

Józef Petruczenko  
Polish Witnesses to the Holocaust Project  
Polish  
RG-50.488.0805

Józef Peruczenko was born on March 19, 1929 in Międzyrzec Podlaski and he was the son of a local farmer. The interviewee was an eyewitness to the persecution of Jews by the Germans. He saw the liquidation of the ghetto in Międzyrzec Podlaski; he witnessed killings of individual Jews as well as their mass executions; he briefly talks about the involvement of the locals who were forced to collect and transport the bodies to a local Jewish cemetery; he mentions some Poles, to include himself and his family, who provided food for the Jews. He briefly talks about Polish girls who were mistaken for Jewish and who were then killed by the Germans. He describes a fight between a Hungarian officer and a German gendarme; the Hungarian tried to protect an older Jewish man.

**File 1 of 1**

**[01:] 00: 45:07- [01:] 48:43:08**

**[01:] 00: 45:07 - [01:] 06: 37:06**

**00:23 – 06:01**

Q: Good day.

A: Good day.

Q: Please introduce yourself.

A: My name is Petruczenko Józef.

Q: When and where were you born?

A: I was born in Międzyrzec Podlaski. I have lived here since before the war until now.

Q: When were you born?

A: I was born on March 19, 1929.

Q: We visited with you a few months ago and we talked about your wartime experiences. Now we are back to videotape our conversation. I would like to ask how, how you remember the beginning of the war. How did your life in Międzyrzec change?

A: I remember it quite well and especially I remember the drastic scenes which happened in the case—during the occupation. Those scenes were indescribable. You had to experience it yourself. And that is why I still remember all these events. Międzyrzec was a town...

*[Break; cut]*

Q: We had a technical break to correct the lighting. You started to talk about drastic events you witnessed during the war.

A: Yes.

Q: Could you tell us about them?

A: Well, I am not sure where to start. Perhaps I will begin the story with a less drastic case. After the Germans had invaded, Jews were obliged to wear stars. Right here on the left side and every one of them had to have it. And how Jews were treated... Jews lived scattered around the entire Międzyrzec. Whenever a German approached they had to bow down, take their hats off and say: “**Guten Morgen**”[GERMAN: Good Day]. This happened on Warszawska Street. I was an eyewitness and I saw it all. There was a gendarme named **Schläger** [**Schläge**; gendarme named **Schläger** is mentioned by Janina Stefańczyk who is another witness from Międzyrzec] Among the Jews [he was believed to be] very mean and bad, to Poles and to all. And a Jew didn’t say it [likely: “Good Day”] to him—he was about 60 years old. That **Schläger** gendarme came up to him, he said—and he slapped him on the face. He then [the Jew] fell over and he was almost in the gutter, the gutter that ran from the sidewalk. It had rained before and there was some water. And then he started to—to step all over him with his feet. Here on his stomach and he also stepped on his throat. After a short time—Hungarians lived right next door in a one storey building and a Hungarian captain saw it all. He ran out and quickly got to that gendarme and he said: “What are you doing? Why? What is that? After all this is—” I am not really sure, but at least that is how I imagine that [the verbal exchange]. The gendarme answered something back and the Hungarian slapped him on the face right away. The gendarme spun his rifle butt, he [unclear who took the pistol] took his pistol and went back to his unit. Not ten minutes had passed when a gendarme unit arrived. I

am not sure how many people exactly. It was not covered [not clear what was not covered: perhaps the truck]. There were about ten gendarmes or perhaps a few more, well just about that many. They stopped, their commander walked up to the Hungarians and they were talking for quite a few minutes. Then he left and they all drove away. As I later found out, the Hungarian officer was a boxer and he also played soccer. We practiced soccer in an open field at **kierkut** [POLISH: Jewish cemetery]. I did it myself when they didn't have a full team and I was also fetching the ball—these were our games. And that was the end of it [he likely refers to the previous incident when the gendarmes departed so quickly]. And I saw it so I told you about it—he was an athlete.

