

OSIKOWICZ, Danuta
Polish Witnesses to the Holocaust Project
English
RG-50.488*0094

In this interview, Danuta Osikowicz born on May 10th, 1931 in Szebnie (district Jasielski, province Podkarpacki), a pupil during the war talks about her observations of the concentration camp in Szebnie. She speaks in detail about SS-man **Benke [Behnke]**, an employee of the camp who was helping prisoners. Osikowicz mentions her uncle who perished in Majdanek for helping Jews. She also describes the liquidation of the camp in Szebnie and its evacuation to Płaszów near Kraków. She gives details about murders of Jews committed by Germans during this process. She mentions Soviet occupation as well and persecutions of Polish intelligentsia during this time.

File 1 of 1

00:01 – 34:06

[01:] 00:08:13 – [01:] 03:10:23

00:01 – 03:11

- Q: Ms. Danuta, please introduce yourself again, tell us what is your name and when where you born.
- A: Danuta Osikowicz, I was born on May 10th, 1931.
- Q: And where did the war find you?
- A: It found me here, in Szebnie (Jasielski district, Podkarpacki province), but my parents and I moved East to **Pochorze, [Pochorze, Pohorzyce]**, Lvov province, and late on, in [19]41 we came back here with my mom.
- Q: After Germans took over Lvov province?
- A: Yes.
- Q: And why here, why to Pochorze?
- A.: Because my mom was a school teacher there.
- Q: So you went there already—
- A: After summer break, I mean we were supposed to go after summer break. And the first of September was already a school year and we went.
- Q: And you went already after the entrance, already after the capitulation, yes? I mean, after the September campaign ended?

- A: No, no. I mean, Polish army was still here.
- Q: And you retreated together with them—
- A: Army no, army was staying here in general the army was going somewhere to the north and we were going by the train to the east. By freight train.
- Q: And what day, perhaps you remember, what day of September was it?
- A: No, I don't remember.
- Q: Well, yes, you were eight years old then, so it would be hard to remember. And—
- A: But it had to be at the very beginning of September, perhaps the second, third, fourth—
- Q: Yes, it was very soon. But do you remember the first days of September here, in Szebnie, the first days of war?
- A: I remember.
- Q: Did something stay in your memory—
- A: It did stay.
- Q: Please tell us.
- A: Yes, it's six o'clock in the morning and mom is listening to the radio—
- Q: Was she getting up so early and listening—
- A: No, she didn't get up, only she was lying down and listening. And suddenly we are hearing a terrible airplane noise. We all ran in front of the house, all in our nightgowns, and over our house there are three airplanes with these hackenkryc (GERMAN: Hakenkreuz: swastika). And mom says "Children, to the basement!" And then we knew that we needed to open the basement and run to it. And mom was sprinkling the basement with water, because there was an airport in Moderówka (Krośnieński district, Podkarpacki province) and they were bombarding it and such huge smoke was spreading out, because haystacks were burning, and we thought, we didn't know, because it was supposed to be gas war, so mom ordered children and 80 year old grandma to the basement and she was pouring water on the basement door, because of the gas.

[01:] 03:10:23 - [01:] 06:05:22
03:11 – 06:13

- A: Gas, gas, and it wasn't gas, only smoke. To to pamiętam doskonale.
- Q: And you went to Podchorce—

A: To **Pochorce**.

Q: Excuse me, to **Pochorce**, I mixed it up with Podhorce, it's also somewhere near Lvov.

A: Yes, somewhere there, yes.

Q: Together with your grandma?

A: Yes.

Q: With the entire family?

A: With my grand grandma. And my father came for us, because my father was teaching somewhere else at that time. I don't even know where, perhaps in Zaleszczyki. Because my father did not have a steady work, so one year he was teaching in Stanisławów, other somewhere in Tarn...I don't know. Lately he was teaching in **Brzeżanach [Brzerzany]**, but also in Zaleszczyki. I think first in Zaleszczyki.

Q: So you got there still before—

A: Before Russians.

Q: --before Russians came—

A: Yes, yes.

Q: And do you remember when Russians came in?

A: I remember. I remember because a Russian was asking me, he was asking me "where is your father, where is your father?" And silly me, I said "**ucik**" (russified version of the Polish word uciekł: escaped)

Q: Mhmm.

