

MAĆZKA, Sabina  
Polish Witnesses to the Holocaust Project  
Polish  
RG-50.488\*0128

Tape 1

In this interview, Sabina Maćzka, born in 1909, describes her experiences as a resident of Turobin, Poland, during World War II. She speaks primarily about the large local Jewish population. She also talks about murders committed by the Nazis, including the graphic murder of her neighbors and about the help she offered to Jewish people during the war.

**[01:] 00:01:08 – [01:] 00:03:48**

Sabina Maćzka begins the interview by noting she was born in 1909; explains she moved three years before World War II to Turobin because she got married; says she still lives in the same place, which has a large majority of Catholics and Jews; says her neighbor was a Jew and sold her and her husband the place that would be their residence; states that a lot of places in Turobin were bought by Jews; says relations between her and her Jewish neighbors were very good—neighbors often bought goods from them; remembers that in front of her house lived a Jewish family of five—a young couple with a small child and two bedridden elderly people.

**[01:] 00:03:49 – [01:] 00:10:48**

She states that there were more Jewish people than Poles in Turobin (about 3,000); says different types of Jewish people used to live in Turobin—rich and poor, and a lot of them had stores; remembers that Nazis wanted money and took things away from the Jews; says she witnessed attacks on the Jews by the Nazis; talks about how a Nazi came to her neighbors' house and she and her husband heard gun shots; says they hid with another neighbor and then went to see what had happened; remembers they saw the young mother leaning against the wall holding her child; says the wounded woman fell dead onto the floor, and her husband, the elderly couple, and the two-year old child were also dead; laments that the Nazis had killed the whole family; says the Nazis gathered Jews together into one place; says she witnessed the Jews' deportation; says she was told the Jews were killed and thrown into a pit; explains she also witnessed a Jewish woman run away from a Nazi—he simply looked at her and then shot her; thinks the Jewish deportations lasted for about one year; says the Nazi-organized Polish police, "Polnische Polizei," or navy-blue police, gathered 30 Jews into one house and threw artillery shells into the house; recalls hearing and seeing the shells; says one Jewish man regained consciousness and ran away; goes on to say the Nazis selected Catholics to bring the corpses to the Jewish cemetery; mentions she knew the Jewish neighbors very well because they shared a well for water; says there was also a synagogue in Turobin; says many neighbors were deported to Lublin, to the concentration camp Majdanek; describes seeing Jews going down the street in front of her house and that some neighbors came to say goodbye to her; states that some of them did not want to be rescued; explains she offered a neighbor a place to hide in her house, but he would not stay because he thought that this was his fate.

[01:] 00:10:49 – [01:] 00:13:46

She says that in Turobin there was no ghetto, so the Jews were deported to Majdanek; says she sent packages with food to her acquaintances because they sent her letters saying they had nothing to eat; explains that in Turobin it was not clear which houses belonged to Jews and which to Catholics; says those caught by the Germans were brought to Germany for work; remembers that her Jewish neighbor was afraid the Germans would take away his son so the interviewee and her husband looked after him for a long time; says that one night he (the son) left and asked for some bread; says that some Poles told the Germans who was Jewish and who was not, but she does not know who betrayed the neighbor's son.

[01:] 00:13:47 – [01:] 00:15:42

Mączka explains the situation of Jews hiding in the attics of houses; says they took food with them and when they had nothing to eat they sent their children into town; says the children asked Catholics for food; says she heard that if Germans found out about that they killed the children; notes that a neighbor took in a little girl and raised her.

[01:] 00:15:43 – [01:] 00:20:10

She says that she saw how the Nazi-organized Polish police sent Catholics to bring the corpses to the Jewish cemetery; states that today there are no signs on the tombstones and the place that was once the synagogue is now an apartment house; talks about a man who pretended to help the Jews, but then betrayed them because he wanted money.

[01:] 00:20:11 – [01:] 00:25:20

Mączka says that she saw an SS-man shoot a young Jewish girl; says the girl was looking for food for her family, because they were all hiding in an attic; says the moment the girl saw the German she knelt and started praying, pretending to be Catholic; remembers that he shot her and kicked her when she fell down; explains that people took the girl's body away to bury her; remembers that the Pole who was hiding Jewish people and betraying them was called **Teklak**; says the Jewish girl who was raised by her neighbor found out who her real parents were but still invited the neighbors to her wedding; says she saw Engels on a motorcycle and recollects that a Nazi named **Karl** took her horse and brought it back nearly unconscious.