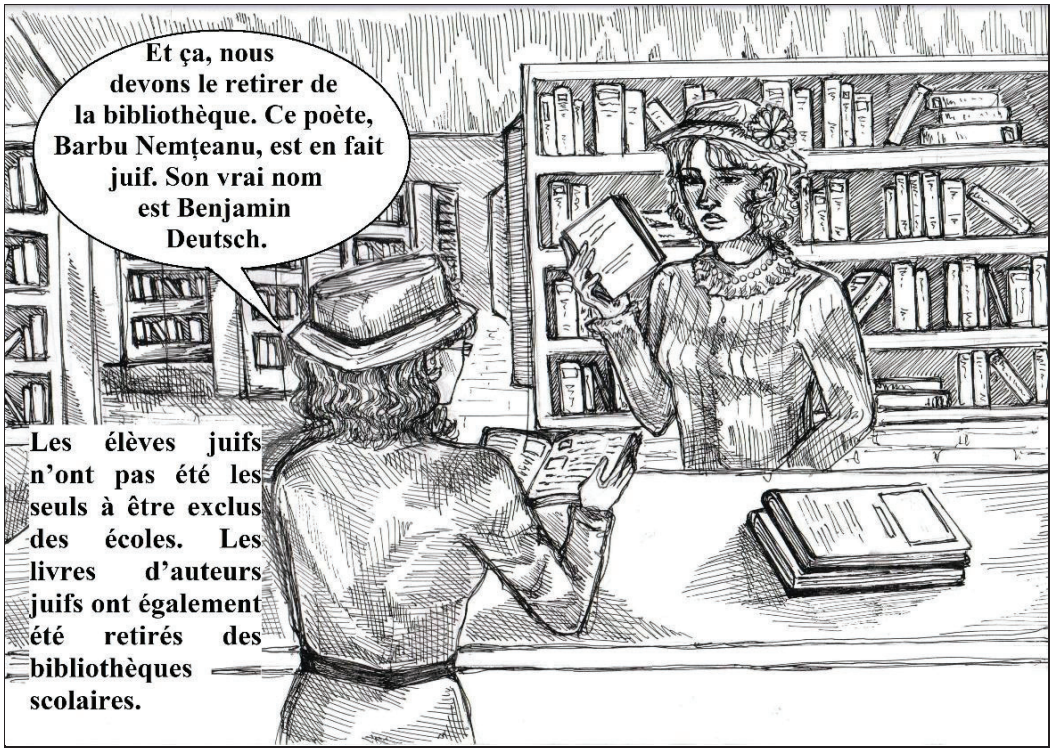

En janvier 1941, le gouvernement légionnaire a été évincé par Ion Antonescu. Toutefois, les mesures antisémites ont continué. Par le biais de la soi-disant roumanisation, le gouvernement roumain a confisqué les banques, les usines et les terres appartenant aux juifs.
Les terres des juifs sont à vendre. Leurs usines ont été prises. Ils n'ont plus rien.
ACTIUNEA

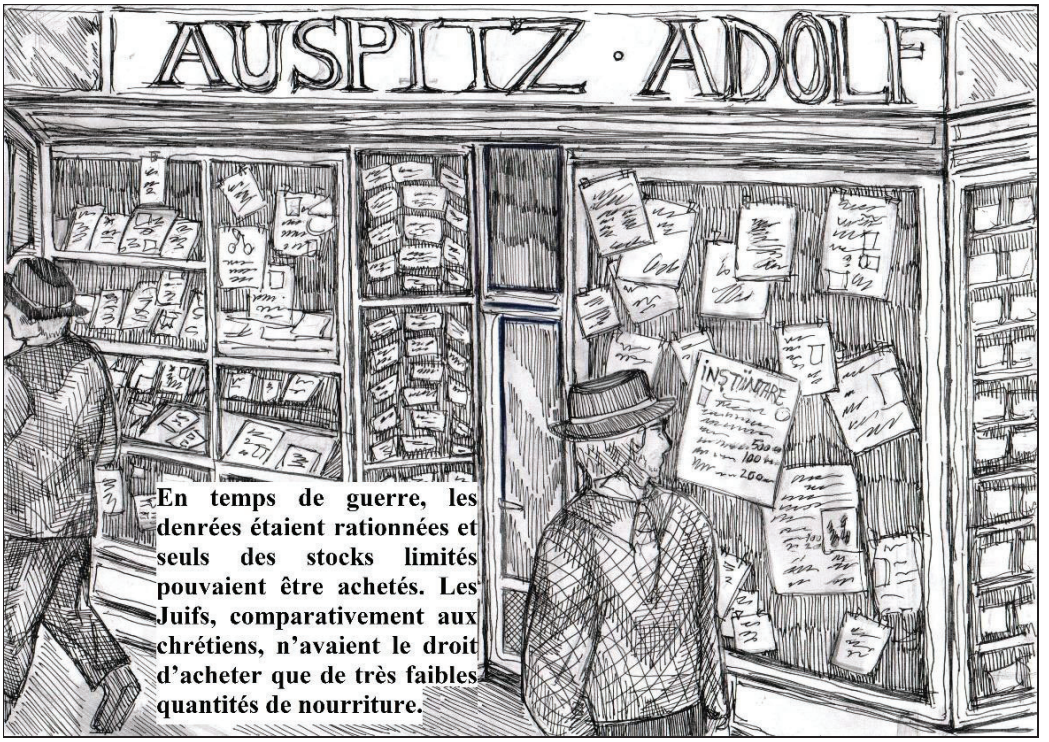

Tu lui apprends à utiliser la voiture. Une fois que tu lui as appris, tu t'en vas!
Le régime d'Antonescu a tenté d'éliminer les ouvriers juifs des usines. Cependant, ils ne pouvaient pas être facilement remplacés. Des „doublures" roumains ont été embauchés dans les usines afin d'apprendre le métier des ouvriers juifs, après quoi ces derniers ont été licenciés.


Jozsy, qu'est-ce qui est arrivé ?
Ils m'ont demandé de quitter la maternelle car je suis juif.
Les lois raciales du gouvernement Antonescu ont supprimé les institutions religieuses et culturelles juives, tandis que les biens communautaires ont été confisqués. Les enfants juifs ont été expulsés des écoles.


Allez en Palestine!
Comme le bâtiment de l'école juive a été confisqué par l'État, les jeunes juifs étudiaient dans les parcs. Ils y ont été attaqués à coups de pierres par de jeunes

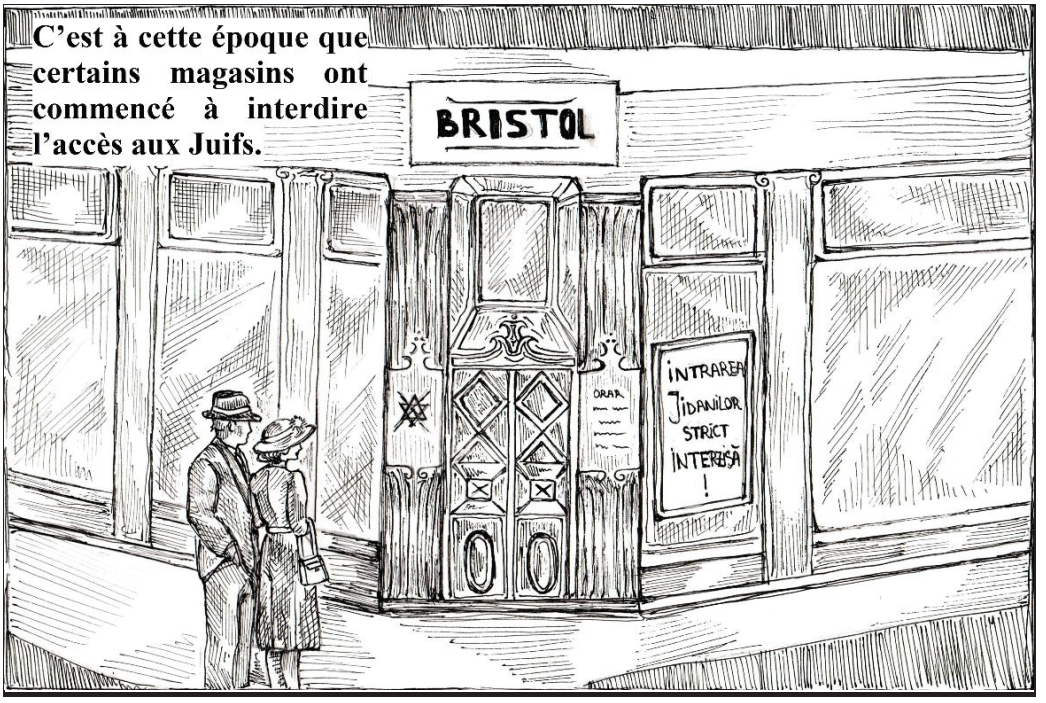

Fais attention à ne pas te faire remarquer. J'ai entendu dire qu'ils ont jeté un juif du train cette semaine. Timisoara, va directement au Lycée juif.
LUGOJ
Les lycéens étaient contraints de se rendre au lycée juif de Timisoara pour passer leurs examens. Le voyage jusqu'à Timisoara était dangereux, car les Juifs étaient souvent victimes d'attaques, d'humiliations, de violences physiques et étaient même expulsés des trains.


Et ça, nous devons le retirer de la bibliothèque. Ce poète, Barbu Nemțeanu, est en fait juif. Son vrai nom est Benjamin Deutsch.
Les élèves juifs n'ont pas été les seuls à être exclus des écoles. Les livres d'auteurs juifs ont également été retirés des bibliothèques scolaires.



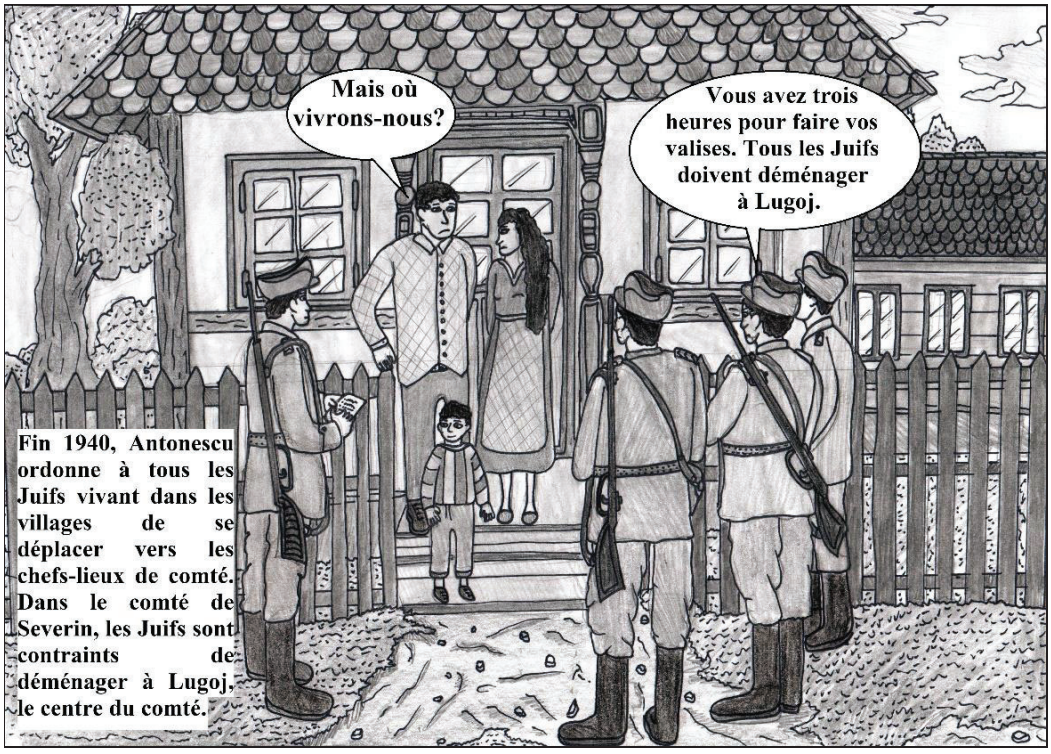
En temps de guerre, les denrées étaient rationnées et seuls des stocks limités pouvaient être achetés. Les Juifs, comparativement aux chrétiens, n'avaient le droit d'acheter que de très faibles quantités de nourriture.

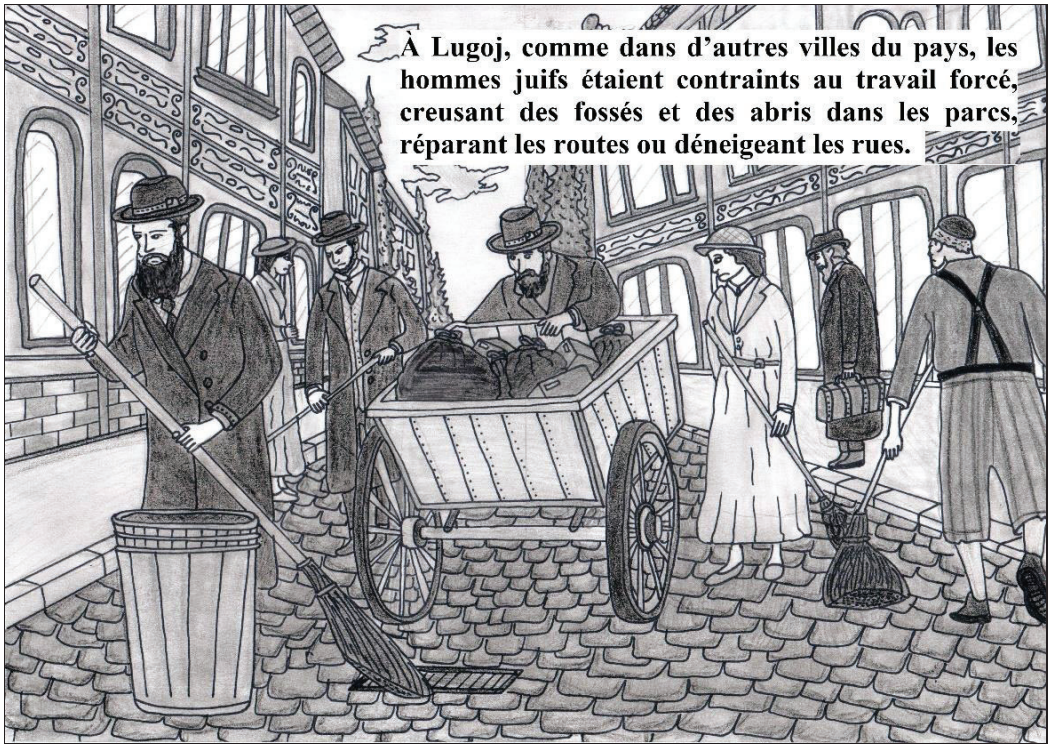
C'est à cette époque que certains magasins ont commencé à interdire l'accès aux Juifs.



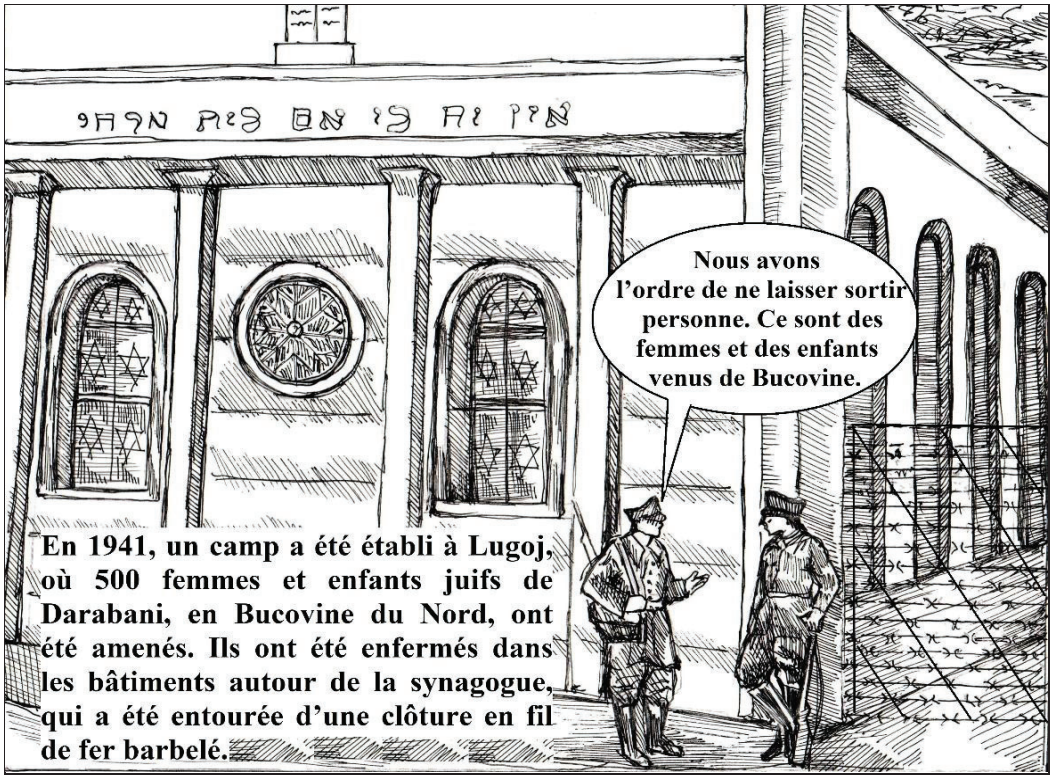

Ce club a été dissous. Vous devez partir d'ici.
Où devrions-nous aller?
SIONIST
Les logements des Juifs ont été confisqués, les contraignant à vivre en location.


Les Juifs ont été contraints par le régime d'Antonescu de remettre à l'armée roumaine des vêtements, des chaussures, des chaussettes, du linge de lit. Les appareils radio ont également été confisqués.
Attention! Désormais, les Juifs sont contraints de fournir des chaussettes à l'armée. Pauvre pays!
RASUNETUL

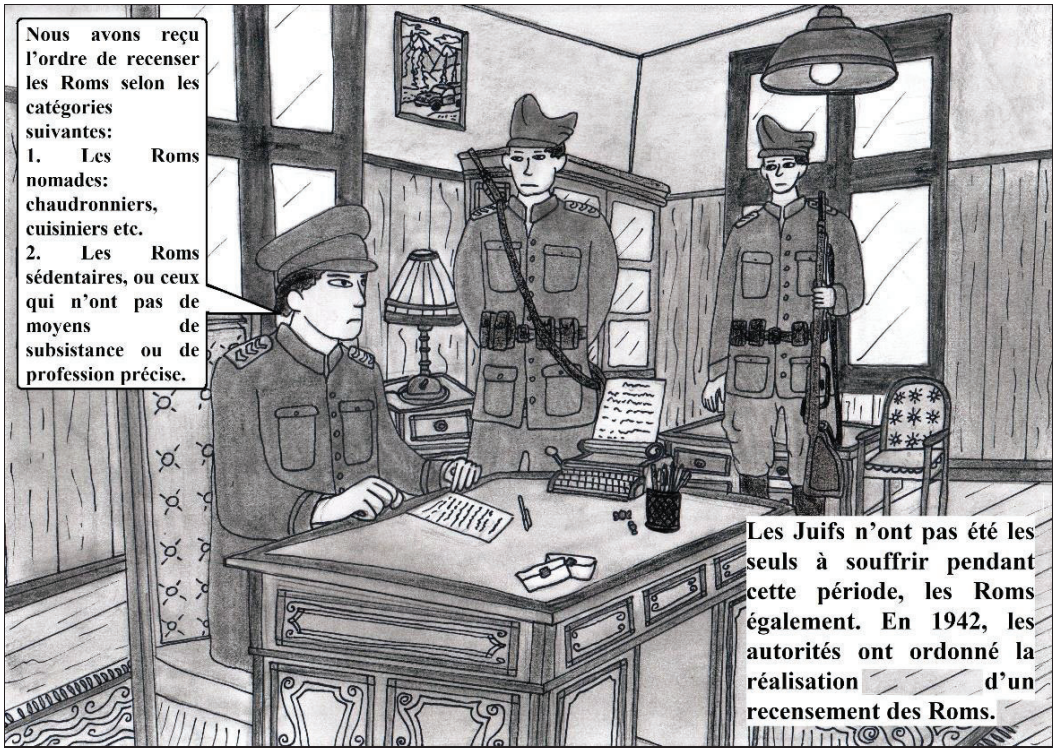

Mais où vivrons-nous?
Vous avez trois heures pour faire vos valises. Tous les Juifs doivent déménager à Lugoj.
Fin 1940, Antonescu ordonne à tous les Juifs vivant dans les villages de se déplacer vers les chefs-lieux de comté. Dans le comté de Severin, les Juifs sont contraints de déménager à Lugoj, le centre du comté.

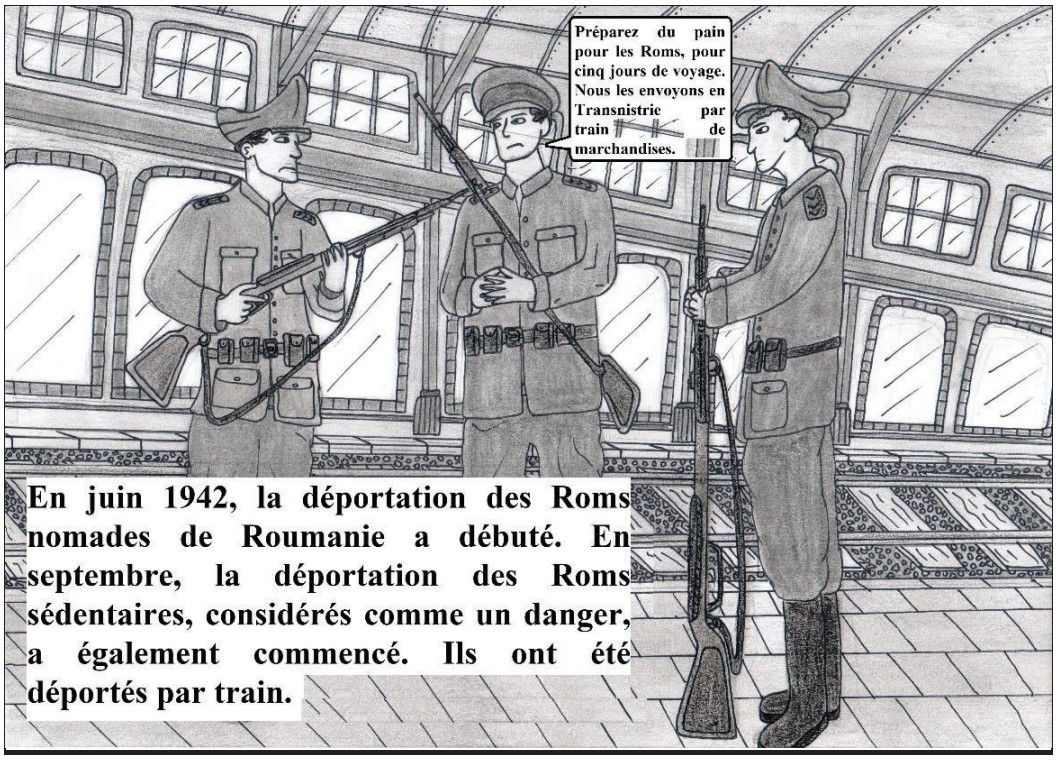

À Lugoj, comme dans d'autres villes du pays, les hommes juifs étaient contraints au travail forcé, creusant des fossés et des abris dans les parcs, réparant les routes ou déneigeant les rues.


Une partie des hommes juifs a été envoyée sur divers chantiers à travers le pays, dans des détachements de travail forcé. En raison des conditions extrêmement difficiles dans ces camps, certains déportés ont perdu la vie.

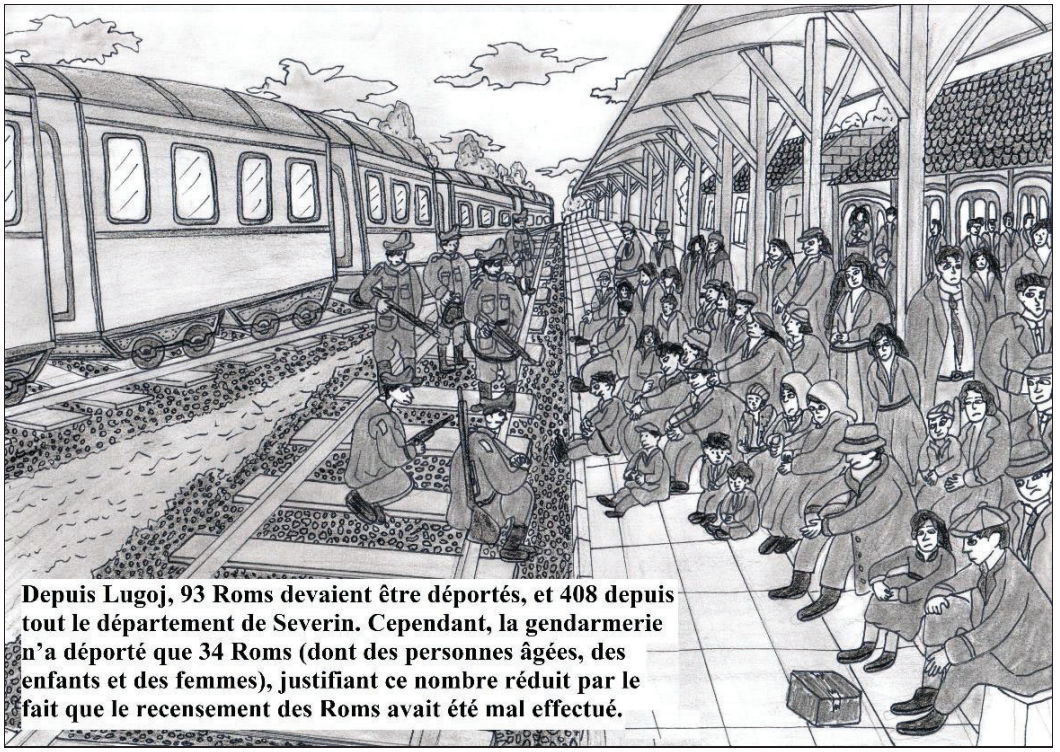

Nous avons l'ordre de ne laisser sortir personne. Ce sont des femmes et des enfants venus de Bucovine.
En 1941, un camp a été établi à Lugoj, où 500 femmes et enfants juifs de Darabani, en Bucovine du Nord, ont été amenés. Ils ont été enfermés dans les bâtiments autour de la synagogue, qui a été entourée d'une clôture en fil de fer barbelé.


En Transnistrie avec vous, les communistes! Vous ne reviendrez jamais de là-bas!
Accusés d'être communistes, 12 juifs de Lugoj ont été arrêtés et déportés en Transnistrie. Quatre d'entre eux ont été fusillés dans le camp de Vapniarka, mais la plupart sont retournés à Lugoj après que les autorités eurent reconnu qu'il n'y avait aucune raison de les arrêter.


Nous avons reçu l'ordre de recenser les Roms selon les catégories suivantes:
1. Les Roms nomades: chaudronniers, cuisiniers etc.
2. Les Roms sédentaires, ou ceux qui n'ont pas de moyens de subsistance ou de profession précise.
Les Juifs n'ont pas été les seuls à souffrir pendant cette période, les Roms également. En 1942, les autorités ont ordonné la réalisation d'un recensement des Roms.

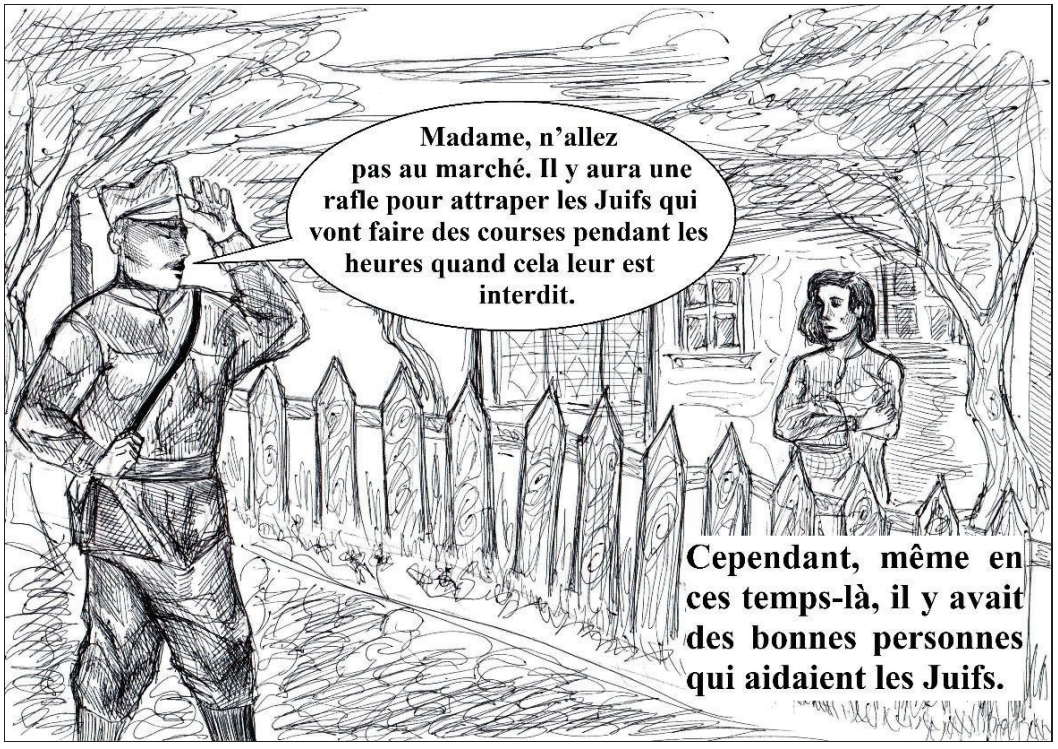


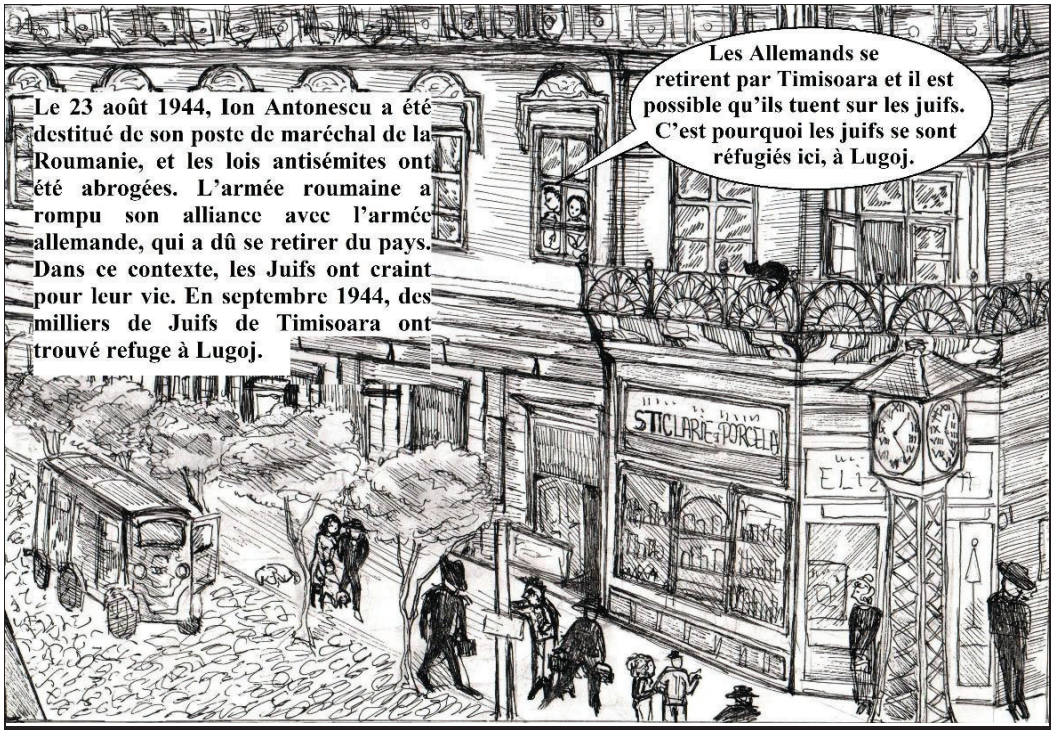
En juin 1942, la déportation des Roms nomades de Roumanie a débuté. En septembre, la déportation des Roms sédentaires, considérés comme un danger, a également commencé. Ils ont été déportés par train.

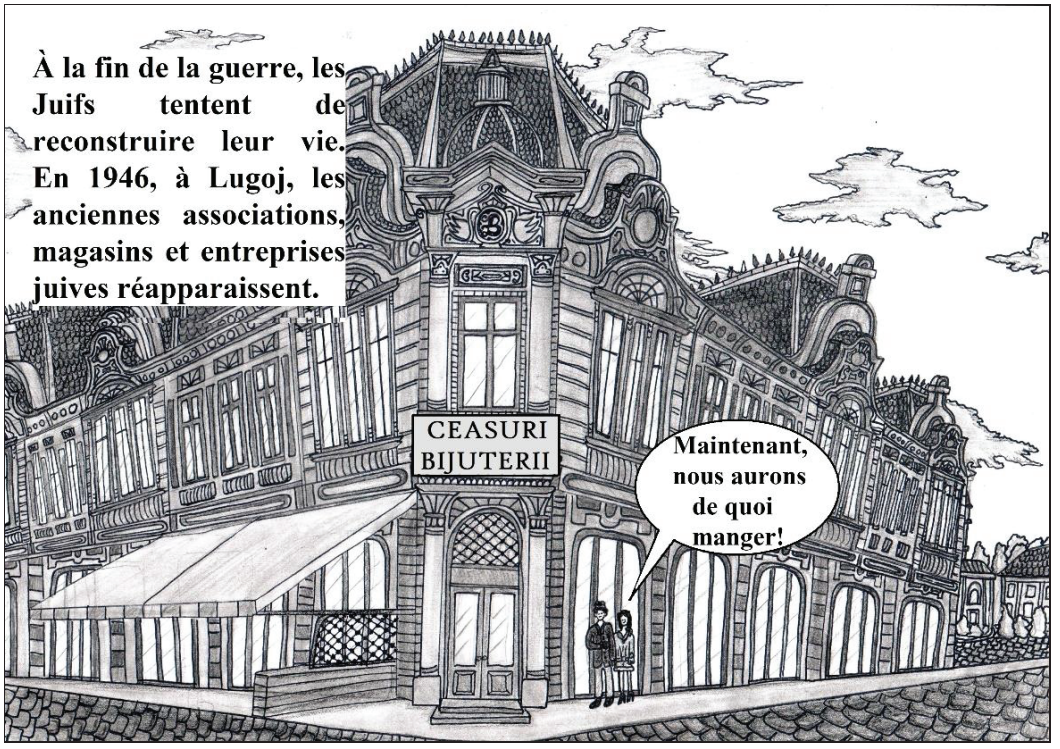


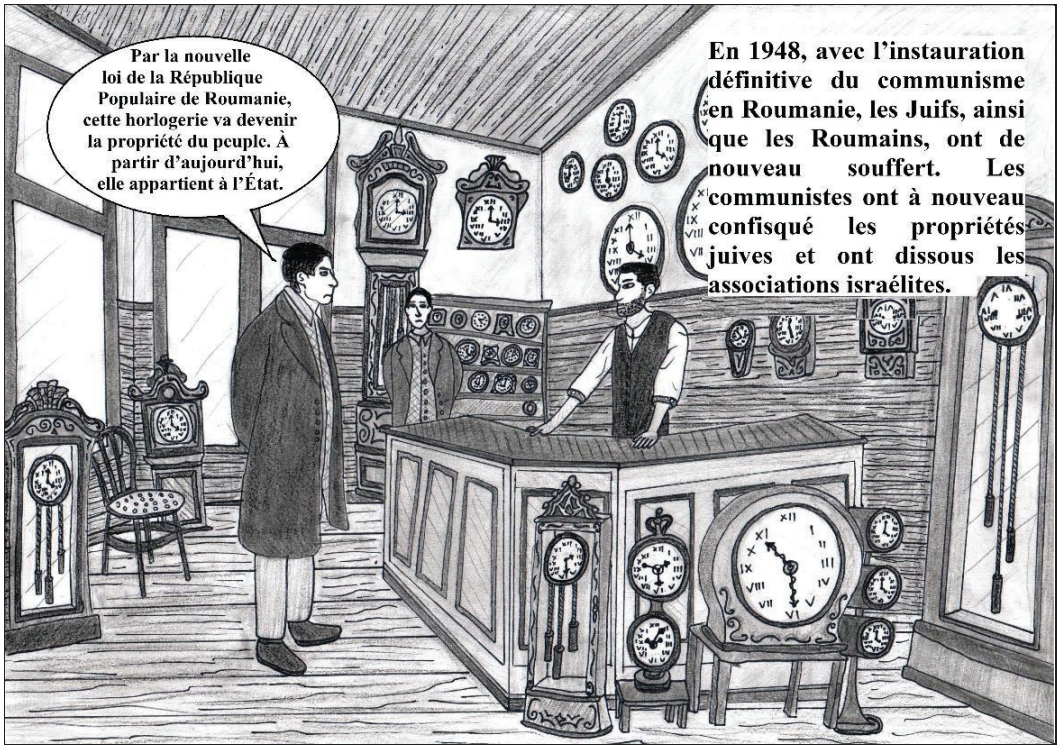
Depuis Lugoj, 93 Roms devaient être déportés, et 408 depuis tout le département de Severin. Cependant, la gendarmerie n'a déporté que 34 Roms (dont des personnes âgées, des enfants et des femmes), justifiant ce nombre réduit par le fait que le recensement des Roms avait été mal effectué.


J'ai entendu des rumeurs concernant la déportation de Juifs en Transnistrie. Avez-vous entendu quelque chose? Vont-ils déporter des enfants?
À la fin de l'année 1942, des rumeurs ont circulé selon lesquelles les Juifs du Banat seraient déportés en Transnistrie. Bien qu'un tel plan ait existé, le régime d'Antonescu l'a abandonné au début de l'année 1943.


Madame, n'allez pas au marché. Il y aura une rafle pour attraper les Juifs qui vont faire des courses pendant les heures quand cela leur est interdit.
Cependant, même en ces temps-là, il y avait des bonnes personnes qui aidaient les Juifs.


Le 23 août 1944, Ion Antonescu a été destitué de son poste de maréchal de la Roumanie, et les lois antisémites ont été abrogées. L'armée roumaine a rompu son alliance avec l'armée allemande, qui a dû se retirer du pays. Dans ce contexte, les Juifs ont craint pour leur vie. En septembre 1944, des milliers de Juifs de Timisoara ont trouvé refuge à Lugoj.
Les Allemands se retirent par Timisoara et il est possible qu'ils tuent sur les juifs. C'est pourquoi les juifs se sont réfugiés ici, à Lugoj.
STICLARIE-PORCELA
ELIZ


À la fin de la guerre, les Juifs tentent de reconstruire leur vie. En 1946, à Lugoj, les anciennes associations, magasins et entreprises juives réapparaissent.
CEASURI
BIJUTERII
Maintenant, nous aurons de quoi manger!

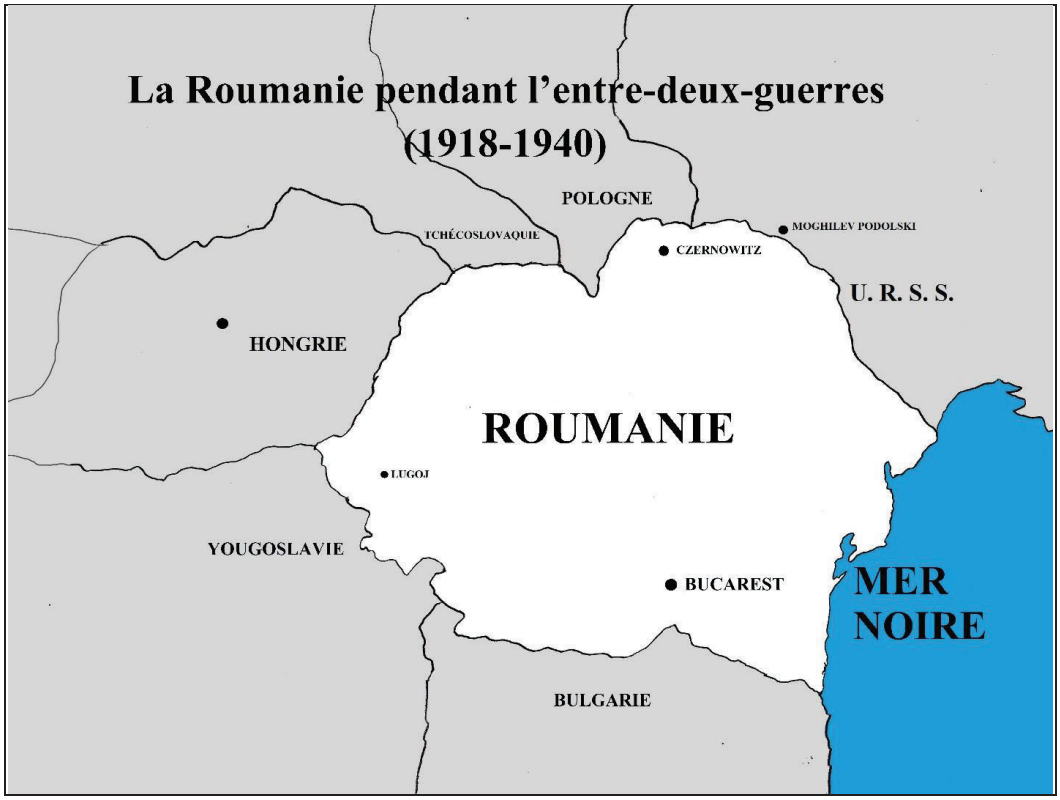

Par la nouvelle loi de la République Populaire de Roumanie, cette horlogerie va devenir la propriété du peuple. À partir d'aujourd'hui, elle appartient à l'État.
En 1948, avec l'instauration définitive du communisme en Roumanie, les Juifs, ainsi que les Roumains, ont de nouveau souffert. Les communistes ont à nouveau confisqué les propriétés juives et ont dissous les associations israélites.

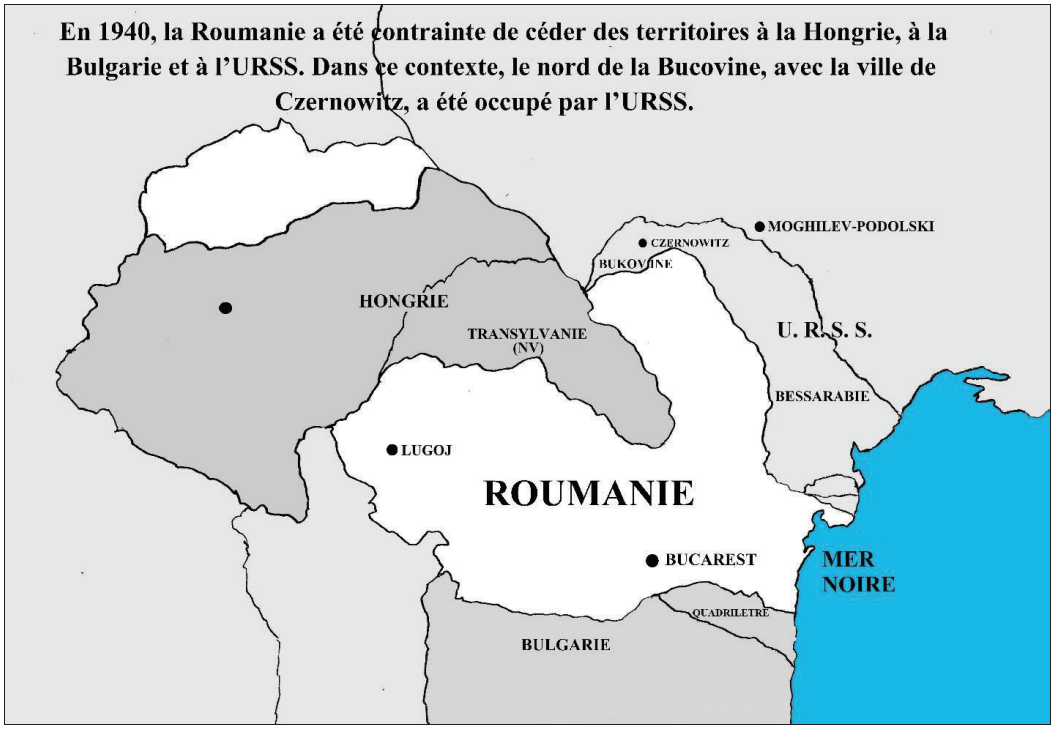

Dans ces conditions, dans les années 50, des centaines de Juifs de Lugoj (et des centaines de milliers de Juifs de Roumanie) ont émigré en Israël. De ce fait, la communauté juive en Roumanie a beaucoup diminué.
Ça suffit, il est temps de quitter la Roumanie. En Israël, nous serons mieux.



