

Jan Błaszczak
Polish Witnesses to the Holocaust Project
Polish
RG-50.488*0181

07/10/2003

[Approximately 30 min]

SUMMARY

Jan Błaszczak was born on July 4, 1915 in Lublin. His mother had a laundry business. Mr. Błaszczak remembers the beginning of the war and German persecution of the Jews. He remembers the establishment of the Jewish ghetto in Lublin in 1941 and talks about the deplorable living conditions of the Jews in the ghetto. Mr. Błaszczak recalls the liquidation of the ghetto and speculates that afterwards the Germans rushed to take down the buildings in order to scavenge for Jewish valuables and gold. He explains that the Jews were relocated to Majdan Tatarski and that the strong young men were used as laborers; they were later deported to Majdanek and despite their strength and number, they did not try to escape. Jan Błaszczak mentions that after the Jews were deported, Polish citizens, so called hyenas, were digging around Majdan Tatarski in search of gold left by the Jews; he briefly mentions a person who found a diamond that was hidden in a lipstick. Mr. Błaszczak witnessed the execution of hostages *[it is likely to be a retaliation which followed a partisan action; however the story is not clear]*; on a different occasion he observed from a distance of two kilometers the killing of prisoners *[likely Jews]* in Majdanek.

[Prepared by Agnieszka McClure on 11/25/2010]