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DUŚ, Genowefa
Polish Witnesses to the Holocaust Project
Polish
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In this interview, Genowefa Duś, born on January 2, 1923, in Długojów, discusses an incident during the war, relating to a Jewish family in her village. She was 16 years old, living in Długojów, at the start of the Second World War. Mrs. Duś reveals that a Jewish family was hiding at the home of Mr. **Sadowski**, a local resident. She explains that the Jewish family was denounced by the following people: Antoni **Lisowski**, the village headman; Władysław **Gembski [Gębski]**, the village messenger; her mother-in law; Wojciech Duś, her father-in-law; and Ignacy Duś, her future husband.

Tape 1 of 1

[01] 00:47:00 – [01:] 07:40:04
00:00 – 07:57

Mrs. Duś mentions that she learned about the start of the war while attending Mass at a church in Kołomań; when asked if there was a German police station in Długojów, she responds that the closest German police station was in Samsonów; explains that, in 1939, the front line was positioned at the edge of a nearby forest; mentions the confrontations between German army units and the Polish population; discusses the attacks launched by Germans against Polish partisans who belonged to the Home Army, “Armia Krajowa,” (AK), and were stationed in the forests with Gryf’s battalion (Gryf is the code name of Janusz Brochwicz-Lewiński, a Major in the AK.); asserts that there were other armed resistance groups stationed in the forests; presumes that these groups were comprised of Russians and Ukrainians; discusses food shortages during the war.

[01:] 07:40:05 – [01:] 18:55:18
07:58 – 19:41

Mrs. Duś says that there were no Jews living in Długojów before the war; when asked if any Jews lived in Długojów during the war, she mentions a Jewish man who once repaired her father’s shoes; says that the Jewish cobbler left his coat at their home and that she and her brother traveled to Kielce to return the coat; explains that this was the last time she saw the Jewish man, because one week later, he was taken to the ghetto; discusses the Jewish family – father, mother, and son – hiding in Długojów during the war; explains that Mr. **Sadowski** sheltered them and that they came from Samsonów; maintains that all of the villagers in Długojów were aware that the Jewish family was hiding at the home of Mr. **Sadowski**; repeats that she personally never saw them, but that she knew the location of their shelter; reveals that the Jewish family first came to her father-in-law, Wojciech Duś, to inquire about Mr. **Sadowski**; says that because her father-in-law was aware of the fact that hiding Jews was forbidden, he sent

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his son, Ignacy Duś, to notify the village headman, Antoni **Lisowski**; explains that everyone was frightened because harboring Jews was punishable by death; says that the village headman, together with the village messenger, denounced the Jews at the police station in Samsonów, though the policemen did not come to apprehend the Jews; explains that, the following day, Mr. **Sadowski** went to the police station alone and brought the policeman to the village; reveals that that the Jewish family was shot in the forest; mentions that her husband and the village messenger buried the bodies of the victims in the forest; explains that, because of a quarrel between Mr. **Sadowski** and Mr. **Szcześniak** [*a village resident*] after the war, the fact of past denunciation of Jews in the area was revealed; says that five people were arrested and put on trial in relation to this revelation: her husband, father-in-law, mother-in-law, the village headman, and the messenger; she underscores that her mother-in-law and the messenger were acquitted, while the others were found guilty of collaboration with the Germans; enumerates the terms of sentencing: both her father-in-law and the village headman were sentenced to six years and one month, her husband was sentenced to five years and one month; explains that the first trial took place in Kielce and was followed by an appeal in Warsaw; explains that due to amnesty, her husband's sentence was reduced, and he spent only two years in prison; she is unable to provide an explanation of why her husband and father-in-law denounced the Jewish family; says that the topic was never broached by her husband; stresses that she was not aware of this incident before she married her husband in 1947, that she only learned of it when he received a summons to appear in court.

[01:] 18:55:19 – [01:] 20:03:06
19:42 – 20:51

Mrs. Duś says that the name of the Polish policeman, “granatowy policjant,” who killed the Jewish family was **Duleba** [**Dulemba**]; in response to a question, she says that the name of the Jewish family was **Berek** [**Berki**]; reiterates that the family came from Samsonów, where they owned a store; says that she does not think anyone attempted to exhume and move the bodies of the Jewish family after the war; assumes that their remains are still in the forest.

[01:] 20:03:07 – [01:] 23:33:21
20:52 – 24:30

Mrs. Duś talks about how the Germans searched for partisans in the neighboring forest; remembers that her brother and cousin buried the bodies of partisans who were killed by Germans after they had been discovered; recalls that, on a different occasion, local partisans from an unknown unit asked her brother to give them a ride in his sled to Krasna; explains that the partisans were most likely Polish; [*the following statement is unclear*] says that her brother witnessed the conflicts and killing that occurred between them; adds that the majority of local partisans were members of Gryf's battalion.