2. Retour à la lumière


L'histoire de la famille Gottlieb commence à Czernowitz en 1941. La famille Gottlieb était composée d'Elemer, Rosza et de la petite Katița, qui venait de naître. Pendant les années de la Seconde Guerre mondiale, la famille Gottlieb n'a pas eu le temps d'être heureuse.

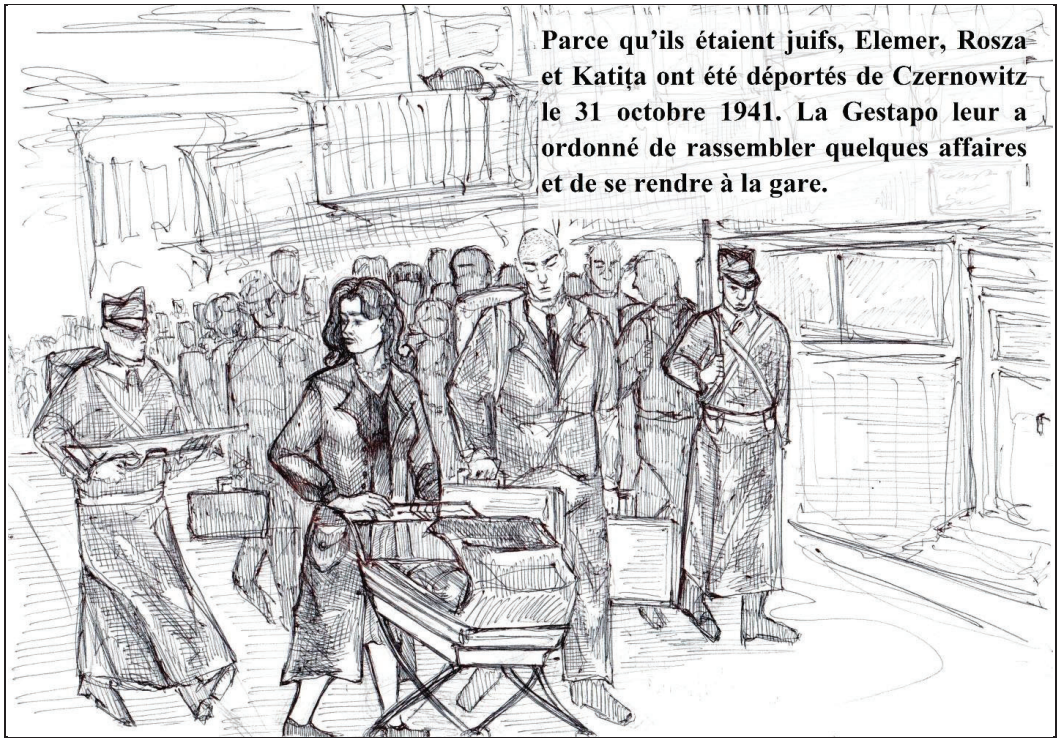

La Roumanie pendant l'entre-deux-guerres
(1918-1940)
POLOGNE
TCHÉCOSLOVAQUIE
MOGHILEV PODOLSKI
CZERNOWITZ
U. R. S. S.
HONGRIE
ROUMANIE
LUGOJ
YOUGOSLAVIE
BUCAREST
MER NOIRE
BULGARIE

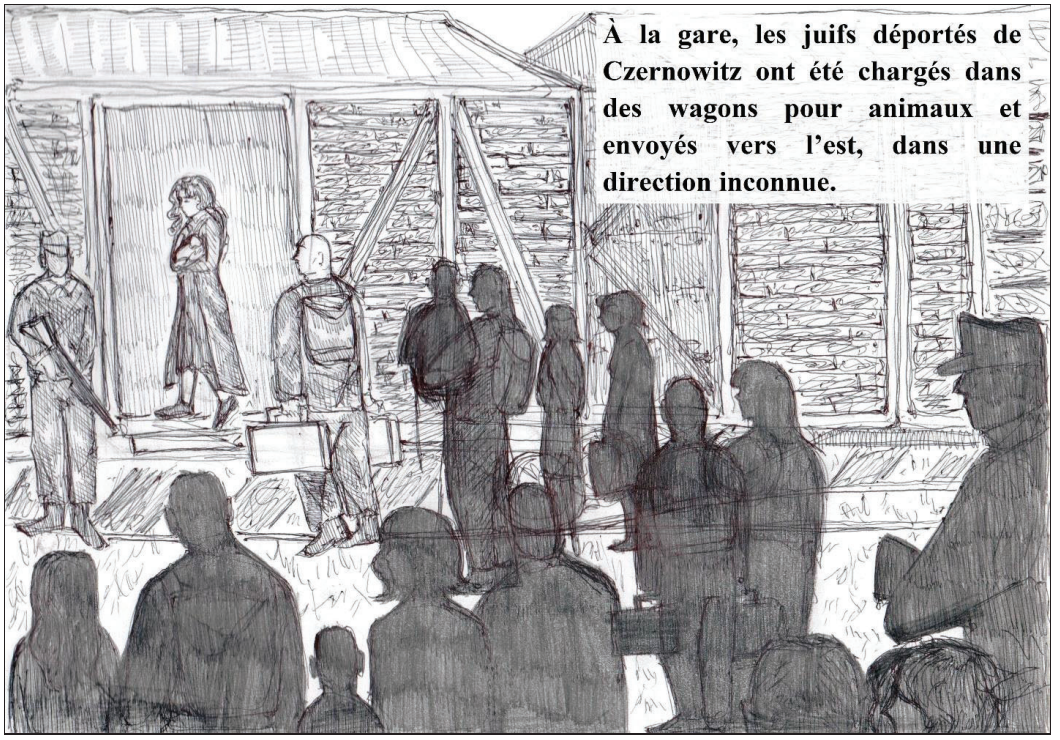


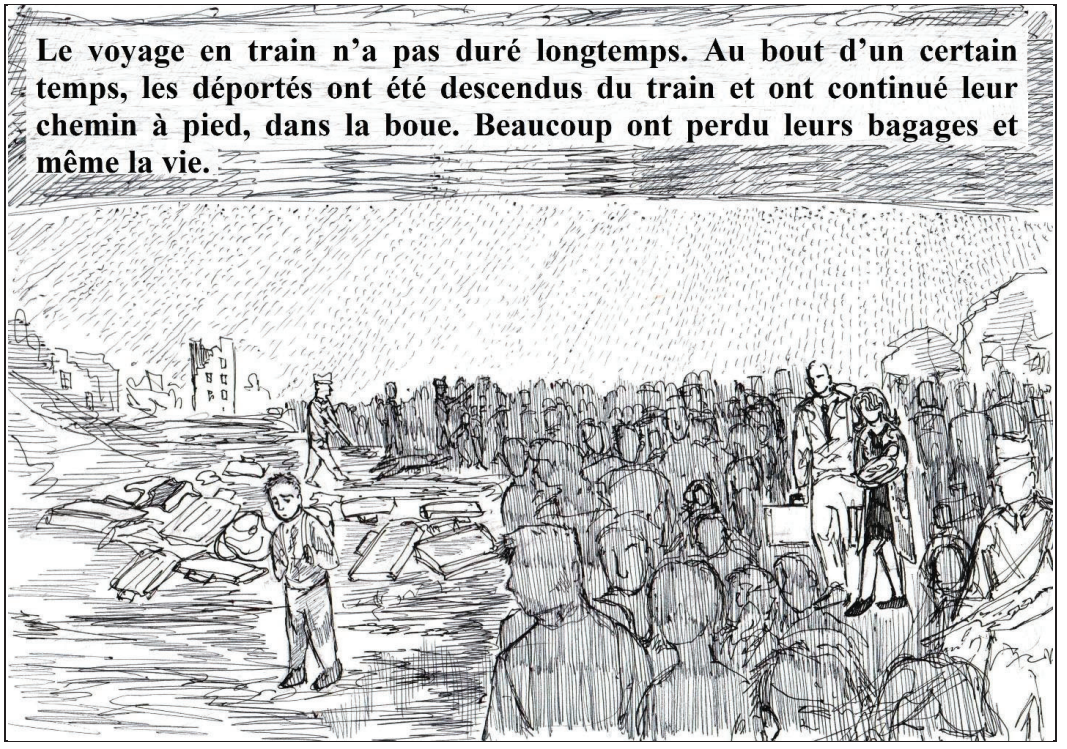


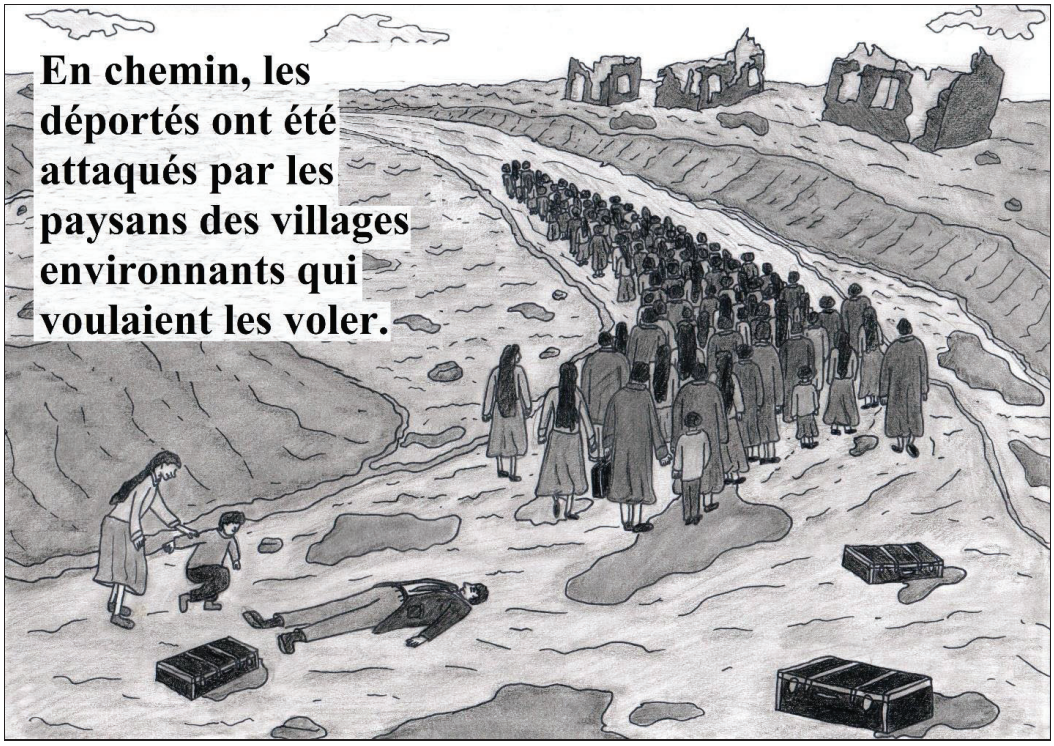
Après la perte de ces territoires, la Roumanie, dirigée par le général Ion Antonescu, s'est alliée à l'Allemagne nazie et, à l'été 1941, l'armée roumaine s'est jointe à l'armée allemande dans l'attaque contre l'URSS.

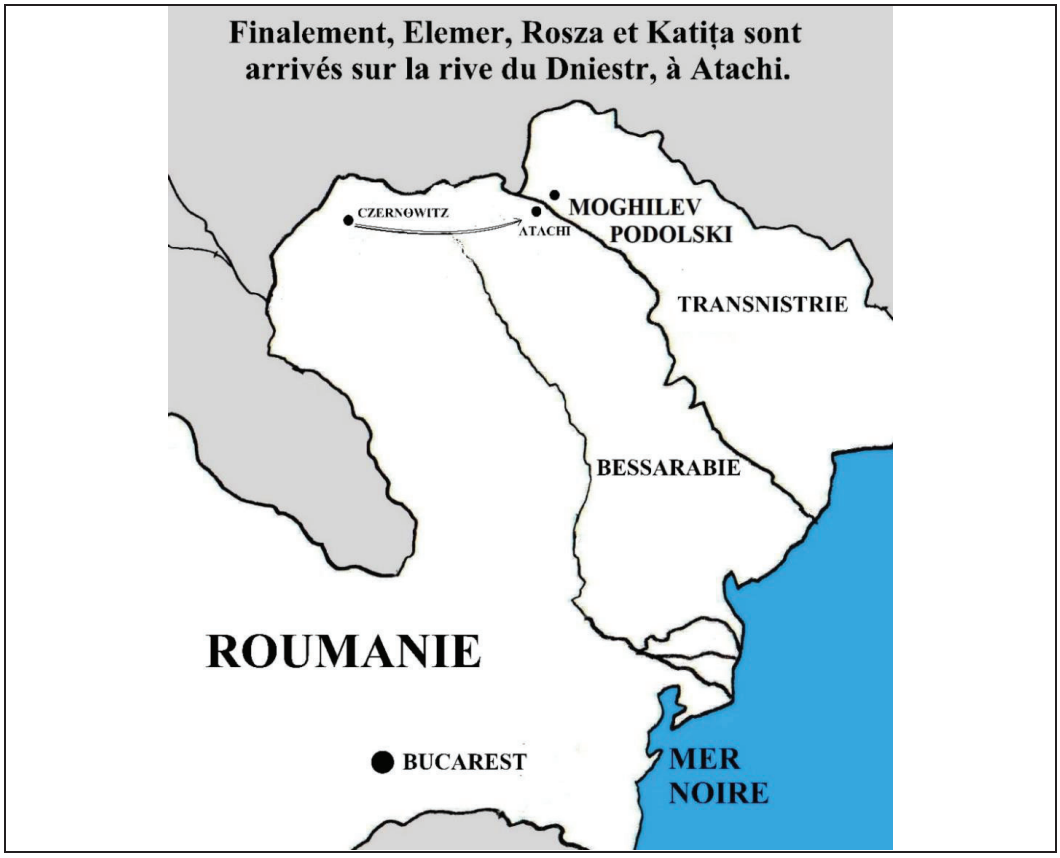

À la suite de cette action militaire, la Bucovine, avec la ville de Czernowitz, est redevenue une partie de la Roumanie.
ALLEMAGNE
CZERNOWITZ
MOGHILEV PODOLSKI
BUKOVINE
HONGRIE
TRANSNISTRIE
BESSARABIE
LUGOJ
ROUMANIE
BUCAREST
MER NOIRE
BULGARIE


Parce qu'ils étaient juifs, Elemer, Rosza et Katița ont été déportés de Czernowitz le 31 octobre 1941. La Gestapo leur a ordonné de rassembler quelques affaires et de se rendre à la gare.

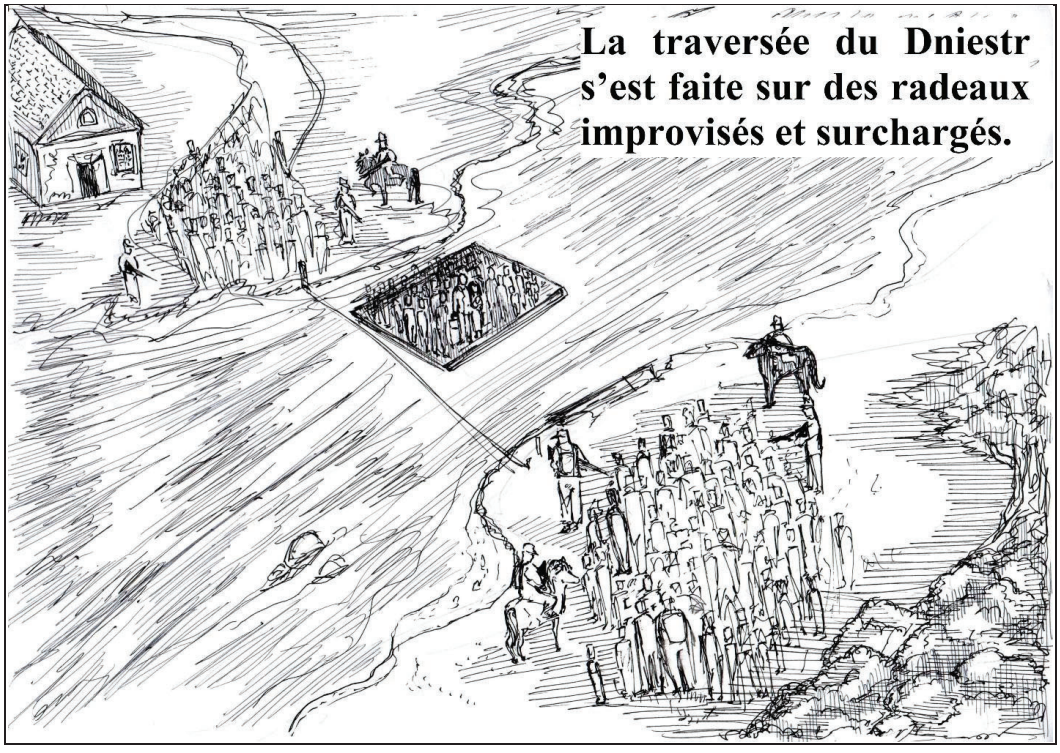

À la gare, les juifs déportés de Czernowitz ont été chargés dans des wagons pour animaux et envoyés vers l'est, dans une direction inconnue.

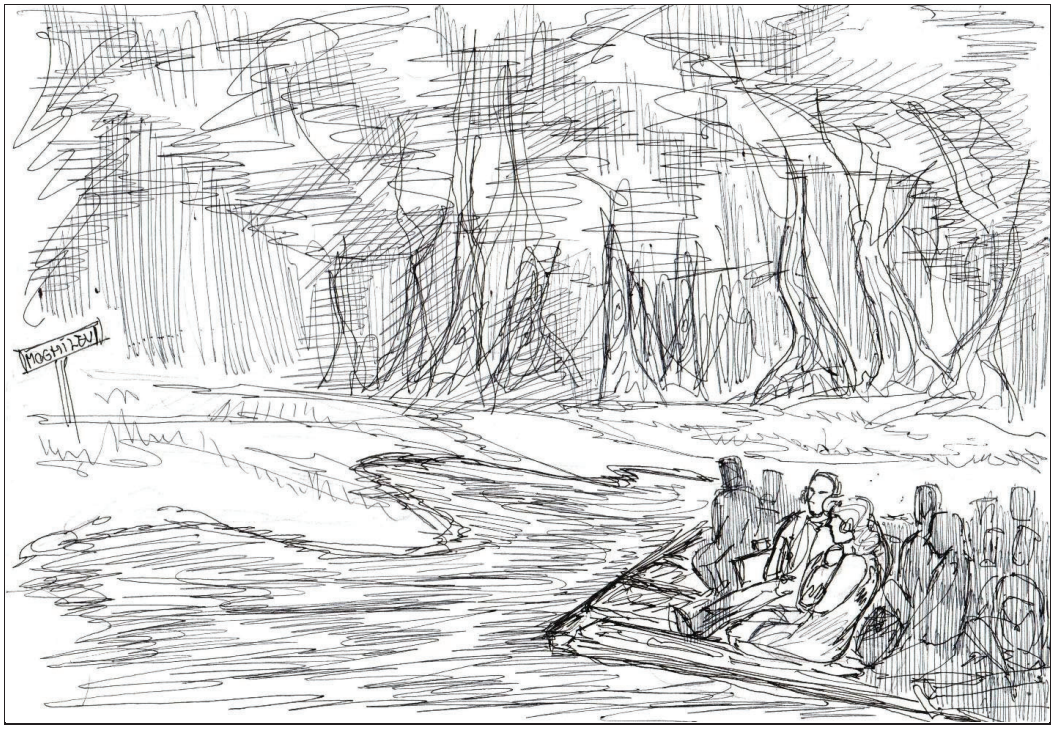

Le voyage en train n'a pas duré longtemps. Au bout d'un certain temps, les déportés ont été descendus du train et ont continué leur chemin à pied, dans la boue. Beaucoup ont perdu leurs bagages et même la vie.

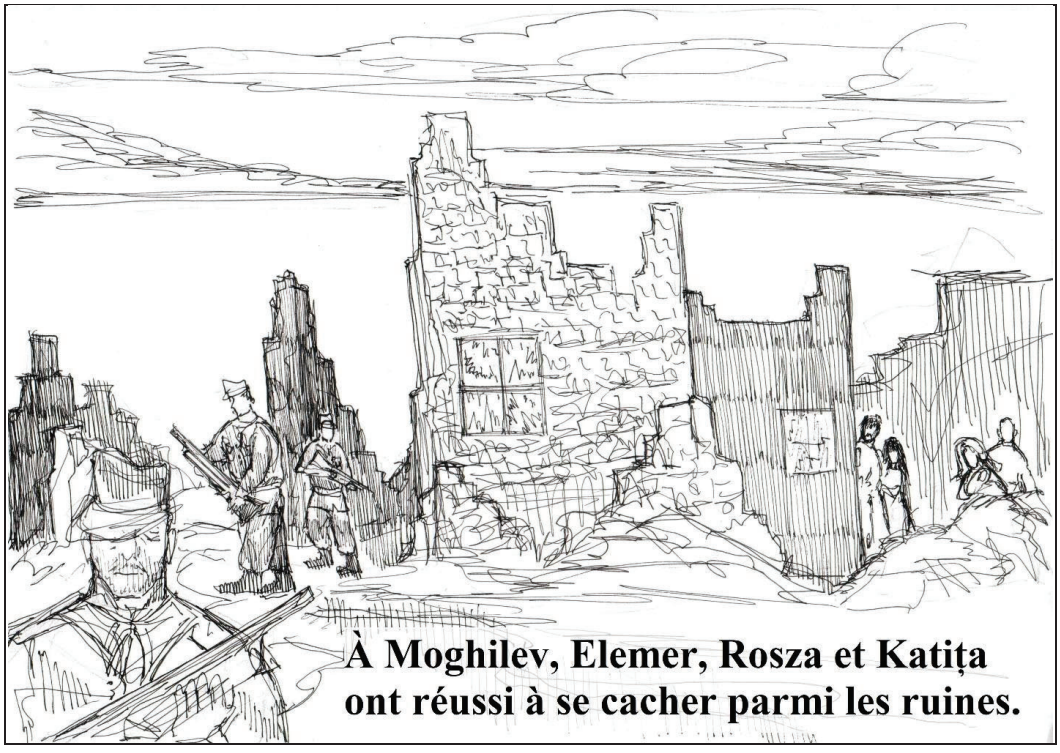

En chemin, les déportés ont été attaqués par les paysans des villages environnants qui voulaient les voler.

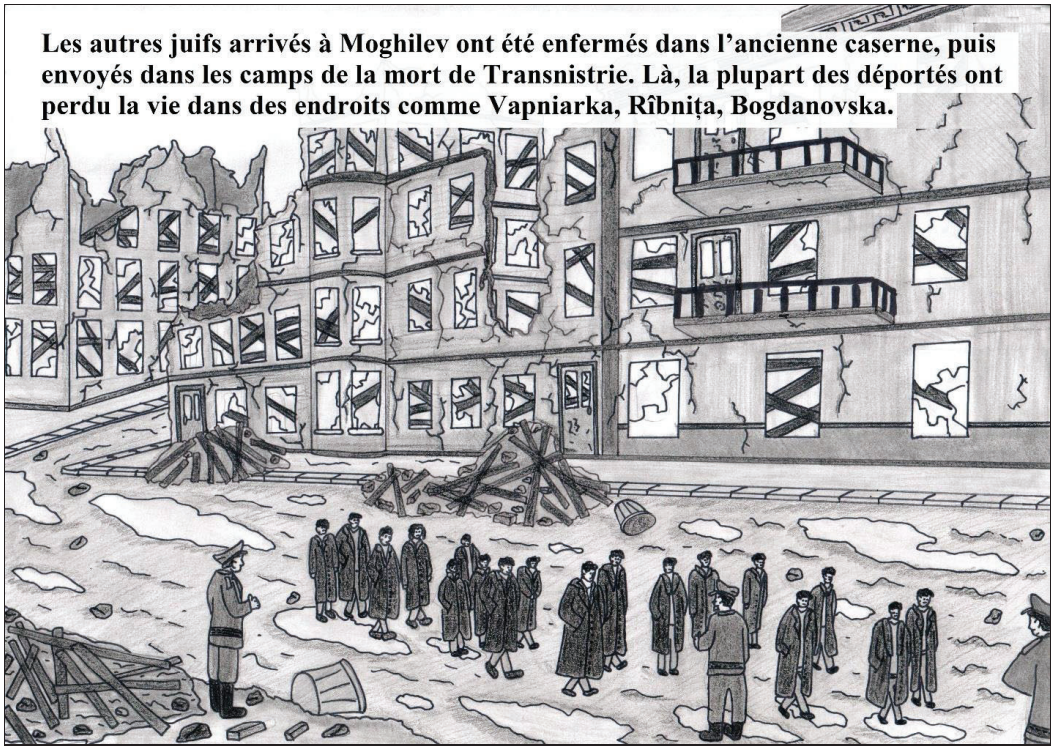

Finalement, Elemer, Rosza et Katița sont arrivés sur la rive du Dniestr, à Atachi.
CZERNOWITZ
ATACHI
MOGHILEV PODOLSKI
TRANSNISTRIE
BESSARABIE
ROUMANIE
BUCAREST
MER NOIRE

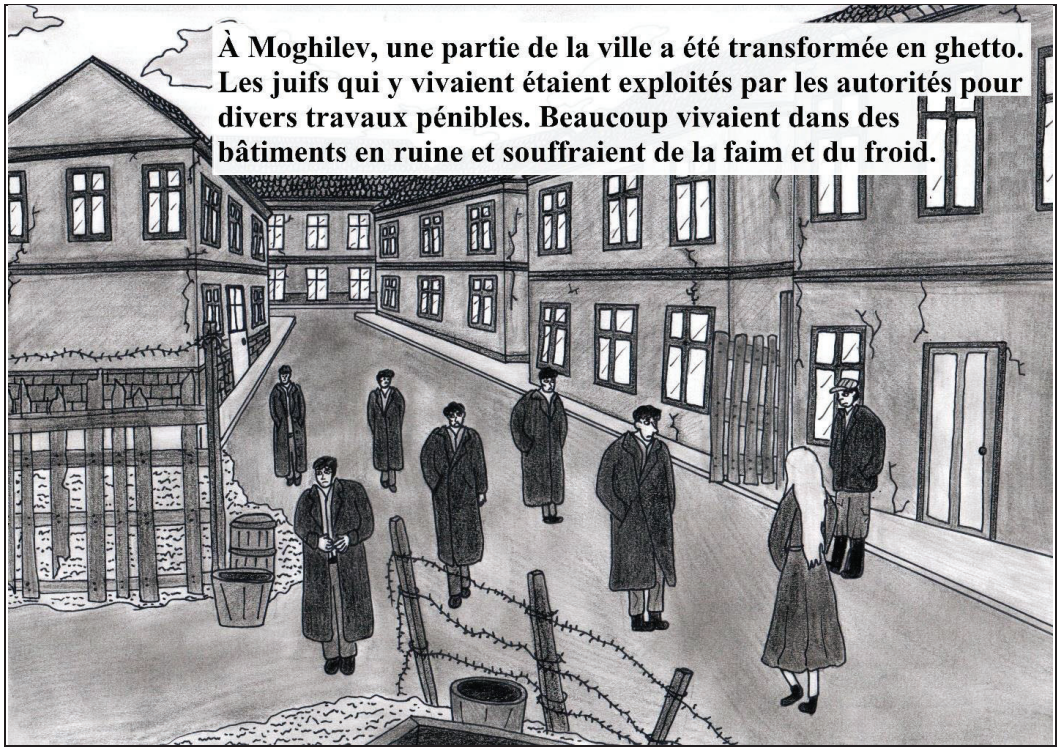

À Atachi, la colonne des déportés a dû traverser le Dniestr pour atteindre l'autre rive, à Moghilev, en Transnistrie, puis continuer vers le Bug.


La traversée du Dniestr s'est faite sur des radeaux improvisés et surchargés.

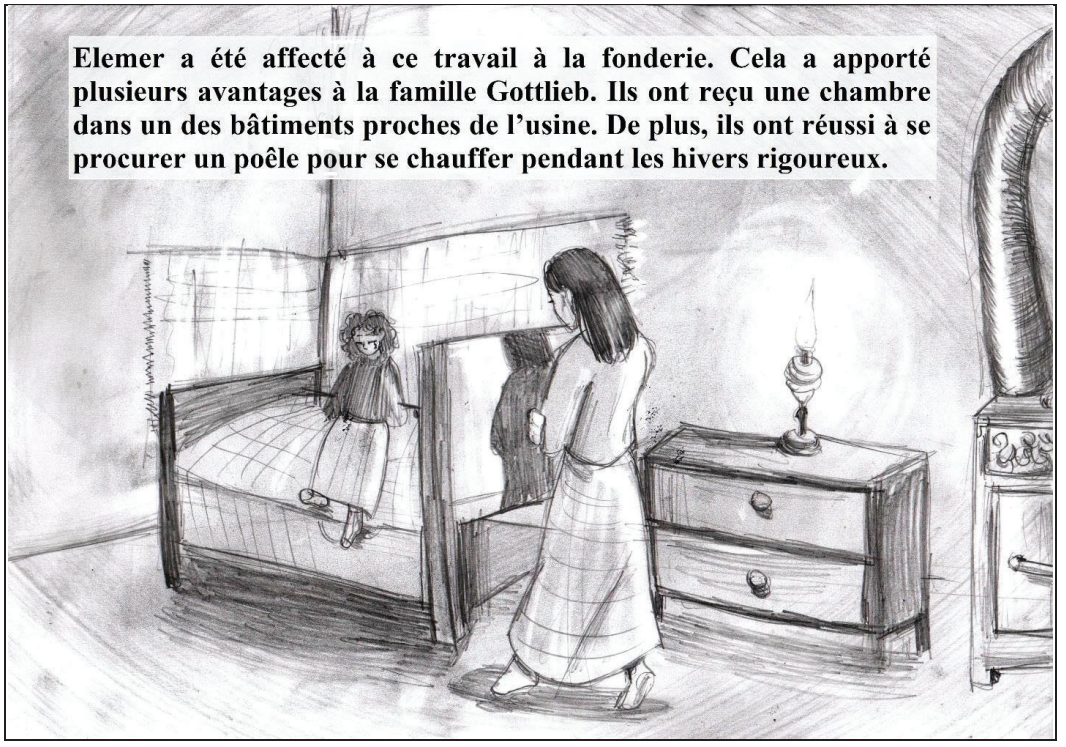


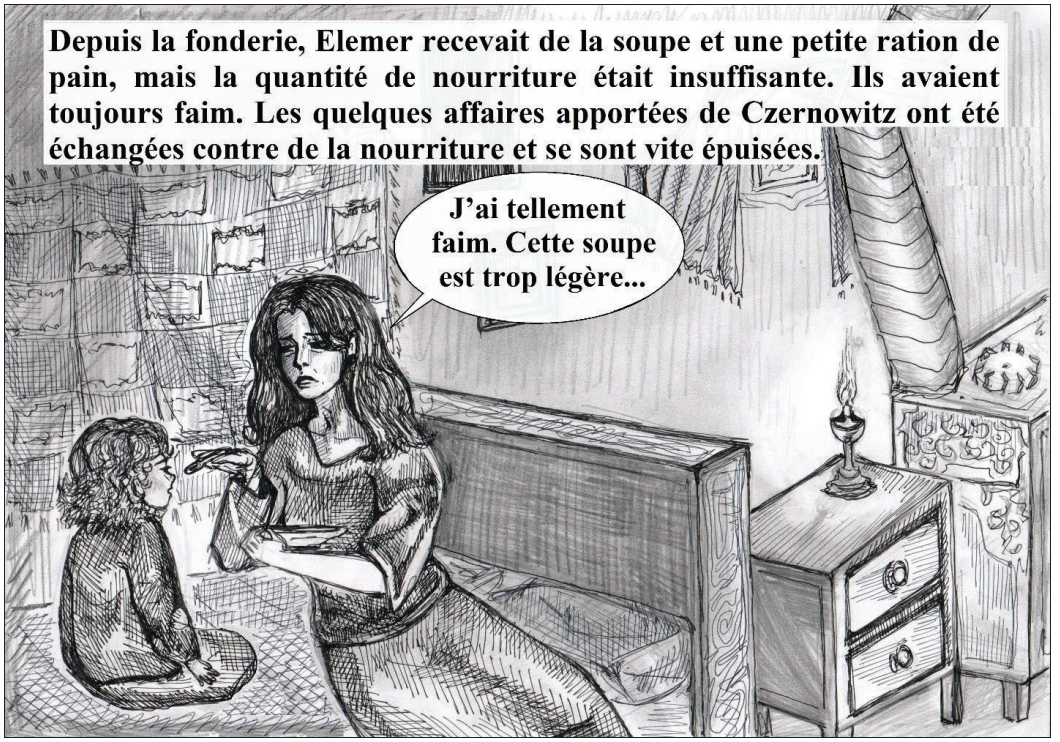

À Moghilev, Elemer, Rosza et Katiţa
ont réussi à se cacher parmi les ruines.


Les autres juifs arrivés à Moghilev ont été enfermés dans l'ancienne caserne, puis envoyés dans les camps de la mort de Transnistrie. Là, la plupart des déportés ont perdu la vie dans des endroits comme Vapniarka, Rîbnița, Bogdanovska.


À Moghilev, une partie de la ville a été transformée en ghetto. Les juifs qui y vivaient étaient exploités par les autorités pour divers travaux pénibles. Beaucoup vivaient dans des bâtiments en ruine et souffraient de la faim et du froid.

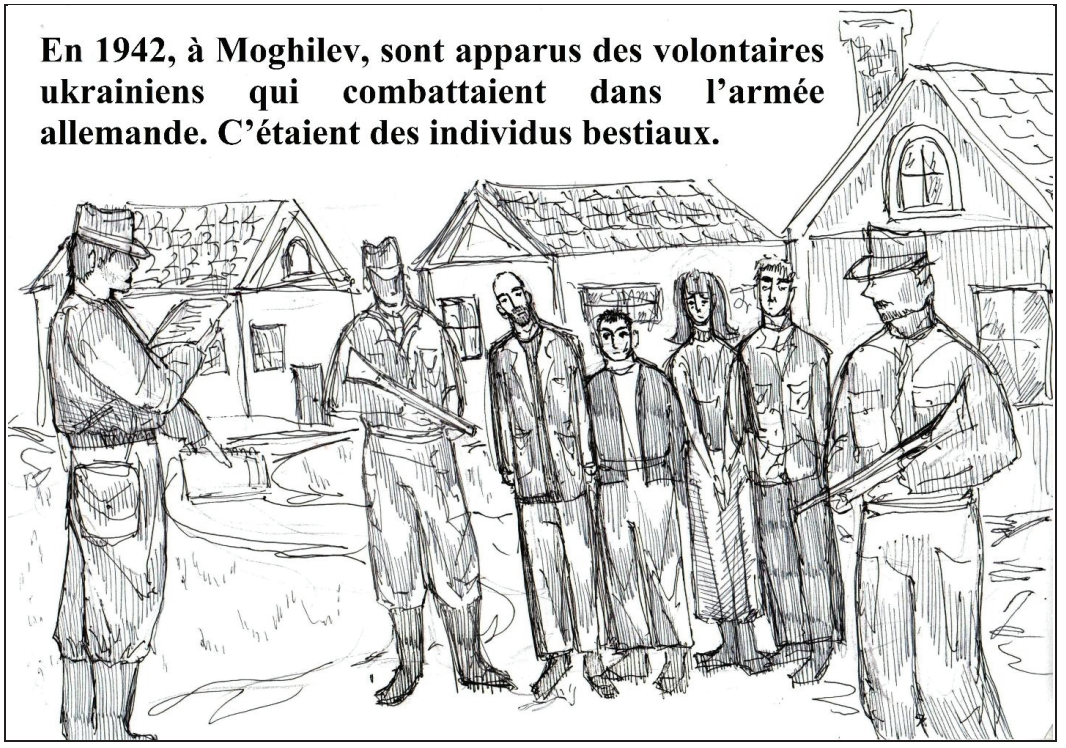

Près de la ville se trouvait une fonderie détruite par les bombardements. Un ingénieur de Bucovine a été désigné par les autorités roumaines pour remettre l'usine en fonctionnement. La main-d'œuvre était fournie par les juifs déportés.


Elemer a été affecté à ce travail à la fonderie. Cela a apporté plusieurs avantages à la famille Gottlieb. Ils ont reçu une chambre dans un des bâtiments proches de l'usine. De plus, ils ont réussi à se procurer un poêle pour se chauffer pendant les hivers rigoureux.

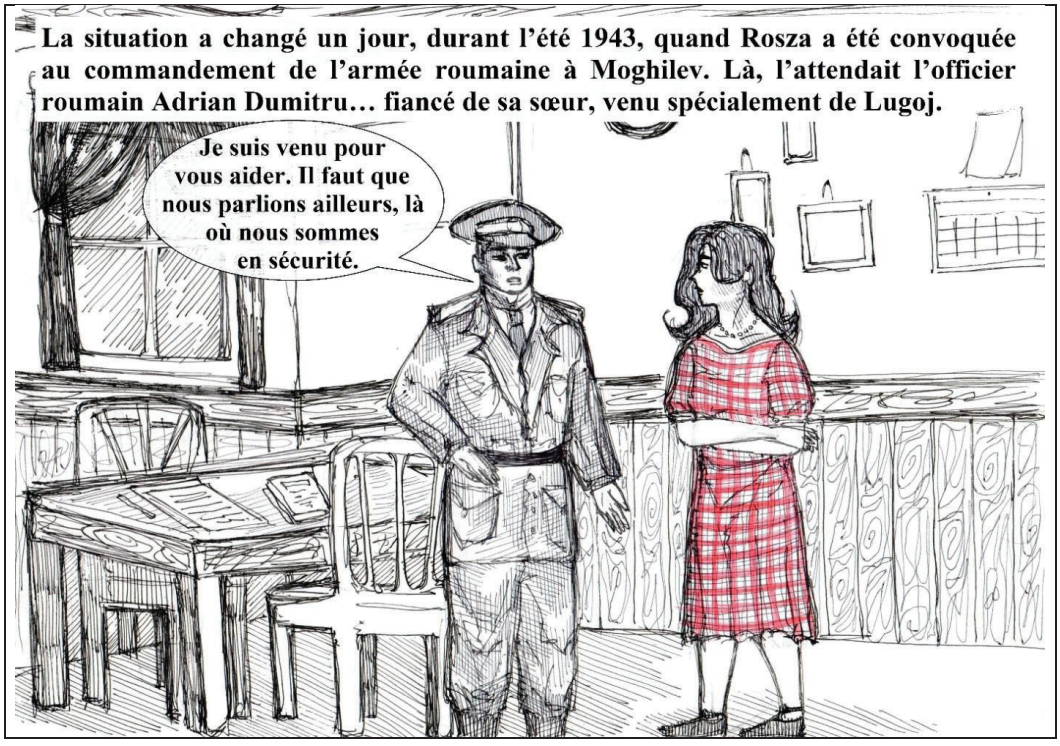

Depuis la fonderie, Elemer recevait de la soupe et une petite ration de pain, mais la quantité de nourriture était insuffisante. Ils avaient toujours faim. Les quelques affaires apportées de Czernowitz ont été échangées contre de la nourriture et se sont vite épuisées.
J'ai tellement faim. Cette soupe est trop légère...


Les juifs du ghetto ont vécu une situation très difficile durant l'hiver 1941-1942.
Les gens mouraient de faim ou de froid. Les routes étaient pleines de personnes gelées et d'enfants mendiants. La plupart n'ont pas survécu à l'hiver.
Laissez-moi tranquille! Je n'ai rien à vous donner...


Alors que les autorités roumaines ne s'occupaient guère des déportés, les Allemands arrêtaient les juifs du ghetto et les déportaient vers les camps de la mort en Transnistrie.
Fini les parasites, direction le Bug avec vous!

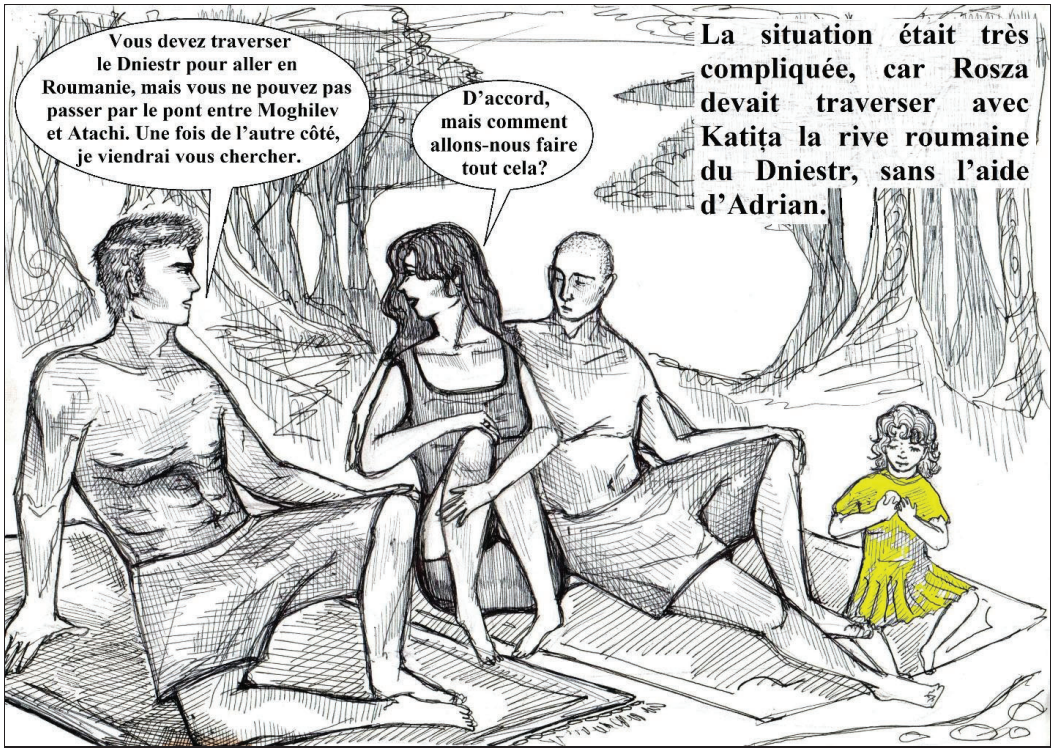

En 1942, à Moghilev, sont apparus des volontaires ukrainiens qui combattaient dans l'armée allemande. C'étaient des individus bestiaux.

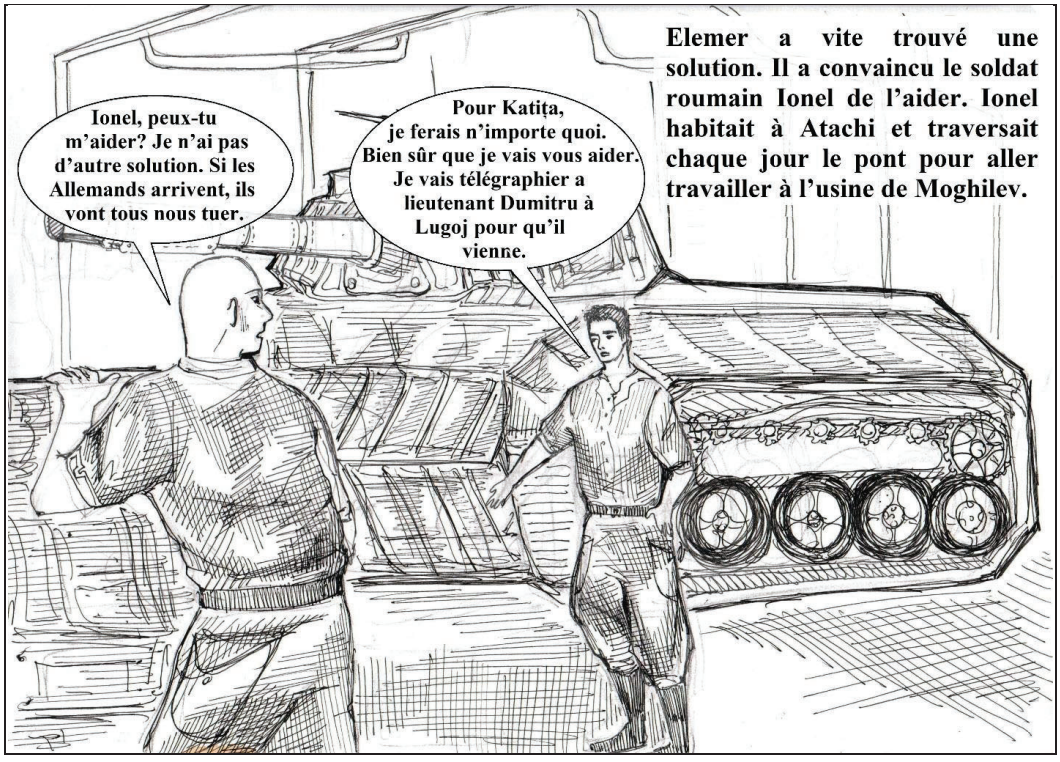

Ces volontaires ukrainiens forçaient les juifs à faire des travaux pénibles et, parfois, battaient ou tuaient des gens. Rosza était de plus en plus effrayée et craignait pour la sécurité de Katița.
Je dois partir d'ici.

