

## **RG-50.233.0033**

### **Summary**

Marian Gnyp, born June 1, 1924 in village Gorzędów, district Piotrków Trybunalski. He describes his family situation before the war, his life in different camps during the war and relations between the Jewish and Polish communities; His family owned a farm with some forest in Gorzędów. His father had two wives, and Marian was one of six children. His family was not poor but they lived without any money in reserve. During the invasion, in 1939, Germans destroyed the village. Marian took up on trading to get by, he delivered food to the ghetto in Chęstochowa and later in Warsaw. He describes German and Jewish guards, people living in the ghetto, and trading arrangements that worked well for both parties. He emphasizes that trade with the ghetto Jews was very honest.

In September 1941, after the Polish underground army set on fire German railroad transportation nearby his house, Marian, and some other men from the village, were arrested by Gestapo. On September 1st, 1942, he was deported to Auschwitz, along with two hundred prisoners from Czystochowa. In the camp, he became a tailor. He describes everyday life and people which he met, some of them from Stanislawski Circus. From Auschwitz, he was transported to Treblinka, where he was likely exposed to radiation, which he believes is the cause of his infertility. Further, he was deported to Majdanek and Berger-Belsen. He escaped into the woods and survived for four days; he was liberated by British troops. After the war, in 1946, he came back to Poland and lived in Gdańsk and Szczecin. He was married twice. He became a chair of the Society of Fighters for Freedom and Democracy (ZBoWiD). He created the Union of Political Prisoners of Concentration Camps.

During the war, his cousin's family, Gałazka from Kletnia village, allowed Jewish family to hide in the lime mines that Gałazka was operated. The Jewish family stayed there from March until November 1942. When the families ran out of money and Gałazka could not keep them any longer. After the Jewish family reported to the German police that they were living in hiding, Gestapo murdered both families.

Marian describes positive relations between Polish and Jewish communities before the war. He remembers that his father could always count on some financial support from Jewish community members. "After 1945, everything changed, without the Jewish neighbors' life lost its color."