

SZUMLAK, Władysław  
Polish Witnesses to the Holocaust Project  
Polish  
RG-50.488\*0197

Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Władysław Szumlak talks about his wartime experiences in his birthplace of Pełkowice. He describes daily life there and remembers two Jewish families with the names **Szmol [Schmol]** and **Berek**. He focuses on the Jew **Mendel Szmol [Mendl Szmol]** and describes his daily routine, his professional life, and his death. In addition, he talks about Jewish life in Tarłów and how the Germans took advantage of the Jews. He also discusses the people **Izak Berek [Icak Berek]**, **Traczyński**, and **Majkowski [Majowski]** as the men who tried to hide **Berek**.

[01:] 00:50:00 – [01:] 03:30:09

He talks about his membership in different political parties; remembers his being sent to Warsaw along with 30 other men from Pełkowice; discusses the problem of leaving his mother behind by herself; comments on his going to Warsaw and returning after one week.

[01:] 03:30:10 – [01:] 05:14:59

He focuses on the **Szmol** family, who were a family of around six to eight people; remembers the names of two of the three boys as **Jabrom [Abrom]** and **Mendel**, and the two girls' names as **Ruchta** and **Fajga**; remembers that there was a second Jewish family in Pełkowice called **Berek** who had one son called **Izak**.

[01:] 05:15:00 – [01:] 11:55:12

He remembers Mrs. **Szmol** being very worried about the fate of the Jewish people and approaching his parents after one year of German occupation; talks about the **Szmols** owning a small grocery store; comments on **Mendel Szmol** fleeing the deportation of Jews to Tarłów by the Germans; discusses **Mendel's** talents, like dancing, singing and playing the drum; mentions **Mendel** playing in the local band and being almost fluent in Polish; remembers an incident in which one of the **Szumlak's** friends was getting married in Derewice and **Mendel** was not playing at his wedding; recalls the police coming to look for **Mendel** and all the people getting scared; discusses the bride even dying of a heart attack on the very same day; comments on the police offering a sack of sugar for those who would catch **Mendel**; remembers six men from the village waiting for **Mendel**, but he did not come back; discusses **Mendel** escaping the Jewish camp in Tarłów together with another Jew from Lipsko.

**[01:] 11:55:13 – [01:] 16:37:00**

He talks about Mendel and the other Jewish men only receiving guns after joining the Polish Home Army, “Armia Krajowa,” a Polish partisan group; remembers the people from the village suffering from poverty and two villagers, **Walczyk** and **Dwojak**, going to the next village to sell butter and cream; discusses the two men meeting **Mendel** and the other Jew in the forest; tells that **Mendel** recognized them, bought the butter and the cream and gave them a bottle of vodka; comments on **Walczyk** and **Dwojak** coming home drunk; remembers the police hearing the news about Mendel and somebody complaining about **Dwojak**; discusses the Germans coming and taking him away; comments on **Dwojak** being in the camps of Brzezinka, Auschwitz, and Dachau.

**[01:] 16:37:01 – [01:] 20:57:09**

He remembers **Mendel** and some other Jews coming to the store, which belonged to Mr. and Mrs. **Kowalski** to buy sugar and flour; talks about witnessing **Mendel** entering the store with his gun and saying that they should try to catch him now if they still wanted the sack of sugar promised by the Germans; talks about **Mendel's** German skills helping him being admitted to the Polish Home Army; discusses **Mendel's** sudden disappearance; comments on the deportation of the other members of the **Szmol** family to Tarłów; mentions going there on his bike to take a look at that place; talks about Tarłów not being a big town, but being full of Jewish people; comments on the Germans taking advantage of the Jews for their money and gold; discusses his hearing that the camp guards took money from the prisoners for the empty promises to help them go to Palestine; talks about the local governor receiving the message to bring ten horse-drawn carriages with Jewish prisoners to Tarłów, after the Jews had no money left.

**[01:] 20:57:10 – [01:] 22:55:59**

He discusses his witnessing the local governor fixing the day of deportation; comments on the Jews being pushed into the wagons and brought to the train station; assumes that the Jews were sent to the main concentration camps for extermination; says that he does not know when the **Szmols** had to leave Tarłów, but he does know that none of them survived.

**[01:] 22:56:00 – [01:] 32:56:59**

He says that the **Szmols** had also a daughter who owned a store in Ignatówka; discusses her running away when the Germans came to bring her to the Jewish camp; comments on the girl being hidden by a Polish family; speculates on the family's name as **Łosojcy** [**Łosojcy**]; comments on the family being reported to the police; says that all the people in the house were killed and the house was burned down, which he did not witness himself; comments on this friend **Izak Berek** who was his friend when they were ten years old; talks about the **Bereks** being rich, because they owned a sawmill;

Talks about **Izak** paying **Majkowski** and **Traczyński** for hiding him when the Germans came; says that they did it as long as he could pay them; discusses **Izak** running out of money and their trying to hide him in the basement flat of the church; comments on the priest telling them to hide him somewhere else; comments on the involvement of people in the hiding of Jews; discusses **Majkowski** and **Traczyński** bringing **Izak** to the river where he was hiding in the bushes for a couple of days; talks about the police coming and taking him away one day; remembers the police bringing **Izak Berek** to Pętkowice first and then to Sekałowice where he was killed and buried.

**[01:] 32:57:00 – [01:] 36:22:00**

He says that the Jews always tried to help the poorer people; comments on **Majkowski** and **Traczyński** being taken to prison; gives the name **Jan Kryj** as the one who told the police about their hiding **Izak Berek**; says that **Majkowski** died while he was imprisoned, and **Traczyński** came back, but died one year later.