

PIEKARSKI, Stanisław
Polish Witnesses to the Holocaust Project
Polish
RG-50.488*0223

Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Stanisław Piekarski, born on August 23, 1918, in Germany, (returned with his parents to Poland in 1923) talks about his wartime experiences in the village of **Młodzianów** in the Turecki District (centered on the town of Turek). Presently, he lives in Malanów parish. He describes the life in the Heidemille ghetto and its liquidation.

[01:] 00:30:00 – [01:] 10:34:59

He states that in September of 1941 Jews from villages of **Młodzianów**, Leśnictwo, Marcjanów, Miłaczewek, **Młyn Malczewski**, and some from towns of Turek and Kalisz were forced into a ghetto in the village of **Młodzianów**; gives the name of the ghetto as Heidemille; comments on the evacuation of the Polish population from their houses to make room for the Jews; says that about two to three Jewish families were forced into a single house; describes his being a photographer and given an “Ausweis” (he describes it as a permit or document) that allowed him to travel and take photographs; remembers spring 1942 during which the Jewish police forced the Jews in the ghetto to turn in their jewelry and money to save the ghetto from liquidation; remembers a doctor named **Knabel** who was sent to the ghetto to separate young healthy Jews from the old and sick people; says that the healthy Jews were taken away to work; comments on the sick people and those who refused to work having their documents stamped; talks about June 1942 during which the Jews who could not work or refused to were arrested; remembers a specific arrest of ten men and two women; discusses witnessing a horse-pulled wagon with ten Jews on it (their hands tied) being taken to the gallows; discusses witnessing their hanging; comments on the Polish population also being forced to witness it in order to convey what happens to people who refuse to work; says that Jewish police under orders from the Germans conducted the hangings.

[01:] 10:35:00 – [01:] 18:16:59

He describes how he knew how to make counterfeit documents; describes how he made about 30 sets of documents for the Jews and how he made them with Polish names; talks about his living in **Czahuley** at the time of the liquidation of the ghetto in 1942; discusses his witnessing the liquidation; comments on the bedridden people being shot in the heads as they lay in beds; discusses all the remaining people being loaded into very large black vans; says that those vans were closed from all sides and top; comments on his going into the ghetto the day after it was liquidated and seeing many dead bodies scattered around; says that when he was making the false documents he agreed that the Jews who were able to escape (thanks to his documents) were

going to meet with him in his house after the war; mentions that only five out of the 30 people came.

[01:] 18:17:00 – [01:] 44:54:00

He describes how a young Jewish woman was brought to him after the ghetto was liquidated; comments on hiding her in his house because Germans lived on either side of his house; describes how he helped her escape; assumes that she survived and lived in the U.S.; discusses how a man named **Marian Raszelski** saved a Jewish man and a woman; Piekarski made false documents for them; comments on the couple being caught by Gestapo, tortured, and killed; says that the Gestapo started to look for him; describes how his parents helped him hide on their farm; comments on his being a member of the Polish Home Army, “Armia Krajowa,” (AK), at that time; describes how he became sick; discusses his encounters with the advancing Soviet Army; focuses on the two women mentioned earlier just being shot by the Gestapo one day during the liquidation of the ghetto; discusses their bodies being buried in the forest; describes again the vans used in the liquidation of the ghetto; says that these were large black vans which looked very unusual; says that they were closed on all sides and although he could not see the people inside the vans, he could hear their voices and cries; mentions that after the ghetto was liquidated the Germans came back again to search for Jews who may have escaped or survived in that area; describes that Poles who collaborated with the Germans were rewarded with farms and houses, sometimes very generously; comments on the situation after the war; says he knew captain **Grozny** who was a communist and went to Russia for training; mentions that **Grozny** was sent back to Poland and became a leader of partisans; comments on a partisan named **Lisiecki** who was shot by the AK; comments on his knowledge of a man from Chelmno named **Bulka**; mentions a man named **Erlich [Erich] Mendel** and a man named **Szrajesz** from Kalisz; says he did not want to know names in the event he was caught and tortured.

Time coded notes provided by Sam Ponczak.