A: And dad escaped from Russians, because he was afraid, he was a fellow with a doctorate. And in general, people were afraid then that this. And so he "**ucik**", ahmm, and that Russian was holding me in his arms and he put me down and he didn't, he didn't say anything anymore.

Q: And where did your father escape?

A: He was escaping somewhere along Dniestr river, because we were there, so—

Q: And through the border, or?

A: No, no, I think he was escaping through little village till it all calms down. And later he came back. This priest there, not the one from Borysław, but another one, Franciszek Osikowicz, he was also a head of the parish and my dad registered there as a helping hand, that he is supposedly parish's helping hand. And he was hiding his higher education, his doctorate, he was only a helping hand. And he was driving haystacks, working with the horse on the field, threshing wheat, plowing, doing everything.

Q: Did he survive the occupation?

A: Survived.

Q: Tell me, were there in Podhorce—

A: In **Pochorce**. **Pochorce**, in **Pochorce**

Q: O Gosh, I am beginning to mix everything up—

A: Don't worry, I will correct you. Ahmm, but it all goes—

Q: It goes, but it doesn't matter. Were there Jews in **Pochorce**? Did they live there when—

A: There were. One fami...Ahmm, even two, I even had this girlfriend, Fajga. There were, they even had two little stores, then one more, so together three little stores.

[01:] 06:05:22 – [01:] 09:06:11
06:13 – 09:21

A: And they had a Synagogue and, and there was also a family which had a horse and a cow. They were already elderly. She was skinny and this gentleman was older. So I remember them. And sometimes we would go near the Synagogue and watch them sing, pray. And then they would drink sour milk. They had such, such beards and I can still see this milk on these mustaches, on these beards.

Q: Do you perhaps remember how they greeted entering Russians?

A: No, this—

Q: And what about the population, was there Ukrainian population?

A: There was, there was. And there was a Pop and an Orthodox church.

Q: I mean, my point is if anyone greeted Russians with joy? Do you remember?

A: I don't remember. I didn't watch such things. Well, only this one who lifted me and then put me down, as if he was afraid that I was some kind of class enemy, since her father escaped from Russians.

Q: Do you remember something special from Soviet occupation, from those two years?

A: Yes. I remember. I mean a friend of a female friend of my mom was a teacher and they organized a show process. Perhaps he was in some organization, or maybe before the war he belonged somewhere, I don't know. But in any case, they organized such show process. Children played witnesses, but not me, no, only older children, from fifth or sixth grade. So it happened and later they sentenced him to go to Siberia. For this, this—

Q: Mhmm.

A: And his children, he had a son and a daughter, maybe a year or two younger than me, so them and their grandma cried and prayed that he didn't go. But they deported him and he was in Siberia for few years.

Q: And how did priest Andrzej, your uncle survive this occupation—

A: Which one, from Borysław?

Q: Yes, from Borysław. Was he then in Borysław?

A: Yes, he was in Borysław.

Q: Did Soviets bother him?

A: Well, I mean Soviets—Borysław was a little further from **Podchorce**, so we weren't really in touch. So I, I don't know so well, but I don't think he was persecuted. Another uncle on the other hand, because there were eight of Osikowicz's brothers, he was—he was deported to the camp and his children were deported as well, but he lived in Lubaczowski district, over there—

Q: Mhmm.

A: --He has land there. I mean, right before the war he bought 20 morg [*„morg” is an archaic unit measure approximately 5600sq. meters*] of land, it was called that **chuzhom trudom** (RUSSIAN: by others' toil) and went to Siberia with his entire family.

Q: Mhmm.

[01:] 09:06:11 – [01:] 12:04:16
09:21 – 12:27

A: And he didn't come back. I mean he did come back but perished near Warsaw, at that time when people tried to swim across Vistula river to help the Uprising. So it was then that he died.

Q: He was in the army, right?

A: He was in Kościuszko's Army. And his sons went with Anders [*Władysław Anders, the creator and the general of Polish Armed Forces in USSR, who took his army from USSR and via Far East to reach Poland*].

Q: Mhmm.

A: From Russia.

Q: And I am asking about this priest uncle because—

A: Andrzej Osikowicz?

Q: Yes.

A: From Borysław.

Q: Yes. Because already during the German occupation, he was helping Jews.

A: Yes. He was helping.

Q: Could you say anything about it?

A: Well, all I know is that he was helping, that he was giving Jews illegal birth certificates, that he was placing children in the nunneries where he knew the sisters or someone else. But the names, after all I was a child so no one was telling me.