**[01:] 06: 37:06 - [01:] 13:02:07**

**06:01 – 12:30**

Q: How far away were you from the Jew on the ground?

A: Howe far? Maybe 15-20 meters. I was almost in the same spot, not far away. And I saw—maybe 20- 30...

Q: Did you hear?...

A: ...so I could see very well.

Q: Did you hear in what language the gendarme and the Hungarian officer were talking?

A: I didn't hear, I didn't hear. It was for sure German because Germans didn't know Hungarian.

Q: And what happened to the Jew who...

A: Later he got up and he left. And where did he go? For sure to...

Q: And what happened to the Jews in town later?

A: As I mentioned, the Jews lived all around—they were scattered all around Międzyrzec but most of them lived in the town center. The so called Jewish police were established. How many of them? It is hard to say but there were about a dozen. They were the richer Jews, and the gendarmes gave all their orders to be carried out by the Jewish police. That is what I can generally tell you for starters. Whereas the first action \_\_\_\_\_ [inaudible] action happened sometime in June, end of June or July. What year? I don't remember, I can't say as I am not sure. It started around 5 [o'clock] in the morning or even earlier. Międzyrzec was surrounded by the gendarmes and by the military. How many of them? It

is hard to say because we couldn't see it well at the time. We were all scared. We weren't even allowed to go outside to the bathroom. But I was always very noseey so I went to the bathroom and I saw a moment when a Jew was passing by. He was about 60. He had on a Jewish kippah hat. How far away? Maybe 100 meters away from where I was. And a gendarme on Brzeska Street aimed and fired at him. He was about 30, 40 meters away. He fell over onto the ground and he stayed there. I want to explain that the gendarmes had all the information about the Jews and it was apparently supplied by the Jewish police. They walked into each house and they ordered everybody out to assemble at the town square. If somebody wouldn't come they would be in trouble. And they were packing them there tightly until the end. Later on if somebody stayed or managed to hide and he was caught by the gendarmes he was killed on the spot. That meant they would be shot. That's what happened to that Jewish man. And there was also a case of the Polish girls who were sleeping in a barn. They were about 16, 17, 18 years old. They were in a barn because it was warm in the summer and they were sleeping on the hay. Germans saw them, found them and they thought they were Jewish and they shot them.

Q: Did you see when they were shooting the Polish girls

A: No, I didn't see the girls, but there was a funeral and the whole Międzyrzec was buzzing about it.

Q: And since we are talking about that Jew in the street—it happened, as you said, very early in the morning. Were there...?

A: No it was later. As I said, when they were tightening it up [he likely meant: reducing the ghetto] whoever didn't leave was later—they made a second\_\_\_\_\_ and then they were killing them. It was about 8, 9, 10 o'clock, or so. Some time around that time.

Q: So I don't understand... Was the Jew walking down the street by himself?

A: He was walking hunched over, all by himself. He wasn't on the street but he was cutting across the square towards downtown, towards the gathering spot for all of them.

Q: And how could you tell that he was a Jew?

A: I could see, I could tell by the kippah hat. I told you that he had that Jewish hat, kippah, the one they used to wear. All the Jews wore such hats.

Q: Was the day of...?

A: Apart from that, I could tell that he was Jewish because later on he was on the ground [unclear phrasing]. They didn't take him till the next day and he was really a Jew.

Q: And who took him the following day?

A: The next day there came a brigade or something like that—I don't know. Just some people who were put together on a team by the Germans. They were picking up all the bodies and taking them to **kierkut** [Jewish cemetery].

Q: Were there more bodies?

[01:] 13:02:07 - [01:] 20:01:19

12:30 – 19:34

A: Yes there were. There were many bodies of those whom the Germans shot. We could hear shots all the time, ever few minutes there was a shot. And these weren't just [warning] shots—each time somebody was killed.

Q: Were all bodies collected the following day?