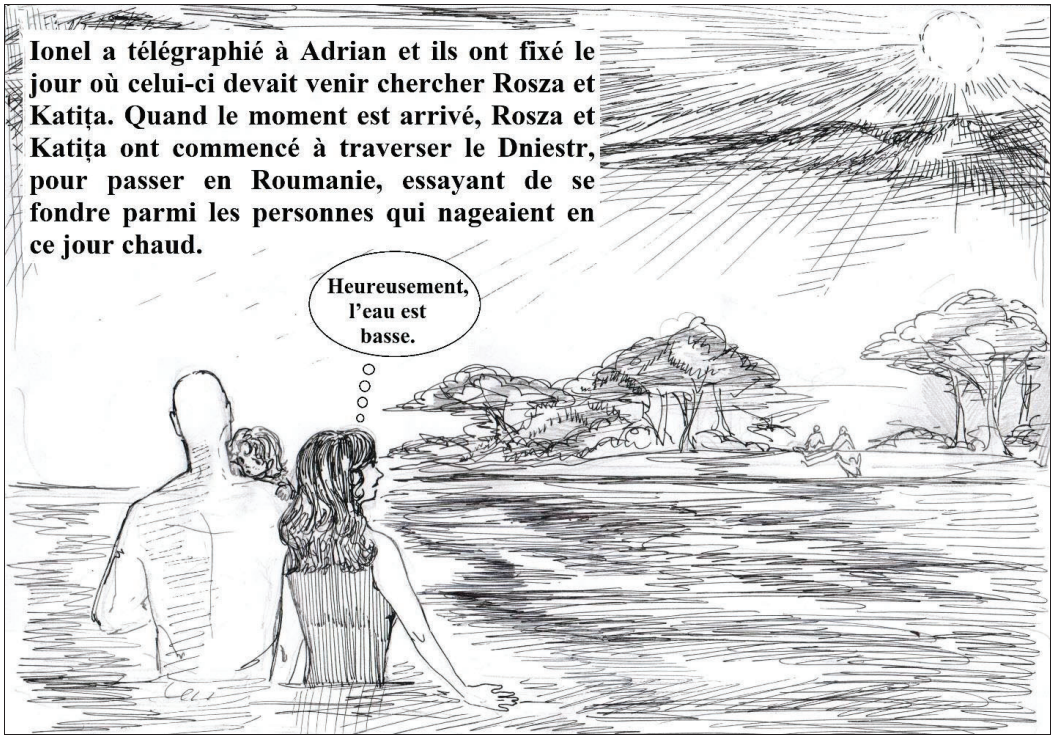

La situation a changé un jour, durant l'été 1943, quand Rosza a été convoquée au commandement de l'armée roumaine à Moghilev. Là, l'attendait l'officier roumain Adrian Dumitru… fiancé de sa sœur, venu spécialement de Lugoj.
Je suis venu pour vous aider. Il faut que nous parlions ailleurs, là où nous sommes en sécurité.

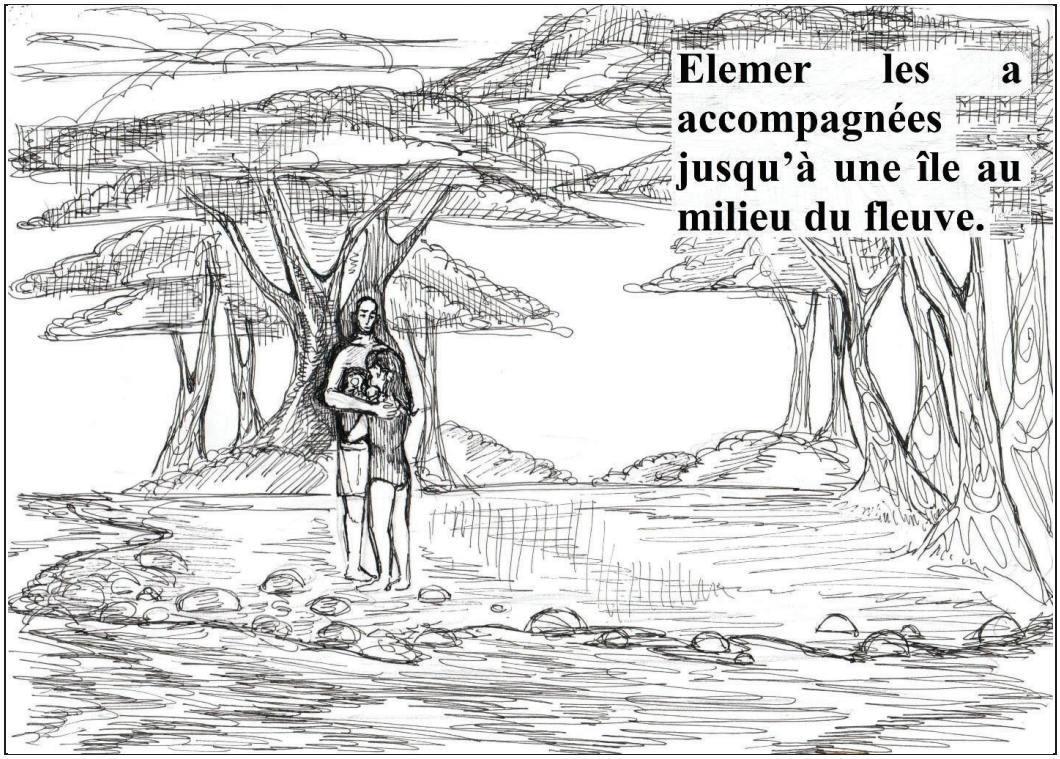

À l'abri des regards curieux, Elemer, Rosza et Adrian se sont rencontrés plus tard sur la rive du Dniestr.
J'ai appris que vous étiez ici par ta cousine de Braşov. Je veux vous aider.

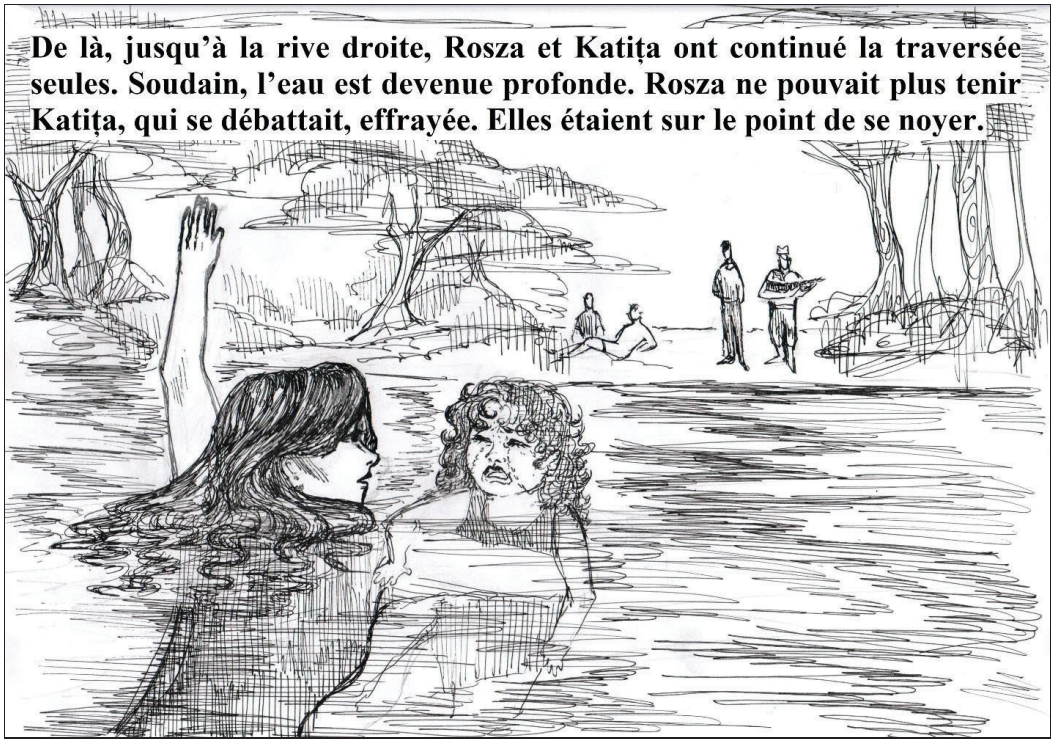

Je ne peux pas emmener que Katiţa. Elle est trop petite. Il faut que tu viennes aussi.
Peux-tu emmener Katiţa d'ici?
Pendant qu'ils parlaient, les trois ont commencé à concevoir un plan pour que Rosza et Katiţa quittent la Transnistrie, effrayés par le fait que les Allemands en retraite pourraient exterminer tous les juifs.

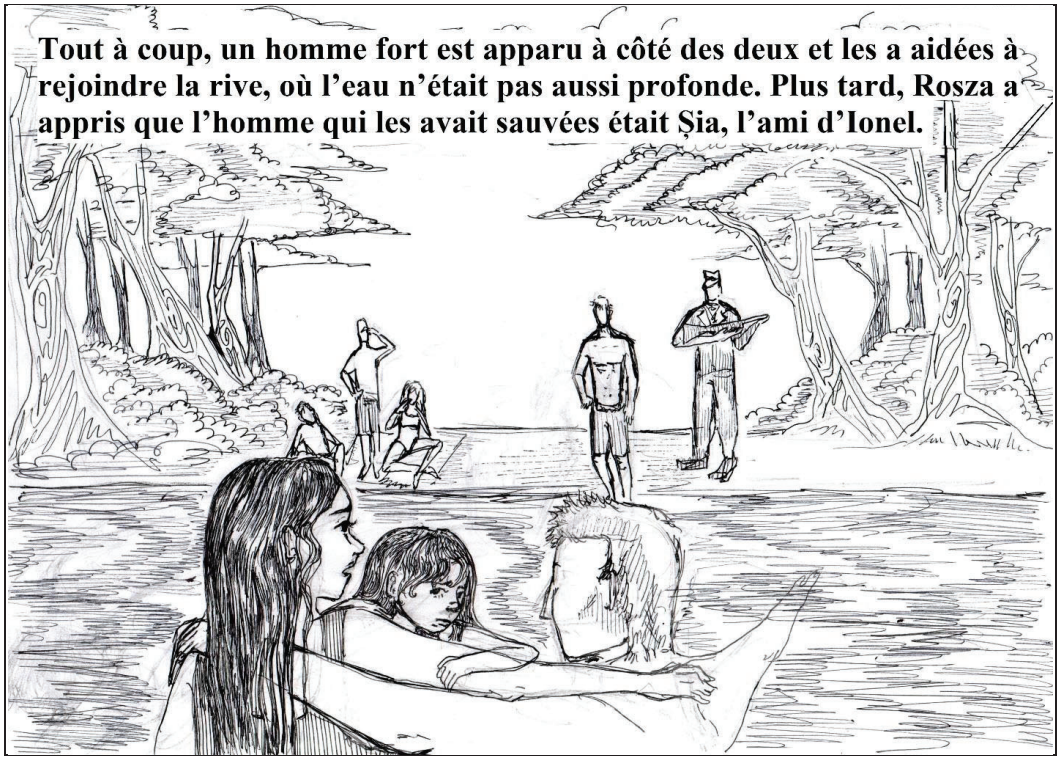

Vous devez traverser le Dniestr pour aller en Roumanie, mais vous ne pouvez pas passer par le pont entre Moghilev et Atachi. Une fois de l'autre côté, je viendrai vous chercher.
D'accord, mais comment allons-nous faire tout cela?
La situation était très compliquée, car Rosza devait traverser avec Katița la rive roumaine du Dniestr, sans l'aide d'Adrian.

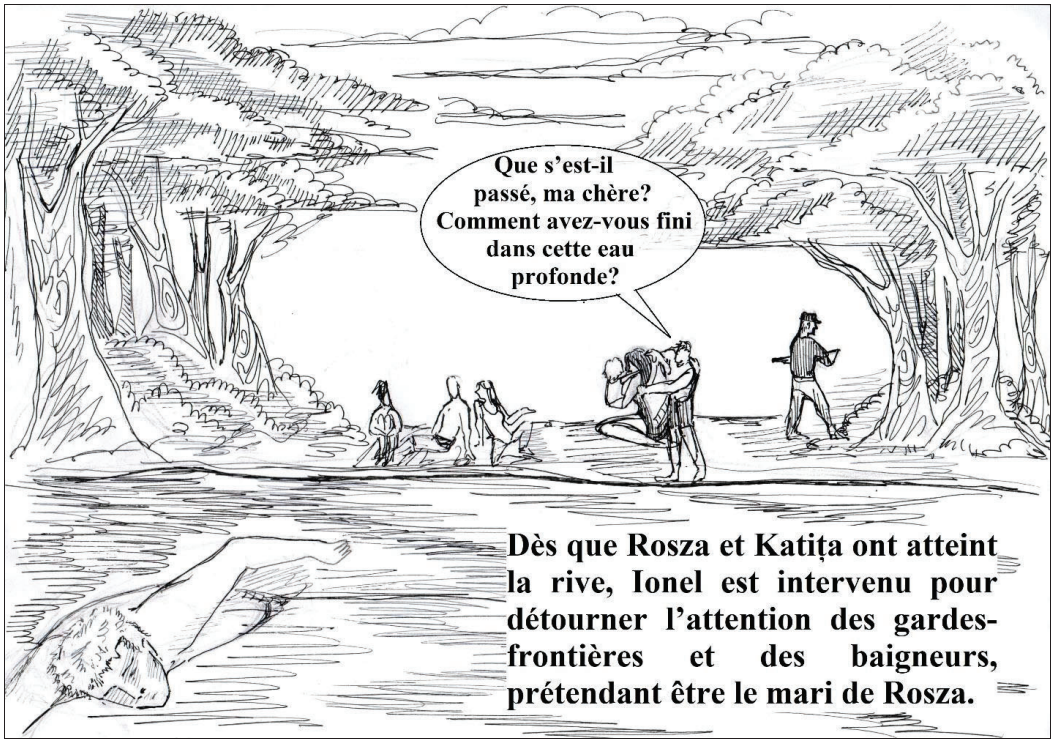

Ionel, peux-tu m'aider? Je n'ai pas d'autre solution. Si les Allemands arrivent, ils vont tous nous tuer.
Pour Katița, je ferais n'importe quoi. Bien sûr que je vais vous aider. Je vais télégraphier a lieutenant Dumitru à Lugoj pour qu'il vienne.
Elemer a vite trouvé une solution. Il a convaincu le soldat roumain Ionel de l'aider. Ionel habitait à Atachi et traversait chaque jour le pont pour aller travailler à l'usine de Moghilev.

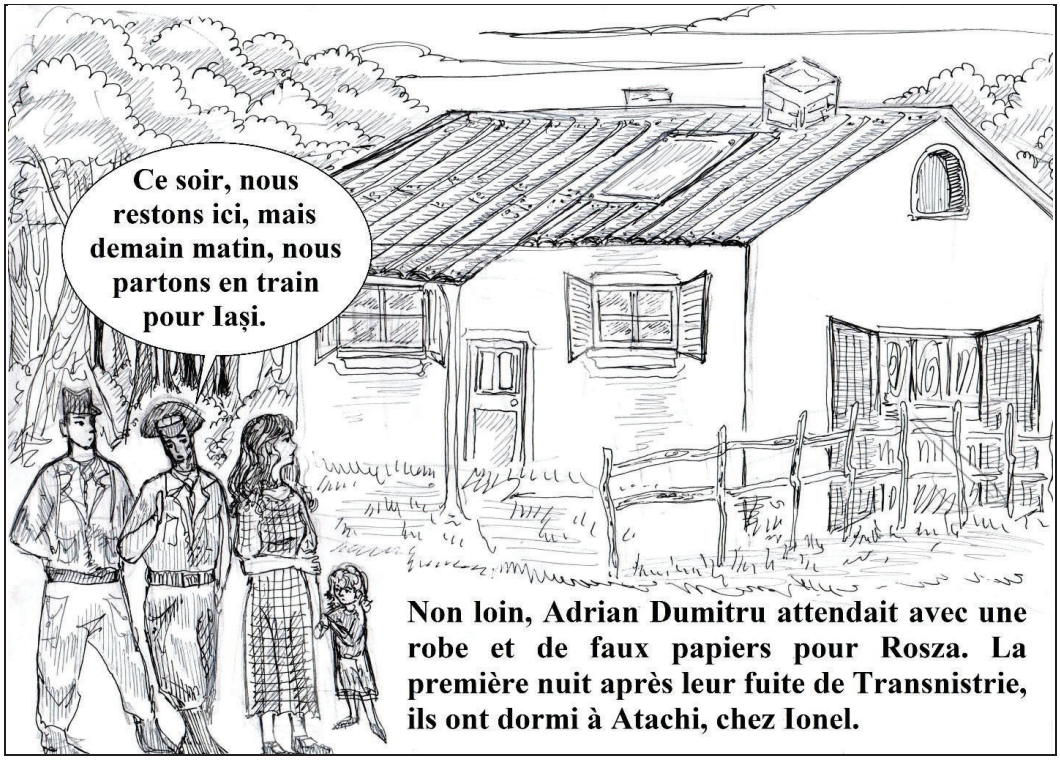

Ionel a télégraphié à Adrian et ils ont fixé le jour où celui-ci devait venir chercher Rosza et Katița. Quand le moment est arrivé, Rosza et Katița ont commencé à traverser le Dniestr, pour passer en Roumanie, essayant de se fondre parmi les personnes qui nageaient en ce jour chaud.
Heureusement, l'eau est basse.

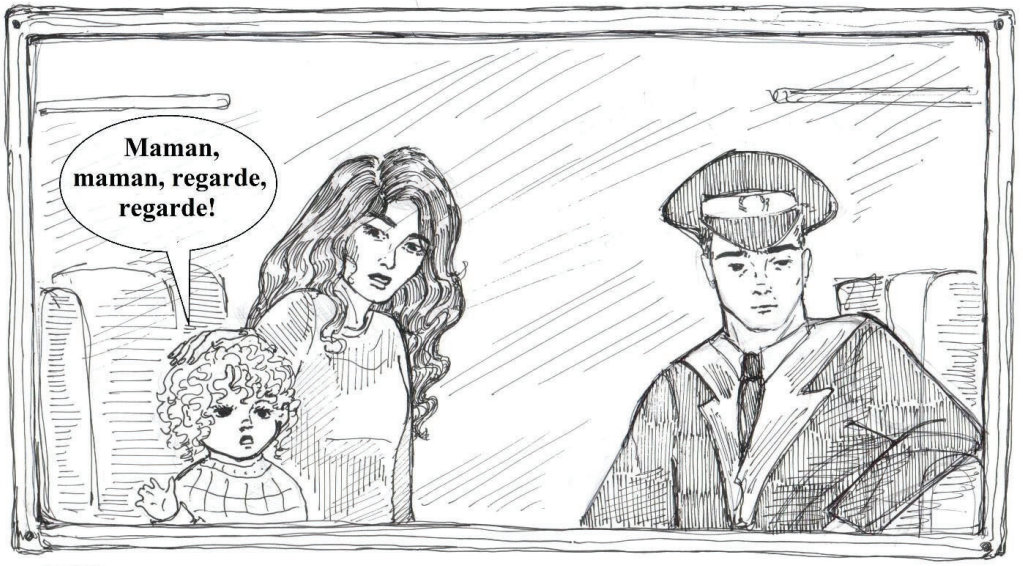

Elemer les a accompagnées jusqu'à une île au milieu du fleuve.


De là, jusqu'à la rive droite, Rosza et Katița ont continué la traversée seules. Soudain, l'eau est devenue profonde. Rosza ne pouvait plus tenir Katița, qui se débattait, effrayée. Elles étaient sur le point de se noyer.


Tout à coup, un homme fort est apparu à côté des deux et les a aidées à rejoindre la rive, où l'eau n'était pas aussi profonde. Plus tard, Rosza a appris que l'homme qui les avait sauvées était Șia, l'ami d'Ionel.

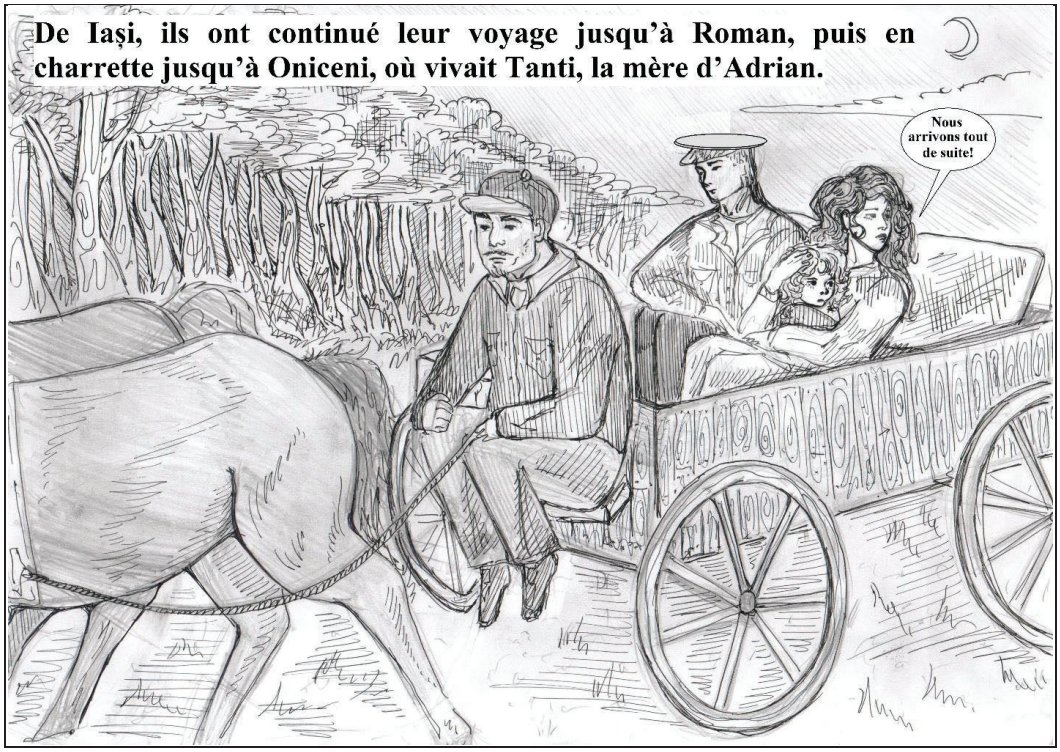

Que s'est-il passé, ma chère? Comment avez-vous fini dans cette eau profonde?
Dès que Rosza et Katița ont atteint la rive, Ionel est intervenu pour détourner l'attention des gardes-frontières et des baigneurs, prétendant être le mari de Rosza.

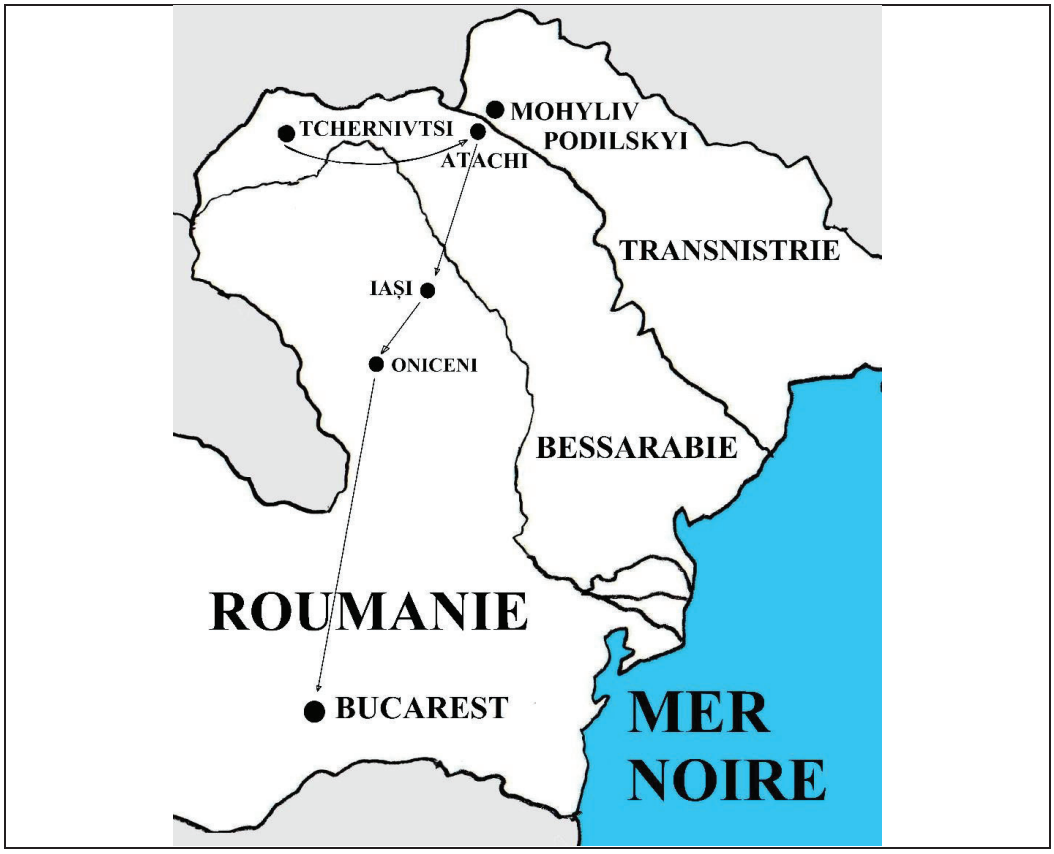

Ce soir, nous restons ici, mais demain matin, nous partons en train pour Iași.
Non loin, Adrian Dumitru attendait avec une robe et de faux papiers pour Rosza. La première nuit après leur fuite de Transnistrie, ils ont dormi à Atachi, chez Ionel.



Comme Adrian Dumitru était officier, ils ont réussi à voyager en sécurité jusqu'à Iași, malgré la forte affluence dans les trains.

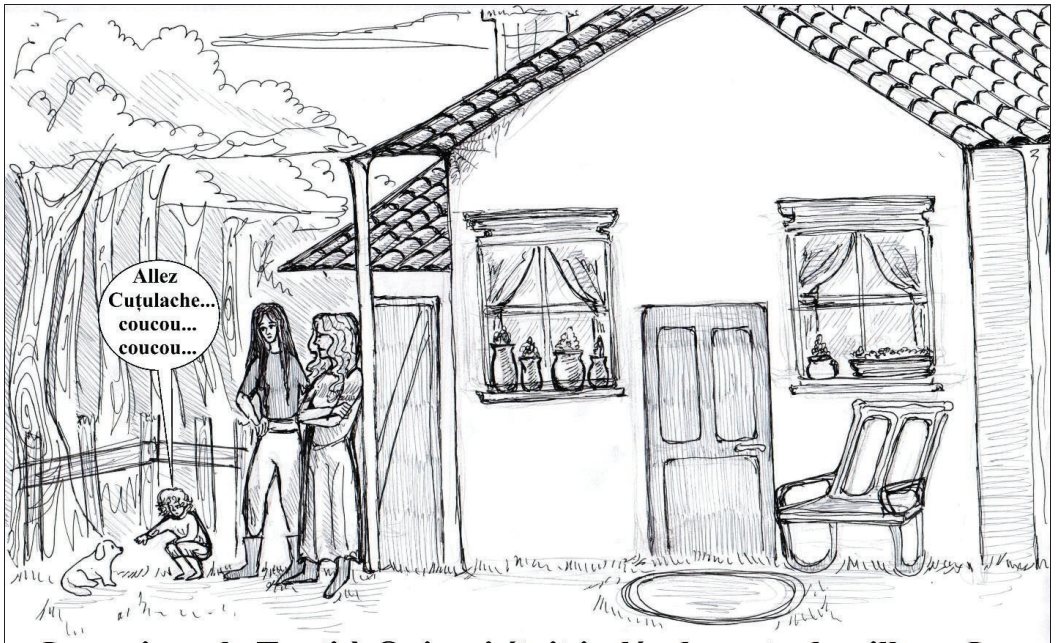
De Iași, ils ont continué leur voyage jusqu'à Roman, puis en charrette jusqu'à Oniceni, où vivait Tanti, la mère d'Adrian.







À Oniceni, Rosza a retrouvé sa sœur Elli, la fiancée d'Adrian. Adrian avait caché Elli ici, craignant qu'elle ne soit déportée. Rosza ne l'avait pas vue depuis plusieurs années.



La maison de Tanti à Oniceni était isolée du reste du village. La cour était pleine d'animaux, au grand bonheur de Katița.



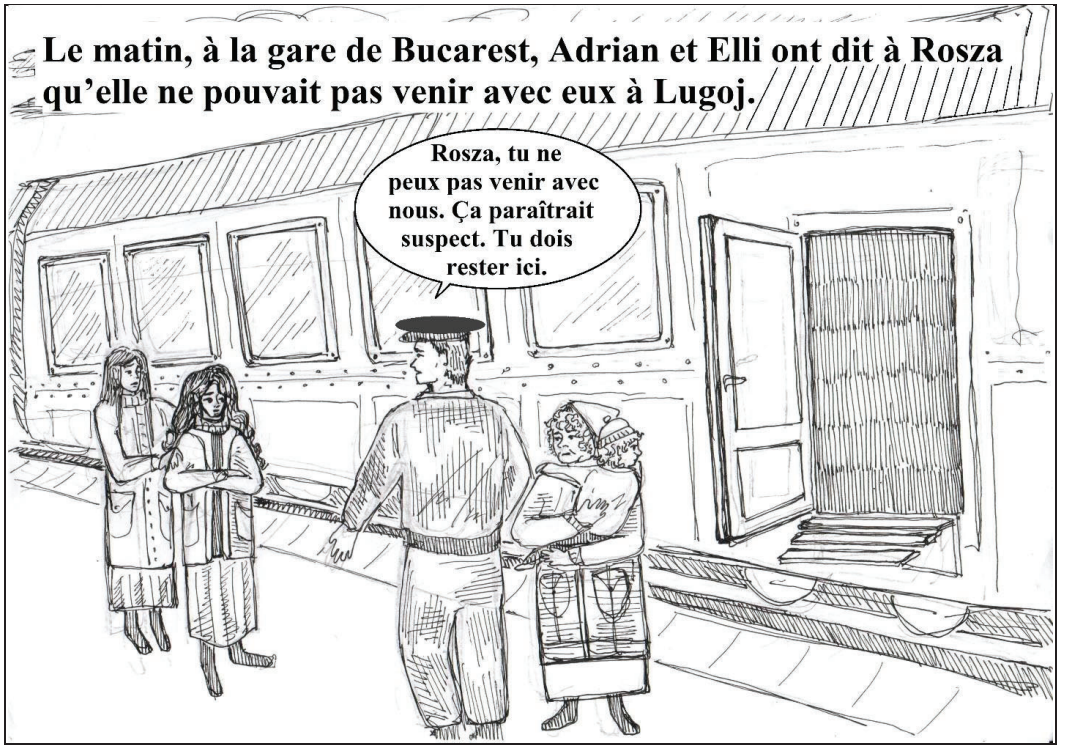
En hiver, les gendarmes sont venus chez Tanti et ont posé des questions sur les personnes vivant dans la maison. Tanti a eu peur et a appelé Adrian.



Adrian est venu trois jours plus tard et ils ont décidé qu'ils devaient partir tous ensemble pour Bucarest. Pour ne pas attirer l'attention, les quatre ont marché la nuit dans la neige jusqu'à la gare la plus proche.

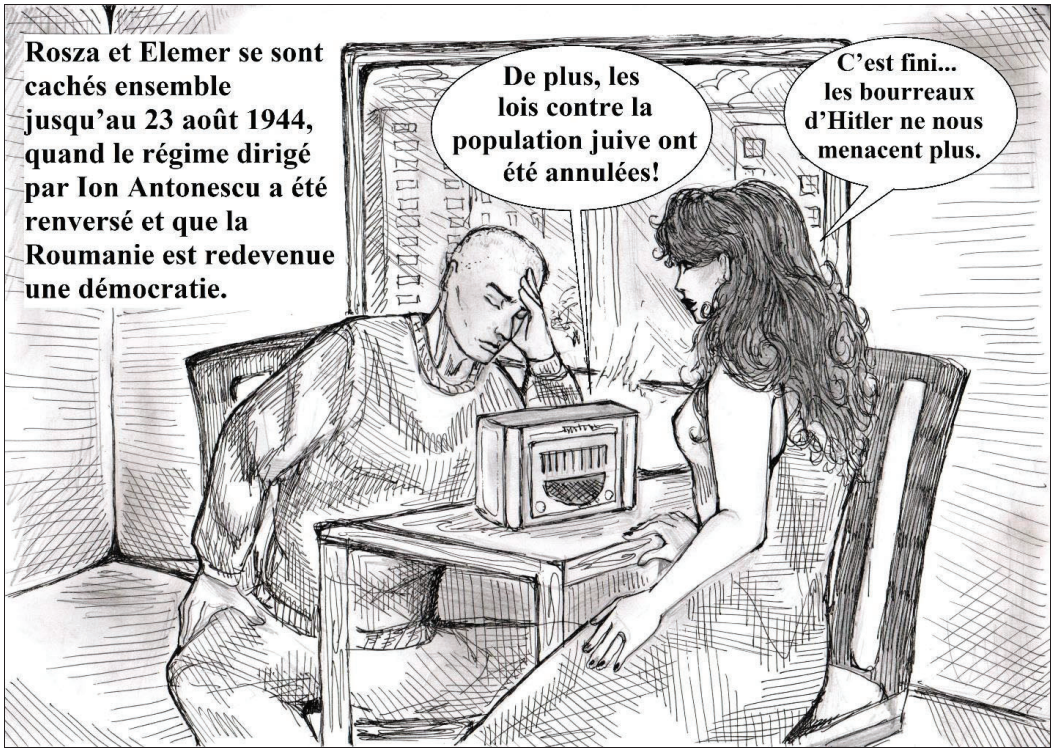


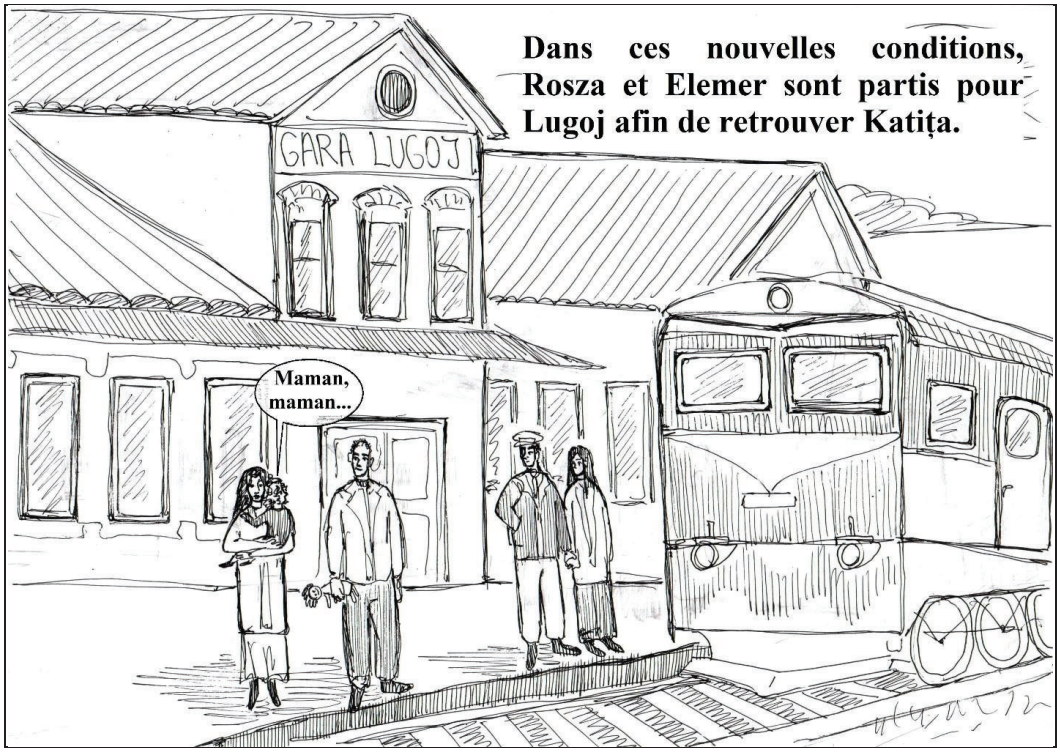

À Bucarest, les cinq ont dormi une nuit chez Gabriela, la sœur d'Adrian, étudiante dans la capitale de la Roumanie.
Nous ne pouvons pas tous aller à Lugoj! Ce serait trop voyant.


Le matin, à la gare de Bucarest, Adrian et Elli ont dit à Rosza qu'elle ne pouvait pas venir avec eux à Lugoj.
Rosza, tu ne peux pas venir avec nous. Ça paraîtrait suspect. Tu dois rester ici.


De plus, Adrian et Elli ont décidé d'emmener Katița avec eux.
Maman... maman...

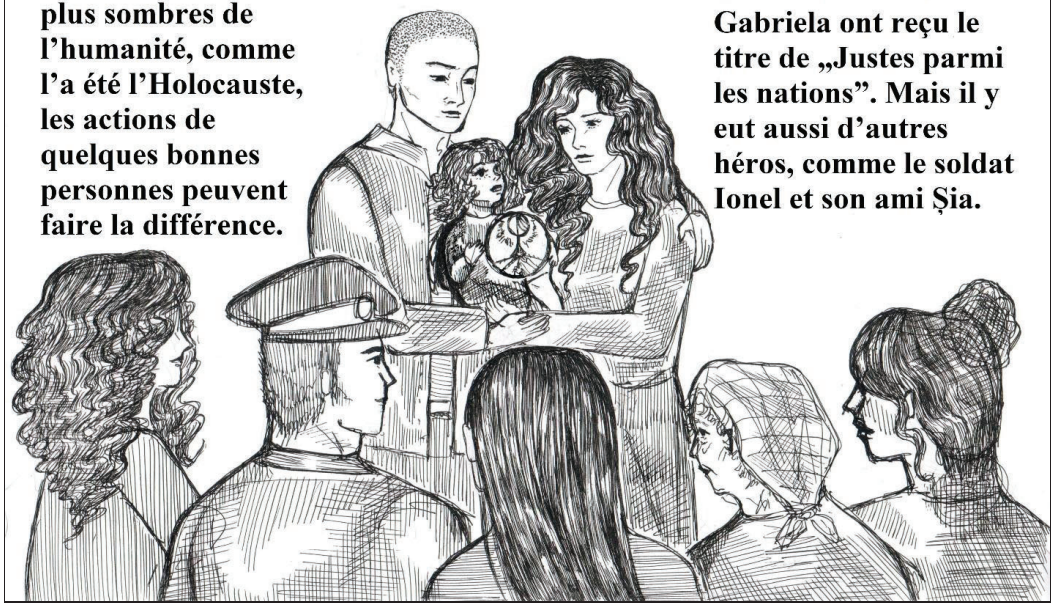

Rosza s'est cachée à Bucarest jusqu'à ce qu'elle apprenne qu'Elemer avait échappé à la Transnistrie et était arrivé à Brașov. Dès qu'elle a reçu la nouvelle, elle est partie vers cette ville pour retrouver son mari.
Je suis contente de te revoir! J'ai aussi eu des nouvelles de Katița. Elle va bien.


Rosza et Elemer se sont cachés ensemble jusqu'au 23 août 1944, quand le régime dirigé par Ion Antonescu a été renversé et que la Roumanie est redevenue une démocratie.
De plus, les lois contre la population juive ont été annulées!
C'est fini... les bourreaux d'Hitler ne nous menacent plus.

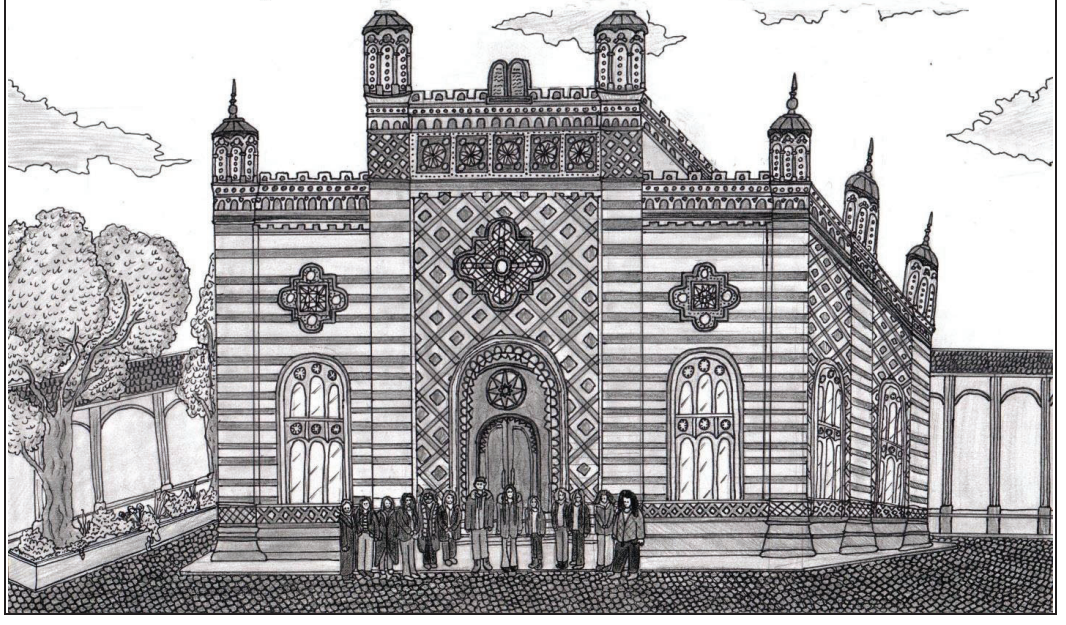

Dans ces nouvelles conditions, Rosza et Elemer sont partis pour Lugoj afin de retrouver Katița.
GARA LUGOJ
Maman, maman...

Cette histoire nous montre que, même dans les moments les plus sombres de l'humanité, comme l'a été l'Holocauste, les actions de quelques bonnes personnes peuvent faire la différence.

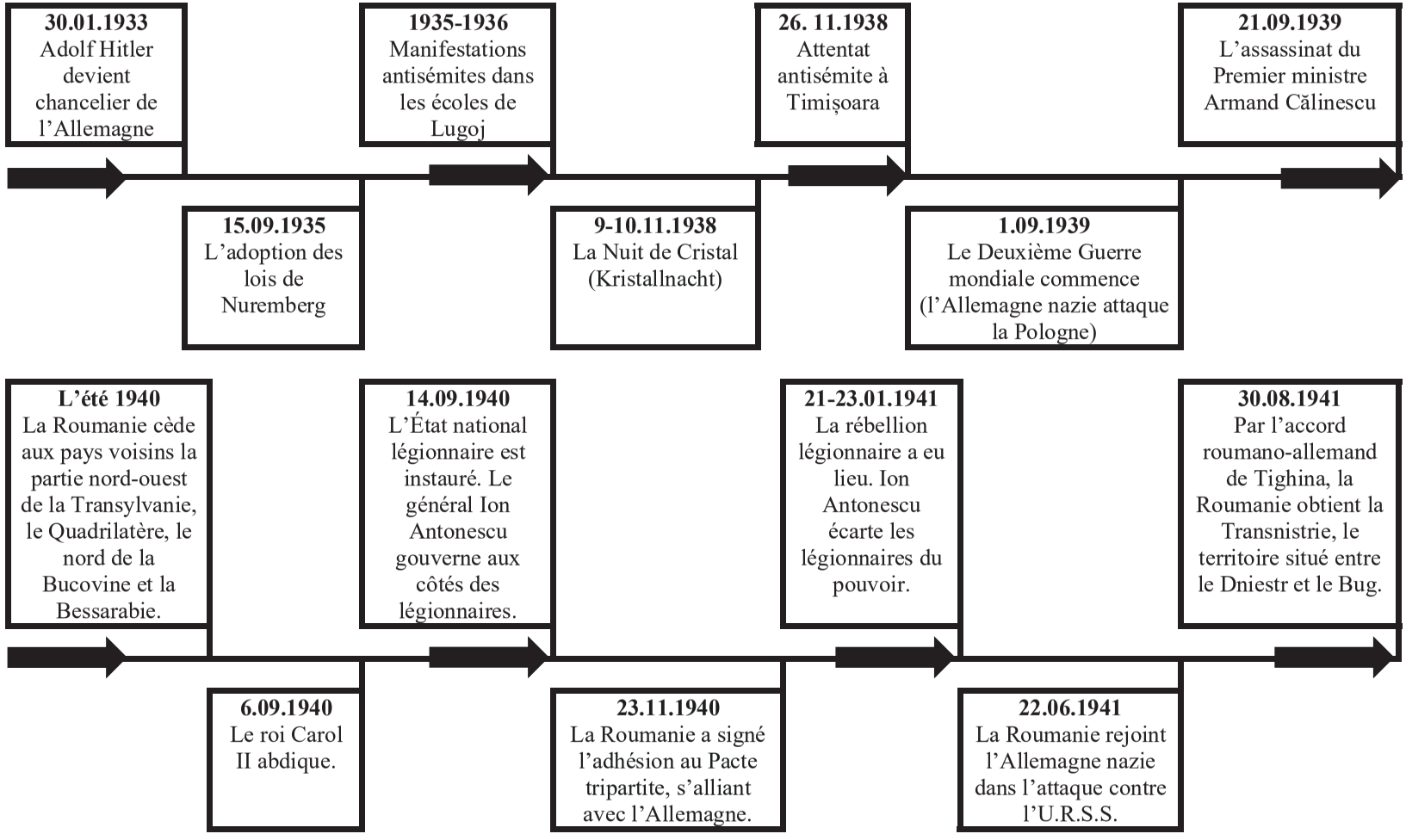
Après la guerre, Adrian Dumitru, sa mère Maria et sa sœur Gabriela ont reçu le titre de „Justes parmi les nations". Mais il y eut aussi d'autres héros, comme le soldat Ionel et son ami Șia.

