

TYSZKIEWICZ, Tomasz  
Polish Witnesses to the Holocaust Project  
Polish  
RG-50.488\*0262

Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Tomasz Tyszkiewicz, born June 1, 1926 in Parczew and a wartime resident of the town, describes his experiences there during the German occupation. He recounts his escape from forced labor in Lublin. He also recalls the relocation of Jews in Parczew, including raids carried out in the nearby forest and the killing of Jewish partisans. He tells a story about a Jewish family from his neighborhood, and reports on the arrest of a reputed Polish partisan and the theft of Jewish personal property.

**[01:] 00:37:18 – [01:] 06:02:17**  
**00:00 – 06:12**

Tyszkiewicz says that lived in Parczew through almost all of the war; says that on March 1, 1944, he and three other **yearbooks** were taken to join a youth brigade of the Polish Army called “Junaków” where they worked in Nowy Świat (Lublin district) loading and unloading deliveries. After this period they were taken from Lublin to Zemborzyce to the Jewish camp where they were working on the railway track; says that when an itchy rash appeared on his body he could not stand it anymore and decided with his friends to escape home; remembers the emotions of his mother when she saw him entering the door; describes not being able to see the doctor due to financial duress; says that when the Soviets came into the town on July 22, 1944, he stopped hiding.

**[01:] 06:02:18 – [01:] 10:59:07**  
**06:13 – 11:22**

When asked if he has ever seen how they killed Jews during the war, Tyszkiewicz answers yes; describes how once when he was working in the field he saw Ukrainians chasing Jews across the fields; says they asked him to step back but he could still see them from a very short distance; reports that the group of people was 400 to 500 meters long; says that that they were put into carriages which are normally used to transport cows; reports that though he did not see this himself, he had seen it elsewhere; states that he knew they were Ukrainians because they were wearing uniforms similar to the Polish soldiers but they hardly said a single word in the Polish language; says he thought they were Ukrainians who had gone over the German side and were fighting for independent Ukraine; recalls that when he came back from the fields later that day he saw another group of Jews being chased; states that one woman from the last row was pushed by a Ukrainian soldier into a ditch opposite his house; recalls seeing the Ukrainian shoot her two or

three times and then walk away; says he could not say whether they killed anybody else because this was the only killing he witnessed personally.

**[01:] 10:59:08 – [01:] 16:30:03**  
**11:23 – 17:06**

He says that under the occupation he delivered potatoes to Gestapo (also called “Deko”) headquarters which was based in Radzyn; says he had a chance to see the actions of Ukrainian soldiers over there; recounts the events that now deceased witnesses described to him; reports that they told him about a cruel German commander who took a little girl to one of the side roads and shot her in front of the other people; remembers that he saw dead bodies of approximately 20-30 Jewish people after their relocation; insists that he has seen only one group of Jews and does not know about the rest; recalls that he was told by the mayor of the town to go with his neighbour and report all of these bodies; says that on their way to the town they saw a lot of blood on the streets and in the gutters; says that they were asked to dispose of the rest of the bodies but that he could not do it because he felt sick; reports that they hid outside of the town until it was over; when asked about any other situations, says that Jews were made to remove snow from the streets; recalls that they wore very old and thin clothes and that, in his opinion, they looked like they were half-dead; says that they were under police supervision all the time but many managed to escape to bunkers in a nearby forest.

**[01:] 16:30:04 – [01:] 25:54:03**  
**17:07 – 26:54**

Tyszkiewicz reports that he was a witness when they were hunting Jews hiding in the forest; says he was told by the mayor of the town to go there in the middle of the night and take those Jews on the cart to Parczew; recalls that they took one that night; says that because he was familiar with Russian language he could understand when two Georgian soldiers said on their way back that they killed children and the rest of the Jews from this bunker and brought back only this one; reports that he saw this man the next day when the military police was taking him to the train station and then to Radzyn where the Gestapo questioned Jews to find out the location of other bunkers; says that there were many raids organized in his neighborhood but that he only participated in the one he described; reports that he sadly remembers that every time he was going to the forest after the war he saw many skulls and bones there.

**[01:] 25:54:02 – [01:] 34:10:09**  
**26:55 – 35:29**

He tells about the winter in 1940 when he saw **prisms** with dead officers at the Jewish cemetery; speculates that it was approximately 100 to 150 bodies but says it was hard to estimate; remembers that they were in Polish battle uniforms with coats and boots; says it was hard to know whether they were executed because the bodies were covered with blood and scattered by the crows; says he knew they were Jews by the look of them; adds that he had heard about a few Jewish divisions being chased recently; says he does not know how Germans classified Jews; recalls that his brother-in-law told him that during one of the raids Germans ordered the Jews to take their trousers down so they could see who was circumcised.

[01:] 34:10:10 – [01:] 45:40:04  
35:30 – 47:21

When asked whether he lived close to the police station in Parczew he says no; adds that he had never been inside this building but that he witnessed the arrest of a reputed Polish partisan in front of the police-station; thinks he recalls that this partisan (called **Grabowski**) was hiding until they found him wounded in one of the houses; says he took him to the prison in Sucha with his cart; reports that the Germans killed him there; says he thinks the man was taken by mistake because he was not the only one called **Grabowski** in this area.

[01:] 45:40:05 – [01:] 52:36:11  
47:22 – 53:29

Tyszkiewicz says he lived 300 miles away from the prison; says he never saw them take the Jews inside; reports that he saw “Blue Police” [collaborationist police in General Government region of occupied Poland] over there but that he did not know what they were doing; remembers that a Ukrainian soldier visited his house and asked him if there were any Jews living at his place; he says he answered no; remembers a Jew called **Goldberger** who lived opposite his uncle and who sold flour; recalls that **Goldberger** and his family **were not in hiding themselves when the others were chased**; reports that others said **Goldberger** bribed one of the Ukrainians with gold to bring both of his daughters back from the **carriage**; reports that other witnesses from Laski and other villages said they saw these girls being raped and killed by a Ukrainian later on.

[01:] 52:36:12 – [01:] 59:49:50  
53:30 – 1:02:10

He recalls that he found promissory notes for 40,000 zlotys in the tea box but his mother burned them all because she did not want to enrich herself at the cost of Jews; states that he believes nobody local would rob the Jews besides the Germans and Ukrainians; reports that he heard there was a group that plundered the villages but that they were arrested by the Gestapo.