A: They were collected the next day. Why? Perhaps we can figure it out. After all Jews were gathered in the town square they were taken from that spot to the railway station. I am not sure what time it was. In any case, people who watched it from their windows and saw them in the streets were talking about it later. When the Jews were chased to the station, all the ones who were lagging behind were killed. The handicapped and the sick and all who couldn't manage—they were shot and killed in on the road. And then they were collected the following day. And there were very many of them on the road [that went] from the square to the station. I couldn't stand looking at that. Because every 15, 20 meters, there laid a dead body. And I didn't go much farther because I was in shock, although I was pretty brave and curious.

Q: And you said that the Germans put together a brigade to remove the bodies. Were they Polish or Jewish men?

A: I don't know. For sure, for sure—it is hard to say—but for sure Jewish....

Q: How were they collecting and transporting these bodies?

A: The bodies?—on horse-drawn carts. I also testified that that the municipal office in Międzyrzec had a record of all registered cart drivers. That means all who had a horse and a cart or even a car. Because some of \_\_\_\_\_ here had cars. And twice or three

times a month we had a so called **szalwark/schallwag** [01:16:06:09], when you had to report at a certain time and place and perform work for the town for eight or more hours. And right there all the dead bodies were taken onto the carts. They were loaded and taken out to **kierkut** where they were buried. Such was the situation.

Q: After that action, did you see any other instances when the Jews were killed?

A: After the first action, I saw first hand when a Jewish policeman showed up near the place where the Jews were being gathered. A gendarme recognized him, he walked up to him and then he was talking about something. The Jew turned around, took a swing and he hit him on the chin [*he points to his chin*]. The gendarme fell over and the Jew started to run down Żelazna Street. The gendarme got up, took out his pistol and he started to shoot. He fired a good few times, a few times. They ran down Warszawska Street and they got to Staromiejska Street. That was the street where I lived. The Jew got near the yard of the **Krzyżanowski's** and he fell down wounded. It was about two, three meters from the sidewalk. He was down breathing hard, all splattered with blood when the gendarme reached him. He looked—and they immediately let the town police—the Jewish police know about the incident. And what happened? Not far from \_\_\_\_\_, they had their office right here. It turned out that he was a brother of one of the policemen who arrived. And we can assume that he said something to that German, [[asked] to finish him off or so. And he [the German] pulled out his gun, pointed it at him and said something. But he didn't shoot. And that other Jewish policeman said something to him and the other Jew was down, breathing hard for about 20 minutes. He was still alive. We could see it all through the windows nearby. We weren't allowed to come near. And then a horse-drawn cart came and they put the body on the cart and they took him to the cemetery still alive. He was taken alive to **kierkut** and then he was buried alive. I know about it because a cart driver who took him told me.

Q: Who was the cart driver?

[01:] 20:01:19 - [01:] 26:47:12

19:34 – 26:19

A: I am not quite sure. It was a farmer. Farmers, mainly, were drivers.

Q: Could you tell me which part of this incident: the escape or chase did you see? Were you at the town square yourself?

A: Yes, I was at the town square. I was at the town square and I saw the whole incident, the punching and what happened afterwards. And if I am not mistaken, it was fourth market day and there were quite a few folks there and they were all in a panic when the shooting

started. People were walking around and that German was chasing the Jew and he was firing at him. Everybody tried to run away.

Q: And you?

A: I didn't try to run away. When I reached him [the Jew] he was already down because I lived on Staromiejska. How far? About 50 meters. And he was on the ground close to our good neighbors' [yard], so I visited [them] to see because I was curious.

Q: How far were you from the Jew lying on the ground when you saw him?

A: How far? Two, three meters.

Q: You said that he was a Jewish policeman—how were you able to tell that he was a Jewish policeman?

A: They had their markings.

Q: And that Jew on the ground had those markings?

