

KARDYKA, Stanisław  
Polish Witnesses to the Holocaust Project  
Polish  
RG-50.488\*0207

Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Stanisław Kardyka, resident of Bzowiec (southeastern Poland) talks about the Jews living in Bzowiec before World War II and their subsequent fate under the German occupation. He focuses on the execution of all the Jewish residents in Bzowiec and the role of local firemen in that incident. He provides the knowledge based on his own memory as well as on testimonies of other residents of Bzowiec. He describes the circumstances around the firemen being charged with collaboration after the war. In addition, he discusses the execution of a large population in **Kitów**, a nearby village of Bzowiec.

[01:] 00:46:00 – [01:] 08:58:59

He estimates the number of Jewish families and their members living in Bzowiec before World War II; mentions first names of the heads of the families; talks about their most common professions; estimates the number of Jewish population of Bzowiec as 27-28 people; talks about their fate remaining unchanged for the first year of the war; remembers the execution of the whole Jewish population of Bzowiec after that time; talks about the chief of a local fire department being ordered to capture all the Jews living in Bzowiec; estimates the number of firemen in Bzowiec at fifteen to twenty people; describes the firefighting equipment; says the order was given by the authorities of the military police controlling the commune of Rudnik; remembers all the Jews being rounded up in one building; refers to what he was told by **Mr. Gdulak**, witness to the execution; comments on the look and behavior of two Germans commanding the execution; explains his seeing the dead bodies of the executed only; comments on the non-Jewish residents not expecting the execution; explains the Jews being deported to the transit camps up until then; talks about the sequence of the execution; describes the circumstances of the shooting of his Jewish schoolmate; describes the place of execution; comments on the hopelessness to survive the execution.

[01:] 08:59:00 – [01:] 18:35:59

He talks about the Jew **Szloma** from the nearby village **Kitów** and the circumstances of his surviving the war in hiding; mentions the firemen being charged with collaboration by **Szloma** after the war; talks about the jail sentences for them; focuses on his father's profession and working with him during the war; comments on the general situation and army movements after the outbreak of the war; answers the question on **Szloma's** background and place of hiding; comments on the reason of killing the Jews in Bzowiec;

compares that incident to the earlier practice of deportations; talks about the German and Ukrainian nationality of military policemen; explains again being an eyewitness only to dead bodies after the execution; talks about the eight-year sentence for Mr. **Boruchalski** [**Buruchalski**; **Borachalski**], the head of the fire department; mentions another convicted person, Mr. **Kolek**; comments on the reasons for them to help the Germans capture the Jews.

[01:] 18:36:00 – [01:] 23:50:59

He discusses the killing of 164 people in the nearby village **Kitów**; talks about the number of soldiers assigned to the execution and the reasons for killing the residents of **Kitów**; discusses hearing a story on a soldier successfully trying to avoid participating in the execution; answers the question on whether he knows any other cases of Jews living in hiding during the war; explains the reason of lack of common knowledge on such cases; talks about the Germans' order to inform them about anybody one met in the woods; discusses the circumstances around the execution of the wife of the mayor of **Kitów**.

[01:] 23:51:00 – [01:] 32:32:59

He talks about the humiliating treatment towards the Polish police officers and the Jewish children who were kept in a barn; explains not being able to witness many incidents because of the duties of his job; discusses his work for a local landowner; talks about the German practice of persecuting intelligentsia; comments on the careless attitude of a local commander of the Polish resistance movement or Polish Home Army, "Armia Krajowa," (AK), leading to his capture by the Germans; remembers the local landowner rescuing his worker from a German raid; comments on the privileged position of the local landowner.

[01:] 32:33:00 – [01:] 34:49:00

He answers the question on whether he eyewitnessed capturing the Jews by the firemen; explains the rumor about capturing being passed around the village; comments on the firemen using no weapons to gather the Jews in one building; answers the question on the location of Jewish houses in the village; estimates the number of the Jewish families in Bzowiec as five; confirms the Jews being gathered in one Jewish housing; assumes that they were being kept in it for twenty four or forty eight hours before the execution.