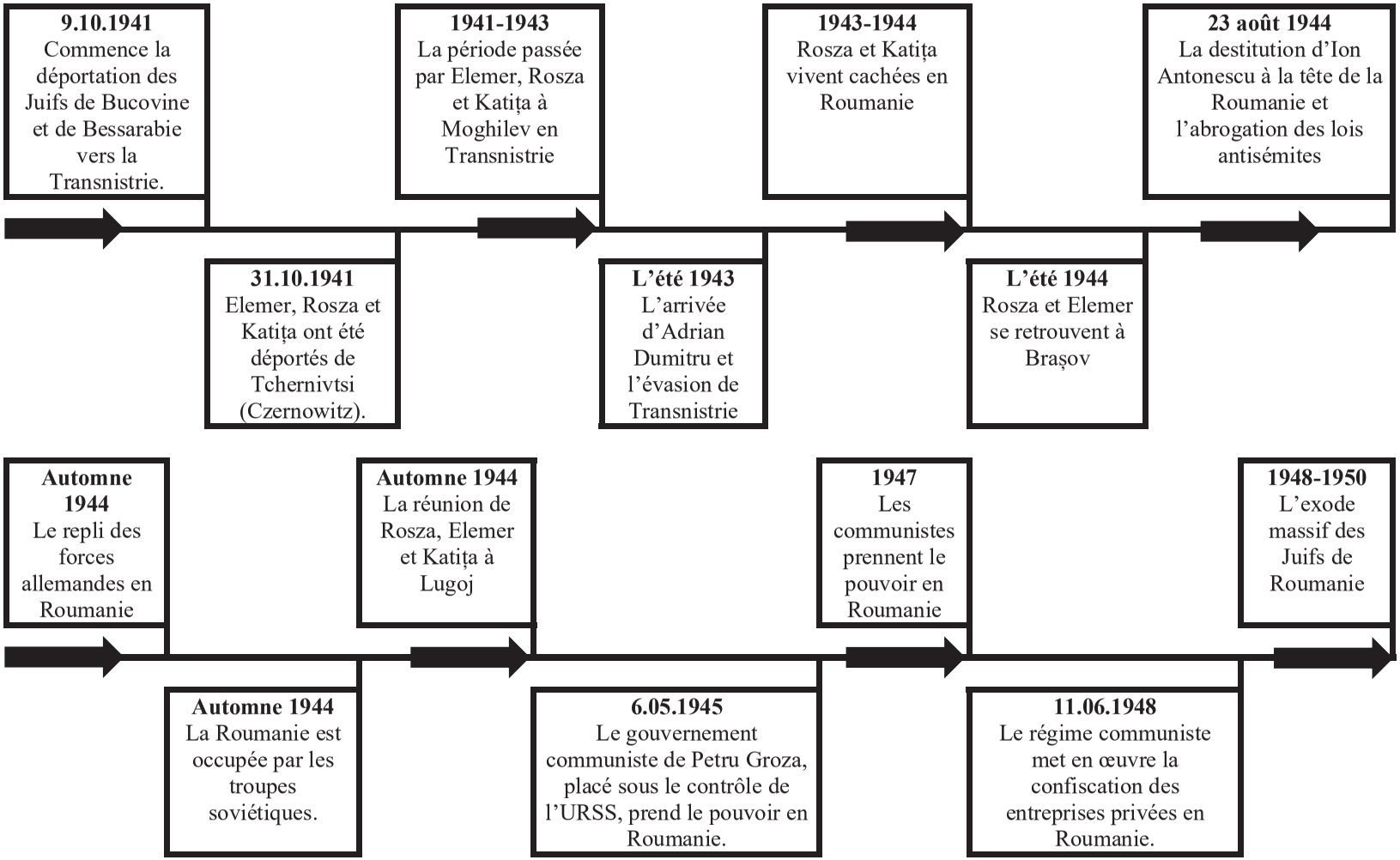


La découverte de ces histoires a été pour nous, élèves du Lycée Théorique „Iulia Hasdeu" de Lugoj, un long et beau voyage qui se termine ici... ou peut-être pas... car NOUS N'OUBLIERONS JAMAIS.



Chronologie des événements présentés dans les deux bandes dessinées




9.10.1941
Commence la déportation des Juifs de Bucovine et de Bessarabie vers la Transnistrie.
31.10.1941
Elemer, Rosza et Katița ont été déportés de Tchernivtsi (Czernowitz).
1941-1943
La période passée par Elemer, Rosza et Katița à Moghilev en Transnistrie
L'été 1943
L'arrivée d'Adrian Dumitru et l'évasion de Transnistrie
1943-1944
Rosza et Katița vivent cachées en Roumanie
L'été 1944
Rosza et Elemer se retrouvent à Brașov
23 août 1944
La destitution d'Ion Antonescu à la tête de la Roumanie et l'abrogation des lois antisémites
Automne 1944
Le repli des forces allemandes en Roumanie
Automne 1944
La Roumanie est occupée par les troupes soviétiques.
Automne 1944
La réunion de Rosza, Elemer et Katița à Lugoj
6.05.1945
Le gouvernement communiste de Petru Groza, placé sous le contrôle de l'URSS, prend le pouvoir en Roumanie.
1947
Les communistes prennent le pouvoir en Roumanie
11.06.1948
Le régime communiste met en œuvre la confiscation des entreprises privées en Roumanie.
1948-1950
L'exode massif des Juifs de Roumanie

1. The Fall

Introduction

Between 1930 and 1940, the Romanian head of state was King Carol II. During this period, political life in Romania was engulfed in violence, especially due to the actions of members of the Legion of Michael the Archangel, a party that laterb changed its name to the Iron Guard and, later, in 1934, to the All for the Country Party.

In 1938, under the rule of King Carol II, the Goga-Cuza government adopted the first anti-Semitic laws of the interwar period. Successive governments continued to take new repressive measures against the Jewish population. In 1938, King Carol II introduced a dictatorial regime and, in their turn, the authorities used violence against their political opponents.

In 1940, in the context of the outbreak of the Second World War, Romania is forced to cede territories to the U.S.S.R., Hungary and Bulgaria, and King Carol II is forced to abdicate.

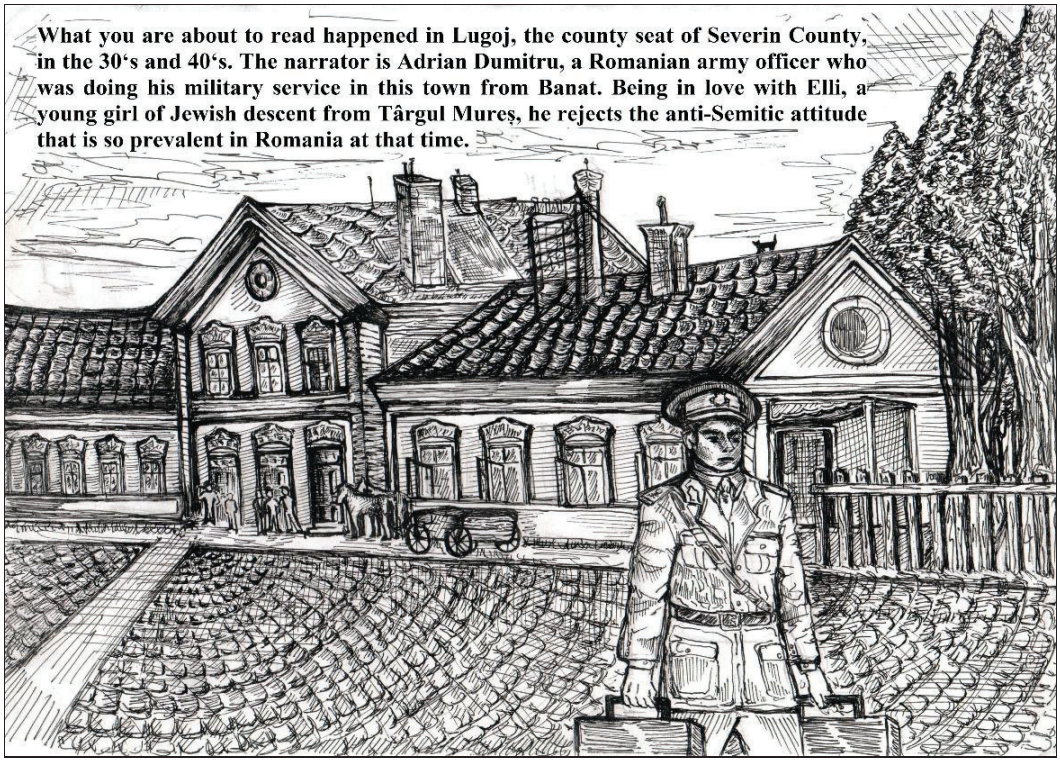
Due to the losses in the summer of 1940, General Ion Antonescu is appointed Prime Minister. In trying to get closer to Hitler's Germany, Ion Antonescu brings the legionary movement by his side to support him in governing the country. The legionary movement was known for its close ties with the German Nazis. On September 14, 1940, Romania was proclaimed a „National Legionary State". Ion Antonescu proclaims himself „Leader of the State", and Horia Sima, the leader of the Legion, becomes vice-president of the Council of Ministers.

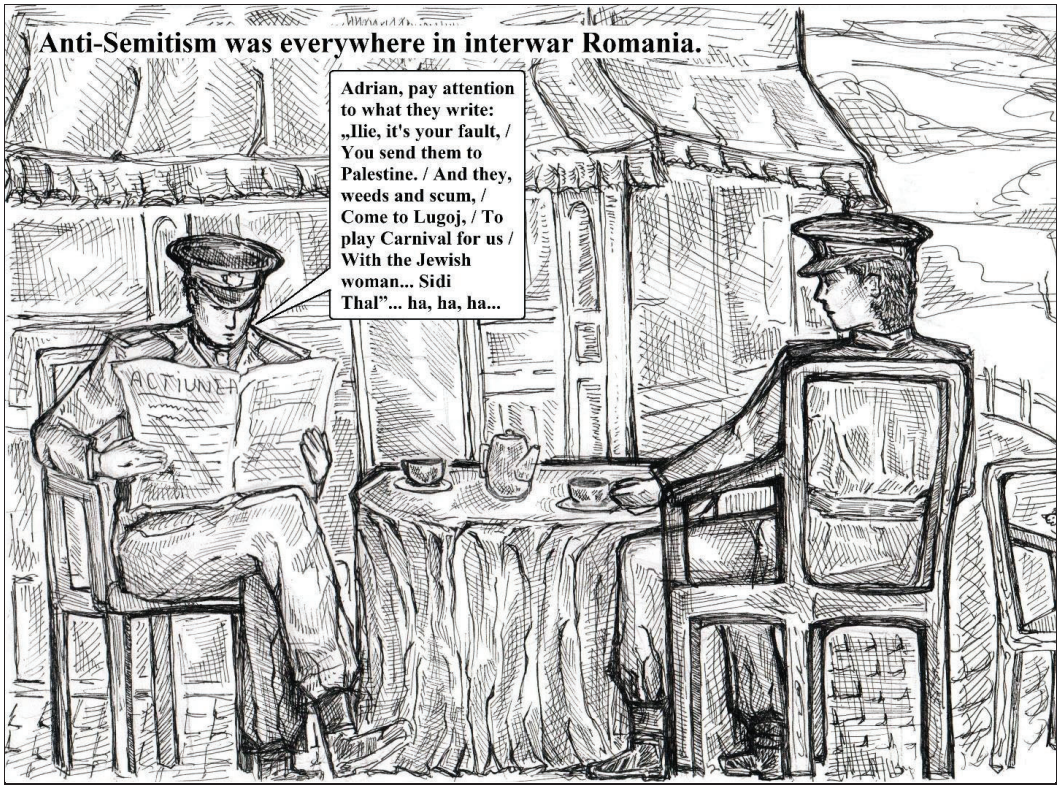
With the installation of the Antonescu regime, the situation of the Jews in Romania starts deteriorating. As soon as they take power, at the end of 1940, the legionnaires begin confiscating all the possessions of the Jews. They use terror, violence, threats and blackmail to achieve this.

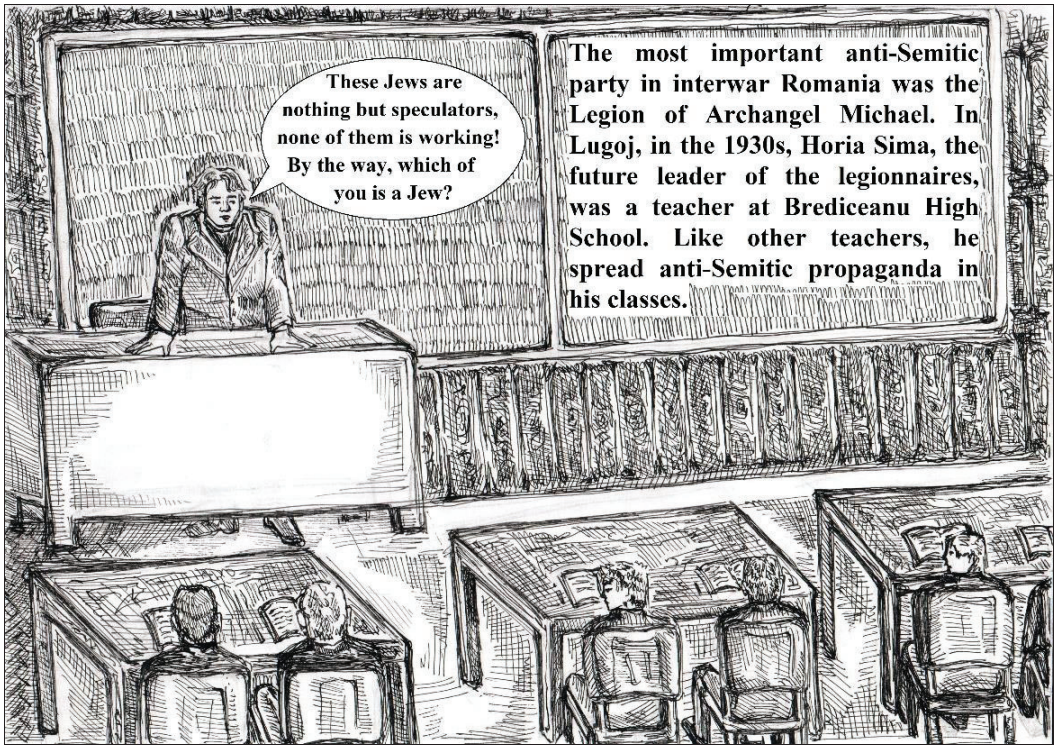
In January 1941, Ion Antonescu breaks up the political alliance with the Legionary Movement and, until 1944, he rules Romania with the help of the army, establishing a regime of military dictatorship. Anti-Semitic laws multiply. Jews are forced to perform compulsory labor, their homes and property are confiscated, they are forbidden to enter certain shops, and their children are removed from schools and kindergartens.

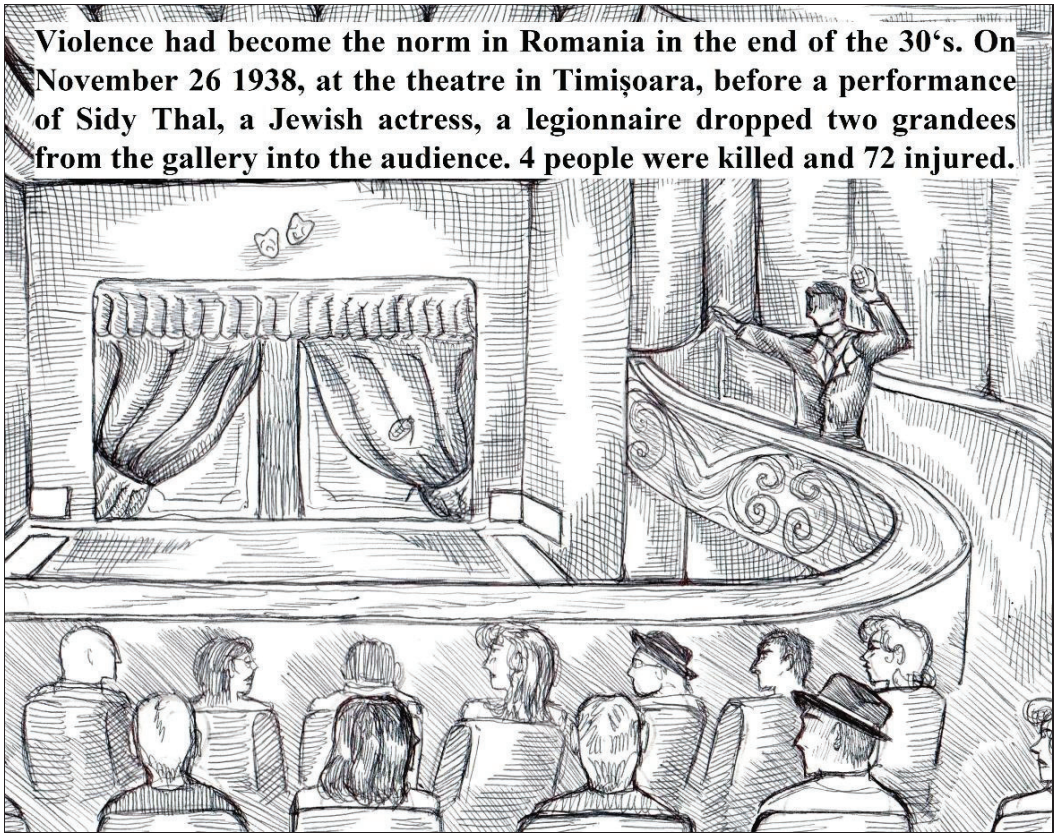
On June 22, 1941, Romania joined Nazi Germany in the attack against the U.S.S.R., becoming involved in the Second World War. In the fall of 1941, Ion Antonescu decided to take advantage of the situation and deport the Jews from Bucovina and Bessarabia to Transnistria, the region between the Dniester and the Bug. In the following years, thousands of Jews died or were killed in this region. Along with the Jewish people, the Roma people also suffered, a large number being deported to Transnistria.

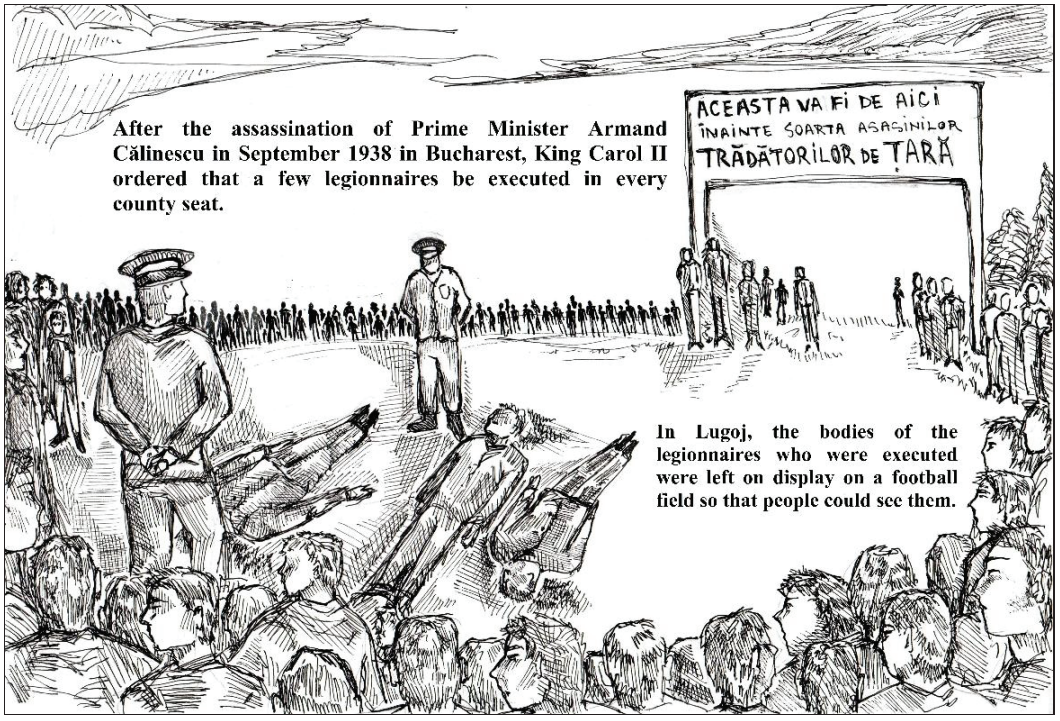
The stories you are about to read show how the anti-Semitic measures in Romania between the years 1938-1944 affected the life of the Jewish population. All are based on the testimonies of the victims and documents of the period, their narrators being concerned with the observance of historical truth.


What you are about to read happened in Lugoj, the county seat of Severin County, in the 30‘s and 40‘s. The narrator is Adrian Dumitru, a Romanian army officer who was doing his military service in this town from Banat. Being in love with Elli, a young girl of Jewish descent from Târgul Mureș, he rejects the anti-Semitic attitude that is so prevalent in Romania at that time.


Anti-Semitism was everywhere in interwar Romania.
Adrian, pay attention to what they write: „Ilie, it's your fault, / You send them to Palestine. / And they, weeds and scum, / Come to Lugoj, / To play Carnival for us / With the Jewish woman... Sidi Thal”... ha, ha, ha...
ACȚIUNEA


These Jews are nothing but speculators, none of them is working! By the way, which of you is a Jew?
The most important anti-Semitic party in interwar Romania was the Legion of Archangel Michael. In Lugoj, in the 1930s, Horia Sima, the future leader of the legionnaires, was a teacher at Brediceanu High School. Like other teachers, he spread anti-Semitic propaganda in his classes.


Violence had become the norm in Romania in the end of the 30‘s. On November 26 1938, at the theatre in Timișoara, before a performance of Sidy Thal, a Jewish actress, a legionnaire dropped two grandees from the gallery into the audience. 4 people were killed and 72 injured.

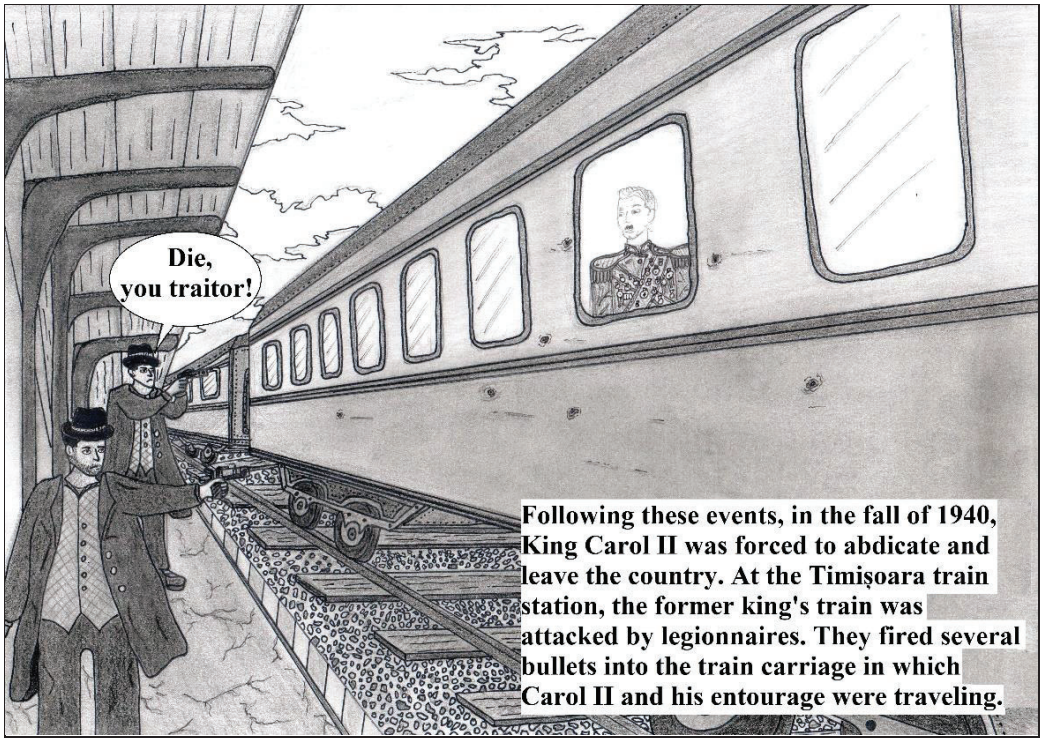


After the assassination of Prime Minister Armand Călinescu in September 1938 in Bucharest, King Carol II ordered that a few legionnaires be executed in every county seat.

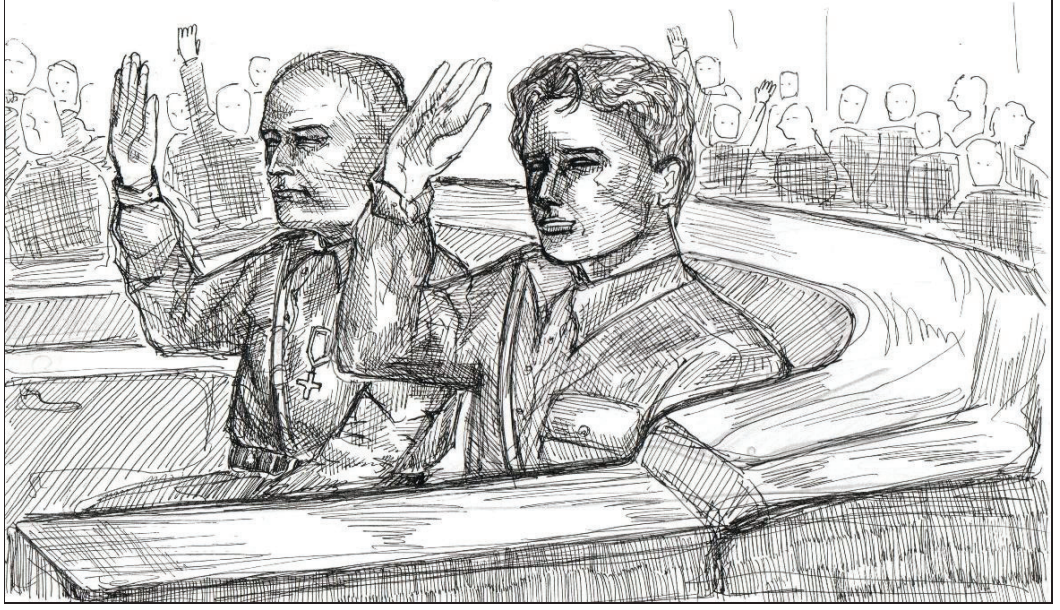
In Lugoj, the bodies of the legionnaires who were executed were left on display on a football field so that people could see them.

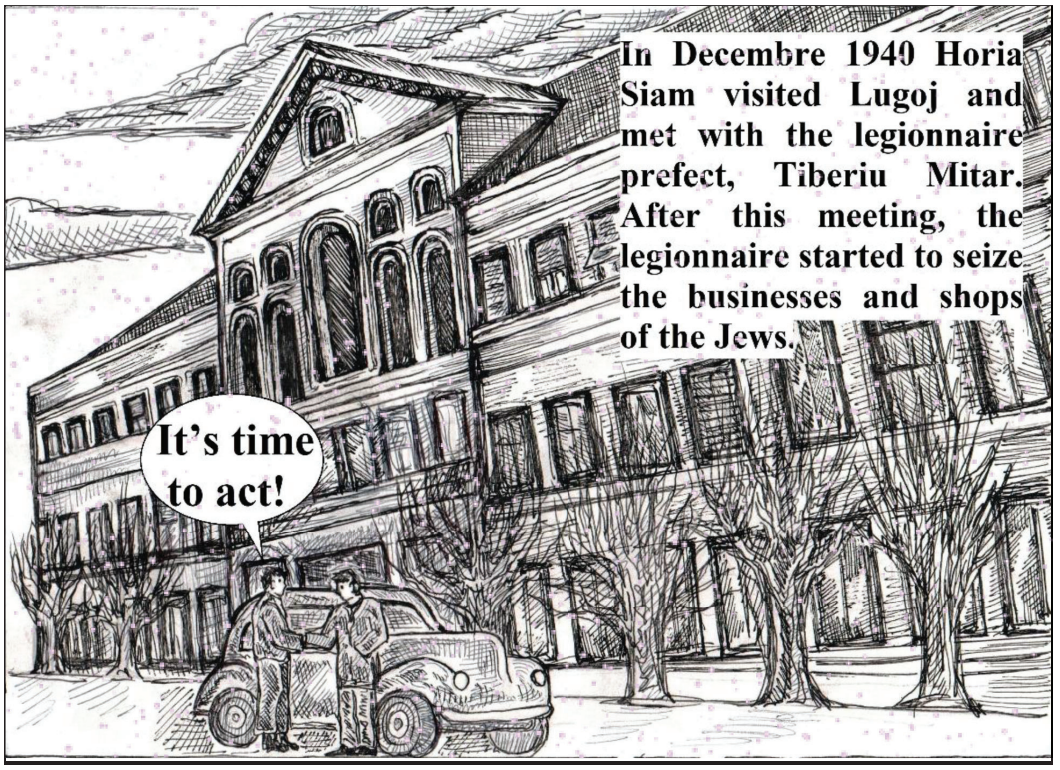


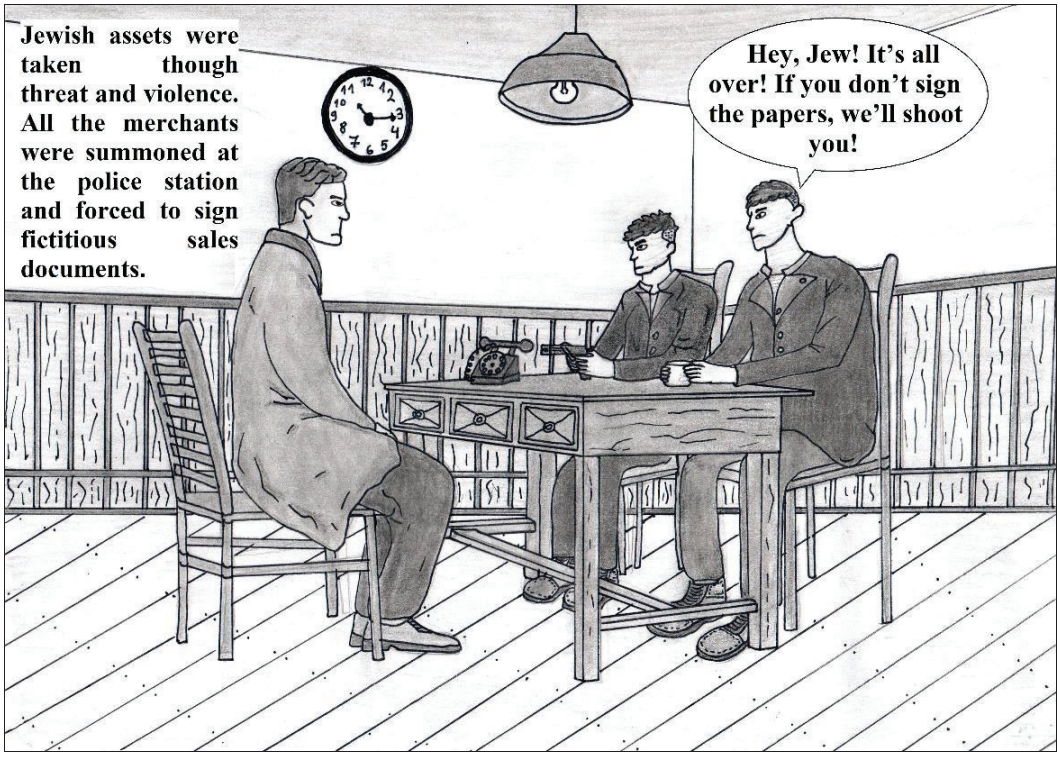

In 1940, in the context of World War II, Romania was forced to cede Bessarabia and N Bukovina to the U.S.S.R. and NW Transylvania to Hungary without a fight.
MOGHILEV-PODOLSKI
CERNĂUȚI
BUKOVINA
HUNGARY
U.S.S.R.
TRANSYLVANIA (NV)
BASSARABIA
LUGOJ
ROMANIA
BUCUREȘTI
BLACK SEA
CADRILATERUL
BULGARIA

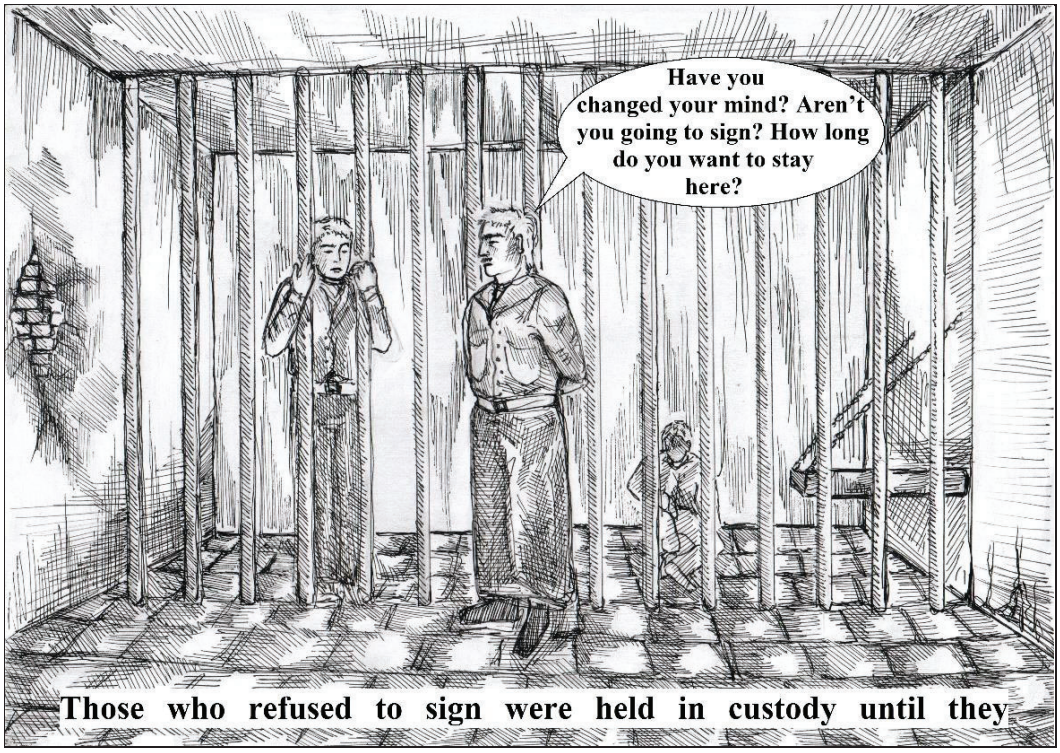

Die, you traitor!
Following these events, in the fall of 1940, King Carol II was forced to abdicate and leave the country. At the Timișoara train station, the former king's train was attacked by legionnaires. They fired several bullets into the train carriage in which Carol II and his entourage were traveling.

In September 1940, after the abdication of King Carol II, the leadership of Romania was overtaken by General Ion Antonescu and the Legionnaires led by Horia Sima. The Legionnaires had anti-Semitic Convictions and their party was close with the German Nazi Party.





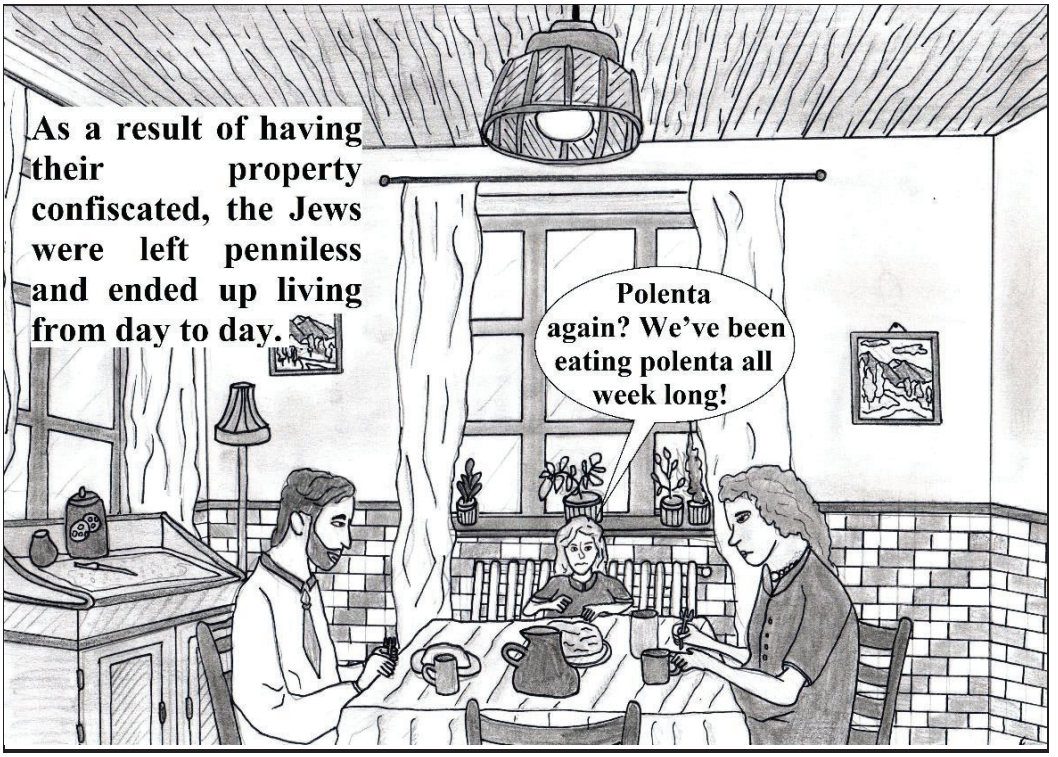

Jewish assets were taken though threat and violence. All the merchants were summoned at the police station and forced to sign fictitious sales documents.
Hey, Jew! It's all over! If you don't sign the papers, we'll shoot you!

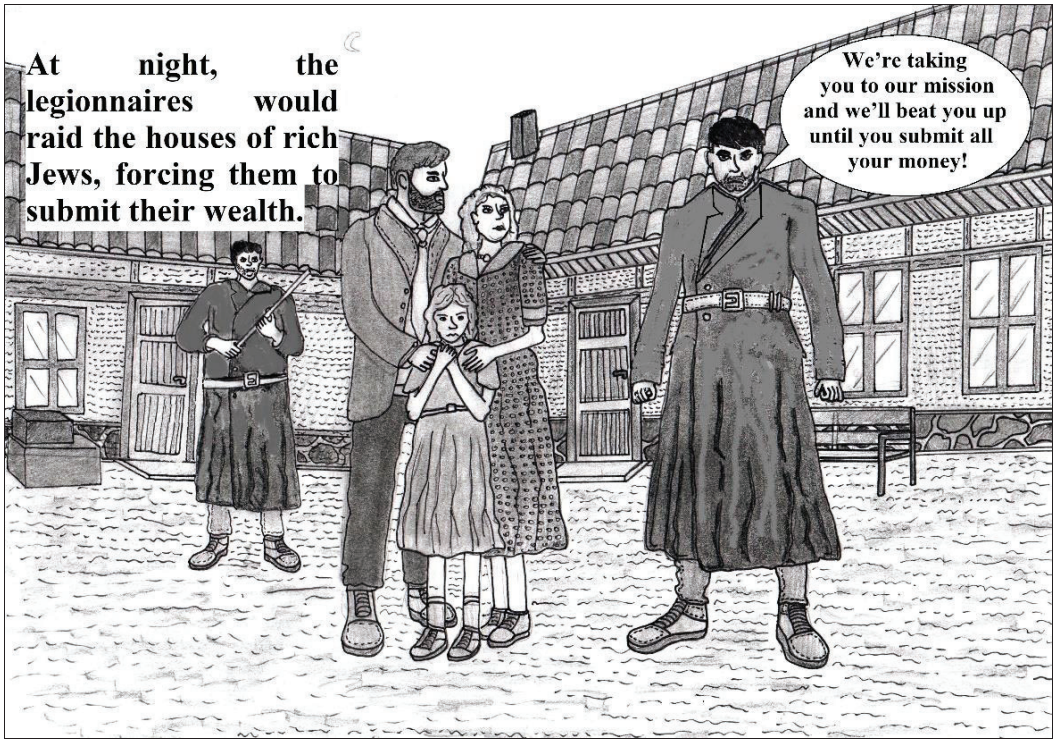

Have you changed your mind? Aren't you going to sign? How long do you want to stay here?
Those who refused to sign were held in custody until they

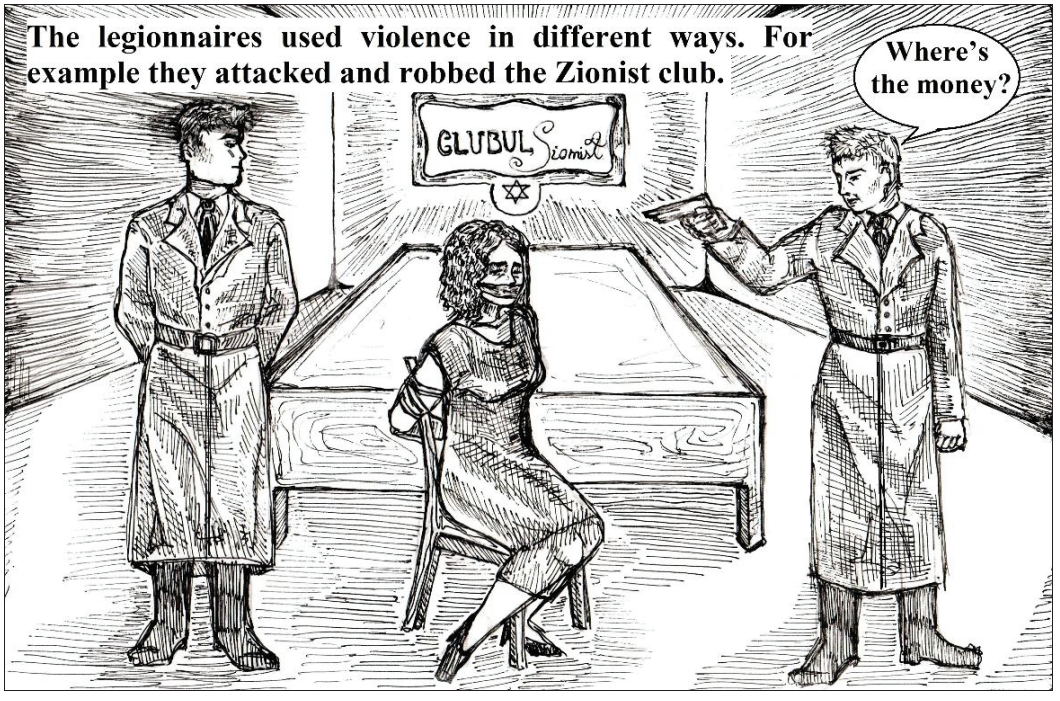
All the Jewish shops and businesses were taken over. The new owners were young people controlled by the legionnaires.