A: Yes, he did. It is hard for me to describe them because a lot of time had passed. It was clear that he was a Jewish policeman. They had their entire, let's say, office here on Staromiejska [Street]—not far from where the incident happened.

Q: Did it happen before that action in which all the Jews from Międzyrzec were rounded up?

A: No, it happened afterwards. It was after the action. Because as I later learned it was said that – whenever such action took place they would send a Jewish policeman to the rail car with the rest. I don't know how it exactly happened that time but in any case he [the Jew who was shot later] ran away. He jumped out of the car, because many Jews were trying to escape and the gendarme recognized him. And that is why it all happened.

Q: Were there any Jews left in Międzyrzec after that action?

A: Yes, there were. They were being delivered in here and the ghetto was established here after that action. The ghetto was fenced off and local Jews were brought in from Parczew and from other places. Even Czechoslovakian and Hungarian Jews were here. They were kept in the ghetto.

Q: And you...

A: And later, after some time, I am not really sure if that is true, the Germans supposedly would stop the action whenever the Jews bought themselves out. I am not sure if the police here didn't tell them: "If you gather a kilo of gold—or whatever quantity, I just give it as an example—then we will postpone the action." And that is what used to happen—the actions were postponed.

Q: And do you remember how the ghetto was established, how it was coming about?

A: Excuse me?

Q: Do you remember how the ghetto was established?

A: The ghetto was fenced off and it was forbidden to enter there. And the ghetto was—I can show where nowadays the entire ghetto would have been. Although nowadays there are \_\_\_\_\_ buildings, I remember it very well.

Q: And—you said that the ghetto was fenced off. Was it also guarded?

A: Guarded—gendarmes were walking around but they weren't really guarding. The Jews were notified that if they left the ghetto they would be killed. But people would leave the ghetto at night to get some food. I even remember that once in the fall, a Jewish woman we knew stopped by. She was all bruised: her legs and her head. To get food; eggs or bread. But it was in the evening and you couldn't buy anything. So my mom always gave away something. My mom would give whatever we had. And even this situation—a coincidence—it was cold. We had the fire on in the kitchen and you had to add kindling every so often to the fire. She [a Jewish woman] sat down on a stool by the kitchen. She sat down and she had money in her hand. And she was adding more and more and more and while she was talking she switched her hands and she the mon—instead of kindling, she put money in there and she screamed: "Vayyy!!!" [*He lifts up his hands*]—screaming. Well, nothing much happened but this fact got stuck—I saw it.

Q: Do you remember the name of that woman you used to know?

A: No, I don't. So many times—

Q: I also wanted—you said that transports were coming from the neighboring areas as well as from Hungary and Czechoslovakia. Did you see transports arrive to Międzyrzec?



A: No I didn't see them but I heard about them. The stories. Mainly from a police—  
[policeman]—from a neighbor named **Krzyżanowski**, who was on very good terms with  
a policeman, with a Jew. And he was telling him.

[01:] 26:47:12 - [01:] 34:13:05

26:19 – 33:45

Q: Did it ever happen that you saw Jews being brought in, transported to the ghetto?

A: No, I didn't see it. But there were—how many in our back yard? 10 meters, 20 meters  
away stood a formerly Jewish warehouse where they were processing bristles and hides,  
or something to that effect. It was a very big [building], about five by six meters. When  
they brought in the Jews, they locked them up in there. I remember there were iron bars  
*[he makes a vertical hand motion]*, iron doors and they [they Jews] were in there. And a  
gendarme—no, not a gendarme, a German was guarding them. It was summer and the  
steam was escaping through the windows as if it were a sauna because so many were  
inside. And how many were there? I think that perhaps there were 20 or 40 maybe. But  
they—these Jews were there a short time, about 24 hours or so. And then they were taken  
away but it is hard for me to guess where. Because...

Q: Did you see when they were escorted out?