Q: And did you have any contact with him, did you perhaps go to Borysław?

A: I even lived there for about a month.

Q: But something, do you remember any Jews coming by?

A: I remember a girl, I remember, but she didn't come, she was only, we had a common fence and I talked to her. She had such beautiful, long braids, but what was her name, I don't know. But I don't know if anybody came to see my uncle. I know that I visited a doctor, a Jew, with my uncle, because I had an enlarged amygdale and he was examining me and he gave me a referral for a surgery in Lvov. I remember all this, but what contacts he had, who came to the presbytery, I don't know—

Q: Mhmm.

A: I only heard, but you want someone who saw, not heard. I heard that there were horrible pogroms of these Jews, that they were beaten on these waste-heaps, and this, but that they were still getting up and escaping. I heard this, but didn't see it. When things worsen, my dad took me on the bicycle and drove me from Borysław do **Pochorce**, and there it was rather peaceful. But

what happened to Jews from **Pochorce** I don't know either, because we were already here, in Szebnie.

Q: Here?

A: Yes.

Q: Here you—

A: In winter of [19]41.

Q: Mhmm.

A: Germans came in the summer and in the summer we mov...here we have our own house, so, so we moved—

Q: What was happening here?

A: There was a camp here. Russians were dying from typhoid fever then. Typhoid fever was here. Here in general, there were refugees from Poznań, so—

Q: Poles?

A: Poles, Poles. So it was pretty crowded here, so many people—

Q: They were in the camp, right?

A: They were not in the camp.

Q: So where? Simply around the village?

A: Around the village. They were not in the camp. Only POWs were in the camp. At the beginning, when we came, there were only POWs [in the camp] and they were dying from typhoid fever.

[01:] 12:04:16 – [01:] 15:00:09
12:27 – 15:30

Q: Did you perhaps see them through the barb wires or—

A: I saw how they marched. I saw how they marched them from this station, from Moderówka. They walked so hungry, so poor and dirty. Yes, this I saw and I also saw how they were taking away bodies. I also saw that. Yes, and I also saw different prisoners, when we were going to school we sometimes saw how they were driving them on some kind of wheel-barrows, only taller, and on them there were covered bodies, only legs were swinging and that's how they were taking them to the cemetery.

- Q: But were they people who died of typhoid, of hunger, or perhaps those who were shot?
- A: I don't know. I don't know, in any case they were dead. And they were driving them—
- Q: Did you see a lot of such carts?
- A: Yes, a lot.
- Q: With bodies?
- A: They walked over there. Because there, in the direction of Jasło, there is this hospital, Russian hospital, what am I saying, Russian cemetery.
- Q: Who was guarding this camp?
- A: There were four kind of tall towers and each one had a searchlight and I think a machine gun, something must have been there. And a guard on the top [of the tower].
- Q: And do you remember how they were dressed, what kind of uniforms did they wear?
- A: I remember one SS-man who lived at our house. He had this green, greenish uniform—
- Q: Tell us what was his name, perhaps you remember?
- A: **Benke [Benhke]**
- Q: SS-man **Benke**, yes?
- A: I have this book about the camp and it's written there that he was a **Szturman [Shturman] Benke**.
- Q: Mhmm. And he lived with you. How long?
- A: Yes, he lived with his mistress.
- Q: A German woman?
- A: Ukrainian.
- Q: Ukrainian.
- A: Yes, from Borysław. And she let us know that uncle Andrzej is dead, that they deliv...that the funeral already took place, that there was a mass for his soul, that he is already dead.
- Q: He died over there?

- A: Uncle, yes. Uncle Andrzej died in Majdanek, over there.
- Q: Ahmm, could you, because I understood that you didn't have much contact with your uncle.
- A: With this uncle it was only that I was there when I had—
- Q: But in any case, he perished in Majdanek, yes?
- A: In Majdanek.
- Q: And you found it out from this Ukrainian woman?
- A: I mean, my mom. But closer family or his friends from Borysław, perhaps they were in touch with him, because I know that they were smuggling messages to him and he to them.