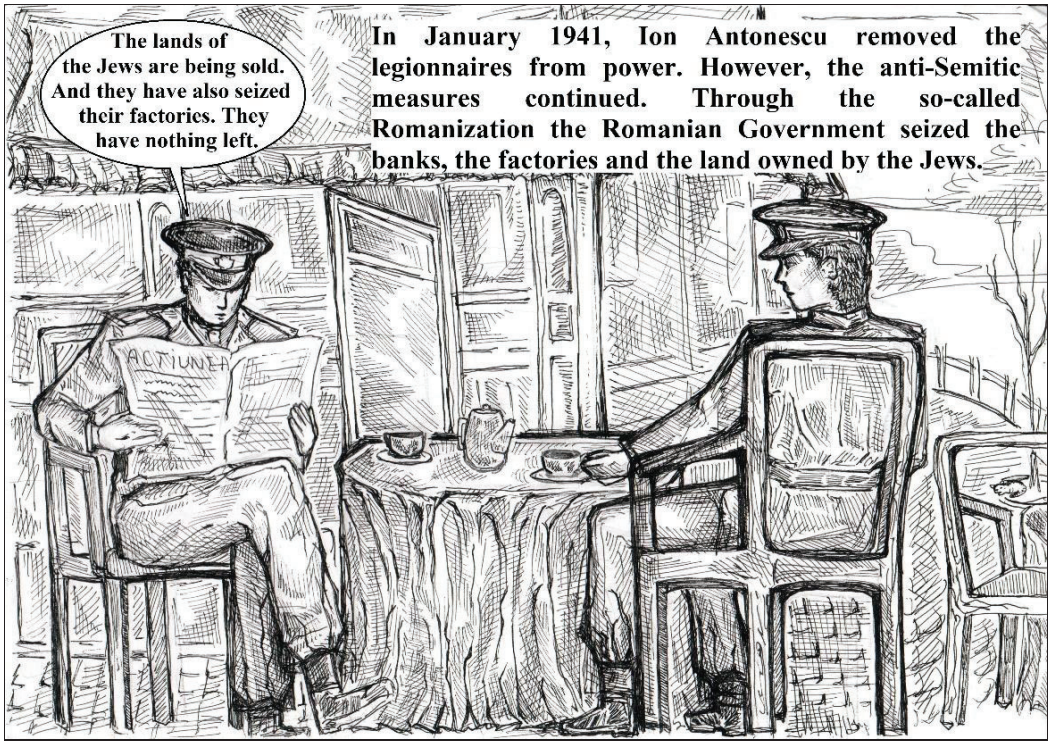


Alexander Epstein's shop was taken over by Romolus F. Catin.

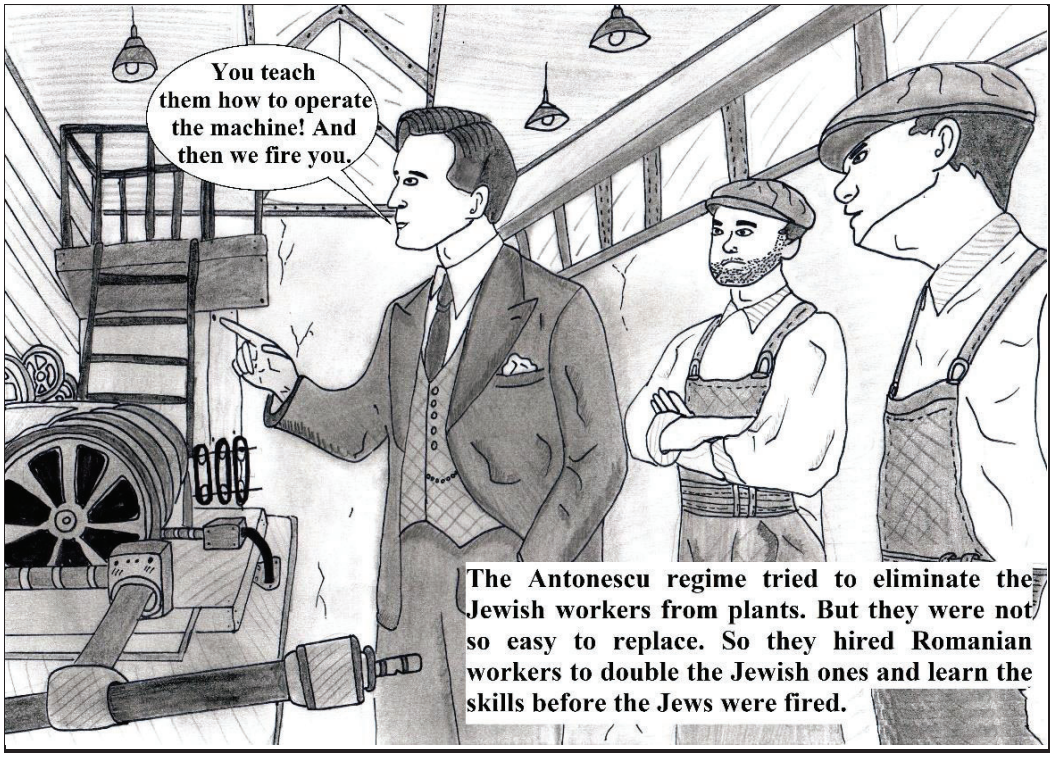



At night, the legionnaires would raid the houses of rich Jews, forcing them to submit their wealth.
We're taking you to our mission and we'll beat you up until you submit all your money!

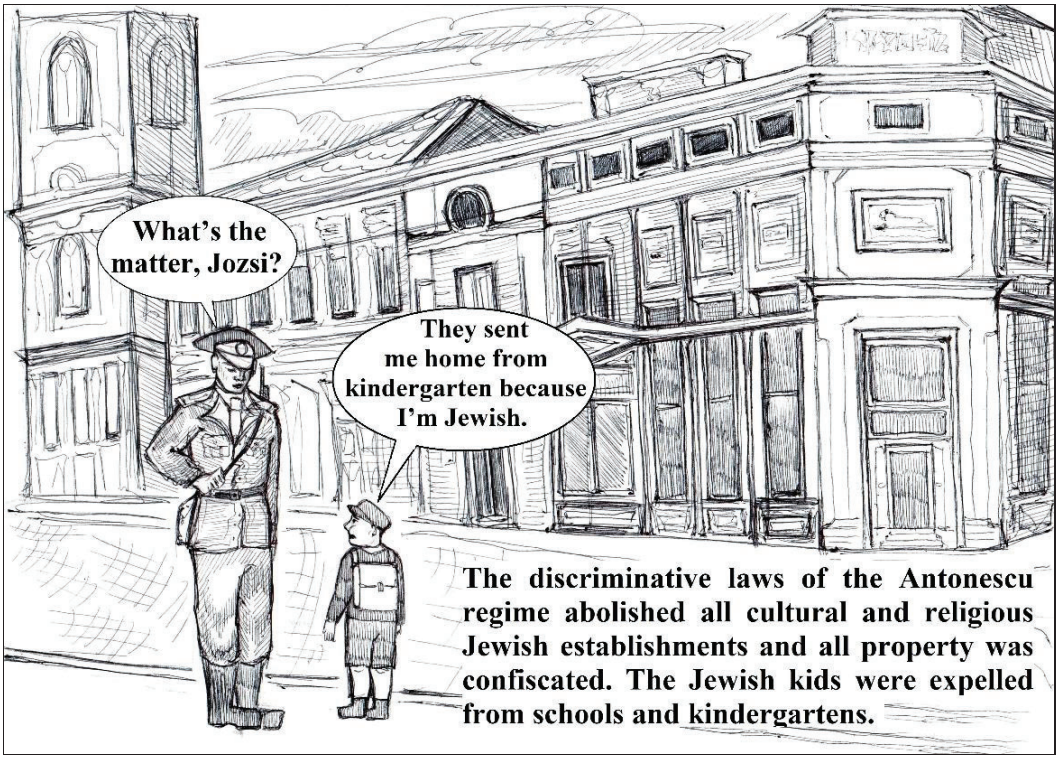

The legionnaires used violence in different ways. For example they attacked and robbed the Zionist club.
CLUBUL Sionist
Where's the money?

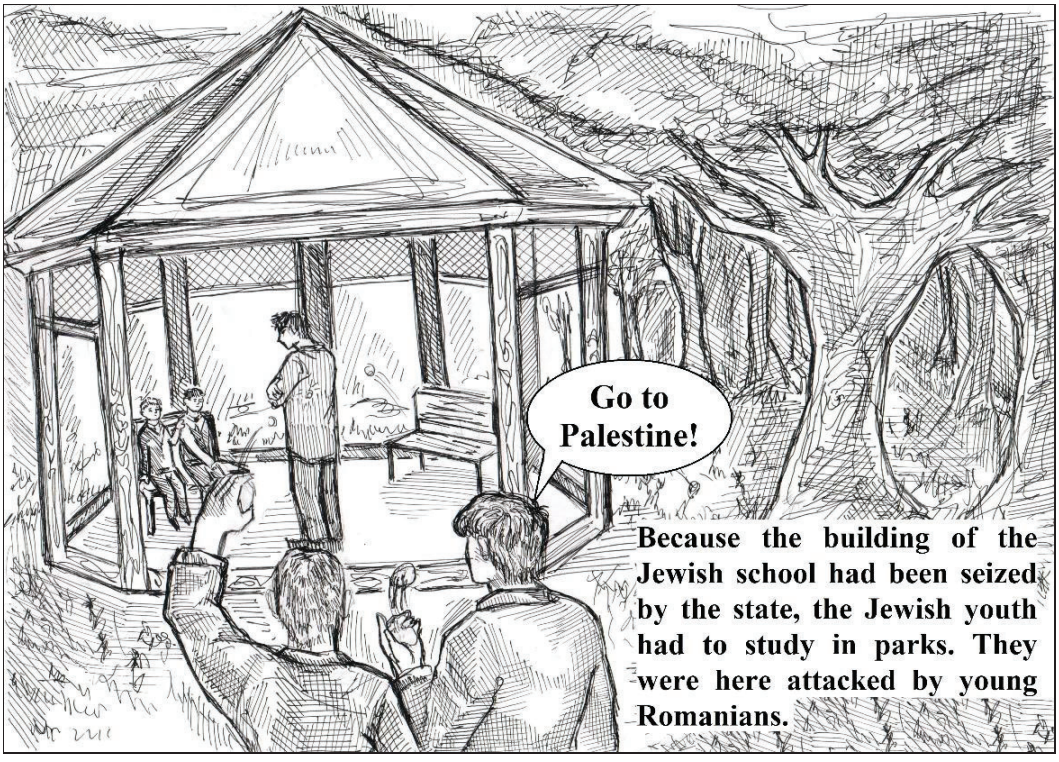


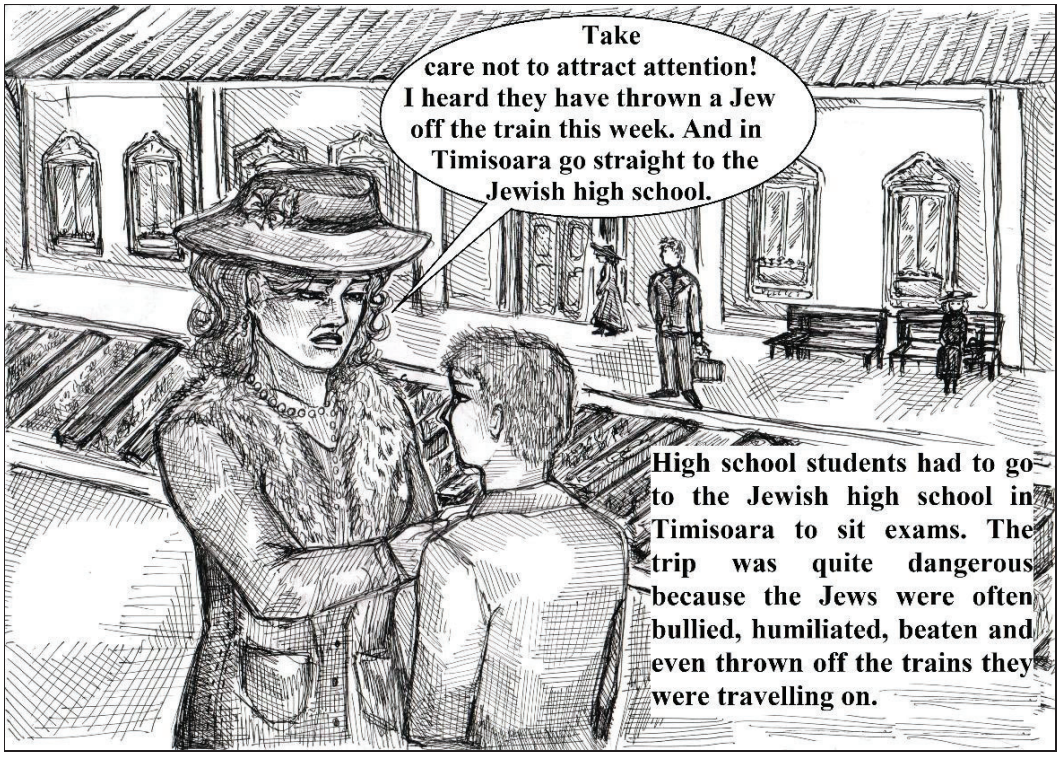
In January 1941, Ion Antonescu removed the legionnaires from power. However, the anti-Semitic measures continued. Through the so-called Romanization the Romanian Government seized the banks, the factories and the land owned by the Jews.

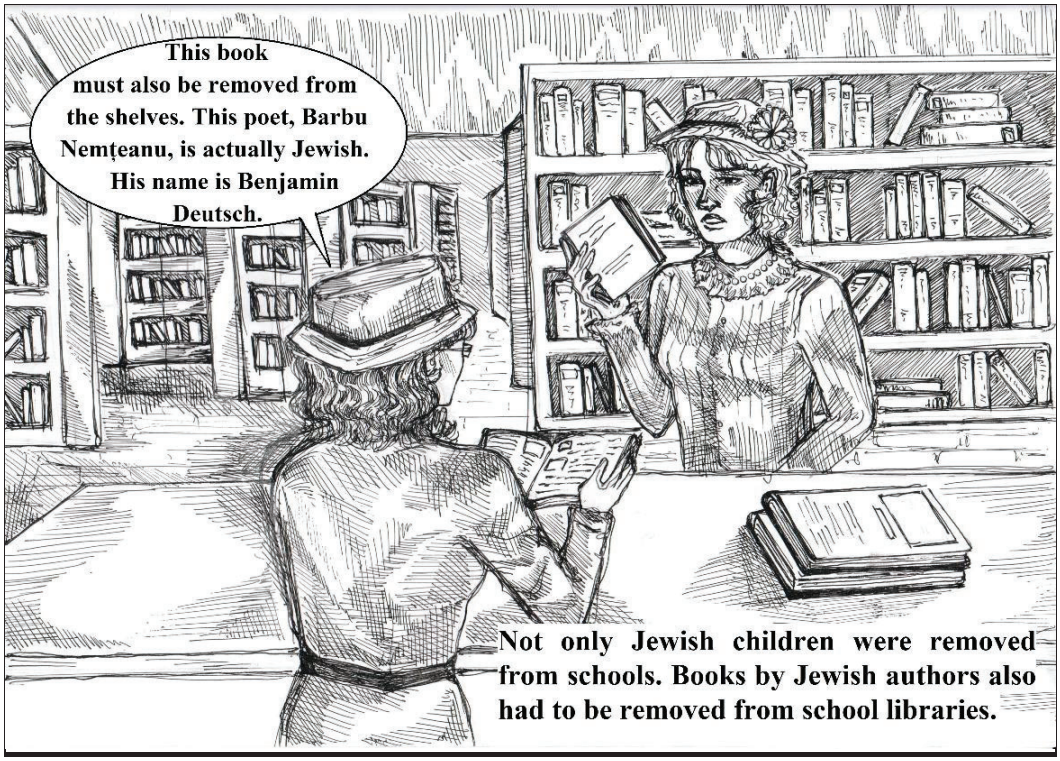


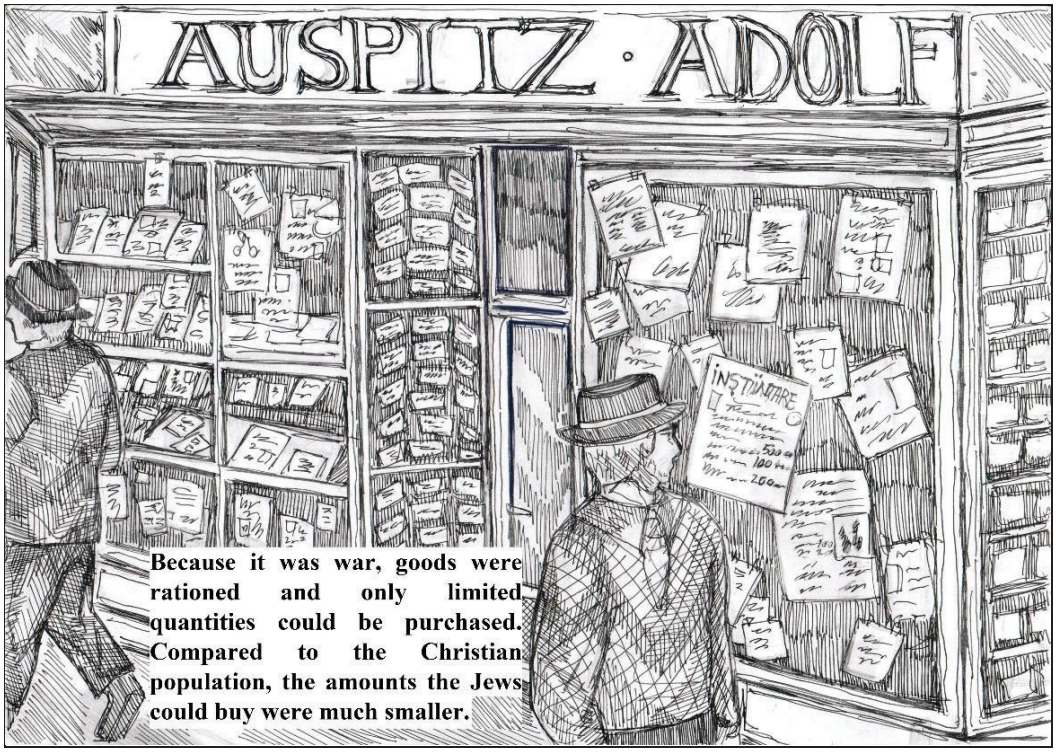
The Antonescu regime tried to eliminate the Jewish workers from plants. But they were not so easy to replace. So they hired Romanian workers to double the Jewish ones and learn the skills before the Jews were fired.

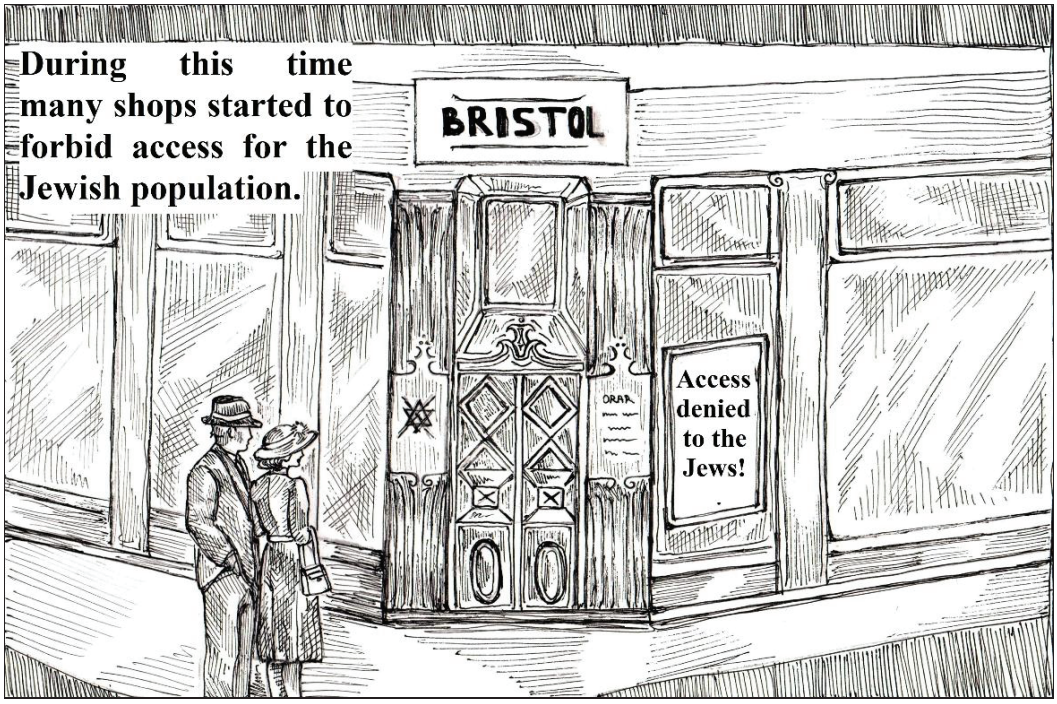

What's the matter, Jozsi?
They sent me home from kindergarten because I'm Jewish.
The discriminative laws of the Antonescu regime abolished all cultural and religious Jewish establishments and all property was confiscated. The Jewish kids were expelled from schools and kindergartens.


Go to Palestine!
Because the building of the Jewish school had been seized by the state, the Jewish youth had to study in parks. They were here attacked by young Romanians.


Take care not to attract attention! I heard they have thrown a Jew off the train this week. And in Timisoara go straight to the Jewish high school.
High school students had to go to the Jewish high school in Timisoara to sit exams. The trip was quite dangerous because the Jews were often bullied, humiliated, beaten and even thrown off the trains they were travelling on.


This book must also be removed from the shelves. This poet, Barbu Nemțeanu, is actually Jewish. His name is Benjamin Deutsch.
Not only Jewish children were removed from schools. Books by Jewish authors also had to be removed from school libraries.

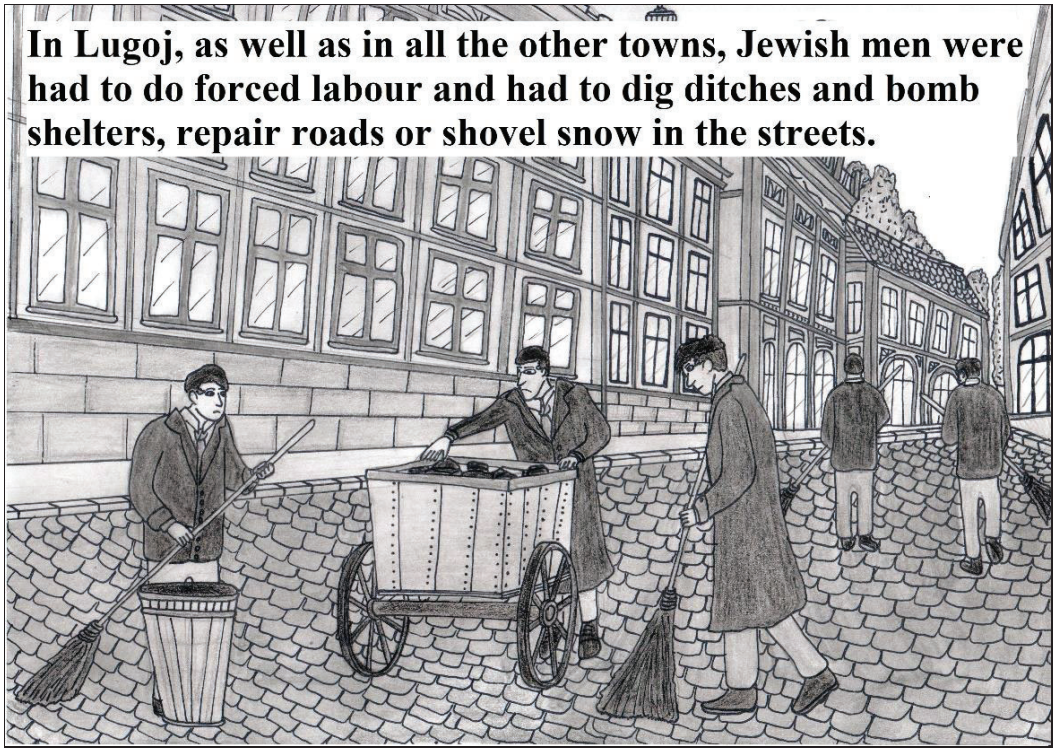

AUSPITZ · ADOLF
INSTÄLLARE
Because it was war, goods were rationed and only limited quantities could be purchased. Compared to the Christian population, the amounts the Jews could buy were much smaller.

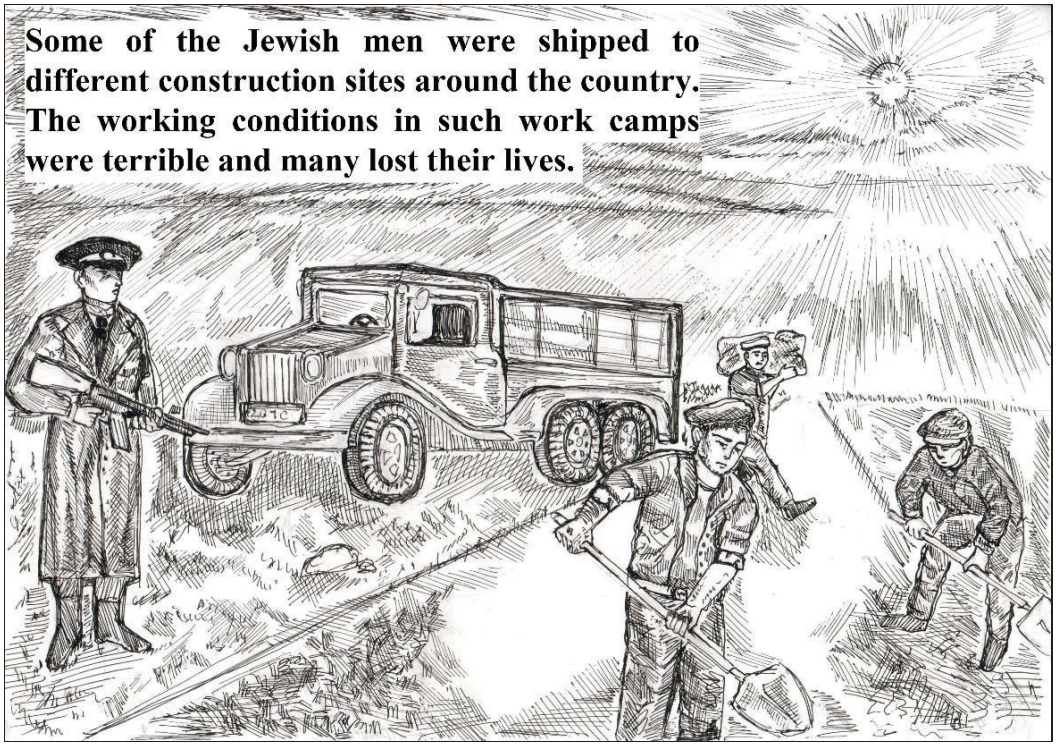

During this time many shops started to forbid access for the Jewish population.
BRISTOL
Access denied to the Jews!

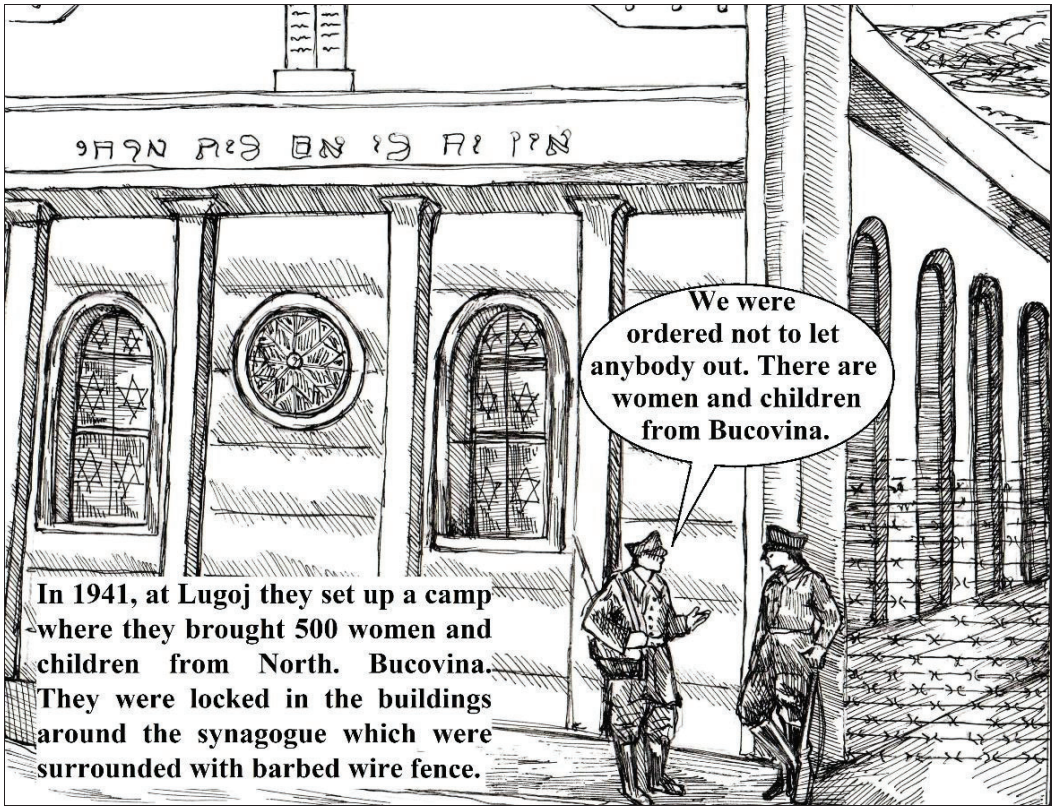

The Antonescu regime forced the Jews to submit clothes, shoes, socks, underwear and bed linen to the Romanian army. Also, their radios were confiscated.
Listen to this! The Jews must now donate even socks for the army. Woe to this country!
RĂSUNETUL

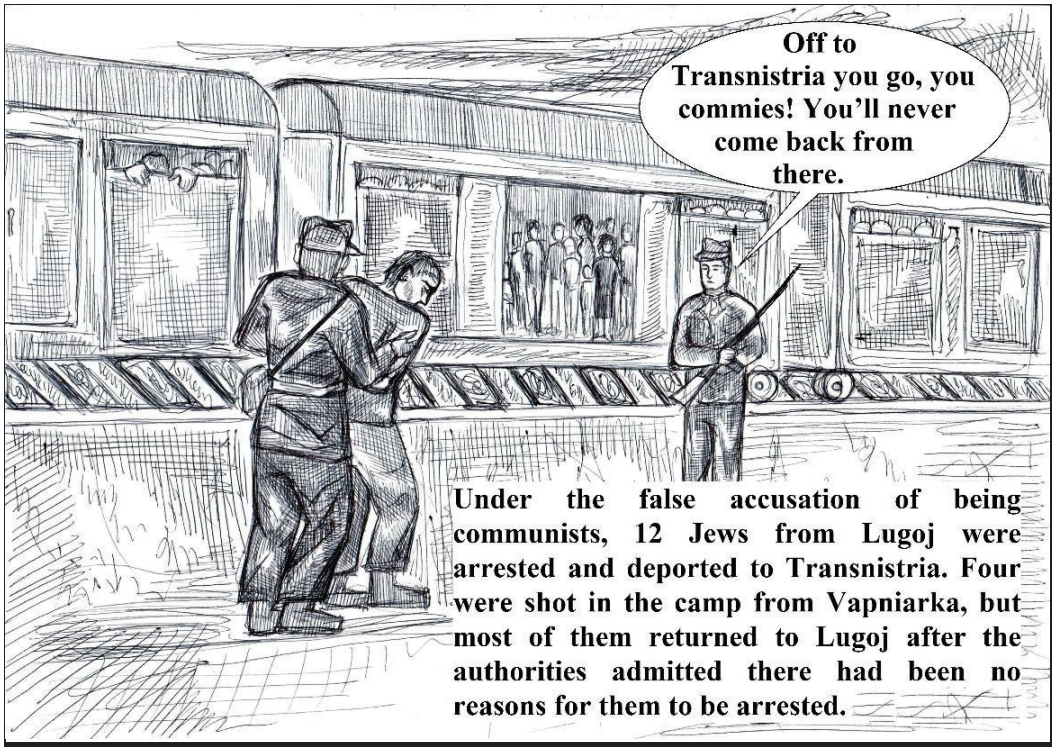

This club does no longer exist. You must move out.
Where should we go?
SIONIST
The Jews had their houses confiscated, thus being forced to rent a place to stay.

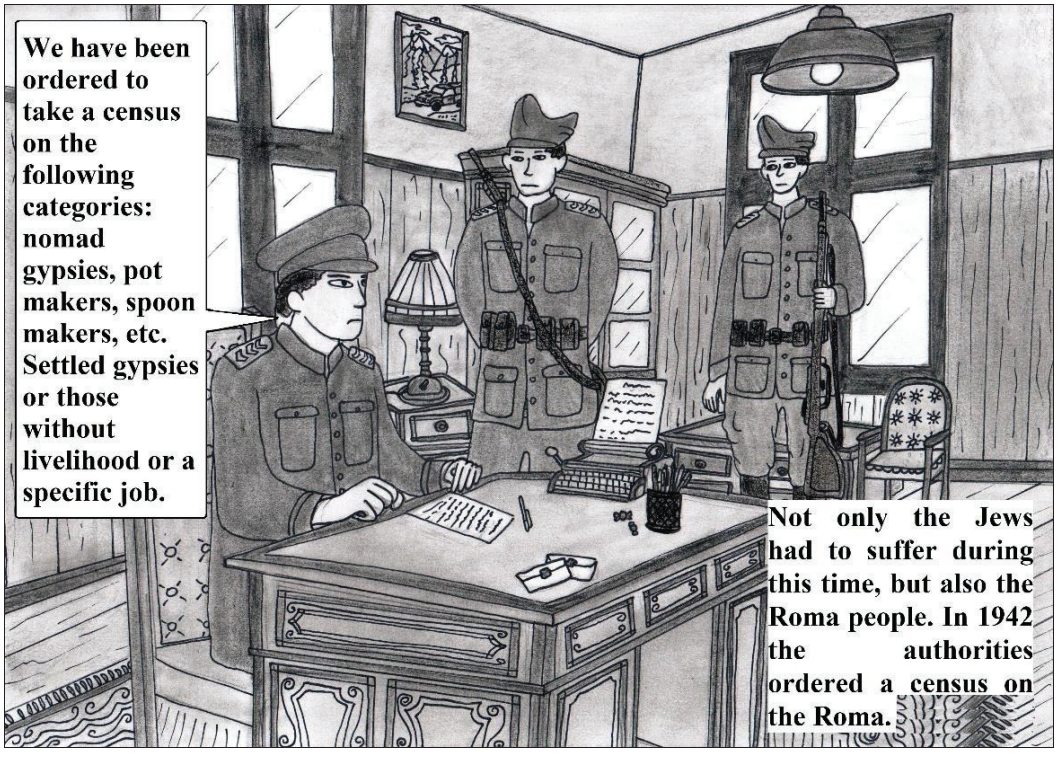

And where are we supposed to live there?
You have three hrees hours to pack your things. All Jews must move to Lugoj.
At the end of 1940, Antonescu issued an order that all Jews who lived in the countryside must move to county seat towns. In Severin County they were sent to Lugoj.

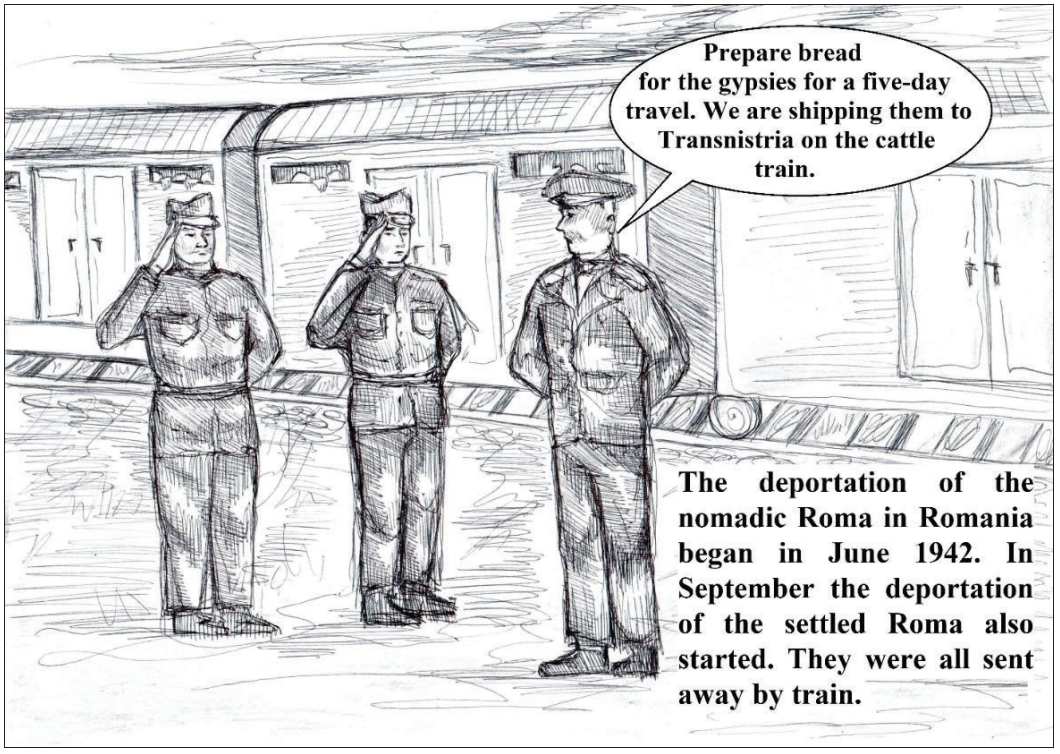

In Lugoj, as well as in all the other towns, Jewish men were had to do forced labour and had to dig ditches and bomb shelters, repair roads or shovel snow in the streets.

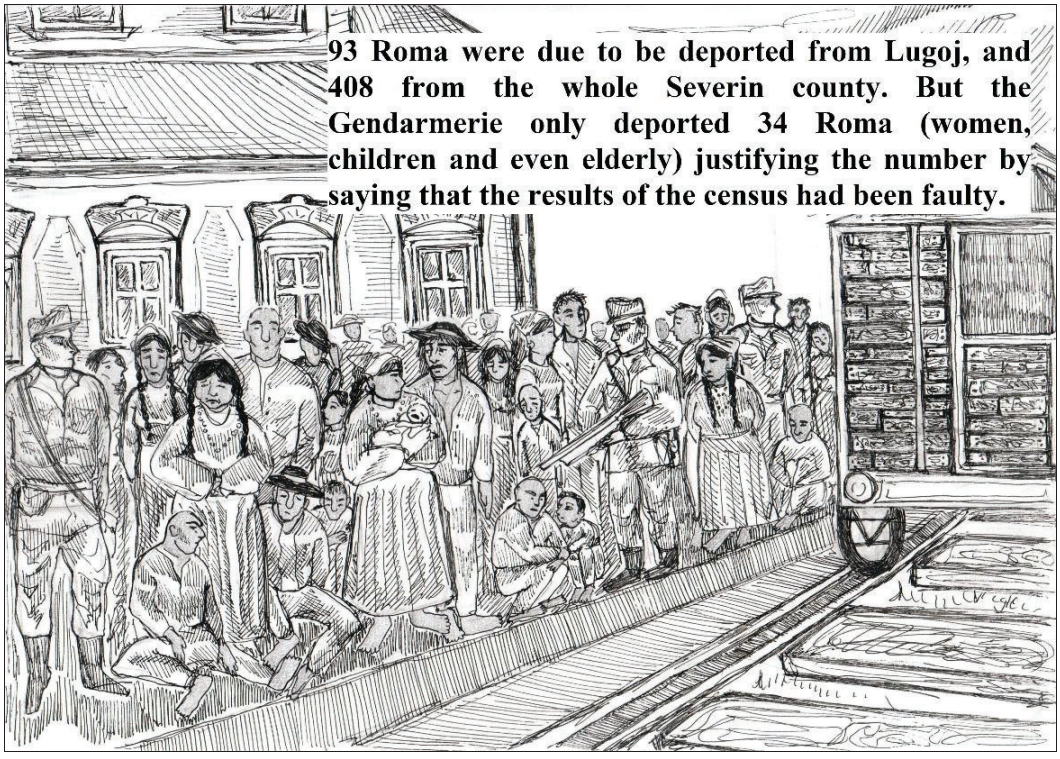

Some of the Jewish men were shipped to different construction sites around the country. The working conditions in such work camps were terrible and many lost their lives.

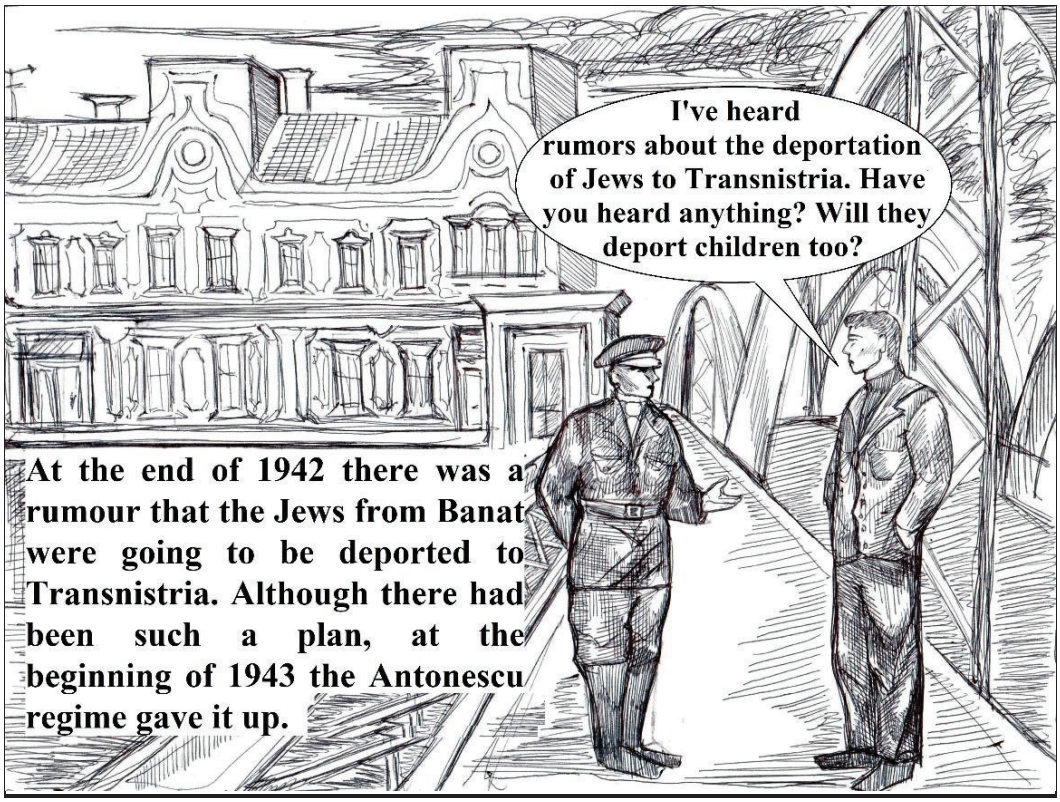

We were ordered not to let anybody out. There are women and children from Bucovina.
In 1941, at Lugoj they set up a camp where they brought 500 women and children from North. Bucovina. They were locked in the buildings around the synagogue which were surrounded with barbed wire fence.


Off to Transnistria you go, you commies! You'll never come back from there.
Under the false accusation of being communists, 12 Jews from Lugoj were arrested and deported to Transnistria. Four were shot in the camp from Vapniarka, but most of them returned to Lugoj after the authorities admitted there had been no reasons for them to be arrested.

