

WOJCIECHOWSKA, Jadwiga  
Polish Witnesses to the Holocaust Project  
Polish  
RG-50.488.0130

In this interview, Ms. Jadwiga Wojciechowska, born on July 20, 1921, a resident of Legionowo, discusses the fate of the Jews during the Second World War. Her testimony focuses on the **Sztajnberg [Steinberg]** family, a Jewish family that owned a mill. During the course of the interview, Ms. Wojciechowska provides an account of her journey from Sawin as she followed a group of Jews who were being escorted from the Sawin ghetto to the Sobibór extermination camp. Ms. Wojciechowska did not witness the killings she describes.

**Tape 1 of 1**

**[01:] 01:15:06 – [01:] 07:05:17**  
**01:17 – 07:22**

Ms. Wojciechowska was born on July, 20 1921, in Legionowo, Mazowiecki region; provides an account of her relocation from Legionowo to Podpakule in 1940, in order to avoid forced labor duty; says that, in 1940, she moved to Kolonia-Łowcza and married a mill worker, who worked for the **Sztajnberg** family; confirms that she lived in the area until 1944; describes the mill and mentions that a Ukrainian was appointed the manager of the mill; asserts that the locals doubted his origins because the only evidence of his Ukrainian background was his Orthodox religion; mentions that she worked in an office together with two of the **Sztajnberg** brothers; explains that the third brother worked in the mill; describes how, in the spring of 1941, most of the **Sztajnberg** family was shot by four Germans; explains that they were killed 200 meters away from the mill; says that the two younger brothers and a brother-in-law survived; explains that the Germans did not allow people to observe the murders, but that they later ordered the locals to bury the bodies; admits that she does not know the fate of the survivors.

**[01:] 07:05:18 – [01:] 14:39:21**  
**07:23 – 15:15**

Ms. Wojciechowska explains that she met two Jewish people during the war: an eight-year-old girl and an 80-year-old carpenter, but admits that she does not know their life stories; when asked about other killings, she describes her return from Sawin, when she followed a group of 500 Jews (men, women, and children) escorted by Germans; says that if people left the group, even to use the bathroom, they were shot immediately; affirms that this was the only convoy she witnessed; states that there were groups escorted daily to the Sobibór extermination camp; explains that she followed the group from Sawin to Łowcza, that she walked 100 meters behind the group for about nine kilometers, and that she saw six dead bodies; reveals that the group was not guarded by Germans, but by people, who were referred to as Ukrainians by the local population; says that the Ukrainians wore green uniforms, black berets, and spoke either

**Chachladzki** or Ukrainian; admits that she did not recognize the language; says that she did not witness any of the killings; explains that she heard the gunshots and then came upon the bodies in pools of blood; says that the victims were mostly male and were buried within two to three hours.

[01:] 14:39:22 – [01:] 18:35:04  
15:16 – 19:20

Ms. Wojciechowska maintains that she did not witness any other incidents, despite the fact that Kolonia-Łowcza and the mill were near to the highway, along which the Jews were transported; specifies that the distance between the mill and the highway was about 100 meters; explains that, although the locals were able to hear the gunshots, they did not want to approach the road and watch the events; mentions that she was told by the residents of Sobibór that the foreign Jews were brought to the extermination camp from France, Italy, and Czechoslovakia.

[01:] 18:35:05 – [01:] 24:13:20  
19:21 – 25:13

Ms. Wojciechowska describes the ghetto in Sawin; says that it was populated by local Jews; admits that she is not certain if any foreign Jews were housed in the ghetto; explains that the ghetto was located in the center of town and was surrounded by barbed wire; says that the ghetto was liquidated when the first foreign Jewish transports began arriving in Sobibór; when asked about **Błaszczuk**, she says that he hid Jews; recalls the story of Ms. **Gilowa**, who helped hide a Jewish man; says that the man presented her with the deed to his house in return for her help; specifies that the house was tall and made of bricks; explains that, after the war, the house was taken away from Ms. **Gilowa** by the local socialist authority and turned into a health clinic; explains that Ms. **Gilowa** was relocated to an apartment; at the end of the interview, she identifies the survivors of the **Sztajnberg** family: **Szyja**, the brother-in-law, **Szmul**, the youngest son, and **Motel**, the eldest son.