

ŁYJAK, Helena  
Polish Witnesses to the Holocaust Project  
Polish  
RG-50.488\*0134

Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Helena Łyjak talks about her wartime experiences as a child in her home town of Szydłowiec. She describes what she witnessed when German forces were passing through the town. In addition, she discusses the deportation of Jews and comments on how some of them attempted to save themselves or their children by hiding with acquaintances.

**[01:] 01:05:00 – [01:] 11:36:59**

Ms. Łyjak discusses the deportation of the Jews from the town of Szydłowiec, where she lived at the time; describes large groups of people being led in a line to wagons at a nearby train station; remembers the presence of Ukrainian forces and an incident in which they too killed a person; recalls the many corpses lying on the streets after the military had passed through the city; remembers how she and some friends searched the streets for lost coins; describes an incident in which some prisoners were killed not with guns, but beaten to death with shovels and axes; comments on how her family sheltered a man and his son, but only very briefly due to the very frequent inspections in their neighborhood.

**[01:] 11:37:00 – [01:] 19:10:00 [END]**

Ms. Łyjak discusses in more detail the incident in which prisoners were beaten to death instead of being shot; remembers how there were often dead people being transported around the town; recalls the time when an acquaintance wanted to leave his two daughters with a family in the neighborhood; discusses the return of some Jews to Poland after the war.