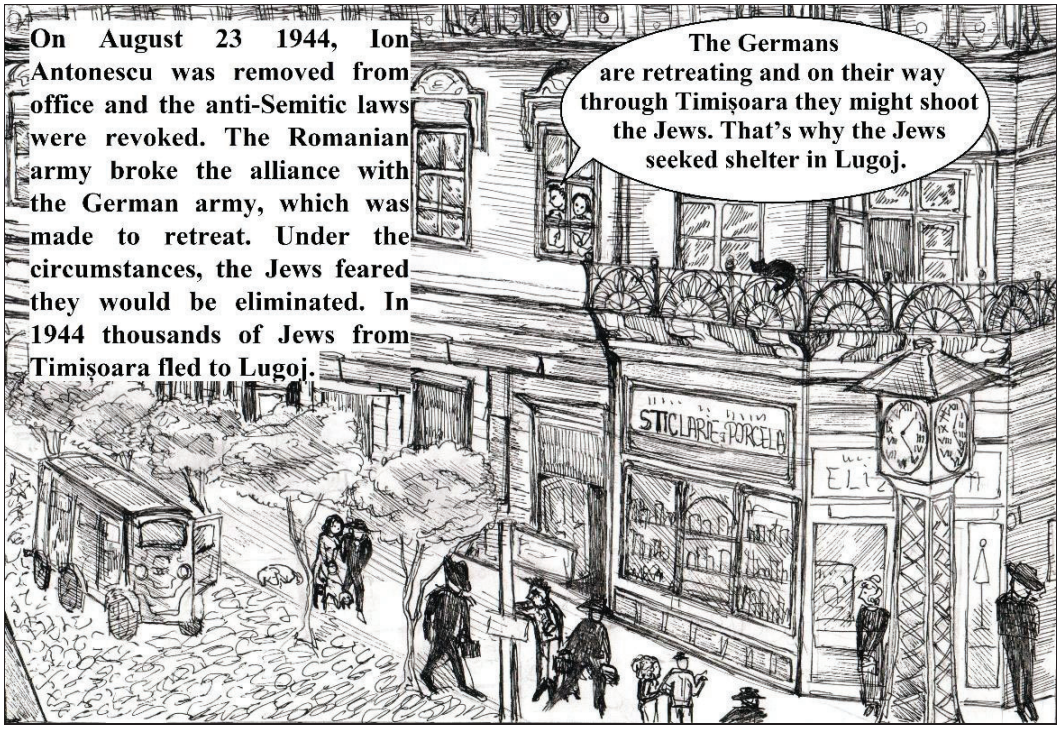

We have been ordered to take a census on the following categories: nomad gypsies, pot makers, spoon makers, etc. Settled gypsies or those without livelihood or a specific job.
Not only the Jews had to suffer during this time, but also the Roma people. In 1942 the authorities ordered a census on the Roma.

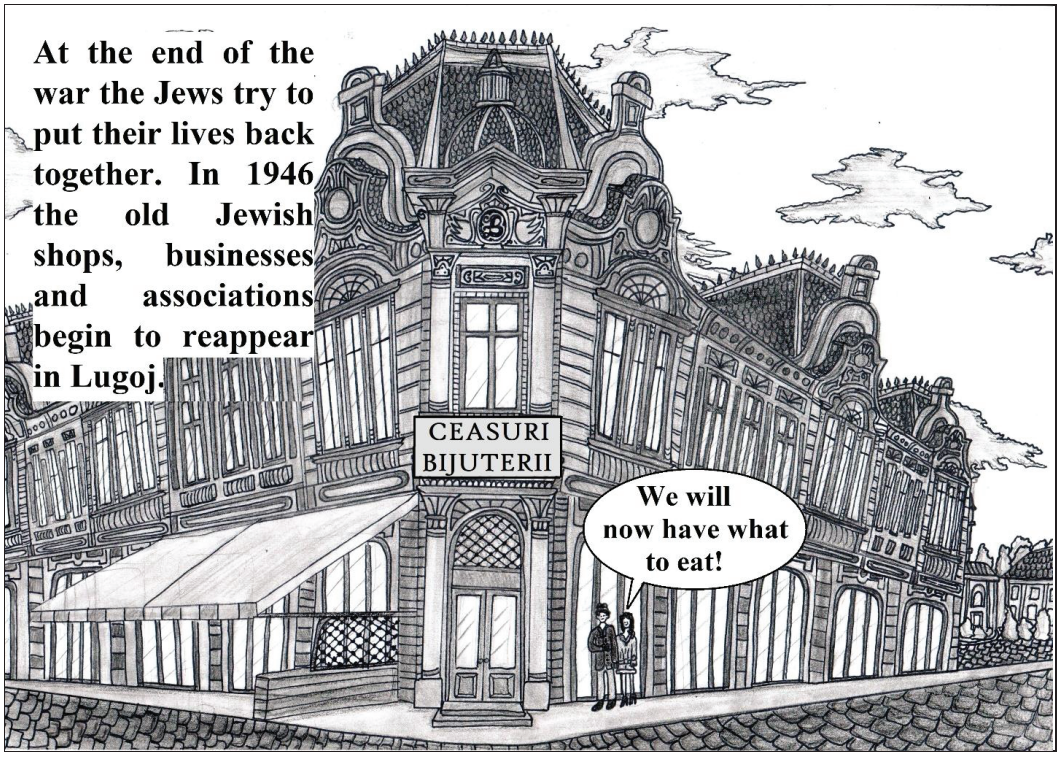

Prepare bread for the gypsies for a five-day travel. We are shipping them to Transnistria on the cattle train.
The deportation of the nomadic Roma in Romania began in June 1942. In September the deportation of the settled Roma also started. They were all sent away by train.

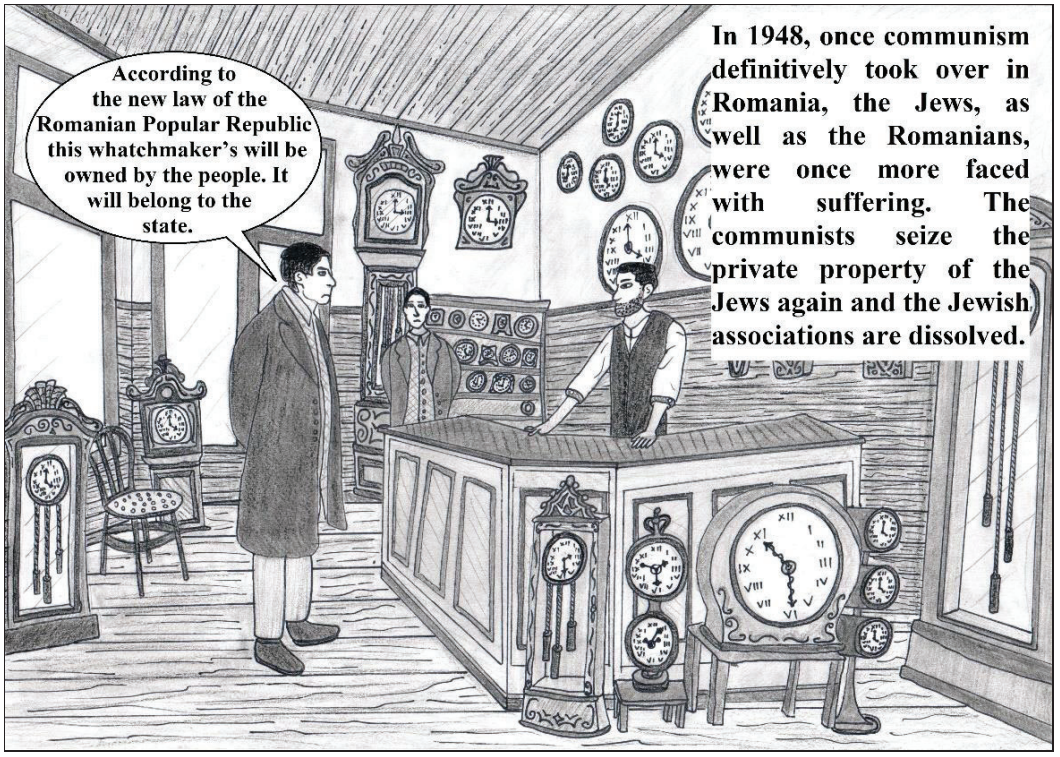

93 Roma were due to be deported from Lugoj, and 408 from the whole Severin county. But the Gendarmerie only deported 34 Roma (women, children and even elderly) justifying the number by saying that the results of the census had been faulty.

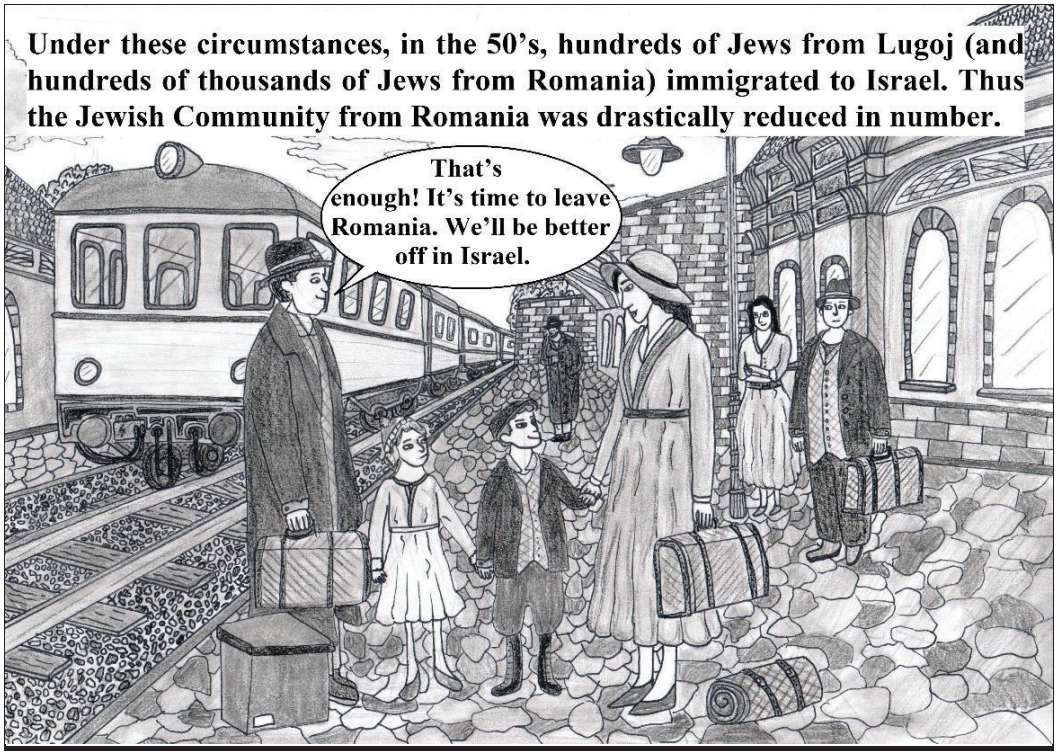

I've heard rumors about the deportation of Jews to Transnistria. Have you heard anything? Will they deport children too?
At the end of 1942 there was a rumour that the Jews from Banat were going to be deported to Transnistria. Although there had been such a plan, at the beginning of 1943 the Antonescu regime gave it up.


Don't go to the market, mam! There is going to be a raid to capture all the Jews who go shopping during the time interval they are not allowed.
Still, even in such times, there are kind people helping the Jews.


On August 23 1944, Ion Antonescu was removed from office and the anti-Semitic laws were revoked. The Romanian army broke the alliance with the German army, which was made to retreat. Under the circumstances, the Jews feared they would be eliminated. In 1944 thousands of Jews from Timișoara fled to Lugoj.
The Germans are retreating and on their way through Timișoara they might shoot the Jews. That's why the Jews seeked shelter in Lugoj.
STICLARIE PORCELAN

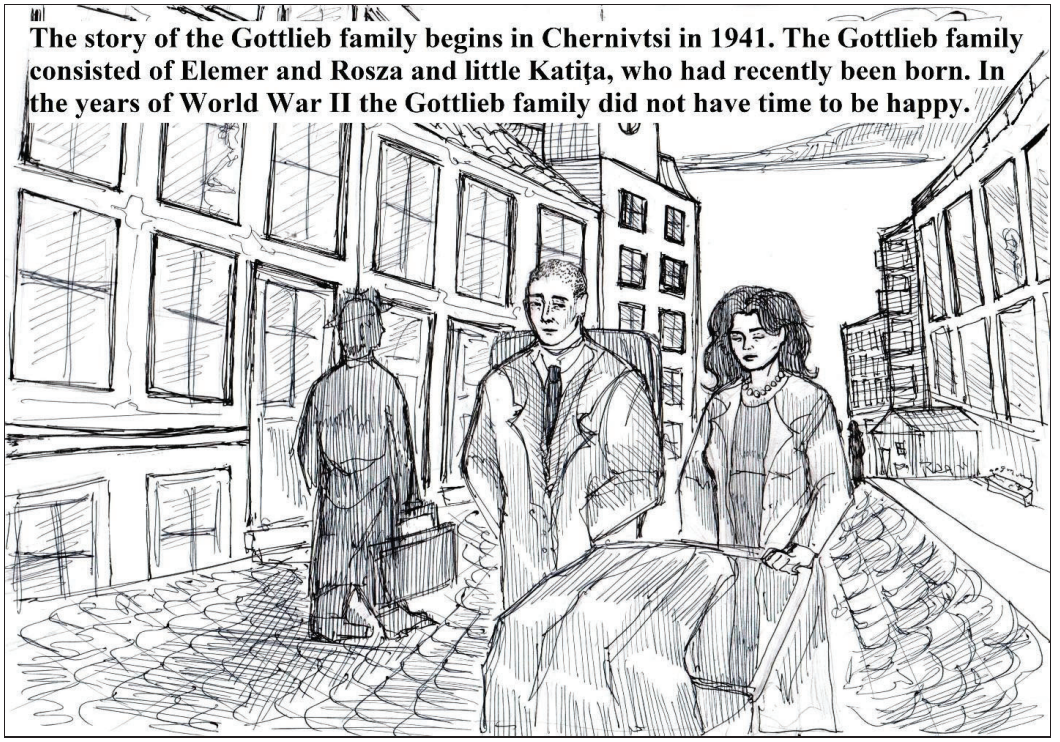

At the end of the war the Jews try to put their lives back together. In 1946 the old Jewish shops, businesses and associations begin to reappear in Lugoj.
CEASURI
BIJUTERII
We will now have what to eat!

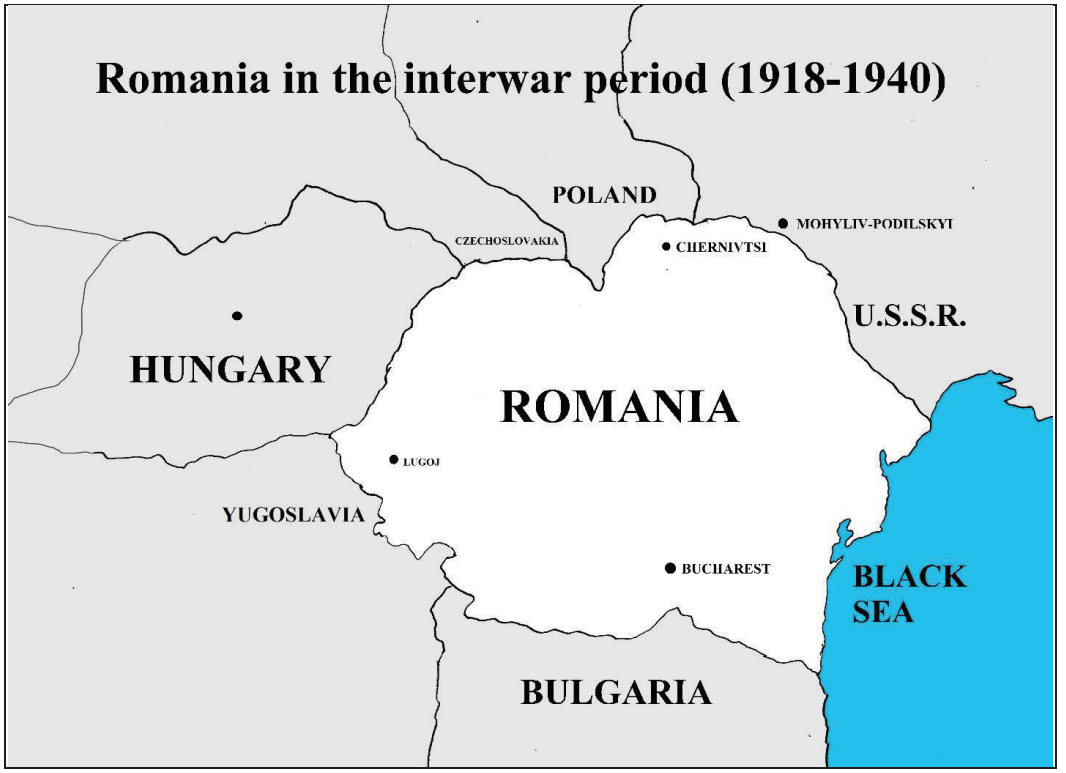

According to the new law of the Romanian Popular Republic this whatchmaker's will be owned by the people. It will belong to the state.
In 1948, once communism definitively took over in Romania, the Jews, as well as the Romanians, were once more faced with suffering. The communists seize the private property of the Jews again and the Jewish associations are dissolved.


Under these circumstances, in the 50's, hundreds of Jews from Lugoj (and hundreds of thousands of Jews from Romania) immigrated to Israel. Thus the Jewish Community from Romania was drastically reduced in number.
That's enough! It's time to leave Romania. We'll be better off in Israel.



2. Return to the light

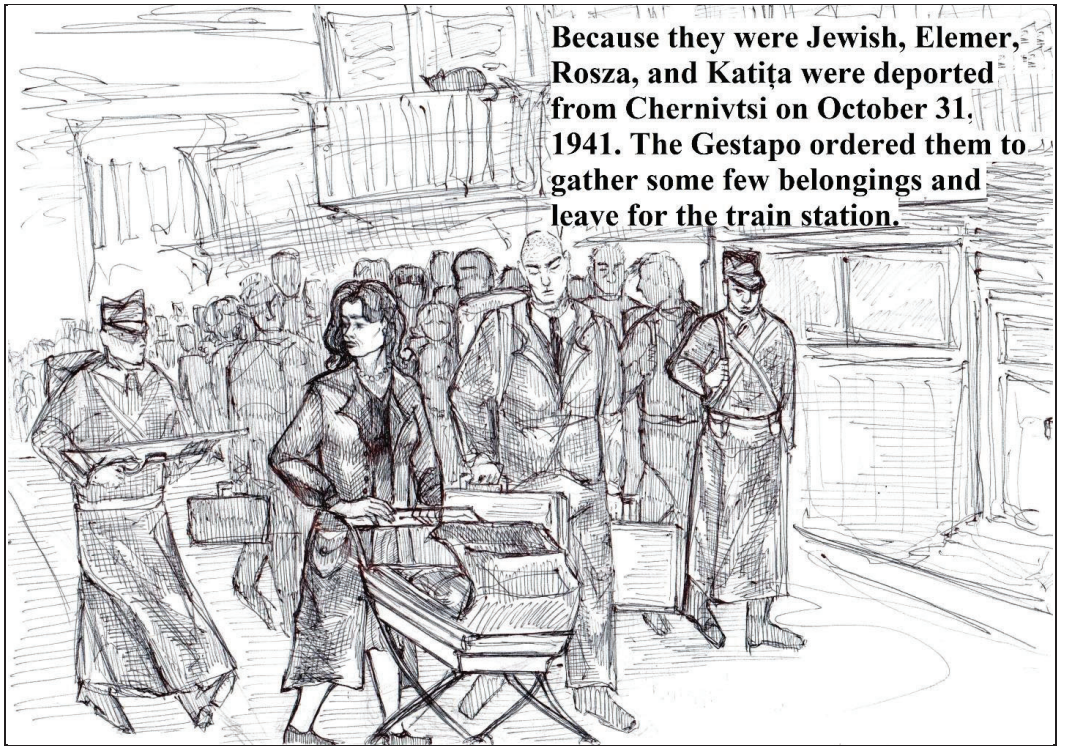

The story of the Gottlieb family begins in Chernivtsi in 1941. The Gottlieb family consisted of Elemer and Rosza and little Katiţa, who had recently been born. In the years of World War II the Gottlieb family did not have time to be happy.

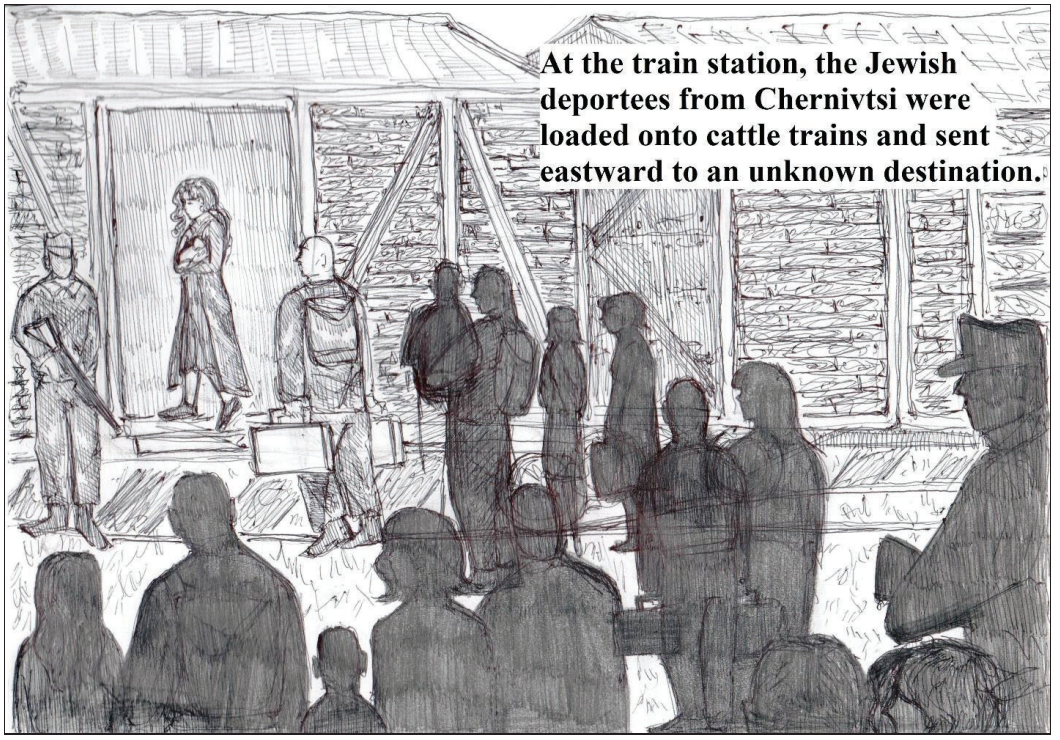

Romania in the interwar period (1918-1940)
POLAND
CZECHOSLOVAKIA
MOHYLIV-PODILSKYI
CHERNIVTSI
U.S.S.R.
HUNGARY
ROMANIA
LUGOJ
YUGOSLAVIA
BUCHAREST
BLACK SEA
BULGARIA

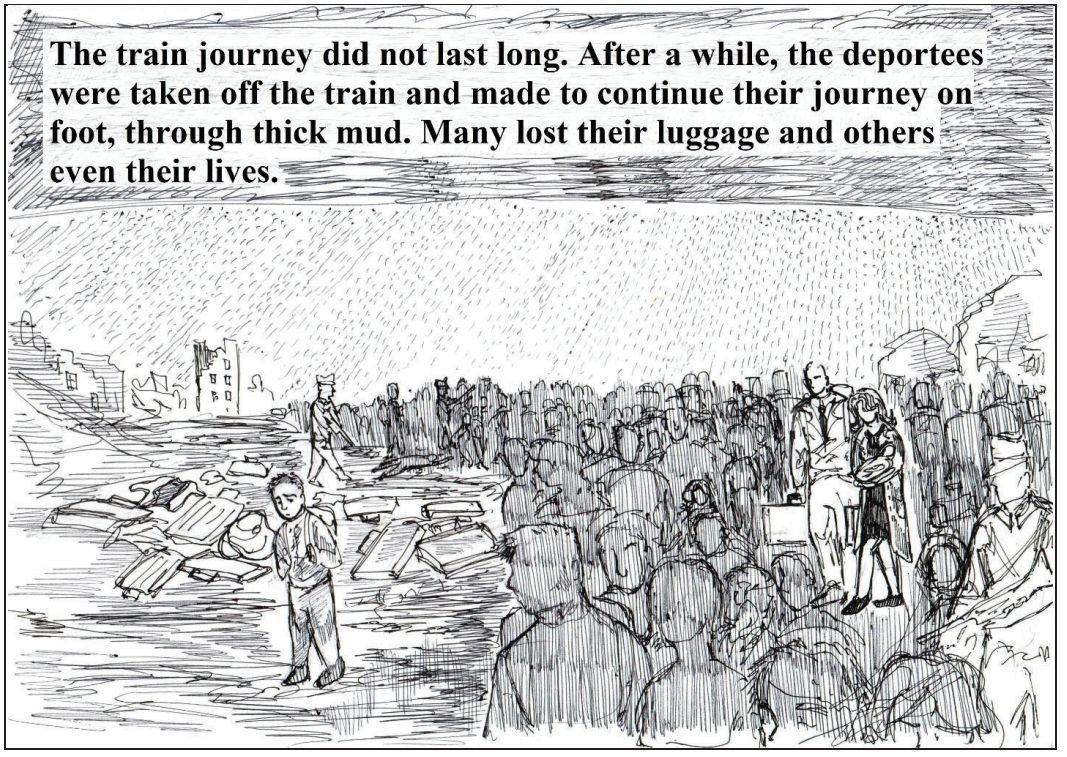

In 1940, Romania was forced to cede territories to Hungary, Bulgaria, and the U.S.S.R. Under these circumstances, northern Bukovina and the city of Chernivtsi, were occupied by the U.S.S.R.
MOHYLIV-PODILSK
CHERNOVTSY
BUKOVINA
HUNGARY
TRANSYLVANIA
(NV)
U.S.S.R.
BASSARABIA
LUGOJ
ROMANIA
YUGOSLAVIA
BUCHAREST
BLACK SEA
CADRILATERUL
BULGARIA

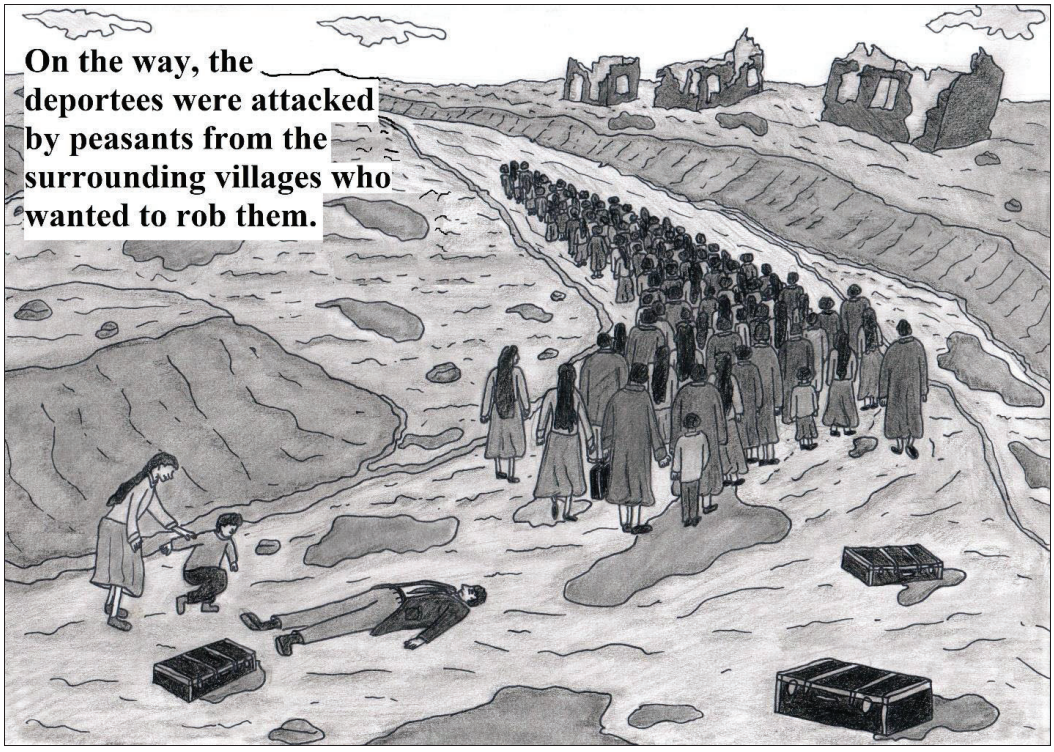

After losing these territories, Romania, under the lead of General Ion Antonescu, made an alliance with Nazi Germany and in the summer of 1941 the Romanian army joined the German army in the attack against the U.S.S.R.


As a result of this military action, Bukovina, as well as the city of Cernăuți, returned within the borders of Romania.
GERMANY
CHERNOVTSY
BUKOVINA
MOHYLIV PODILSKYI
HUNGARY
TRANSNISTRIA
BESSARABIA
LUGOJ
ROMANIA
BUCHAREST
BLACK SEA
BULGARIA

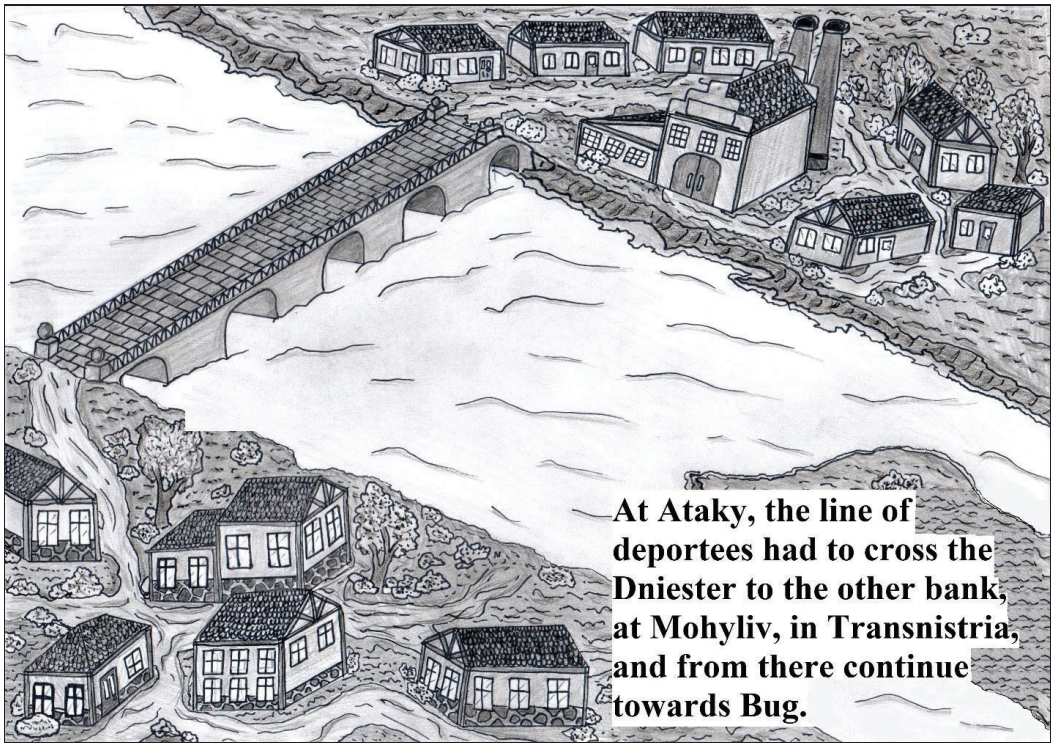

Because they were Jewish, Elemer, Rosza, and Katița were deported from Chernivtsi on October 31, 1941. The Gestapo ordered them to gather some few belongings and leave for the train station.

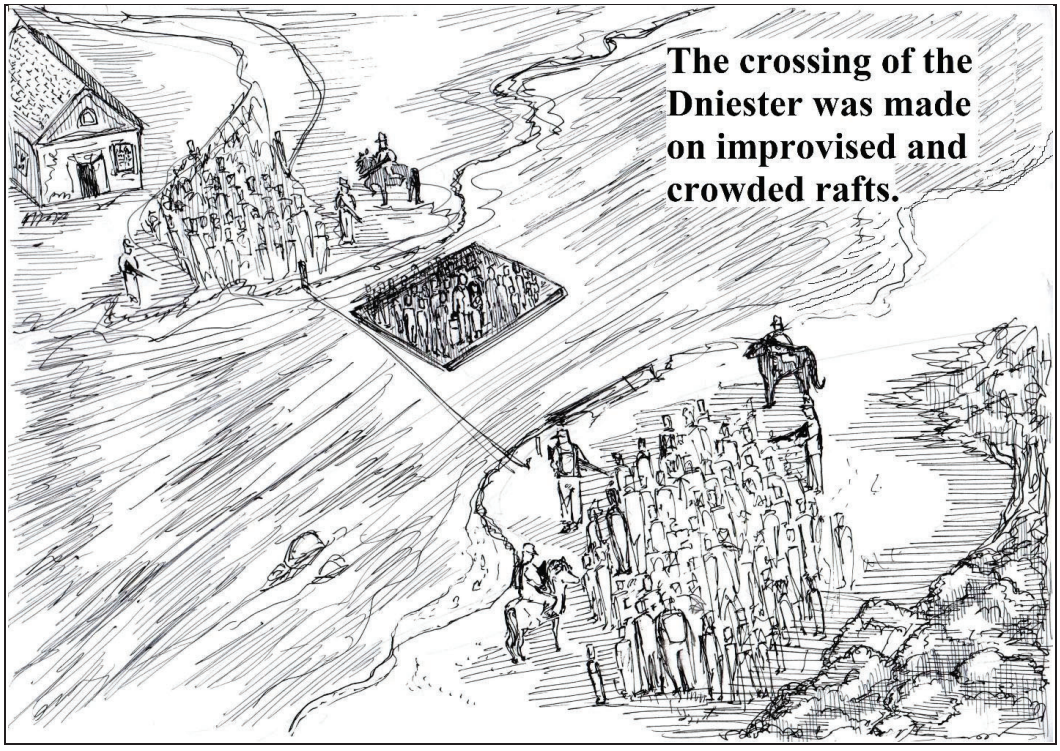

At the train station, the Jewish deportees from Chernivtsi were loaded onto cattle trains and sent eastward to an unknown destination.

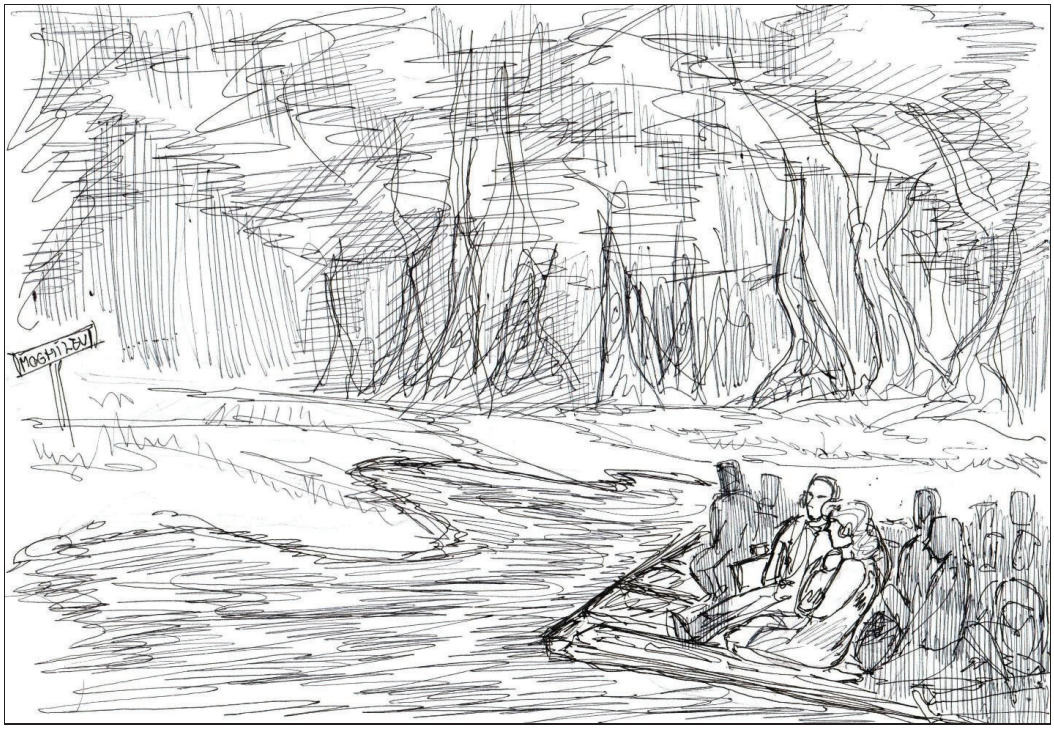

The train journey did not last long. After a while, the deportees were taken off the train and made to continue their journey on foot, through thick mud. Many lost their luggage and others even their lives.

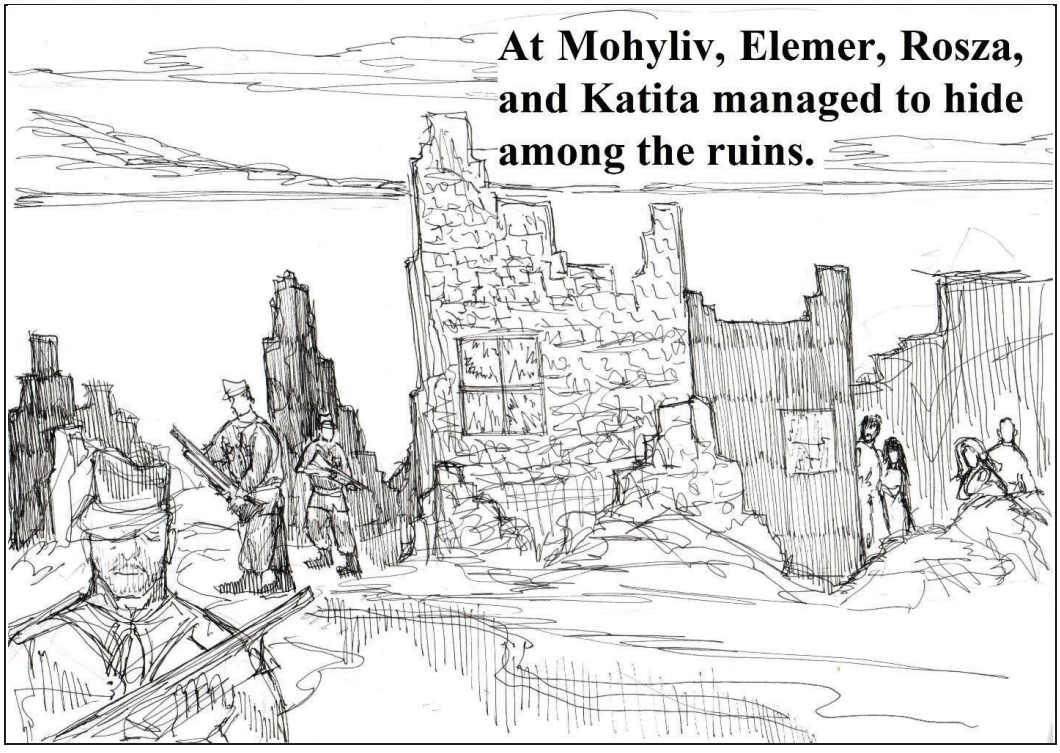

On the way, the deportees were attacked by peasants from the surrounding villages who wanted to rob them.

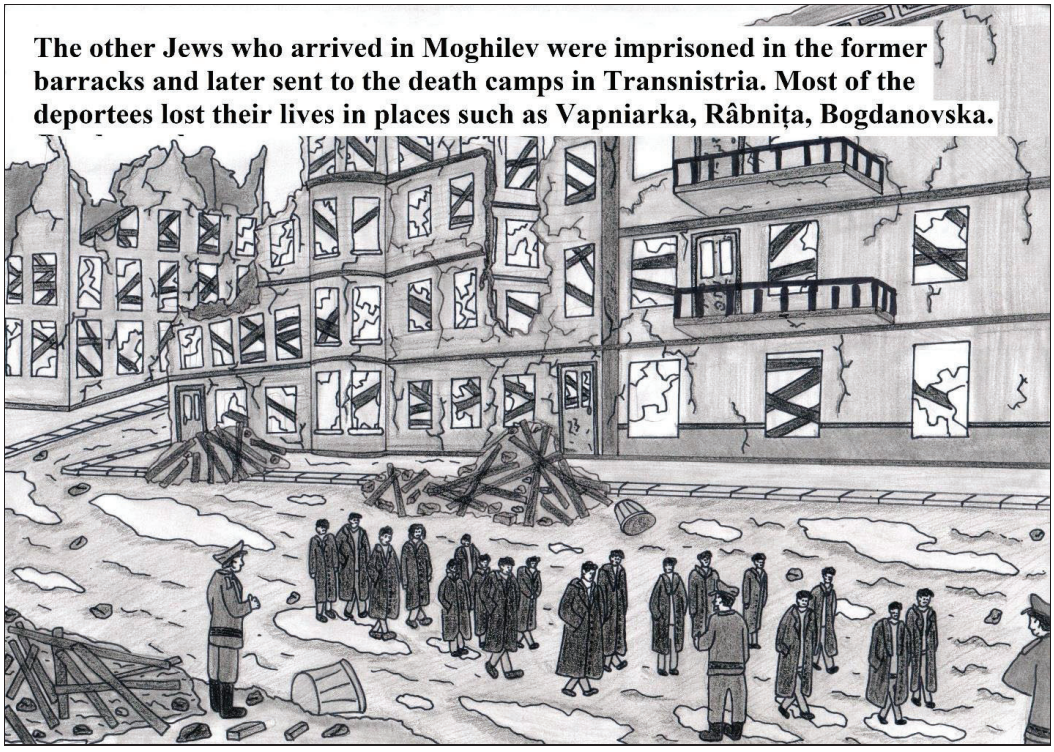

Elemer, Rosza and Katița finally arrived at Atachi, on the banks of the Dniester River.
MOHYLIV PODILSKYI
CHERNOVTSY
ATAKY
TRANSNISTRIA
JASSY
ONICENI
BESSARABIA
ROMANIA
BUCHAREST
BLACK SEA

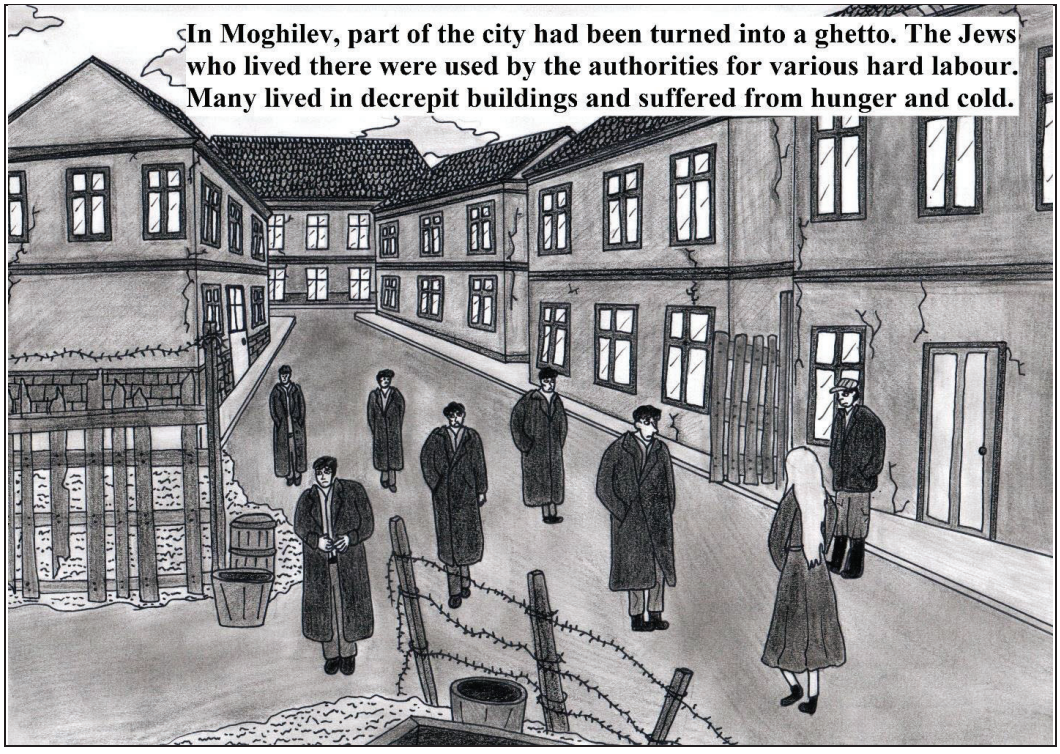

At Ataky, the line of deportees had to cross the Dniester to the other bank, at Mohyliv, in Transnistria, and from there continue towards Bug.

