

## Vapniarka

Ukrainian town attached to Transnistria for most of the war, and site of a detention camp established by the Romanians in October 1941.

The first prisoners brought to the camp were Jews from Odessa. In 1942 Jewish prisoners arrived from Bukovina and Romania. At the end of that year, Vapniarka became a concentration camp for political prisoners under the direct control of the Romanian government. The camp was actually designated for Jews, since no other "political prisoners" were held there. There were 1,179 Jews in the camp, including 107 women. The inmates established a camp committee to help each other survive the terrible conditions. The camp also had an underground.

The prisoners overcame typhus by keeping the camp immaculately clean. However, they were fed horse fodder, which caused hundreds to contract a paralysis-inducing disease that affects the bone marrow. The inmates demanded medical help; the authorities permitted the Jewish Aid Committee to provide medicine, and finally stopped feeding the Jews animal food.

As Soviet troops approached in October 1943, the authorities decided to liquidate the camp. Some Jews were sent to ghettos in Transnistria, but most prisoners were moved to another Romanian camp until the National Legionary Government toppled in the summer of 1944.