

07/10/1999

GŁOWALA, Józef  
Polish Witnesses to the Holocaust Project  
Polish  
RG-50.488\*0089

Tape 1

In this interview, Józef Głowala, born September 18, 1912, in the village of Żurawie, discusses the German occupation of the area of Turobin, where he resided during World War II.

**[01:] 00:43:17 – [01:] 01:45:14**

Józef Głowala begins by saying he was born on September 18, 1912, in the village Żurawie; says that during the German occupation he lived in a suburb near Turobin and worked in a sawmill; notes it was a German firm with a Mr. **Nowacki**, a Pole from Poznań, as manager; remembers a morning when he came in and noticed that a German shot at a man; says he quickly went to the sawmill's office and did not go out anymore.

**[01:] 01:45:15 – [01:] 06:18:19**

Głowala says he was 27 years old when the war broke out; says he worked before the war as a postman in Turobin; recalls that on August 14 [1939] he was appointed to the military's signal corps in Kowle; says his unit was transported for a few days to Bydgoszcz, then sent near to Gdańsk, and then on August 31 to a place on the Polish-German border; says he served in the 27th Division, a company away from the front, while others like the communication regiment were closer; says when an order to strike the line and go back was given, they backed up to the forest Puszcza Kampinoska; tells that he participated in bayonet fighting on the Bzura River; explains that after that, he was not in communication anymore because when the Germans bombarded them on September 17, they dropped leaflets indicating that Russia had crossed the border and everything had fallen apart; says they (his company) lost their way; says that a trumpet played as a sign for a muster; remembers that he volunteered along with a few people and they were taken into the infantry; says at the Bzura they shot at the Germans and the Germans at them; reports that Polish soldiers took over four tanks and won the battle; says they marched at night along the bank of the **Vistula (Wisła)** River because they wanted to get to Warsaw; says in the morning they ran into a German CKM (heavy machine gun), so they had to go back; says they went back to a barn at a local field and slept there; estimates there were about 30 of them; says the Germans woke them up and took them captive to Żyrardów; notes that when they attacked the Germans, fighting bayonet to bayonet, he was wounded in the head by stones or something like that; says his head swelled and the Germans took him to the hospital in Sochaczew with Polish military doctors working; says the doctors gave passes for all patients, and once these documents were filled out the patients were allowed to go home; says a German wrote on his paper indicating that he (Głowala) agreed to go back to his home, even though he thought of Sochaczew as his home; reports that on November 1, 1939, he went home from the hospital; says in the hospital Polish officers said there was a conspiracy and when they were back home, they had to find it; says he found out what happened: at that time there existed the

07/10/1999

Union of Armed Struggle “Związek Walki Zbrojnej,” (ZWZ) and that a friend of his was the district’s commander in the Home Army “Armia Krajowa,” (AK); says he was a member of the AK until July, when the so-called liberation came.

[01:] 06:18:20 – [01:] 06:54:00

Głowala again notes that at time of German occupation he worked in the sawmill; says in that office they wrote an underground resistance newspaper “gazetkę konspiracyjną”; remembers when they threw Hitler’s portrait down from the wall and trampled it; notes that he had to iron it to hang it back.

[01:] 06:54:01 – [01:] 11:36:00

Głowala says that the Jews of Turobin were deported twice—once in the direction of Krasnostaw; says they only made it to a mountain before it began to storm; says the Jews spent all winter long on the roads, shoveling off the snow; says the second deportation was to Izbica in Krasnostaw District; remembers seeing most likely a Jew with her husband in a wheelchair; says a German soldier shot him without explanation; reiterates he was an eyewitness; says it was at the marketplace during a gathering for the second deportation; notes that it is now a park, but that back then there were no trees, only a cross in the middle of the area; notes that other people were taken away to Izbica on carts; says it is not known if other old men and patients were murdered the same way the man in the wheelchair was, because he only saw it happen once; says that another time there were three Gestapo agents that spent half the day killing 97 people, maybe even more; says they drove plenty of people to a corridor and threw grenades and that when somebody moved, they shot them with rifles; says they then took the corpses away to Kierkut to bury them; says he was frightened to go out so he did not see this incident but he worked with a man who saw it; relates that the “Judenrat” (Jewish council) announced to Jews that they had to go, where they were told.