[01:]15:01:09 – [01:] 17:58:21
15:30 – 18:36

- Q: And he was sent to Majdanek for helping Jews, yes?
- A: Jews, yes.
- Q: Mhmm.
- A: They came at night and took him. And there was also our cousin, but they didn't take him or didn't do anything to him. And this cousin had this dream that my uncle is standing outside of the window wearing an overcoat and saying "Jasiek, open up." Jasiek came out, but there was nobody there, only snow storm. And in the morning the message came that the uncle is dead.
- Q: Mhmm. Through this Ukrainian mistress of **Benke**, right? This message came through her?
- A: Yes, yes.
- Q: Tell us something about who was this **Benke**, how did he behave, what was his attitude towards you.
- A: **Benke** was a good man, whoever he was, I have to say this. He was a German raised in Poland, who went to Polish school. And he was helping this one Jewish woman. From Kraków. Only I don't know her name or anything, only that my mom was givi...someone was giving my mom some kind of medication and my mom, and he was taking it to this Jewish woman, because she was sick.
- Q: Was she in the camp?
- A: Yes, yes.

Q: And what was she sick with, do you remember?

A: *[shakes her head to mean „no”]*

Q: And, why was he helping her, do you know anything about it? Was it some kind of personal contact?

A: No, they had to ask my mom that she would, that SS-man lives in her house so perhaps he could help. And so, but he was taking it very willingly. And food, and some other things—

Q: Ahmm, so someone asked to help this lady, this Jewish woman in the camp.

A: Yes, yes. To help her.

Q: He was taking food and medication to the camp.

A: Medication, above all medication, but—

Q: For other Jews as well?

A: This I don't know. But in any case, what he did, but for Poles, he would bring home Polish women, because he could take them for a night. Truth, he had a mistress, but he brought them anyway. And her family would come to our place and they talked the entire night with this woman, and he was in his room with his mistress and left them alone. And in the morning, he would take this prisoner back to the camp, as if, you know. And her family could give her money and food, she could talk with them, like that.

Q: So, under the guise that he is taking a lover for the night—

A: Yes, lover for the night—

Q: --he contacted them with their families. Were they mainly Polish women or—?

A: Yes, most likely they were Polish.

Q: You don't remember if he took any Jewish woman—

A: I don't remember any Jewish woman. I think Jewish women were guarded more strictly. I don't know if they could, if he could take a Jewish woman for a night. I don't know this. In any case, well—

[second interviewer]

Q: If I may, this Jewish family would come to you to give—I mean, you don't know if it was her family, someone was coming?

[01:] 17:58:21 - [01:] 21:00:17
18:36 – 21:45

A: I don't know if her family was coming. I don't know this, I only know that someone was delivering it most likely to my mom, and my mom to this German. And he was taking it [to the camp].

Q: Did they for example, did they ask you to help this Jewish woman to escape the camp?

A: They wanted to. They wanted. Some men came with the money. They brought this wad of money and they wanted, they wanted to give it to my mom so that **Benke** would take this Jewish woman for the night. But my mom didn't agree. She said: "Thank you, I will not take this money. If I could, I would do it without money, but because of her 10 innocent people will perish." Because they were decimating. One, two, three, four, tenth step forth, tenth step forth. There was this family here, I mean there were two brothers **Lempek [Łembek]**. Their mother visited them the previous week and then somebody escaped, I don't know who, but probably a Pole, and so, and both brothers were picked and perished. So the mother is coming to see them and neither of them is alive anymore. They decimated them. And my mom says: "Listen, the camp is supposed to be moved to Płaszów near Kraków" because **Benke** was already saying that "perhaps there you can take her more easy, perhaps it would be easier for her to hide in Kraków" because this woman was from Kraków, she says "and here I have two children, I have my grand grandma." And how could it be? 10 lives for one? It's a little—more so that this woman is sick, she may not survive. But most likely she survived till the end of the camp here in Szebnie.

[first interviewer]

Q: Till the end of the camp?

A: Yes, it was till February of [19]44 most likely.

Q: And what happened with the prisoners of this cam after its liquidation? Did they somehow--how did this end look like?

A: They went to Płaszów.

Q: To Płaszów? Were there a lot of them?

A: And they killed some Jews in the forest.

Q: They shot them.

[second interviewer]

Q: I still wanted to ask you about **Benke**. Did **Benke** tell you anything about how people live in the camp—

A: No, he didn't say anything. He only said that he can never be sober anymore, because, I don't know if he was shooting himself or simply saw it, but he said "I took..." he said this "I participated in the liquidation of the ghetto in Belzec." And he said, "I cannot be sober now, because I can see how they fall in this blood, how they try to get up and fall down again." And he says "I can't" and that's it. It was Belzec, it, it was—

[first interviewer]

Q: You mean, he took part in the liquidation of the ghetto and was talking about it?

