

11/10/1998

KRASOWSKA, Nadzieja
Polish Witnesses to the Holocaust Project
Polish
RG-50.488*0049

Nadzieja Krasowska was born in 1909 in Narewka. Narewka was a village with a majority population of Jews before the outbreak of the war in 1939. Most of the interview deals with German atrocities during 1941–1945. Although she was not a direct witness to the atrocities, she reports on it based on what she heard from friends and neighbors. She mentions the execution of her brother who was denounced by local Poles as a Communist and also names some collaborators.

Box 1, Tape 1

[01:] 00:37:00 – [01:] 10:22:25
00:00 – 10:40

Nadzieja begins the interview by saying that before 1939, the town of Narewka was populated by Jews, Byelorussians and Poles; states that the majority of the population was Jewish; says that she had many Jewish friends who were schoolmates and neighbors; mentions one friend who emigrated to Palestine before the war but came to visit her after the war; says does not remember his name; recalls that some Jewish men left for Palestine before the war leaving behind their wives and children; mentions that many Jews were Orthodox and had long beards; says that when the war broke out and the Germans came to the village, they chased the Jews out of their homes and forced them to march to the Polish cemetery; says that there they were lined up along a long, deep ditch and executed with machine guns such that their bodies tumbled into the ditch; adds that their bodies were covered with dirt and then another group of Jews were executed the same way; reports that the Jewish women and children were held in a fire station depot for a few days then taken out at night and shipped in trucks to Prużany; says she did not personally witness the executions but heard about them from friends; discusses a village leader named **Misza Sokowski** who collaborated with the Germans from the beginning of the war; states that he took a lot of gold from the Jews and that after the war he escaped from Poland leaving behind his wife who was pregnant at the time; mentions a borough leader named **Wolodia Harcemicz** and someone named **Solowej**, both of whom collaborated with the Germans; recounts that a local rabbi tried to reassure the Jews not to run away and to remain quiet, telling them that this may save them; states that local Poles did not save any Jews because they were afraid for their own lives; recalls a Jewish woman who was offering a sack of clothes for her safety; recalls that her brother refused to accept the clothes or to shelter the woman because he was worried about his own life; states that she was as much afraid of the village leader as she was of the Germans.

[01:] 10:23:00 – [01:] 25:30:00
10:41 – 26:25

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She says that her brother was also killed, having been turned in by local Poles as a Communist; mentions that the homes of the Jews were taken over by the Russian Orthodox people; says that those homes were furnished, had clothes in them and maybe even gold; recalls that some old homes were burned out and new ones were built in their place; reports that none of the Jews from Narewka survived or returned after the war except for some who emigrated to Palestine prior to the war; mentions that a few of these people came after the war to inquire about the fate of their relatives; retells a story she heard about a Jewish man with a bad leg who fell down when they were being chased towards the cemetery and was shot dead on the road and dumped into a nearby ditch; repeats that her brother was denounced by some locals as being a Communist; says that he and six others were taken to the church and beaten with sticks after which they were shot to death; describes how she and others managed to take the seven bodies and bury them in the cemetery; mentions a German named **Anders**; says that the Germans stayed in the school and also had their own store.

Summary provided by Sam Ponczak.