

ZAWADZKA, Janina  
Polish Witnesses to the Holocaust Project  
Polish  
RG-50.488\*0209

Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Janina Zawadzka describes her experiences as a child living in Krakow during the time of the German occupation. She discusses her family and their living conditions during that time. In addition, she talks about the establishment of the Jewish ghetto on **Traugutta** Street, the executions and the subsequent evacuation of the ghetto. She also comments on the discovery of a mass grave and the exhumation of the victims' bodies in 1940. Furthermore, she explains how she came to write her book *Krakowskie Getto i Obóz koncentracyjny w Płaszowie – w oczach dziecka* (Joan`na Stefaniak, Janina Zawadzka; Wydawnictwo Kropka, Kalisz 2004) "The Ghetto in Cracow and the Concentration Camp in Płaszów – Seen through the Eyes of a Child" (rough translation of the title by Andreas Sucharski).

**[01:] 00:56:00 – [01:] 08:59:59**

Janina Zawadzka talks about her displacement on May 15, 1943; says that she lived on **Hetmana** Street (former **Kilińskiego** Street) in Wola Duchadzka; talks about her moving to **Traugutta** Street after the evacuation of the ghetto; comments on the German occupation and the conditions she lived in; mentions her book; describes how German troops came to Krakow and how the ghetto was established in 1942; describes the exhumation of the victims from 1939 and the discovery of a mass grave in 1940; discusses a commemorative plaque.

**[01:] 09:00:00 – [01:] 18:13:59**

She talks about the murdered Jewish women and children; *[shows pictures of a house near the Jewish cemetery where the bodies were lying]*; discusses a shooting in a Jewish cemetery which she witnessed with her mother; describes a house near the cemetery; *[shows pictures of the cemetery]*; talks about the first months of German occupation, the establishment of the ghetto, and the discrimination against Jewish people.

**[01:] 18:14:00 – [01:] 27:21:59**

She comments on the establishment of the Jewish ghetto in 1942; talks about the conditions around the ghetto and in Krzemionki; talks about being displaced on March 15, 1943; mentions the death of her father who fought in the Home Army; discusses her family situation and describes scenes of displacement and how people were chased into trains.

**[01:] 27:22:00 – [01:] 34:32:59**

She talks about the executions performed by Germans and Ukrainians; says that the ghetto was evacuated in parts; describes the executions and people being forced to dig their own graves; tells how she was an eyewitness to an execution and got nearly shot by a Ukrainian

soldier, but was saved by her mother; talks about the living conditions in which she lived from autumn 1942 to spring 1943; talks about the ghetto.

**[01:] 34:33:00 – [01:] 44:24:59**

She comments on her family situation and the death of her father on September 17, 1939; describes how her former home was pulled down; mentions her chance of getting compensation from firms that took part in the demolition; talks about a concentration camp that was turned into a labor camp; describes the camp; talks about executions and the horrifying sight of hanged people, and how she is still suffering from these images.

**[01:] 44:25:00 – [01:] 57:45:00**

She narrates that she could hear shots and other houses being crushed beside hers [*shows a picture of the house*]; talks about what she could hear from the camp; says that nobody was allowed to walk near the ghetto or the camp; talks about hearing shots during the execution; comments on the question of any Jew coming back after the war; says that she got to know that a Jewish woman was kept in the house she lived in; says that no one knew about Jews being hidden during the war; describes the house; mentions a commander of the camp who lived in that house during World War II; [*shows the location of that house through the window*]; gives the name **Amon Gec [Göth]** who was hanged in 1936 (Göth was hanged in 1946); mentions **Gec**'s daughter and a Jewish servant who visited her; discusses two Jewish families that had been displaced from Germany; says that one of the families survived, the other had to move into the ghetto; says that she mentions them in her book; talks about a dressmaker who hid a Jewish girl; says that she knew the girl personally when she lived at **Traugutta** Street until March or April 1943; says that she mentions them in her book; discusses how she came to write the book *Krakowskie Getto i Obóz koncentracyjny w Płaszowie – w oczach dziecka* (Joanna Stefaniak, Janina Zawadzka; Wydawnictwo Kropka, Kalisz 2004).