A: I don't know if he simply stood there, if he was shooting or guarding, because they had to have those who were shooting and those who were guarding, because people would run away, perhaps somebody would get away. And this way—

[01:] 21:00:17 - [01:] 24:05:12
21:45 – 24:56

Q: I know that these are very difficult memories, but do you perhaps remember some other details from Belzec?

A: No. He didn't say anything else, only that he cannot be sober and he was always drunk, everybody can testify to that. As soon as he was getting sober, he would drink again.

Q: Did he have any supervisors?

A: He did, he did.

Q: And they didn't bother him because of that?

A: This mistress was telling us once, she says : „We are walking and he is so drunk and here comes some kind of this, so I whisper to him to salute, so he immediately puts his hand to this cap and stands straight, I am whispering to him.” So he stood straight, those others passed by and so he was lucky. And I think he was at the camp till the end. And then he was also, he was also in Płaszów, I don't know.

Q: And he was living with you, renting a room with this Ukrainian woman all the time till February of [19]44?

A: Probably. You know, a child perceives time differently. I, I don't remember by years, I only remember that he was together with this Ukrainian woman and that then both of them left. More so that sometimes I was spending summers in **Pochorce**, at this priest uncle where my father was working as this helping hand. So, I might have even been there when they left. I don't remember. But I know that he was—he was a good man, a humane one, more so that, as he said himself, he couldn't be sober.

[second interviewer]

Q: I have another question regarding **Benke**. It's obvious that the situation during the occupation was very difficult, it was hard to get food, soap, clothing. Was **Benke** helping you in any way?

A: He only helped us in one way. I mean me and my sister. Perhaps even more this Ukrainian woman, because she was a woman. They took us to Moderówka, where the wagons with clothing were kept—

Q: Clothing left after Jews?

A: Perhaps after Jews and it was all supposed to go to Germany. It was coming somewhere from the eastern territories. And he chose for us, I mean a Pole chose for us, he only ordered a Pole to choose two coats for us. And he brought a blue one for me and a rusty colored one for my sister. I remember this. And this was for us, because this Ukrainian woman was also there, and he was there too. And we took it and wore these coats. So—

Q: And how did this camp, how did it function, did you see, your house was near the road, right? It is the house where you presently live—

[01:] 24:05:12 – [01:] 27:03:14
24:56 – 28:03

A: Yes, I know what you are trying to say—

Q: --and did you see any, how they were marching these Jews for example—

A: I saw.

Q: Please tell us in details.

A: I saw the liquidation at night, but I don't know, most likely it was what they write about in books, on the second of February, I don't know in [19]43 or [19]44. In any case we saw from our window, because they were yelling, shouting **raus, raus** (GERMAN: out) and **schnell, schnell** (GERMAN: fast) and the dogs were running, the people were running. And the search lights were on them and they, they, this is how they were driven to Moderówka, to, to the train. Perhaps this was already this move to Płaszów. It was most likely it. So this is what we saw from the window. We didn't put the light on, only looked like that. And one, I don't know if it was a man or a woman, seemed to carry something in front of her. I was thinking and even my mother said that it may be a child or something. And they screamed at her a lot. And then the shoot was heard, and in the morning there was blood over there, but I don't know if they wounded or killed her, or if in general—and dogs were there, these German shepherds.

[first interviewer]

Q: And who was marching them, Germans or—

A: Germans.

Q: Only Germans?

A: Well, I don't know because there was also Ukrainian unit here. Not here but in Moderówka, but they worked here as well. But it was dark, you couldn't see anything well and I was a child, and a child sees differently—we were reacting more to these screams, so I really—

Q: And was there blue police? Did it participate in it somehow?

A: We didn't have one I don't think. There wasn't one here.

Q: And could you—

A: To this degree that my sister was in Germany and somewhere the train conductor started yelling „**raus**” and my sister jumped out and said “You can't scream at us like that, you can't do that.” And my brother in law said “Be quiet because they will take us out of the train.”

[second interviewer]

Q: And I wanted to ask, when they were driving out and burning Jews in the vicinity—

A: In the forest.

Q: Exactly, in the forest. Did you react in some way, did you smell this smoke—

A: We did smell it.

Q: --how did it, tell us, how did it look?

