

STEFANIAK, Janina
Polish Witnesses to the Holocaust Project
Polish
RG-50.488*0212

Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Janina Stefaniak, née Macałka, born on May 31, 1930, in Proszowice, talks about her childhood, which she spent in Krakow. She describes the ghetto in the city which she regularly crossed when taking the streetcar and comments on Jewish children sneaking out of the ghetto to provide their families with food. In addition, she discusses the deportation of Jews from the ghetto in Krakow to Płaszów.

[01:] 00:30:00 – [01:] 09:25:59

She talks about her childhood, which she spent in Podgórze, a mainly Jewish quarter of Krakow; her family had a staff apartment in the “Kryształ” chocolate factory on Lwowska Street; her father worked as a driver for the factory; remembers crossing the ghetto on a daily basis when taking the streetcar; remembers the doors of the streetcar being locked during the ride and the streetcar driving very slowly before exiting the ghetto.

[1. She shows a drawing she made of the gate of the ghetto which was located on the corner of Limanowskiego and Lwowska Street:] she remembers a 9-year-old boy who used to jump on the steps of the streetcar and always jumped off before it exited the ghetto; remembers him wearing a backpack and carrying a milk can; she does not know if it was always the same boy.

She comments on the overpopulation of the ghetto and her seeing many policemen in black uniforms; discusses witnessing a 4-5-year-old girl – carrying a sack of potatoes – crawling back into the ghetto through a hole; talks about a convoy of elderly people that was led from the ghetto in the direction of Płaszów, which she was able to witness through the windows of the factory’s storage area.

[2. She shows a picture of the factory]

[3. She shows a drawing she made that depicts the deportation from the ghetto:] she remembers that mainly elderly people were led in six to eight rows; comments on German soldiers armed with machineguns escorting the convoy closely from both sides; says that she could hear shots as well; discusses a horse-drawn carriage riding at the end of the convoy with three to four people on it who were presumably dead.

[01:] 09:26:00 – [01:] 17:50:00

She comments on not having seen the children being deported from the ghetto, only the elderly people; remembers the shouting of the soldiers; discusses observing the deportation for about an hour; talks about the Jewish children who found refuge with Polish families.

[4. She shows a picture of the factory and a neighboring house:] she remembers **Lilka**, a 4-5-year-old Jewish girl, who stayed at a neighboring house that was owned by a woman who worked as a tailor; comments on visits; discusses a 12-year-old Jewish girl who occasionally stayed with one of Stefaniak's aunts; comments on the girl being taken from the ghetto to her aunt's by the girl's mother; discusses the girl being picked up one day; comments on the mother and the girl not surviving the war; talks about her family moving to a house on Zgody Square (present-day Bohaterów Getta Square) after the war; remembers the wooden floor being partially destroyed for being used as firewood during the war; comments on the housekeeper telling her that she found many short letters in Hebrew in the house and that two people are buried in the garden.