

ZRODOWSKI, Jan
Polish Witnesses to the Holocaust Project
Polish
RG-50.488*0129

Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Jan Zrodowski, resident of the town of **Trubin**, talks about his experiences as a fireman at the time of the German occupation of Poland in 1939. He describes his observations on the persecution and destruction of Jews in his native town.

[01:] 01:20:00 – [01:] 14:15:49

He comments on the existence of five Jewish bakeries in town before the war; claims that he had Jewish friends who facilitated his dealings with Jews of Łódź; discusses his being able to obtain grain and turn it into flour; talks about the Germans organizing the Jewish Council in **Trubin**; comments on the Jewish Council representing the Jewish population and being forced to provide Germans with name lists; describes an incident in which two German soldiers who were stationed in Wierzbica, arrived in **Trubin**, parked their car near a synagogue and went on a shooting spree; discusses their rounding up Jews in a hallway of a building that was owned by a Jewish man named **Wulwa [Velvel; Welwl]**; talks about their shooting everyone in the hallway and leaving afterwards; comments on his looking into the hallway the next day and seeing a scene of brutal slaughter; describes the place being full of dead bodies; discusses a Jewish man named **Moshe** who miraculously survived; remembers seeing him a few days later, but does not know what happened to him; comments on two Germans from Wierzbica driving into town and organizing round-ups; discusses their taking the Jews to the forest by car and shooting them at the side of the road; remembers a friend called **Moszek Szomferz [Moshek Shomferz]** who was also shot near the forest; says that **Szomferz** was a member of the Jewish Council; says that he was told that the Jewish Council gave the Germans a list of 37 Poles who were suspicious because of their ties with the Jews; discusses many Poles in that group perishing, some in Auschwitz.

[01:] 14:15:50 – [01:] 26:50:00

He comments on the dead bodies being brought back to town from the execution site and being dumped in the Jewish cemetery to be buried; discusses his seeing the dead bodies; remembers seeing the dead bodies of a father and his three children who were all shot after being caught at a hiding place; talks about an incident in which four months before the liberation by the Soviets, a ten-year-old Jewish boy named **Moszek** showed up at his farm and begged to be saved; remembers taking him in; discusses the boy helping around the farm; says that it was obvious that the boy was from a city, because he was not very handy; comments on taking the boy to church to reduce suspicion from the neighbors; discusses the boy escaping after the Soviet army

occupied the area; says that three Jews from **Trubin** survived the war, including one older Jewish woman and a man that was hidden by the **Olejko** family; says that the feelings of Poles towards the Jews were not friendly because of the resentment for the list of 37 names that the Jewish Council supplied to the Germans; describes that one day, while he was away on business, a Jew who was trying to hide in the barn on his farm was caught by the Germans and shot; remembers a Jewish man who was a carpenter asking him to save him; remembers giving the man some clothes; discusses the man's escape; says that members of the Jewish Council were taken out one by one to the forest and shot; says that a man named **Boleszewski** used to bring the dead bodies from the forest to the Jewish cemetery.

Time coded notes provided by Sam Ponczak