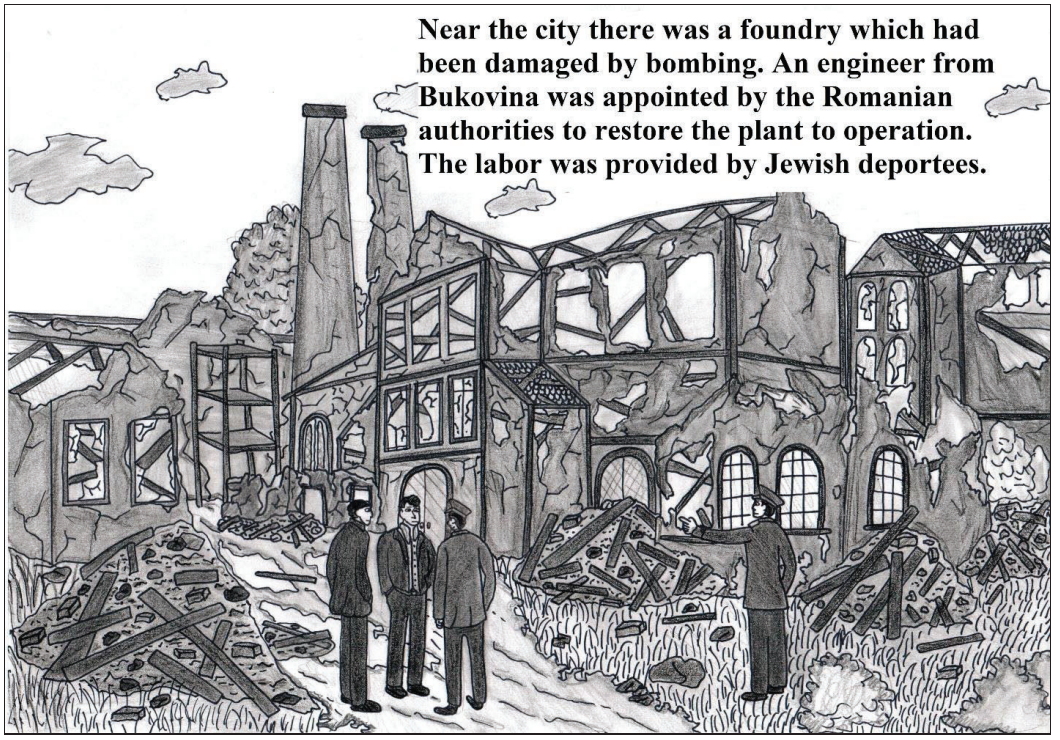

The crossing of the Dniester was made on improvised and crowded rafts.

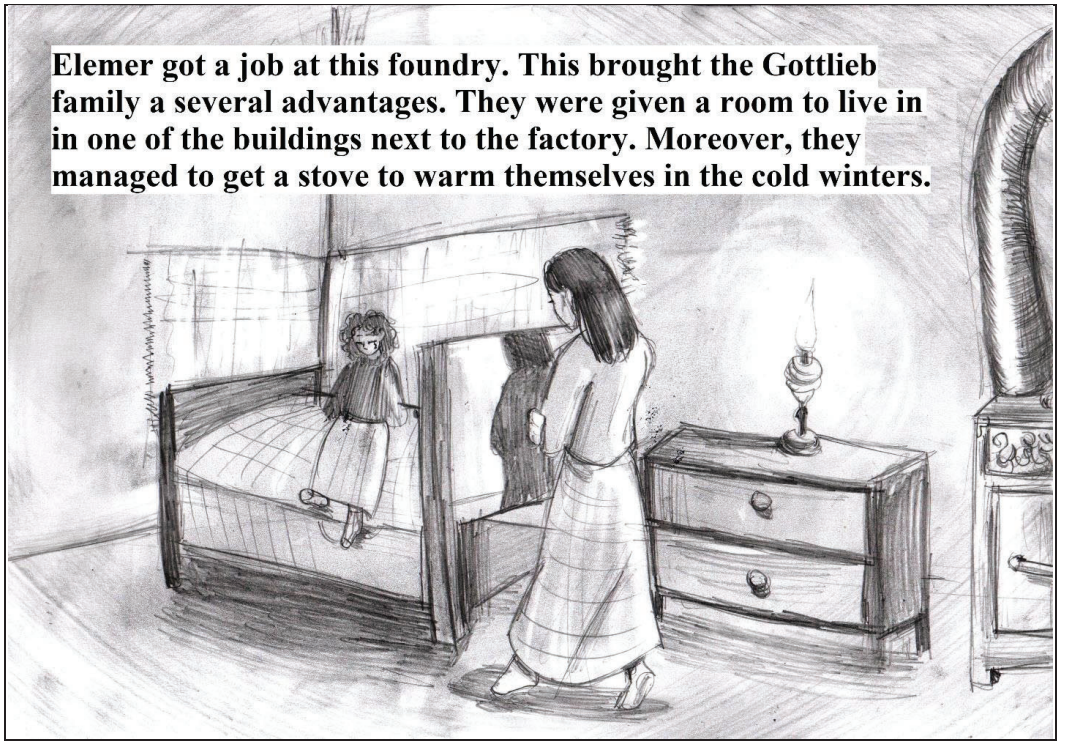


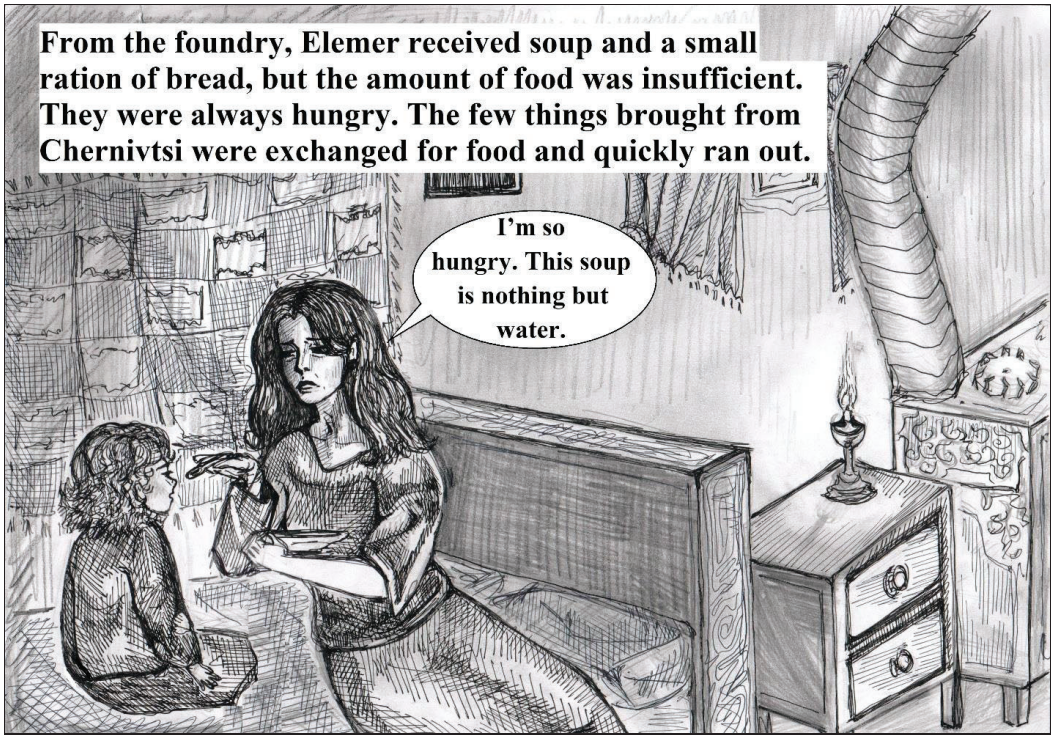

At Mohyliv, Elemer, Rosza, and Katita managed to hide among the ruins.

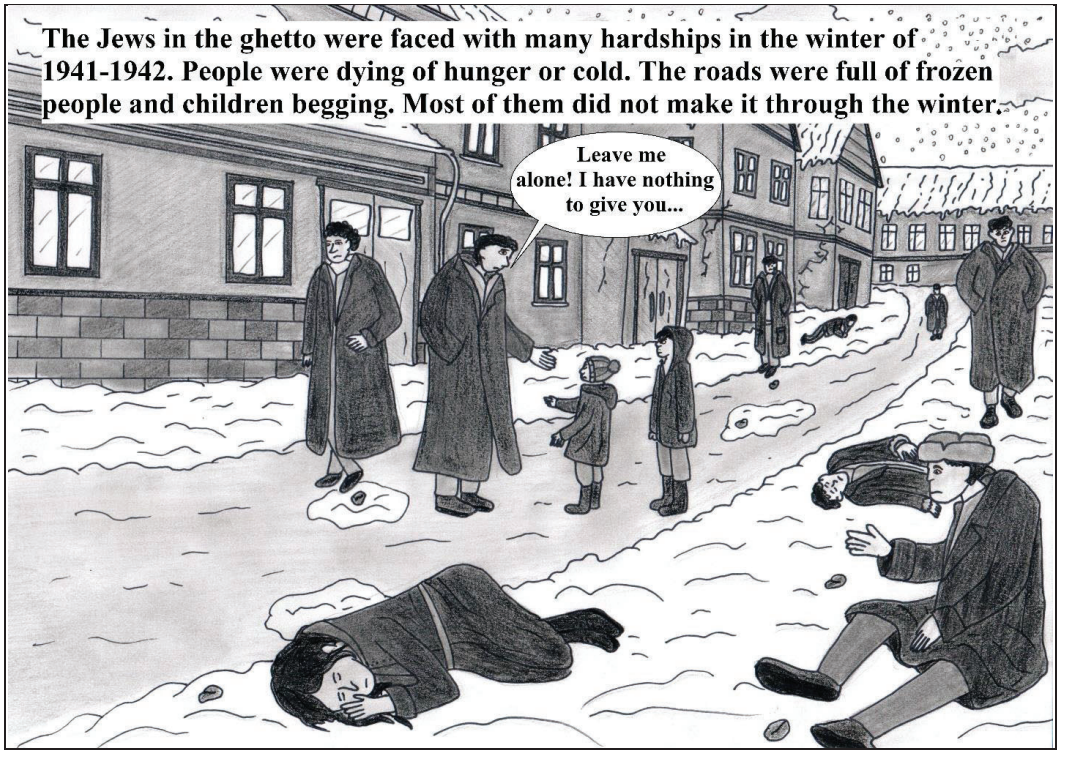

The other Jews who arrived in Moghilev were imprisoned in the former barracks and later sent to the death camps in Transnistria. Most of the deportees lost their lives in places such as Vapniarka, Râbnița, Bogdanovska.


In Moghilev, part of the city had been turned into a ghetto. The Jews who lived there were used by the authorities for various hard labour. Many lived in decrepit buildings and suffered from hunger and cold.

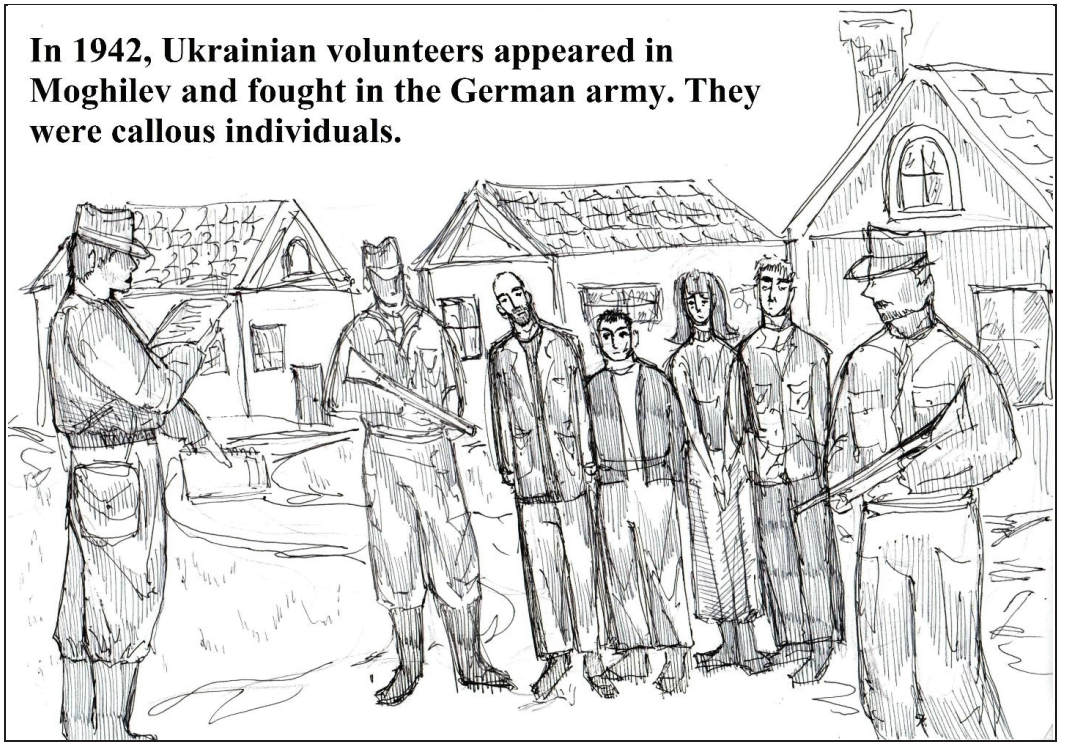

Near the city there was a foundry which had been damaged by bombing. An engineer from Bukovina was appointed by the Romanian authorities to restore the plant to operation. The labor was provided by Jewish deportees.

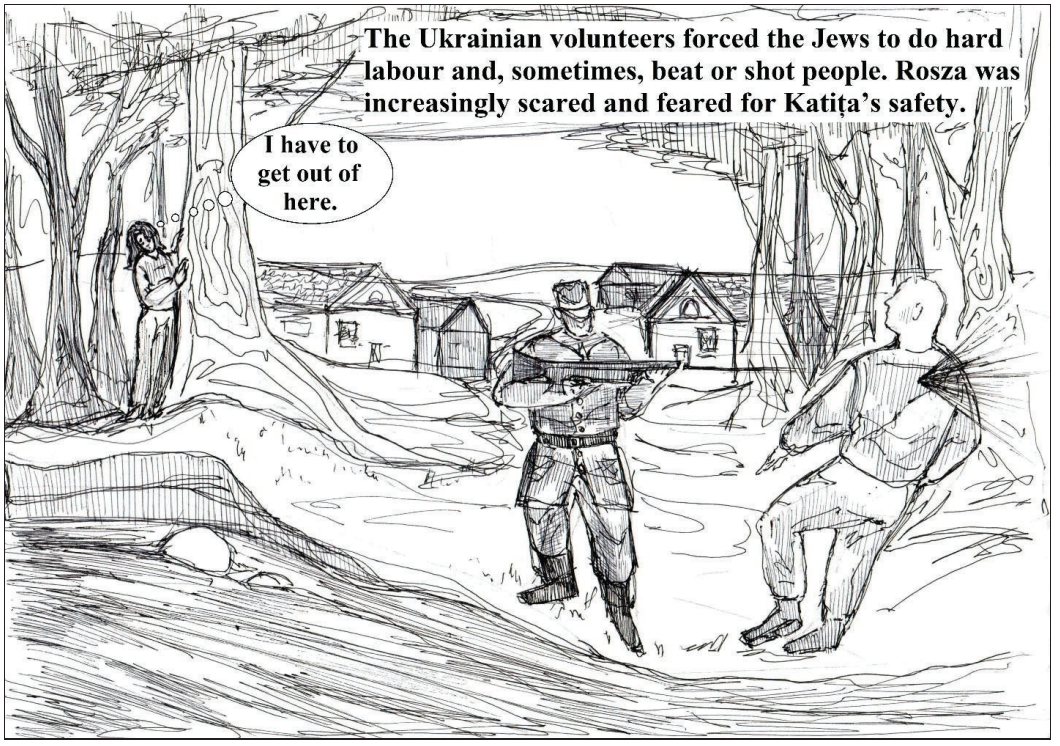

Elemer got a job at this foundry. This brought the Gottlieb family a several advantages. They were given a room to live in in one of the buildings next to the factory. Moreover, they managed to get a stove to warm themselves in the cold winters.

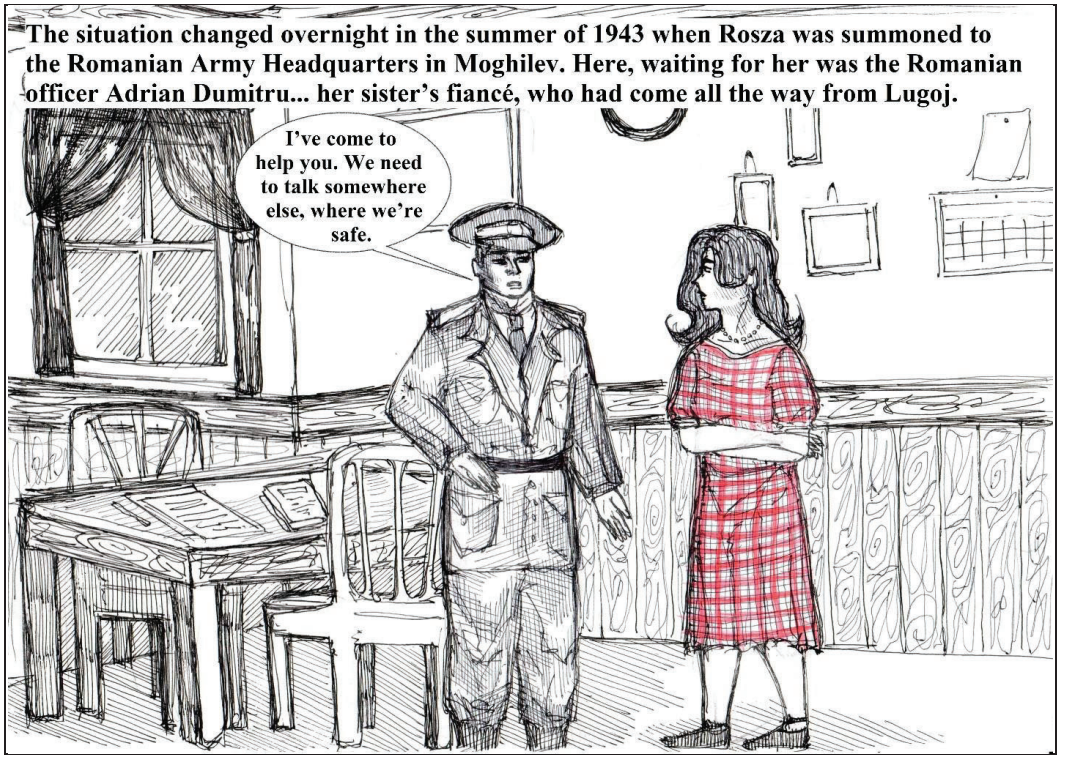

From the foundry, Elemer received soup and a small ration of bread, but the amount of food was insufficient. They were always hungry. The few things brought from Chernivtsi were exchanged for food and quickly ran out.
I'm so hungry. This soup is nothing but water.

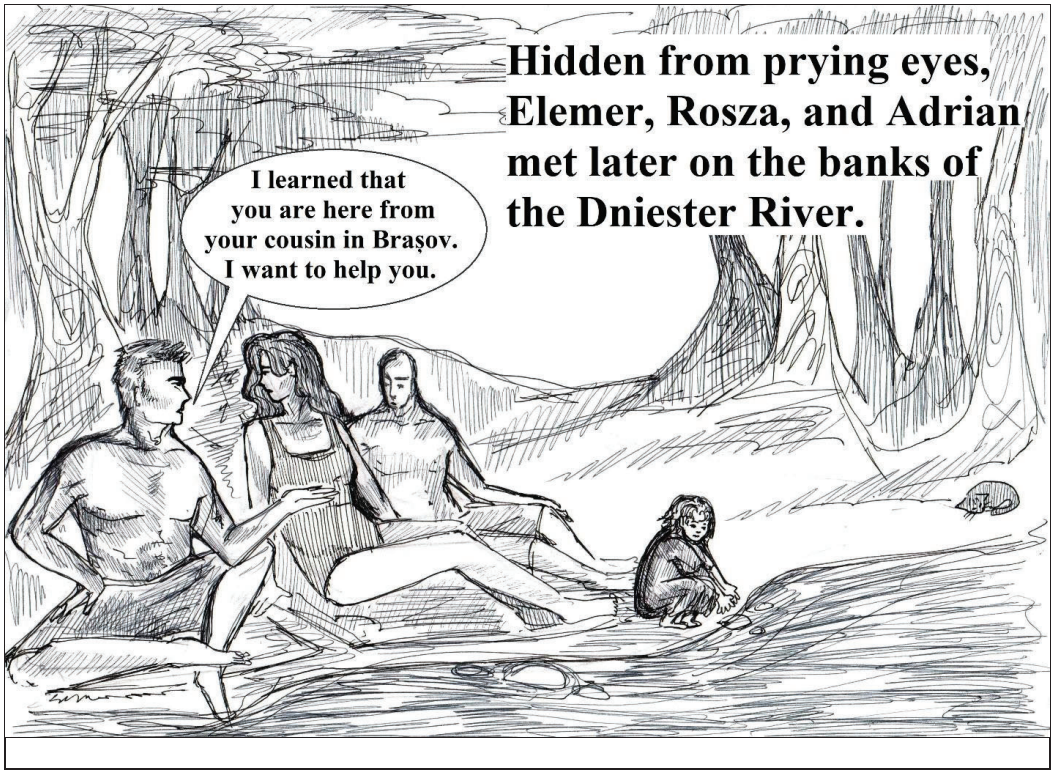

The Jews in the ghetto were faced with many hardships in the winter of 1941-1942. People were dying of hunger or cold. The roads were full of frozen people and children begging. Most of them did not make it through the winter.
Leave me alone! I have nothing to give you...

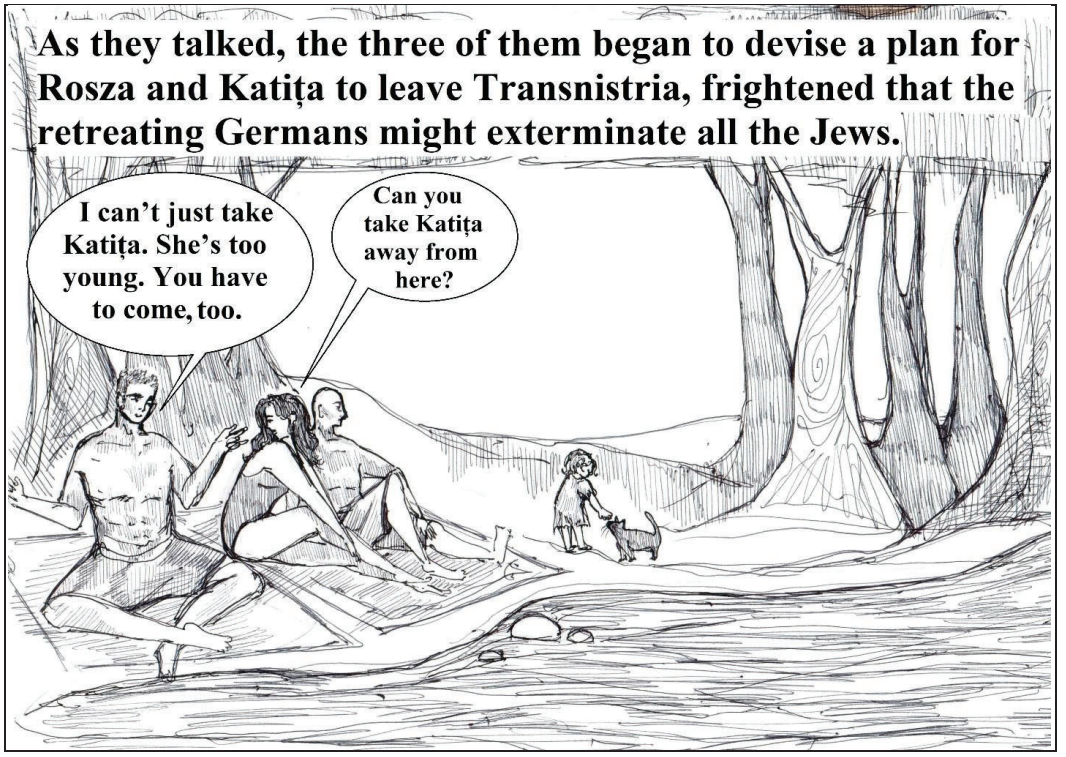

While the Romanian authorities did not care much about the deportees, the Germans would arrest the Jews in the ghetto and deport them to the death camps in Transnistria.
Enough with you, parasites! To Bug with you!

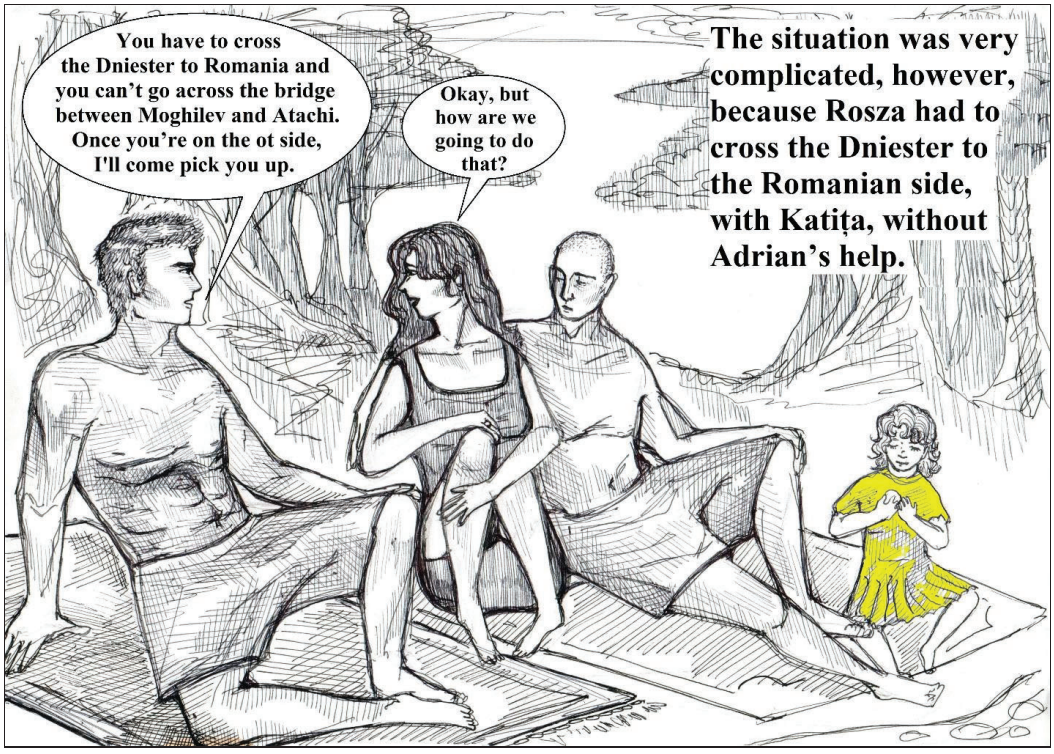

In 1942, Ukrainian volunteers appeared in Moghilev and fought in the German army. They were callous individuals.

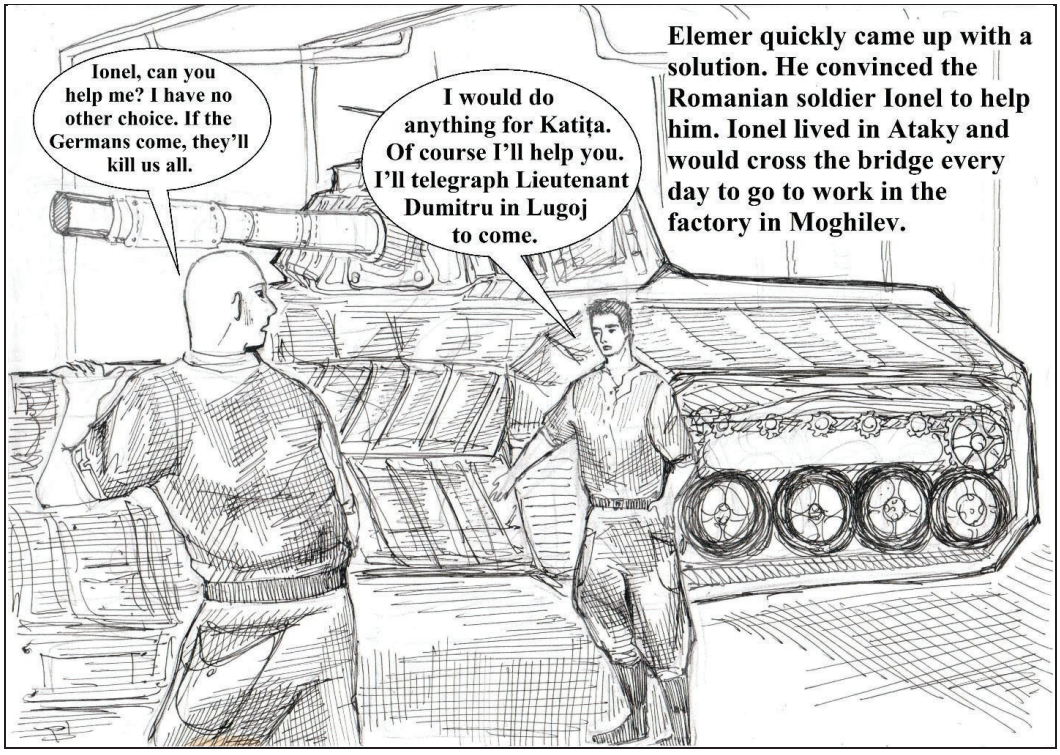

The Ukrainian volunteers forced the Jews to do hard labour and, sometimes, beat or shot people. Rosza was increasingly scared and feared for Katița's safety.
I have to get out of here.

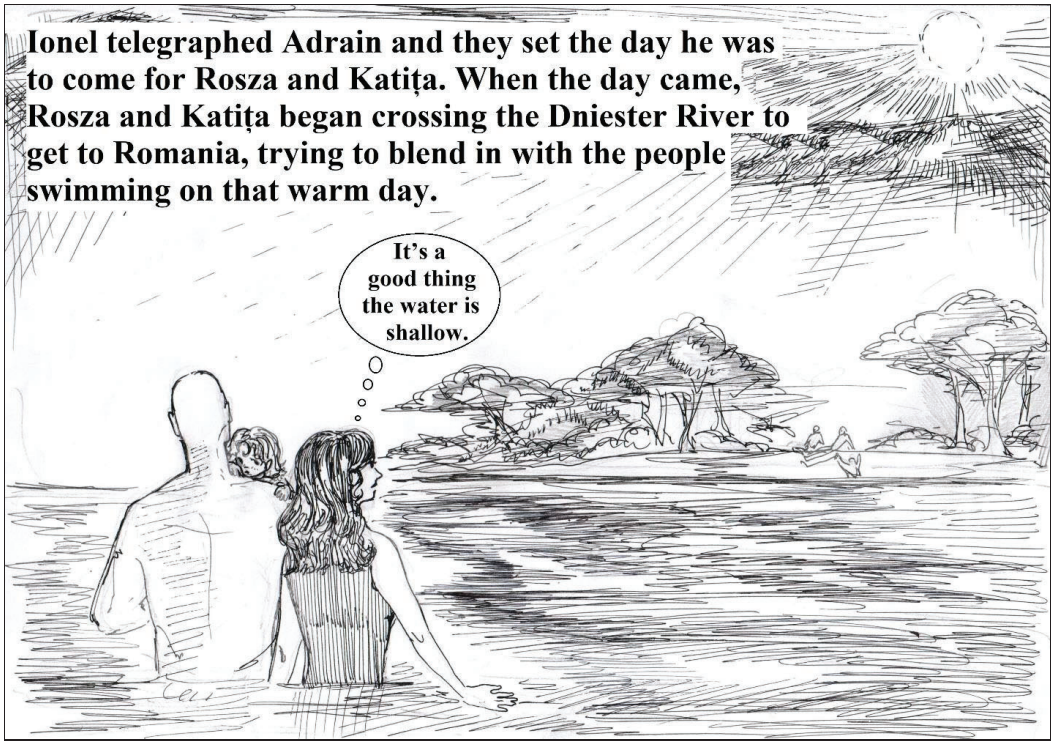

The situation changed overnight in the summer of 1943 when Rosza was summoned to the Romanian Army Headquarters in Moghilev. Here, waiting for her was the Romanian officer Adrian Dumitru... her sister's fiancé, who had come all the way from Lugoj.
I've come to help you. We need to talk somewhere else, where we're safe.

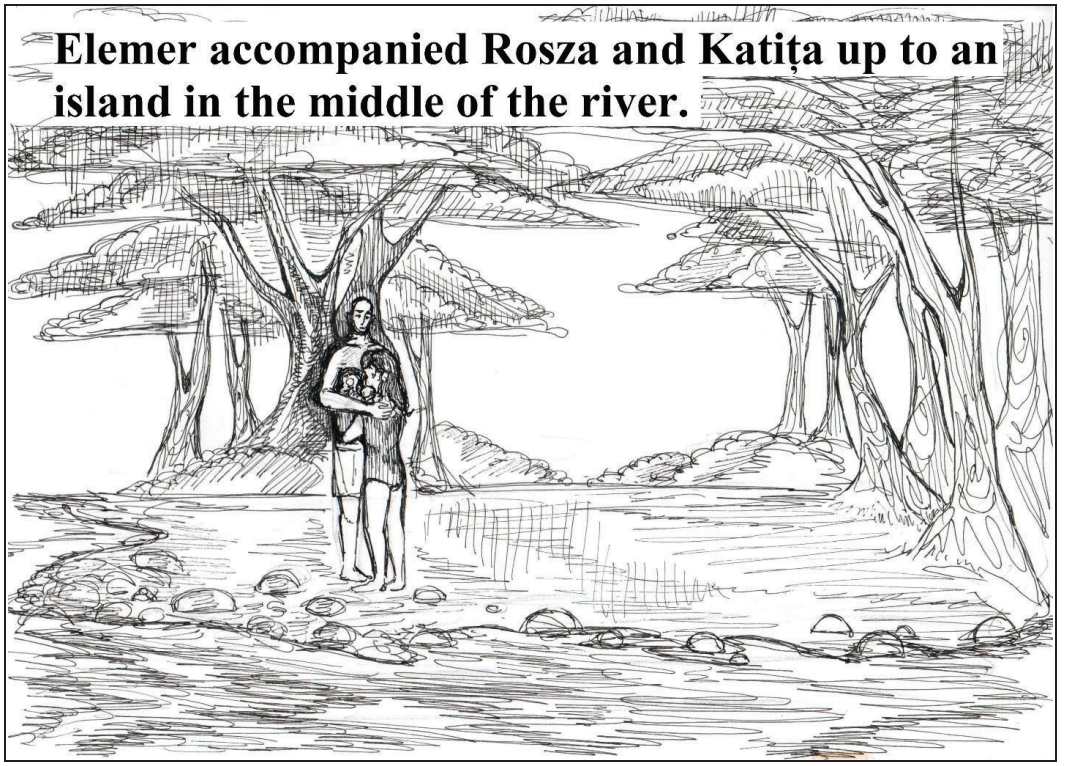

Hidden from prying eyes, Elemer, Rosza, and Adrian met later on the banks of the Dniester River.
I learned that you are here from your cousin in Brașov. I want to help you.

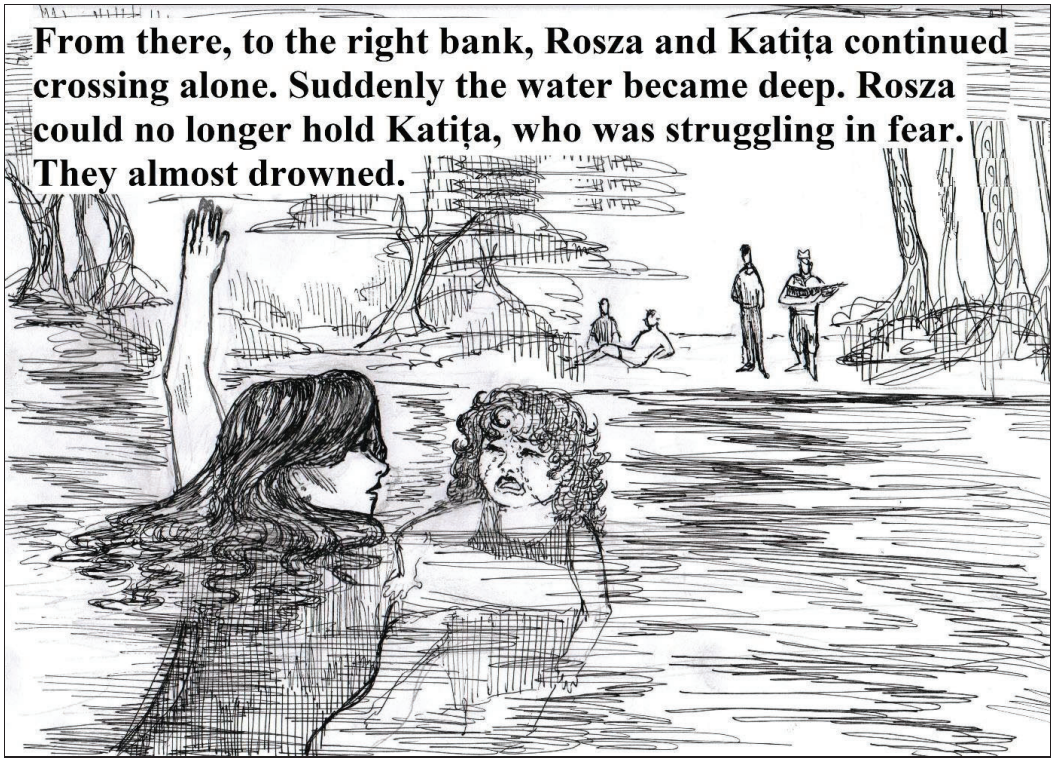

As they talked, the three of them began to devise a plan for Rosza and Katița to leave Transnistria, frightened that the retreating Germans might exterminate all the Jews.
I can't just take Katița. She's too young. You have to come, too.
Can you take Katița away from here?

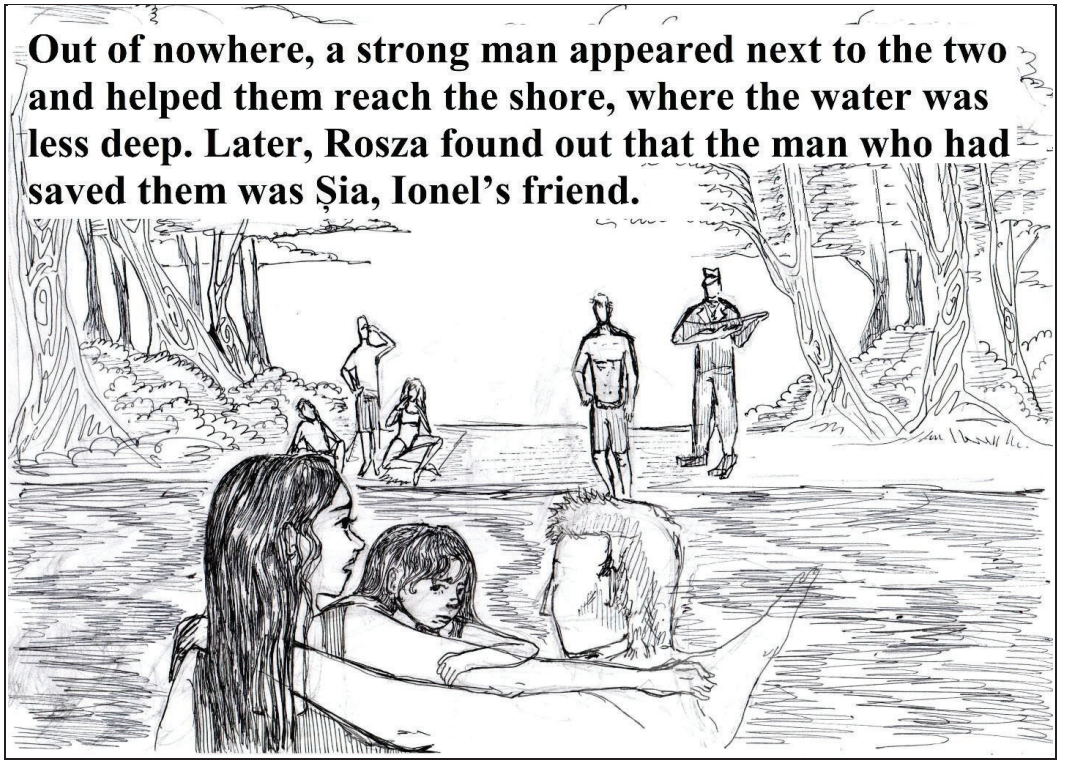

You have to cross the Dniester to Romania and you can't go across the bridge between Moghilev and Atachi. Once you're on the ot side, I'll come pick you up.
Okay, but how are we going to do that?
The situation was very complicated, however, because Rosza had to cross the Dniester to the Romanian side, with Katița, without Adrian's help.

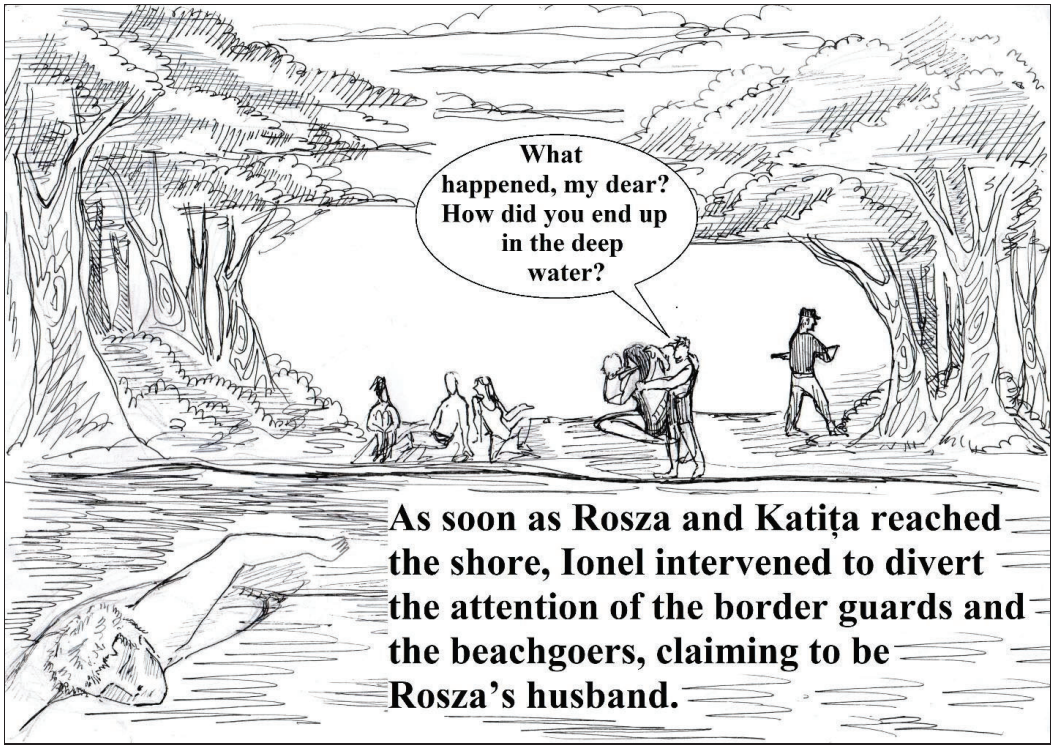

Ionel, can you help me? I have no other choice. If the Germans come, they'll kill us all.
I would do anything for Katița. Of course I'll help you. I'll telegraph Lieutenant Dumitru in Lugoj to come.
Elemer quickly came up with a solution. He convinced the Romanian soldier Ionel to help him. Ionel lived in Ataky and would cross the bridge every day to go to work in the factory in Moghilev.

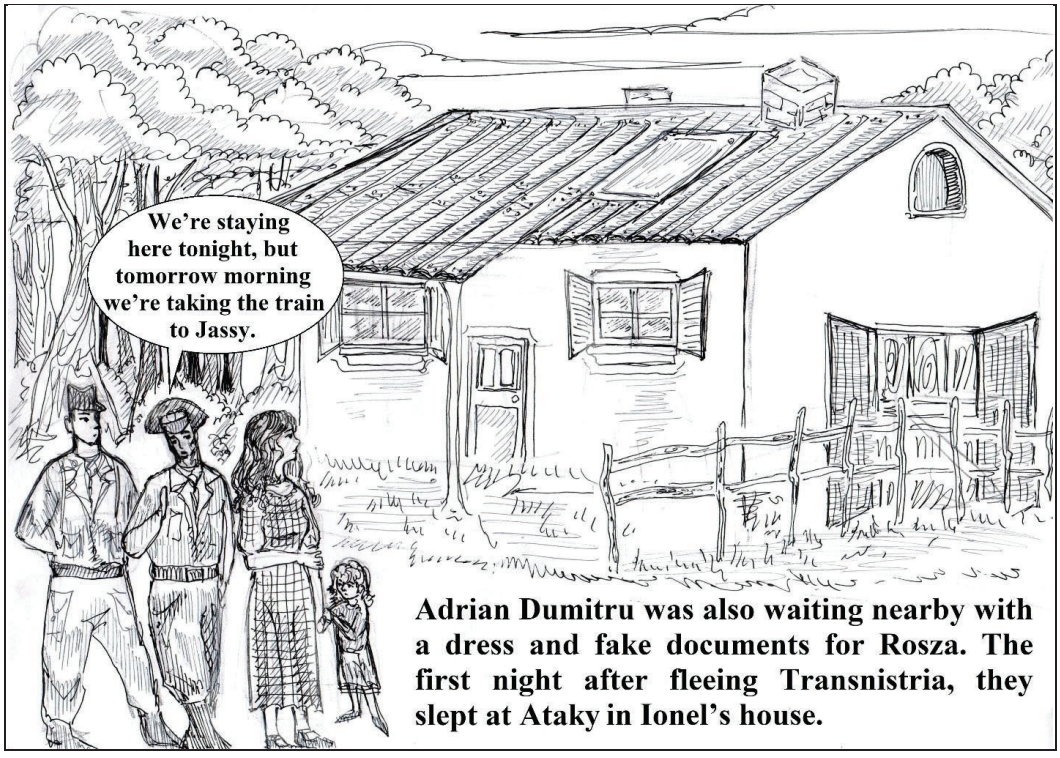

Ionel telegraphed Adrain and they set the day he was to come for Rosza and Katița. When the day came, Rosza and Katița began crossing the Dniester River to get to Romania, trying to blend in with the people swimming on that warm day.
It's a good thing the water is shallow.

