

GOLISZEK, Zuzanna
Polish Witnesses to the Holocaust Project
Polish
RG-50.488*0133

Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Zuzanna Goliszek, born in 1930, talks about the camp in Poniatowa and seeing Jewish prisoners from the camp during the time of the German occupation. Her brother and brother-in-law were employed at the camp, and when delivering lunch for them, she would spend a few hours every day, over the period of several months, at the camp gate.

[01:] 01:19:10 – [01:] 09:20:09

She gives her name, date and place of birth as Zuzanna Goliszek, born May 26, 1930, Leśniczówka; Leśniczówka was a settlement at the time and is presently a street in a village situated about three kilometers away from Poniatowa; her older brother and her brother-in-law were both working at the camp, and she and her older sister delivered lunch for them every day; they would arrive at the gate and both men would meet them there; they would spend about two hours together outside the gate; she and her sister would also bring food and cigarettes for the two men to sell them to the prisoners in the camp; she describes seeing two rows of barbed wire fencing surrounding the camp; she would also see the Jewish prisoners, adult men and women only, escorted by the armed guards, being marched to and from the camp in rows of four; she assumes that they were brought to the camp for lunch; each of them carried a brick in their hand; one day her brother, who worked at the camp, was beaten badly by the Germans, after they found six packs of cigarettes in his possession; her visits continued until October (she cannot remember if it was in '42 or '43); she describes the four watchtowers, each with a German guard pointing a rifle, similar to watch towers she saw later in Majdanek; at the time, she never entered the camp.

[01:] 09:20:10 – [01:] 17:15:05

She remembers that one day (she cannot remember the date, but it was at the time of the potato harvest) she could hear nonstop shooting from about 5 a.m. until noon; while she did not see the shooting, she did see the ditches that were dug in advance and the Jewish men digging them; the Germans and the Ukrainians were guarding the Jews; the Germans wore blue-gray uniforms and the Ukrainians black uniforms; she remembers that following the shooting and burning of the bodies, for at least three days the smell was so strong that the local people could not leave their houses; she saw some local people taking some items from the camp and rinsing them in the local stream; she knows they were looking for gold (such as fillings in teeth, rings, etc.); she and her family were not

involved in such activities; she had another encounter with the Jews before the shooting which involved being asked on few occasions by some Jews from the camp to buy items for them in the local store; comments on the origin of these Jews as Czechoslovakia, Vienna, or the Warsaw ghetto; they were very skinny and looked very malnourished; they spoke to her in Polish.

[01:] 17:15:06 – [01:] 24:53:05

Other incidents included her witnessing several transports of Jews, escorted by Ukrainians on horses, walking from **Nalęczów** to Opole, from where she thinks they were later brought to the camp; the Jews (she estimates 300 each time) seemed very tired; their luggage was carried in carts pulled by horses; on one occasion she saw how an elderly woman dressed in black and riding on a cart, and apparently in need of making a bathroom stop, was shot by a guard; it appeared that she took too long to relieve herself; she saw the shooting from a short distance of at most 20 meters, since her sister lived by the road on which the Jews were being marched; she does not know of any person who was hiding Jews during the occupation; she also says she was in danger herself when shopping for food for the Jews in the store; after the liberation she and her family visited the camp; she says that they took soap they found, but not jam, which they thought could be poisoned.