[01:] 11:36:01 – [01:] 14:00:22

He talks about **Diament’s** house, where there was a sawmill office; says **Diament** worked there legally with his brother as quality control inspectors; says that before the war he traded in lumber; says he called often from Turobin to Gdańsk; notes that the Germans killed both brothers in the sawmill, but he did not see it; says **Diament’s** wife left two candles and an open Talmud and on the Talmud a cleaver on a table when she was going out with the children; says that he witnessed that incident and when they left; says that there was no ghetto in Turobin; says it was started under the Germans’ orders, but it was not finished; says the Germans instead created a ghetto at Izbica; says that in Turobin, the school billeted army, gendarmerie or szupo (Schutzpolizei); notes that antisemitic actions were a part of their activities; indicates that the Navy Blue police “Granatowa” were less involved in that; notes that the Jews did not have their police in Turobin.

[01:] 14:00:23 – [01:] 19:02:00

He says that after the deportation of the **Diaments**, their son **Motek** came to Turobin because he had oak-boards there; notes that with him came Czech Jews and a German; says they took his boards and went back; notes that when **Motek** came to Turobin, he thought that he could hide somewhere, but he was being watched and it was impossible; says the Czech Jews watched the Polish Jews; notes again that during the second deportation of Jews from

07/10/1999

Turobin, they were transported to Izbica and were taken by carts; says that if they had some items at home, they were allowed to bring them, so they took everything; laments that the Germans, not the Jews, used those items; says in Turobin, only the Germans were stationed, not SS divisions of Ukrainians or Latvians; remembers that during one of the deportations, a family hid in a loft, but somebody gave them up; says the Germans stationed at the school shot them in a field, but that he did not see it; mentions that in **Rokitów (Rokitowo)**, the Germans must have also killed **Chmielewski**, probably because he was the one that hid the family; mentions again that he did not see it, but was told that it happened; responds to the question, whether **Klemm [Klimm]** was Volksdeutsch, he answers that he does not know, but he wore a Nazi uniform; notes again that there was a ghetto in Izbica; says that the Jews wore armbands there; says that if a German soldier saw an armband, he shot his rifle, like he was shooting hares; mentions again the murder of over 90 people in a corridor by grenades; says he does not know exactly how many Jews were there; says that those who carried the corpses talked about 97 people, but he says there were over 100 killed; notes that the Jews were randomly selected; says that members of the "Judenrat" were sent to **marszanka** in a forest by the Germans and killed; notes that the Germans first took their money and gold and then killed them; mentions that it was the only visit by Engels during that time, but he does not know if Engels came there before that.

[01:] 19:02:01 – [01:] 21:19:00

Głowala does not remember who the police commander in Turobin was, but does recall that this person was killed by an independent organization: either the AK or the Peasant's Battalions "Bataliony Chłopskie" and laid in a cellar in Turobin; notes that the strongest clandestine organization in Turobin was the AK, then the Peasant's Battalions by 1942; says the AK had its own partisan division, but supposes the Bataliony Chłopskie did not; says that within the organizations, the Jews did not hide themselves; says he once turned to the intelligence chief in the AK, who's pseudonym was **Sański [Sajski]**, in the matter of **Motek Diament**, who wanted to belong to an organization, but was told they did not admit any Jews, even though it could save a life; says the intelligence chief in the AK was murdered by a liberation army; says he did not hear about Jews hiding in the underground army in this area; notes that they most likely hid themselves in the underground army of the People's Army "Armia Ludowa," (AL) but he does not know exactly.

[01:] 21:19:01 – [01:] 26:05:00

He shares that after the war there was a Jew that was staying in a hotel and related to him that he had been fine in Russia, where he came from; says he showed him where his flat was (nowadays there is a bookstore); says he went back to Russia and never again to Turobin; says, some people came with Ruskies, but they did not come back after the war; says the house where Głowala lives now was sold after the war by a Jew from Lublin; he presumes it was probably the owner's relative; says that after the war a Jew and her son came from Łódź to Turobin; says she was an acquaintance of his wife; mentions that he does not know where or how she survived the war; says he gave her a photograph from the fifth class of primary school, which he was in with the female Jews; says she took pictures of a synagogue in Turobin; mentions Josef Kopf who also came to Turobin after liberation; says he went to Gozłówka to get his property back and was killed there; says he was shot by a man who said he was in Volhynia during the war, and how the Jews stripped Polish soldiers; says the man swore to himself that when he next met a Jew, he would kill him, which he did; notes that the man was eventually killed as well, but does not know who did it; says Kopf's killer was an

07/10/1999

unfamiliar man—someone's servant; remembers hearing Kopf was shot while walking with his landlord; says the killer, in the opinion of Głowala, was not connected with any organization; says the killer went to the regained Polish territories, where he was killed; says he does not know anything about Kopf's funeral.