A: Oh, they were driving them in the cars, but I didn't see it myself. Only one could hear some voices and people were saying that they sung Psalms, that they knew that they were already going to death. But Ms. Hania for example, she says that she doesn't know about it, that she didn't hear or see it.

[01:] 27:03:14 – [01:] 32:52:04
28:03 – 34:06

A: And I remember exactly this smell. This smell of burning bodies—I remember this.

[first interviewer]

Q: And perhaps you walked on this road—

A: Around this forest?

- Q: --did you see any lying corpses, anything left by—
- A: No.
- Q: No.
- A: After all childr—perhaps we were afraid because they were saying that they were shooting over there, that they were deporting, and this smoke, this—no, we didn't.
- Q: And do you remember if some Jews escaped from the camp?
- A: No, I don't remem...I only remember when a doctor escaped, but I think he was Russian, but he did look a little like a Jew, only I don't know if he was a Jew. He had a little beard, dark complexion, slim—
- Q: So you saw him?
- A: Because he walked around the village and cured typhoid fever. Because Germans for example, were afraid even to enter the village because of it. So they were afraid. And he was helping. He was walking around the village, he was allowed. Ms. Hania—
- Q: Meaning before he escaped. Did they let him out or?
- A: I think before, before and once there was a heavy rain and he, during this rain—they trusted him because he went and came back, went and came back—Hania will know better. In any case I know that he most likely escaped somewhere.
- Q: And perhaps they were hiding somewhere here, did you hear about any Jews who—
- A: I heard, but it's all a secret, because I only heard that someone was hiding in Szebnie.
- Q: You don't remember who, with whom—
- A: In any case this someone, but no, this was because of this Russian, they received a pension of some kind. Hania, Hania will know more. She is older, much older, she knows. She used to know people there. I heard that downstairs, but it's only a gossip, that downstairs at somebody's place, but was it true, did it really happen, I don't know. And I also heard that in Warzyce, on the church tower most likely **Wajs [Weiss]** from Jasło and his daughter were hiding. But Hania will also know it better.
- Q: So somebody from this church, I don't know, priest or somebody else was helping them—
- A: He knew for sure. Or a sacristian or an organ player, one from these people was hiding. So **Wajs**—
- Q: The entire war?

- A: The entire war.
- Q: But you didn't see them?
- A: No, no, I don't even know. I mean, I saw him already after the war. I mean his daughter in a little store, because he had a little store and apparently he was even buying and selling dollars. If somebody had any dollar, he would bring it to him and he would exchange it.
- Q: You mean after the war already.
- A: After the war.
- Q: After the war.
- A: After the war, but Hania will know it.
- Q: And after the war, did any Jews come back to Szebnie?
- A: There wasn't any in Szebnie—
- Q: Ahmm, there wasn't any in Szebnie—
- A: There weren't such people. I don't know if even one lived here. Because they would come here and sell things *[unclear]* but to live here, that I don't know.
- Q: But this **Wajs**, he wasn't from Szebnie—
- A: He was from Jasło.
- Q: From Jasło. But survived here.
- A: Perhaps he lived somewhere here, perhaps he was from Warzyce or somewhere else, in any case after the war he was for sure in Jasło, I even know in which store. But Hania will know much more, because she knows a lot
- Q: And do you by any chance know if this **Benke** survived the war?
- A: I know nothing else about **Benke**.
- Q: And do you perhaps know his name?
- A: No. I only heard, not heard but recalled that there was some athlete called Benke here. So I think maybe it was his father or an uncle or somebody. In any case, neither about Ukrainian woman nor about him. Not about anybody who used to live with us, because German soldiers lived with

us, and nothing. We only know about Austrian pilots that they perished. 18 years old, they were 18 years old boys.

Q: So, I will already thank you, but please wait a moment, do you have any questions—

Q: Perhaps you remember how after bringing Jews here or after the liquidation of the camp they sold or gave away some furniture or something left after them. Did Germans let Poles go there and take things?

A: I don't remember if they were Jewish things, because people themselves took things, things that were in the camp. People looted in order to get something. Wooden boards, or some furniture, or something, wardrobe, or something else. But we didn't take anything. I mean, this, this—

Q: And did you see people looting there?

A: I didn't see but I heard. Because at that time when they were taking things, there were mines there. There were those box mines so my mom told us not to go there.

Q: All right, that seems to be all. Thank you very much.

CONCLUSION OF INTERVIEW

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Date: 2/17/2011