Northern Transylvania is Transferred Back to Hungary

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Northern Transylvania is Transferred Back to Hungary

In some ways, the fate of the Jewish population of Northern Transylvania was sealed already in 1940, when the region returned to Hungarian control as a result of the diplomatic actions between Hungary, Romania and Nazi Germany.

The impact of these cynical diplomatic manoeuvres was particularly felt in Sighet, where both a significant native Jewish population and a large Jewish refugee population lived. And when the Germans, in August 1941, compelled Hungary to remove those Jews from the city and its surroundings that could not prove their Hungarian citizenship, the first large-scale tragedy of those years took place. These "foreign" Jews were sent to southwest Ukraine, and murdered at the infamous executions at Kamenets-Podolsk.

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Hungarian Foreign Minister István Csáky signing the agreement in August 1940.

Romanian Jews in a concentration camp in Bessarabia (currently Moldavia). September 1941.

Step by step life became much harder. During the four years the Hungarians were in power, they enforced all kinds of restrictions on the Jewish population. Their property was expropriated and they had to leave all valuables to the authorities.

A storage place for confiscated Jewish property in Bucharest.