

WYBRANIEC, Edward  
Polish Witnesses to the Holocaust Project  
Polish  
RG-50.488\*0208

Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Edward Wybraniec, born on May 20, 1945, in Adamówka, talks about his wartime experiences in the city of Bzowiec. He comments on Jewish life in the village and on the persecution and extermination of the local Jews in which both German gendarmes and local firefighters participated.

[01:] 00:30:00 – [01:] 10:24:59

He comments on the German occupation, which he spent in Bzowiec; remembers the Jewish families in the village; discusses six Jewish families who were killed in summer during the occupation; talks about witnessing the killing of 27 people; says that the German gendarmes ordered the commander of the firemen to round-up all the Jews in the house of **Zyruk [Eryk]**; mentions that the local population thought the people were rounded-up to be recruited as forced laborers, as other Jews were working in forest clearing and road construction; describes the house into which the Jews were forced; comments on the firemen who were armed with clubs supervising these actions; estimates the number of gendarmes as five to six people from Turobin; discusses the commander **Max** telling the mayor to round-up about 30 people; comments on the Jewish men being taken out of the house first and executed, and the women and children afterwards; talks about the gendarmes giving the order to the mayor to remove the bodies; remembers the gendarmes leaving the village and the dead bodies being loaded on horse carriages; assumes that the bodies were buried in the woods (**Las Kubelasowy**) in a mass grave.

[01:] 10:25:00 – [01:] 19:43:00

He remembers his friend **Cimoszek**, who was the son of the milkman **Lejbak**, and his futile attempts to escape; talks about the screaming of the women and children; comments on the Jew **Szlume** who was the only survivor of the Jews from Bzowiec; discusses **Szlume** surviving by finding shelter in another village and telling the truth about Jewish persecution afterwards; comments on the sentences for the firemen and their commander who participated in the persecution of Jews and were tried between 1948 and 1949; discusses the local population being intimidated after the execution of the Jews and their not assisting any Jews; mentions the death penalty as punishment for the entire family when assisting Jews; comments on the firemen acting for fear and not receiving any payment for their actions; talks about other mass killings in other villages, such as Kity, where 164 people died one year earlier; comments on Mr. **Lejba**, the owner of the dairy, who shortly before his execution screamed and blamed the Poles for his murder.

**Time coded notes provided by Sam Ponczak**