EHRI Online Course in Holocaust Studies

Russian State Archives of the Socio-Political History (RGASPI), f. 558, d. 11, op. 208, l. 67.

The Holocaust in Ukraine - Transnistria

Translation: E06 Joseph Stalin edits a Pravda Report for 16 November 1941 on Romanian killings of Jews in Odessa

November 13, 1941. Vestnik inostrannoi sluzhebnoi informatsii TASS, Folio 48 (Continuation)

ROMANIAN ATROCITES IN ODESSA

IK.10147. LONDON, November 13 (TASS). According to the Reuter agency, the Ankara correspondent of the American broadcasting company National Broadcasting Company reported that Agronskii stated in a radio broadcast that the Romanian army committed one of the greatest mass killings of Jews in history in Odessa on October 23. According to Agronskii, an eyewitness reported that 25,000 Jews—men, women and children—were assembled at the central Odessa barracks and methodically executed with machine-guns. (There are explanations that this execution was carried out as a reprisal for the death of 220 Romanian soldiers and officers, including a general, who were killed when a time bomb went off in one of the buildings occupied by the Romanian General Staff three days after the occupation of Odesa.)

Agronskii stated that after the execution the barracks was set on fire and the corpses were burned.

Source: RGASPI, f. 558, op. 11, d. 208, l. 67: folio with handwritten date "15.XI." and, on the bottom of the folio, "Opublikovano 16.XI-41g. "Pravda"No. 318."