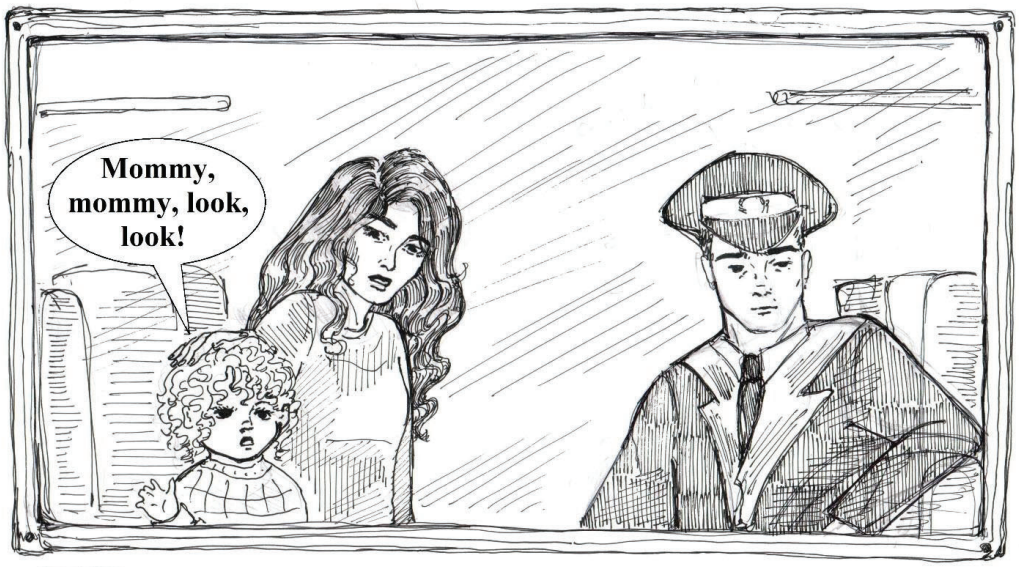

Elemer accompanied Rosza and Katița up to an island in the middle of the river.


From there, to the right bank, Rosza and Katița continued crossing alone. Suddenly the water became deep. Rosza could no longer hold Katița, who was struggling in fear. They almost drowned.

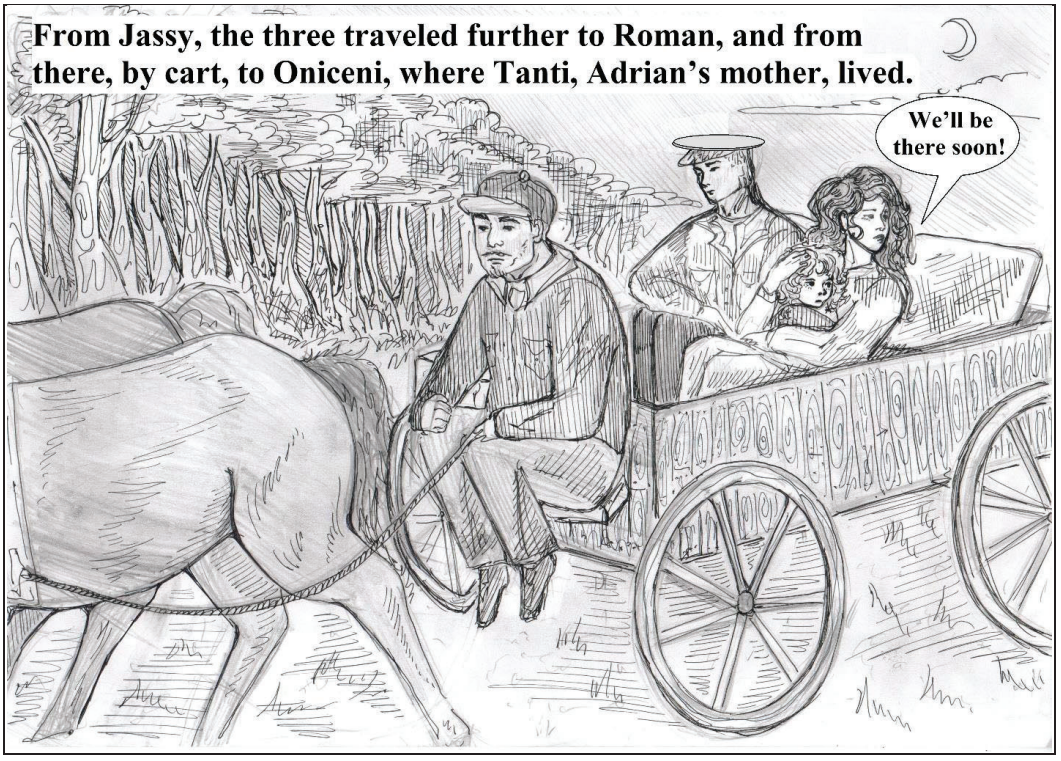

Out of nowhere, a strong man appeared next to the two and helped them reach the shore, where the water was less deep. Later, Rosza found out that the man who had saved them was Șia, Ionel's friend.


What happened, my dear? How did you end up in the deep water?
As soon as Rosza and Katița reached the shore, Ionel intervened to divert the attention of the border guards and the beachgoers, claiming to be Rosza's husband.

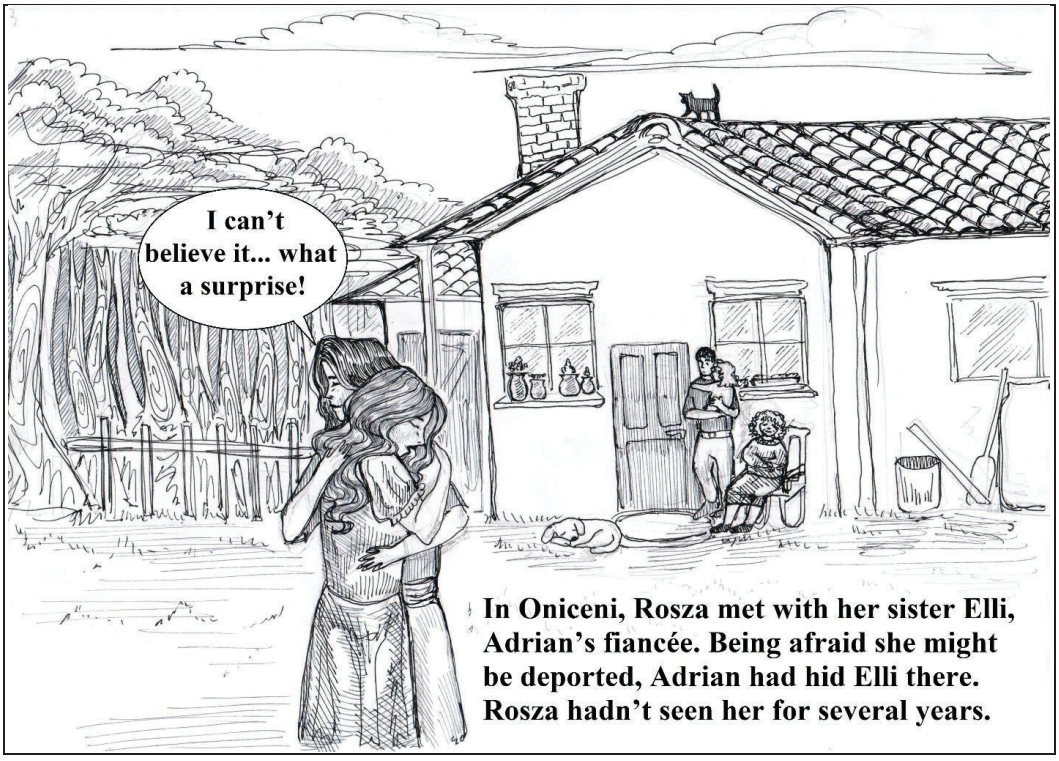

We're staying here tonight, but tomorrow morning we're taking the train to Jassy.
Adrian Dumitru was also waiting nearby with a dress and fake documents for Rosza. The first night after fleeing Transnistria, they slept at Ataky in Ionel's house.

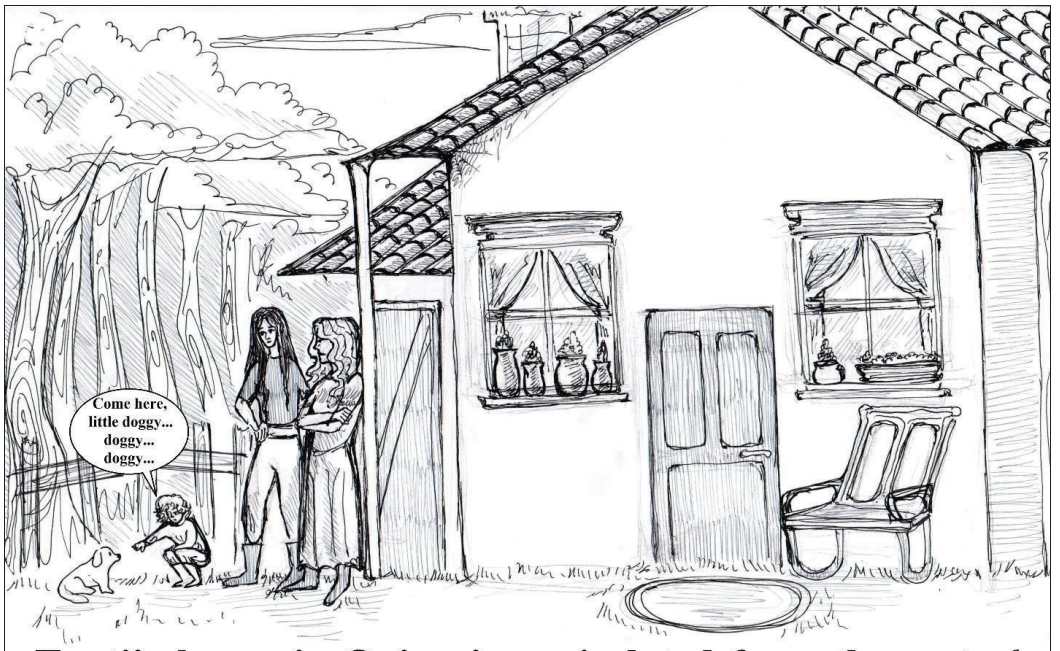


Because Adrian Dumitru was an officer, the three of them managed to travel safely to Jassy, despite the fact that the trains were very crowded.

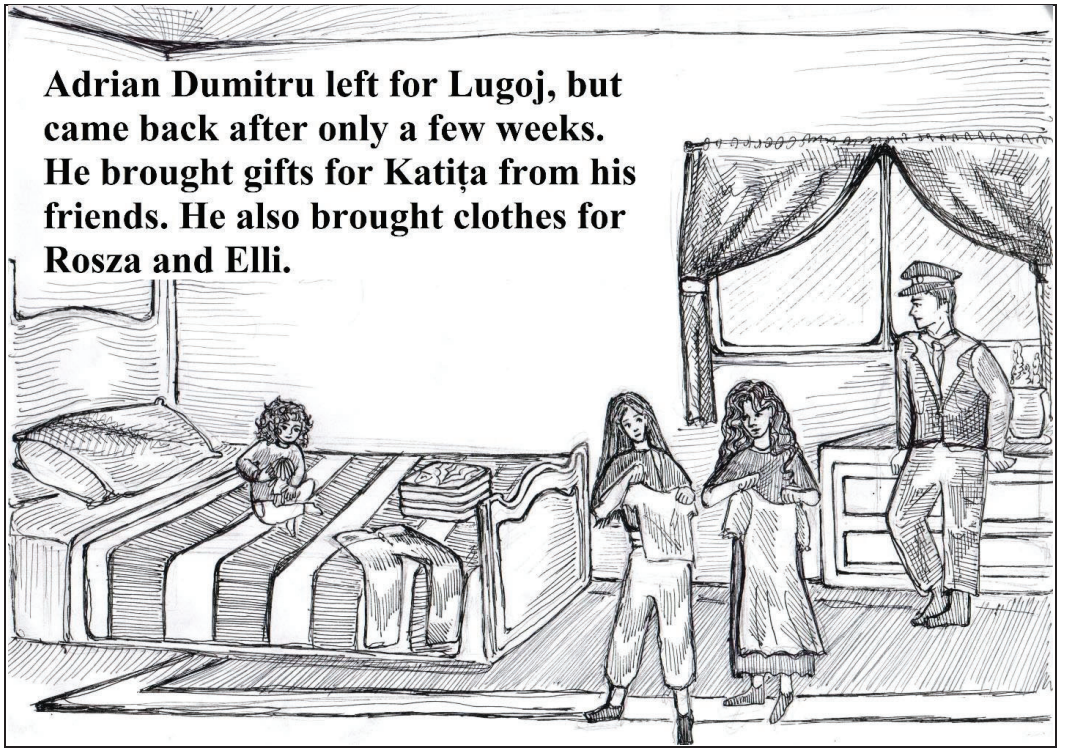



CHERNOVTSY
MOHYLIV
PODILSKYI
ATAKY
TRANSNISTRIA
JASSY
ONICENI
BESSARABIA
ROMANIA
BUCHAREST
BLACK
SEA

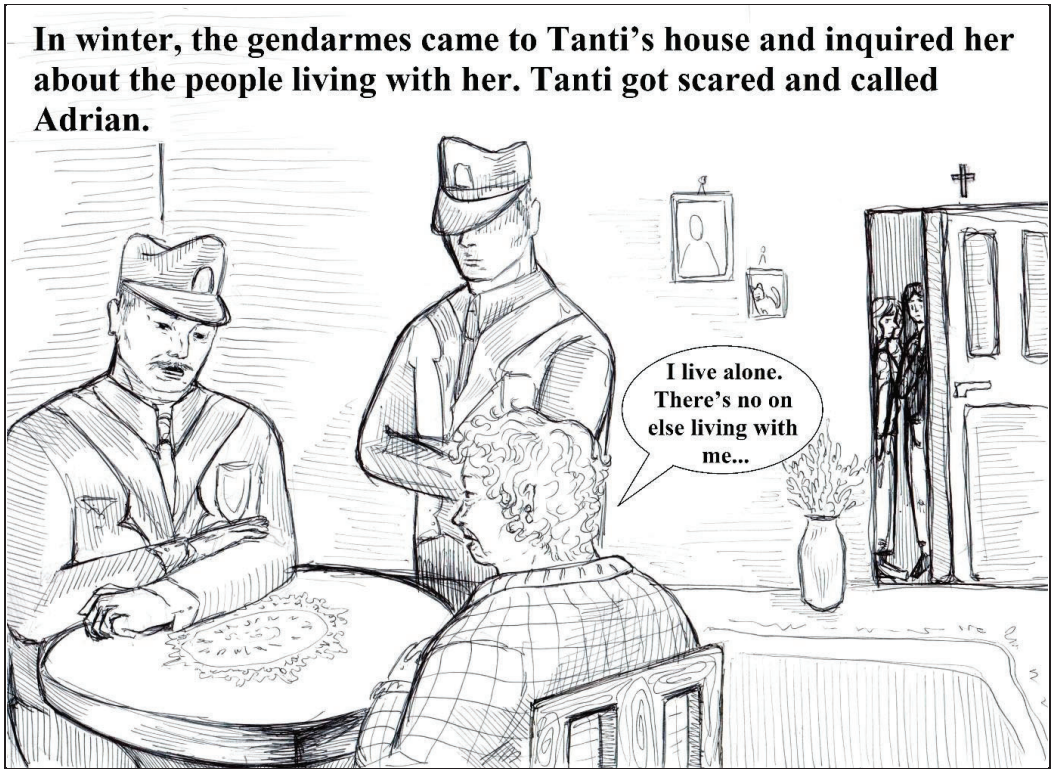

I can't believe it... what a surprise!
In Oniceni, Rosza met with her sister Elli, Adrian's fiancée. Being afraid she might be deported, Adrian had hid Elli there. Rosza hadn't seen her for several years.

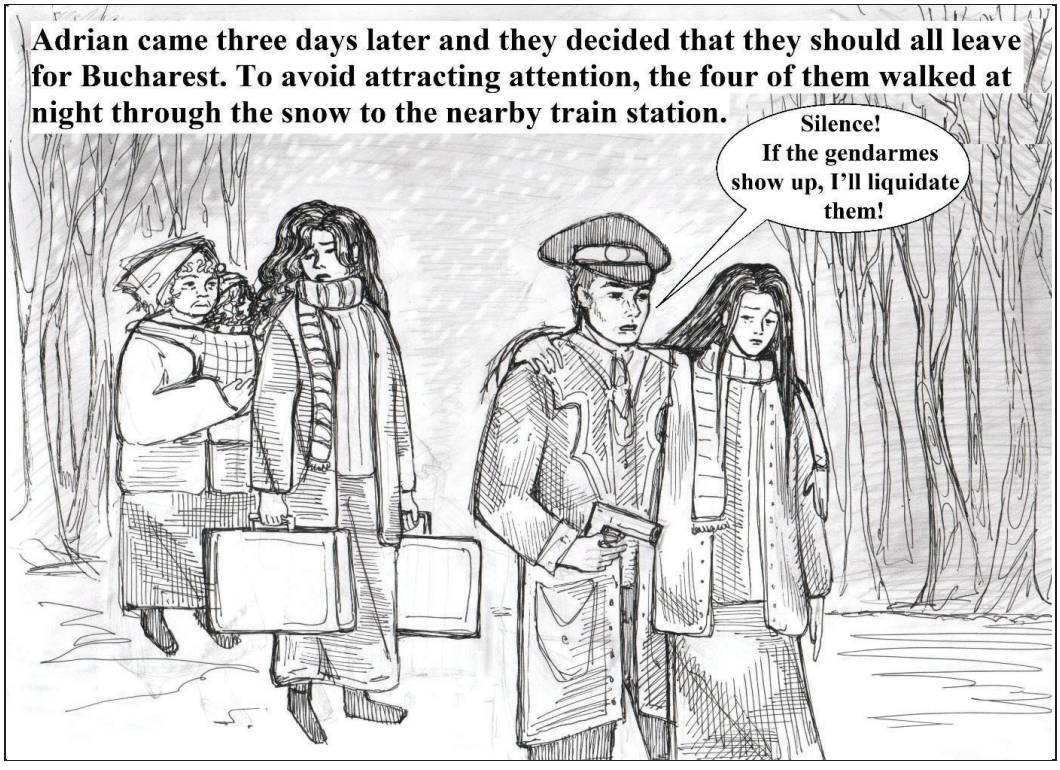


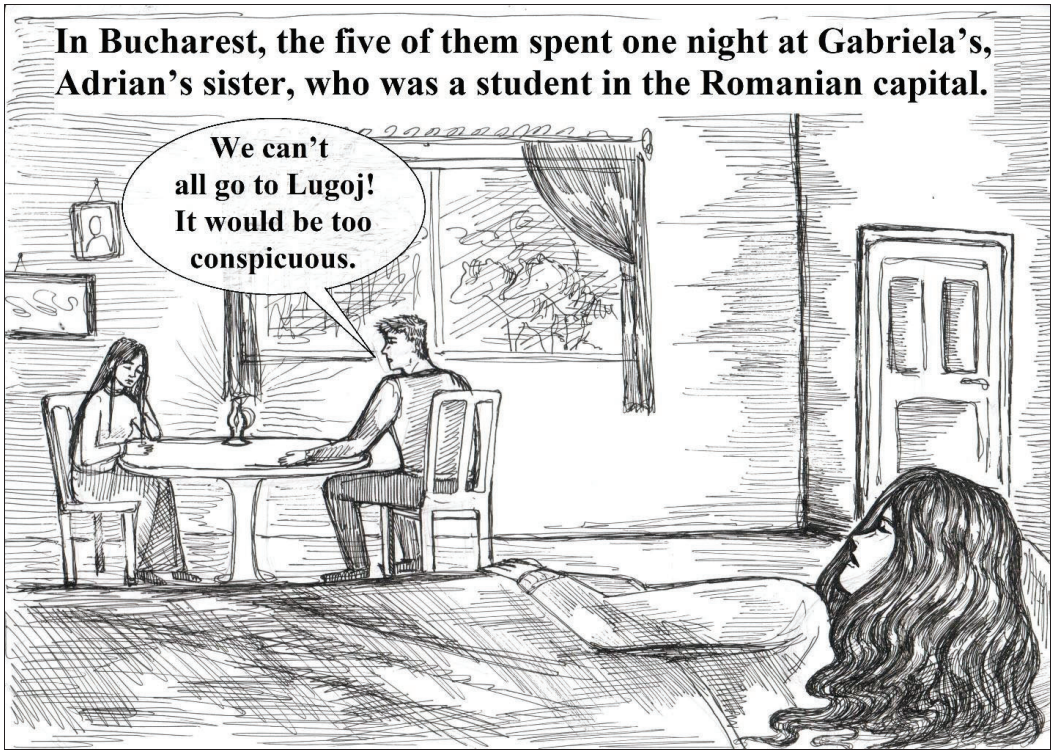
Tanti's house in Oniceni was isolated from the rest of the village. To Kaița's joy the, yard was full of animals.

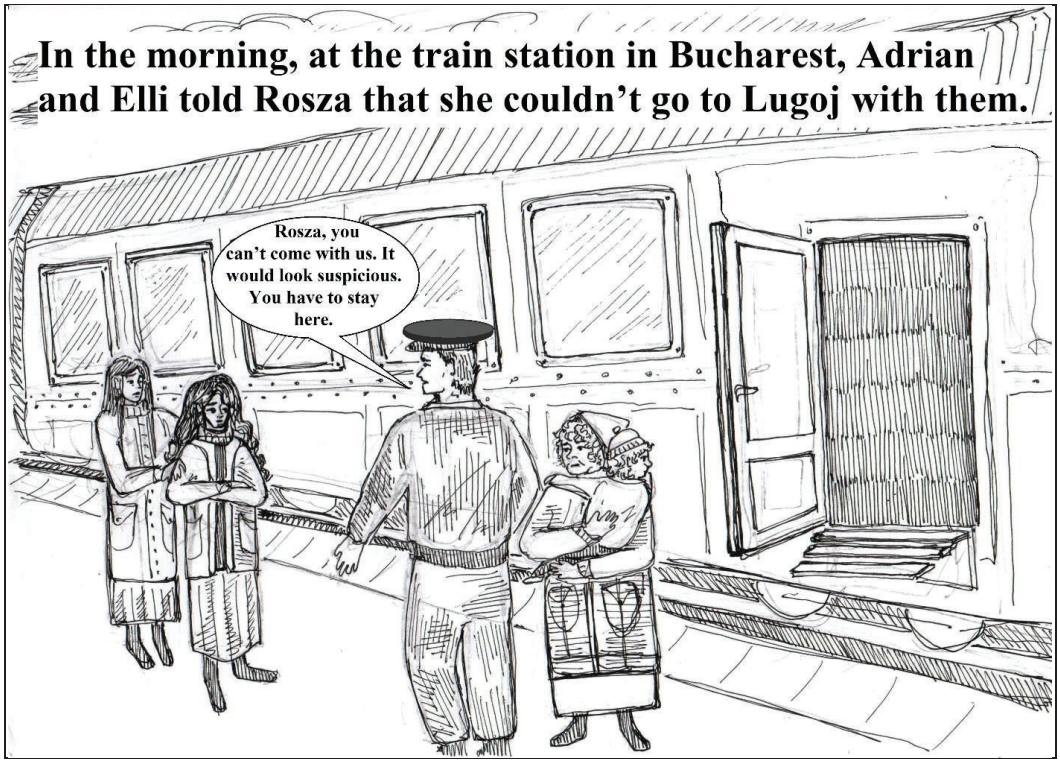


Adrian Dumitru left for Lugoj, but came back after only a few weeks. He brought gifts for Katița from his friends. He also brought clothes for Rosza and Elli.

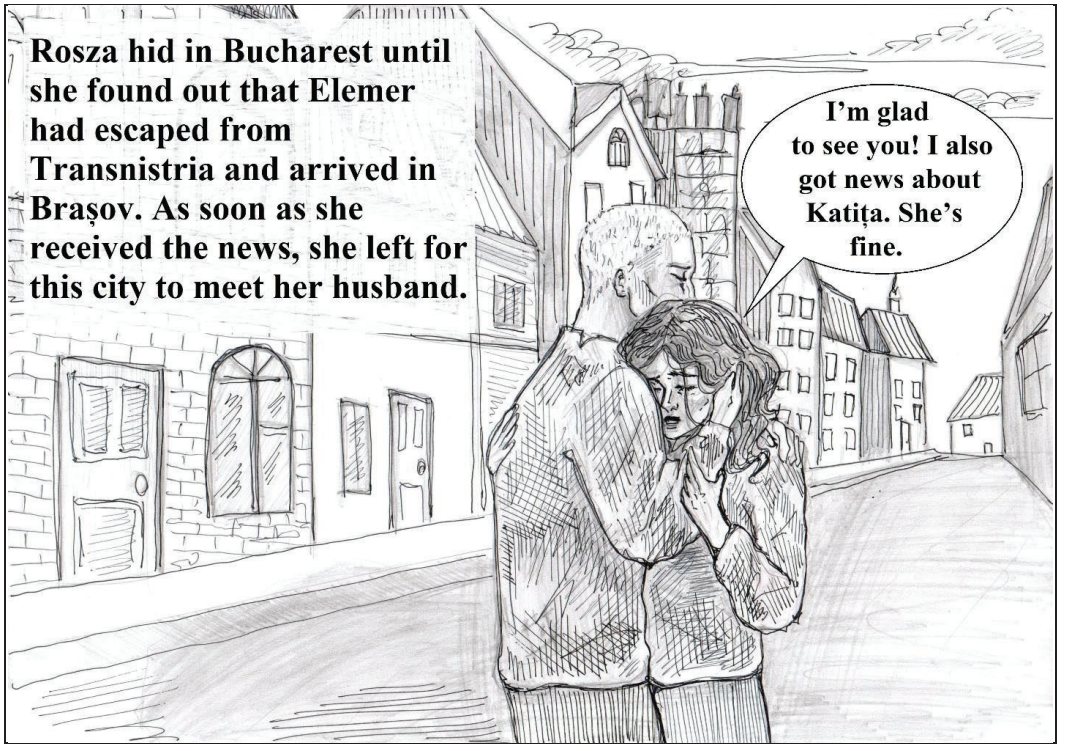

In winter, the gendarmes came to Tanti's house and inquired her about the people living with her. Tanti got scared and called Adrian.
I live alone. There's no on else living with me...

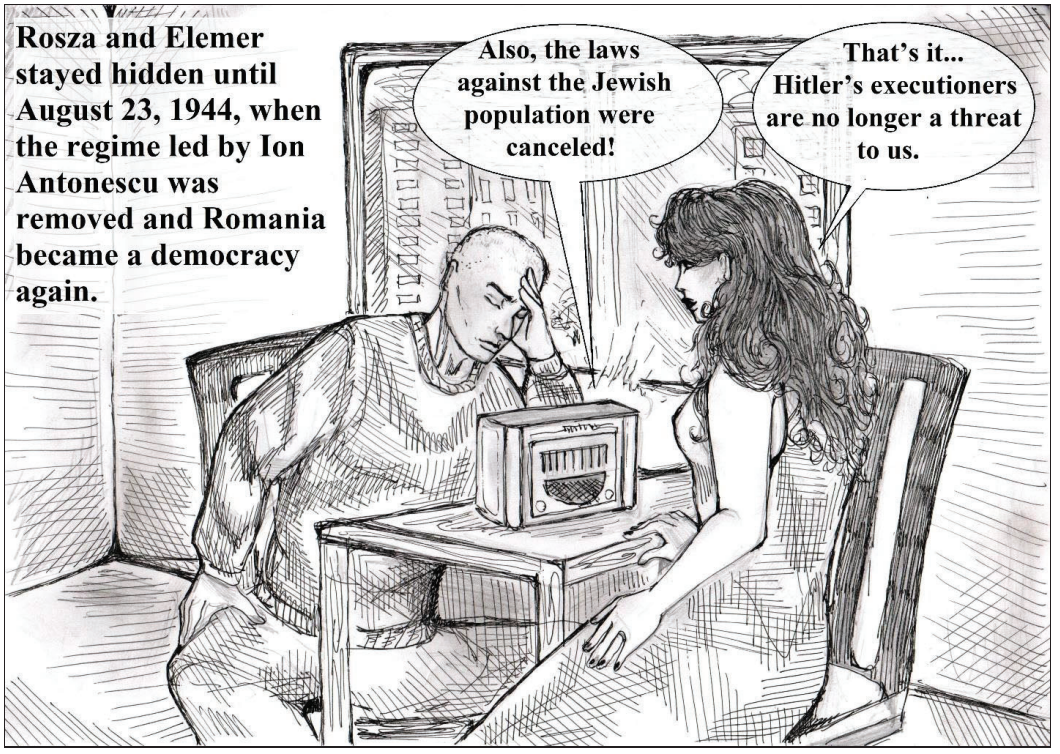

Adrian came three days later and they decided that they should all leave for Bucharest. To avoid attracting attention, the four of them walked at night through the snow to the nearby train station.
Silence! If the gendarmes show up, I'll liquidate them!

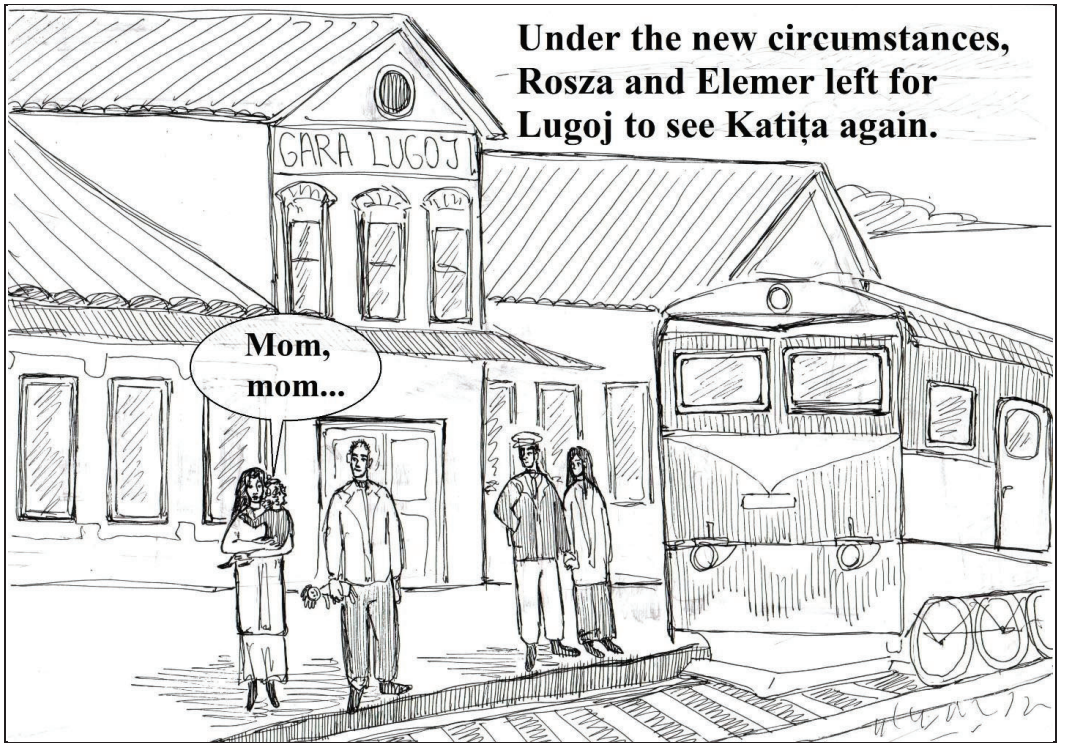

In Bucharest, the five of them spent one night at Gabriela's, Adrian's sister, who was a student in the Romanian capital.
We can't all go to Lugoj! It would be too conspicuous.


In the morning, at the train station in Bucharest, Adrian and Elli told Rosza that she couldn't go to Lugoj with them.
Rosza, you can't come with us. It would look suspicious. You have to stay here.


Furthermore, Adrian and Elli decided to take Katița with them.
Mom... mom...


Rosza hid in Bucharest until she found out that Elemer had escaped from Transnistria and arrived in Brașov. As soon as she received the news, she left for this city to meet her husband.
I'm glad to see you! I also got news about Katița. She's fine.


Rosza and Elemer stayed hidden until August 23, 1944, when the regime led by Ion Antonescu was removed and Romania became a democracy again.
Also, the laws against the Jewish population were canceled!
That's it... Hitler's executioners are no longer a threat to us.

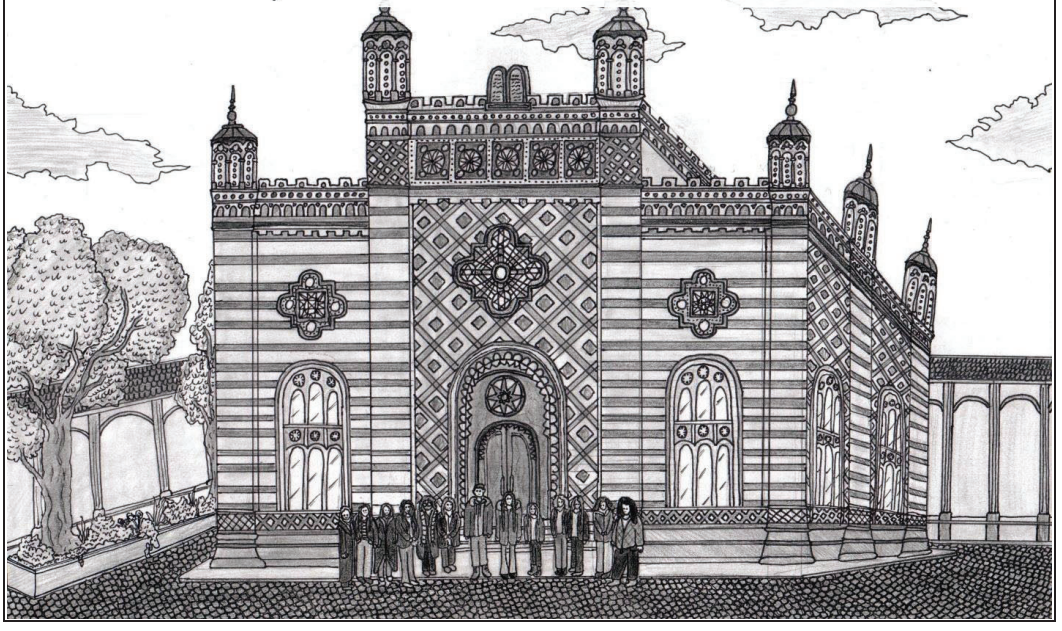

Under the new circumstances, Rosza and Elemer left for Lugoj to see Katița again.
GARA LUGOJ
Mom, mom...

This story shows us that even in the darkest moments of humanity, such as the Holocaust, the actions of good people can make a difference.

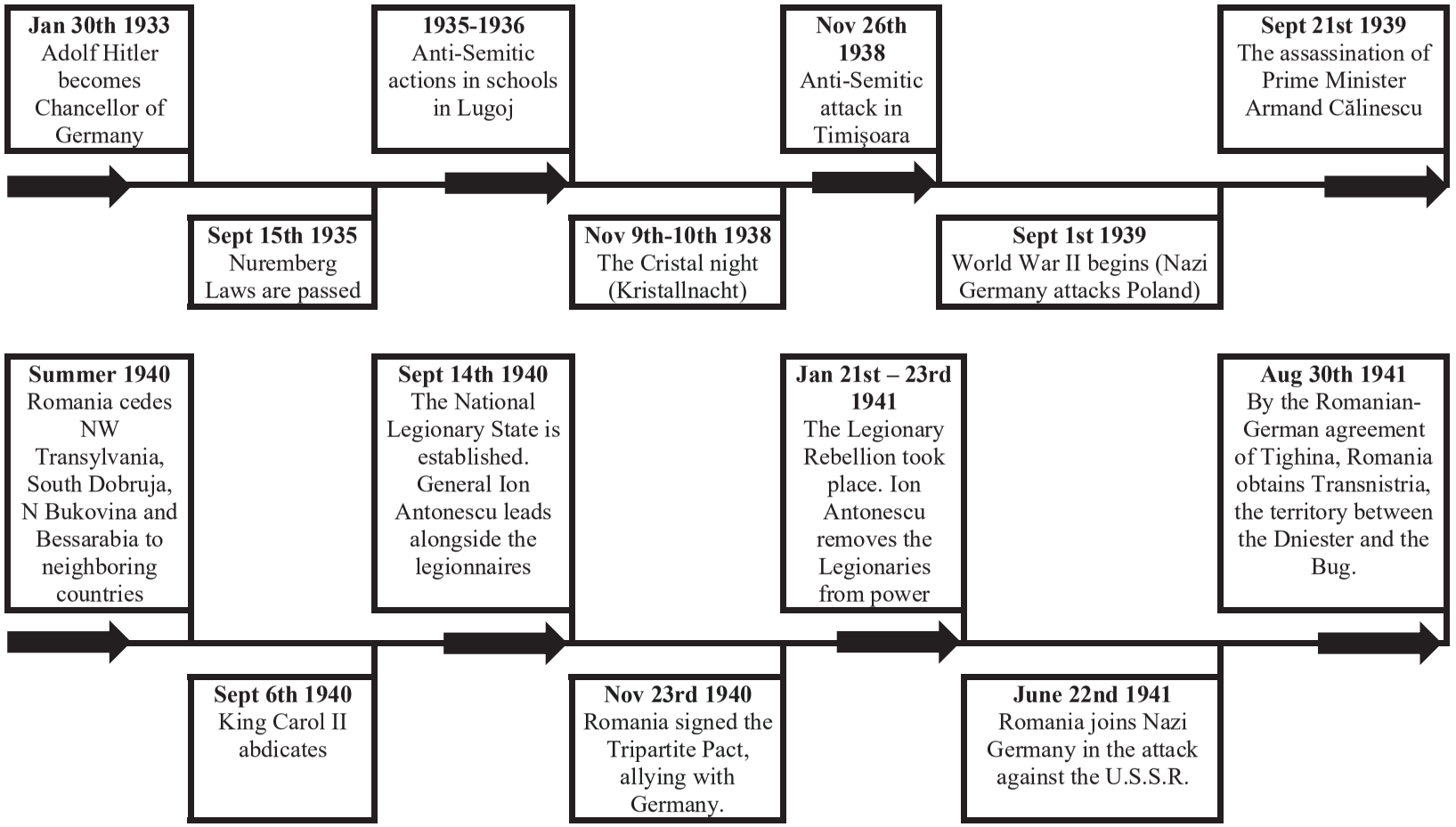
After the war, Adrian Dumitru, his mother, Maria and his sister Gabriela were awarded the title of „Righteous Among the Nations". But there were other heroes, such as the soldier Ionel and his friend Șia.

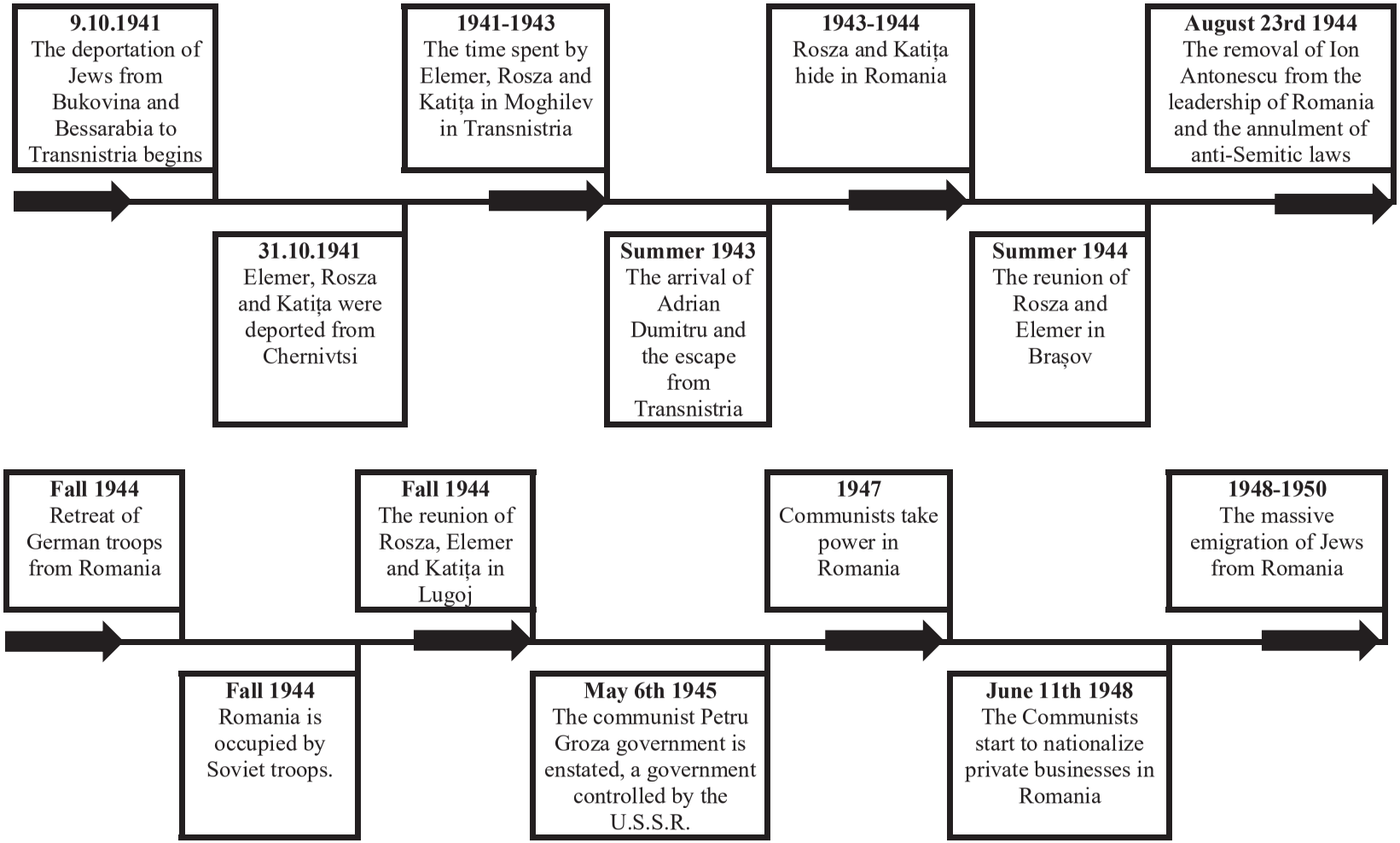


For us, the students of the „Iulia Hasdeu" Theoretical High School in Lugoj, the discovery of these stories was a long and beautiful journey that ends here... or maybe not... because WE WILL NEVER FORGET.



The timeline of the events in the two graphic stories




9.10.1941
The deportation of Jews from Bukovina and Bessarabia to Transnistria begins
31.10.1941
Elemer, Rosza and Katița were deported from Chernivtsi
1941-1943
The time spent by Elemer, Rosza and Katița in Moghilev in Transnistria
Summer 1943
The arrival of Adrian Dumitru and the escape from Transnistria
1943-1944
Rosza and Katița hide in Romania
Summer 1944
The reunion of Rosza and Elemer in Brașov
August 23rd 1944
The removal of Ion Antonescu from the leadership of Romania and the annulment of anti-Semitic laws
Fall 1944
Retreat of German troops from Romania
Fall 1944
Romania is occupied by Soviet troops.
Fall 1944
The reunion of Rosza, Elemer and Katița in Lugoj
May 6th 1945
The communist Petru Groza government is enstated, a government controlled by the U.S.S.R.
1947
Communists take power in Romania
June 11th 1948
The Communists start to nationalize private businesses in Romania
1948-1950
The massive emigration of Jews from Romania

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