A: No, I didn't. I didn't see when they were escorted, brought out. Because I was also busy  
with my parents, I had to help my parents. But I was sorry for them. Whenever a German  
went away the other way we gave them —perhaps not quite white rolls but we threw them  
some bread or so, so that... Because they kept asking, they were stretching out their hands  
to give them something. I don't know if they were—if they were fed or not.

Q: What...?

A: We were small boys and we too [took]; we risked but...

Q: Do you remember in what language they were asking; what language they were  
speaking?

A: It was in Jewish; in Hebrew. I knew Hebrew quite well. A Jewish family used to live with  
us. But they left in the first action and they never came back. And many, many of them  
were taken to Treblinka and they were running away from the cars. One would save his  
life and the next man would die. It went both ways.

Q: Did you ever meet a Jew who ran away from a transport to Treblinka?

A: No. I did—I met that Jewish woman, the friend of ours who came in the evening to get some food.

Q: Did she come from a transport or from the ghetto?

A: No. She came from a transport. She was from a transport. She was in a transport and she ran away. She jumped out from a transport and that is why she was all beaten up, all bruised. [*He points to his face*]. And legs...

Q: Do you know what happened to her later?

A: The same what [happened] to everyone—the same that happened to everyone. That was for sure. We didn't hear from her—she was here just once and later we lost touch.

Q: During our previous conversation you mentioned that Jews were kept at the police station.

A: First they were rounded up and locked in the ghetto. I am not quite sure where exactly such big numbers were kept but then I personally witnessed that—they were led outside the ghetto in a group of 20 or 40. They were on foot and Germans flanked them, surrounded them and that happened around... How far? About 50 meters away from where we lived. We lived right here on Staromiejska [Street]. And I recognized our neighbor who lived across from us in the back. He was our friend and they were taking him together with the Jews. I got curious because it was our neighbor. So I simply followed that column, but not really close, I kept to the side. I wondered where they were going and what they were going to do with that Pole. And they took—took—they got to **kierkut** and there we... Because I had a friend named Zbyszek **Nafalski** and we went there together. We hid behind the fence and we saw that the Jews had to get undressed down to their underwear. After they undressed they had to line up and then we realized that they would start shooting straight in our direction. And we got scared and we ran away behind the fence, about 50 meters to the side. And then they started to shoot. We were watching the first rounds but later we couldn't take it any longer. It was so cruel. Cruel... We couldn't understand that because even an anim—animal—a man feels compassionate towards an animal and these... These were people. And then the action was finished. What happened? It was over and they for sure buried them. And later I found out—I found out that he [the neighbor] and his son went to the ghetto, probably to bring food. To take food to the Jews and something...they were caught. They caught the older man but the boy escaped. He escaped and he survived.

Q: Do you remember your neighbor's name?

[01:] 34:13:05 - [01:] 38:38:00

33:45 – 38:10

A: Neighbor's? No, I don't remember. He was our good friend but I don't remember. I remember his last name was **Bandera**. Władek [Władysław]...yes Wła... Władek, yes, **Bandera**. The boy with whom I... His mother's name was also **Bandera** and his father was taken to Germany as a forced laborer.

Q: [I am talking] about the neighbor who died.

A: The one who died—I don't remember. He was a locksmith and he was soldering and doing other stuff, but I don't remember his name.

Q: And when the Jews were executed who was actually shooting?

A: Gendarmes or the firing squad were shooting, I am not sure. They were German military.

Q: Were there only Germans there or were there perhaps also soldiers of other nationalities?

A: No, no, no, only, only Germans. They were in German uniforms—I am not sure, perhaps they were Ukrainian? There were very many of them—perhaps Ukrainians, but they had German uniforms.

Q: And were you able to hear something from the place where you were at the beginning? Were Jews saying something? Or perhaps Germans were talking to them?

A: No, nothing like that. Germans only were yelling, they were yelling to the Jews to follow orders, screaming at the Jews—only this, nothing more than that. When we [likely: walked away] from the sounds... Because it was already quite—how far was it after we walked away? I am not sure, about 100 meters perhaps, maybe not that much.

