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**Translation of Oral History Interview with Stanisława Andruszkiewicz**

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**Summary**

Stanisława Andruszkiewicz was born on July 17, 1921 in the town of Tykocin. Before the war she completed 7<sup>th</sup> grade. In Tykocin, she lived on Sokołowska Street. Her social circle was people from her immediate neighborhood.

Next to their house was a general store owned by Jews. Their last name was Sierota and they had 3 daughters, all older than Stanisława. The store was a major gathering point for neighbors who would come from different parts of town.

As evidence of the harmony in which they lived with Jews, she gave the example that when their (Polish) school was being renovated, they all went to school in the Jewish school. Then, when the Jewish school was being renovated, the Jewish students came to study in the Polish school. She also states that she had no contact with any of the Jewish boys in her neighborhood. She noted that Jews were mostly involved in trade and now (presumably after the war) it's all in the hands of "our" people (non-Jews).

Stanisława recalls that World War II broke out on September 1, 1939. And she claims that Germans appeared in town 3 or 4 days later.

Stanisława relates an account of the roundup of all the male residents of Tykocin, Poles and Jews, in early September 1939 and their confinement in the town church. [TN: it's possible she meant that this was done by the Soviets]. Stanisława says that they were gradually released.]

Stanisława asserts that she was deported to Germany by the Germans, a few days after they arrived in Tykocin, [TN: most likely after June 22, 1941]. When she returned in 1945, the Germans were gone and the Russians replaced them. She, herself admits that she saw very little from the period of German occupation of Tykocin. She is unable to describe the roundup of the Jews by the Germans in the town's market square. She only saw how the Jews were led out of town towards the ditches that were dug in the forest, some 3 km out of town. She saw that from her apartment window, which was along the road leading to the forest. Subsequently, she reports, that a monument and a cemetery were built where the ditches were dug by the Germans. This site is now visited by Jewish groups. But she had never been there. Her description of the Jews being marched out of town is very sketchy and superficial. She claims that the Germans made the marchers play instruments along the way, but couldn't be more specific. She claimed that she was too scared to go out of the house to see what was

going on, lest she was subjected to the same. Although she claims to have known many Jews in Tykocin, she did not recognize any of them as they were being marched. In response to further questions, Stanisława claimed that she didn't know what happened to the Jews who were taken to the ditches in the forest. She only learned much later that some villager witnessed what took place there and started to talk to others about it. And only then, through second hand reports did she find out that they were all killed.

Yes, some Tykocin Jews survived the war, but she wasn't certain how. She met one in Warsaw after the war; and she learned that some came back to sell their land and their property to the Poles.

The interviewer proceeded to ask Stanisława how she ended up in Germany. Apparently, she was ordered to appear at a designated time at the school yard, from which she was taken by a truck to a RR station in Sokół and from there by train to Germany. There, she worked as a laborer for a German landowner. She mostly remembers digging peat. She was liberated by the Soviets in the vicinity of Guttstadt/Dobre Miasto in East Prussia then. She made her way to Olsztyn, from where it took her 2 weeks to walk back to Tykocin. She reached Tykocin in February 1945.

Stanisława has no recollection of conditions in Tykocin when she came back. She could not recall seeing anyone who lived there before. When asked about a Jewish boy, with the last name of Kapica, who apparently survived the war by hiding out in Tykocin, she had no recollection of the name or of any other Jews from Tykocin who survived the war.

The interviewer returned to question Stanisława about the first occupation of Tykocin by Russians, but she had no recollection of that period. She ended her interview with her summation that the war was absolutely terrible.