Q: And when you heard the shots –were they fired one by one?

A: Oh no, non stop, there was shooting non stop. Later there were some single shots fired. Perhaps they had wounded a few and they were finishing them off. It is hard to say because...

Q: Did you perhaps see other situations when... When the Jews were led to the execution site?

A: I didn't see any more. There were more actions but I didn't see them. I already saw too much and it was...I also had duties.

Q: And did you see any groups of Jews led by the police station, the Jews who were escorted?

A: I have to tell you—but I didn't see that. I heard the stories. There were these gendarmes [*he points to his chest*], they were walking around with these metal plates; they were walking by threes and they were keeping order in the square where the Jews were. There was a restaurant on the corner and they walked inside to see. And there \_\_\_\_\_ ["German", "saw" - the following words don't have a clear meaning]. I don't know if a German was killed or just wounded. They walked out immediately and the next day Germans conducted the last action and they deported everyone to Treblinka.

Q: I am sorry but...

A: They seemed to have been saying that the Jews were involved in that shooting, but it is hard for me to say.

Q: I am not sure that I understand correctly. A group shot at a German who was on duty?

A: Not a group. The Germans responsible for keeping order walked into a restaurant.

Q: Aha.

**[01:] 38:38:00 - [01:] 43:34:19**

**38:10 – 43:06**

A: And there he [unclear who] looked [possible meaning: spotted] and wounded a gendarme. Killed or wounded—it is hard for me to say; and then they retreated.

Q: I understand. And later, as you said... And later all Jews were deported to Treblinka. Did you see that last deportation?

A: No, no I didn't see it. I didn't see it. And at that point - to Treblinka. And after that last action many, many Jews were hiding and the Germans were catching Jews who managed to hide somewhere. And at night, because it mainly happened at night, they weren't taking them to the ghetto anymore. Because the ghetto was already closed and there was nothing there. They were bringing them to the police station where the Polish police were stationed. And the gendarmes had their office there and they [the Jews] were kept there.

How many were kept there? Two, three, five people. When they gathered five, six - it depends - then right there on the spot, in the back yard—there was a fenced back yard with quite a tall fence you couldn't see through—they executed them. You could hear the shots and then a cart came and drove in and then they put the bodies on the cart and they were taking them to Staromiejska [Street]. That was the street we lived on. And I saw when a farmer was taking the bodies on his cart to the cemetery. Not far from our yard, maybe 10 meters away, a Jew lifted himself from the cart. He had to be wounded. So he [the farmer] stopped the cart. And a cart was always followed by a German gendarme—50, 100 meters behind or even 20, 30. And when that cart stopped he caught up with it and he motioned to—he waived his hand to keep on driving to the cemetery and then at the cemetery...

Q: So the German didn't do anything with the wounded man?

A: No, nothing right there. And what happened later—did he kill him there or did he bury him alive? That is hard to say.

Q: Again I wanted to know how did you know that these were Jews on the cart? – [I mean] the bodies on the cart.

A: Who else could that have been? These were not the bodies of Poles. These were Jews. First you heard shots at the police station and then in about 15, 20 minutes bodies were being transported.

Q: Did you hear shooting at the police station often?

A: We could hear it but I didn't hear it too often, as I said. Only from time to time—and I described all the circumstances [he means: situations], as I said. In the first place I had a duty to help my parents in the field. And that is why I wasn't always there and I didn't see. I didn't even see when they brought in and out those Jews in our back yard. I only saw that they were kept there.

Q: Did you see a cart loaded with bodies just once or perhaps more times?

A: I saw it once as an eyewitness. But my neighbors or my friend said: "See, they were taking them again in a cart", he said.

Q: Do you remember how many bodies, more or less, were on such a cart?

A: It is hard to say, it could have been five or it could have been ten bodies.

Q: Very well, I am going to ask for a short break, OK?

A: Fine.

**[01:] 43:34:19 - [01:]46:56:04**

**43:06 – 46:28**

Q: You were telling us how you saw a group of a few dozen people, Jews, escorted in the direction of a cemetery; the group which was later shot.

A: Yes.

Q: Did you perhaps see any other groups led to the cemetery?

A: No, I didn't see any. I only saw that one group. I saw one other group but just briefly from far away. Because it wasn't the first—it wasn't just one group. That means...

Q: How far were they when you saw them briefly?

A: Excuse me?

Q: You said that you saw them briefly and they were far away, right?

A: They were far. He [unclear who] said: "They took the Jews to be executed." Only that.

Q: Could you tell from far away how big that group was?

A: No, I couldn't tell it, I couldn't see it. They just flickered briefly, you now.

Q: Could you hear the shots at the cemetery afterwards?

A: Yes, I could. You could hear the shots. When you were in Międzyrzec you could hear them, and especially because we lived close to **kierkut** cemetery.

Q: Could you hear shots from the cemetery often?

A: For me it was rare, but it happened more often, only I wasn't there. I spent a lot of my time in the field.

Q: I wanted to come back to the very beginning, to the first action you were telling us about.

A: Yes.

Q: You walked out in the street the following day and you saw the bodies lying on the streets.

A: Yes, I saw it the following day.

Q: The next day, yes.

A: Yes.

Q: How many bodies, more or less, did you see then?

A: I wasn't allowed to walk any farther.

Q: But what were you able to see?

A: I narrowed it down—I narrowed it down and there seemed to be a body on the ground every 15, 20 meters; there was a dead body and...

Q: How many bodies did you see when you were passing by?

A: But I didn't walk any farther.

Q: But where you were walking, for that distance you were walking, on that short piece, you know.

A: On that piece—how many were there? I didn't go any farther because I couldn't bear to look. I only glanced there and then I retreated.

Q: Were there perhaps a few or a few dozen?

A: There could have been a few, because it wasn't a long stretch. I looked and I walked away. Anyway, from what I heard later, from what people were saying later—because they were on the balconies or they were looking through the windows—I learned that there were many, many killed on the streets.

Q: And then you said that the last group of Jew was deported from Międzyrzec to Treblinka.

A: Yes.

Q: Did you know back then that they were being taken to Treblinka?

A: That [they were taken]to Treblinka I didn't. It was generally said that all, that all Jews were taken from Międzyrzec to Treblinka. That it was... That's what was said. It was talked about and the Jewish police talked the most and then it [what they said] was passed along. We didn't have any intelligence or anything else...

**[01:]46:56:04 - [01:] 48:43:08**

**46:28 – 48:15**

Q: I understand...

A: ...of that sort.

Q: You also said that when the ghetto was established, when they made the ghetto in Międzyrzec, then Jews were brought in from as far away as Hungary or Czechoslovakia. How did you know that they came from these countries?

A: From the Jewish police, from the Jewish police. As I mentioned, our neighbor was on good terms with a Jewish policeman who was forwarding certain news to him. Then he would pass it to others and then they would pass it to others still. That was how the news...

Q: You also said that many Ukrainians served with the Germans. Could you tell us more about them?

A: No.

Q: You never saw them directly in action?

A: I didn't see them. Just imagine, all people were scared after the first action. There was a lot of shooting when it was going on. Both the young and the old stayed at home. They didn't go out into their yards or out on the streets because it was dangerous. Germans could have thought that they were Jewish - just like I explained what happened in the first action when the Polish girls died.

Q: So later, afterwards you only heard about the Ukrainians—you didn't see them?

A: Yes, I only heard that the Ukrainians participated.



Q: Very well, thank you very much for talking with me.

A: You're welcome and thank you.

**[01:] 48:43:08**

**48:15**

Conclusion of the interview.

No restrictions.

Translated by Agnieszka McClure on 05/26/2011