

Transcript of the *Shoah* Interview with Henryk Gawkowski
and Treblinka railway workers

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Note: This is a translation of the French transcript of the interview that Claude Lanzmann conducted with Mr. Gawkowski for the film *Shoah*. The transcript is in an unedited format and includes segments that were used in Lanzmann's final film. Any segment that appears in the final film is NOT available at the USHMM. The Claude Lanzmann Shoah Collection at the USHMM contains only the outtakes from the film. Outtakes are sections of a movie that are filmed but not used in the final version.

Bobine No 5

Interview of Mr. Gawkowski.

We will note L. for the interventions of Lanzmann.

G.B. when Barbara interprets or translates Gawkowski.

B. for the interventions of Barbara.

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L. - Good, Barbara I would like for you to explain to Mr. Gawkowski that what he has to say to us is very important because there are few witnesses left today who went inside the Treblinka camp. Then I would like for you to ask him in short...what he remembers; that he start in a completely general manner...what he remembers...if he would...try to explain it to us a bit.

G.B. - When he started to work at the railway, at first he worked at Malkinia and after that, he was part of what they called plan #3.

L. - plan #3.

G.B. - And...yes..And he went to Treblinka three times per week, and he had the opportunity to observe all that happened inside there.

L. - Wait..Mr. Gawkowski worked at the railway..if I remember correctly, the railway, it was Ostbahn, it was a German railway.

G.B. - Yes.

L. - Good; and then Mr. Gawkowski worked at the railway in what capacity? What did he do there?

G.B. - He was an assistant machinist with the right to drive the locomotive.

L. - He was on the locomotive.

G.B. - Yes; he worked on the locomotive.

L. - And he was...he was sometimes conductor of the locomotive.

G.B. - Yes, evidently.

L. - Yes..good..what did he do with that locomotive..what did he do?

G.B. - So he did all the service; it was necessary that he know how many cars they took, and it was necessary that he know all the signals etc..

L. - Yes..but, I meant to say, what did he transport in the cars?

G.B. - Initially, they went to the gravel pit, before they installed the Treblinka camp, they had a gravel pit where they went..

L. - Before they installed the Treblinka camp, they had a gravel pit yes?

G.B. - Yes.

L. - And then?

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- G.B. - Then after, he drove the trains of Jews, to the Treblinka camp, after the creation of that camp; and, each of those trains was then divided into three parts and he pushed..
- L. - Wait, wait..I apologize...he..he drove the trains of deported Jews who they sent to Treblinka? Is that right? Ask the question again.
- B. - Yes.
- L. - Please translate Barbara.
- G.B. - That is it...he drove..he drove..the trains coming even from a distance, he even went to Bialistok.
- L. - Good..he..he drove the trains that left from which city? Ask him the exact question: "he drove the trains that left from which city?"
- G.B. - Bialistok.
- L. - Bialistok, yes.
Wait..wait, wait..he drove the trains umm..
- B. - from Bialistok..but..
- L. - He went from Bialistok to Treblinka, yes..
- G.B. - But for example..there were Jews...but he explained that there were even Jews from Vokové who arrived at Bialistok on other trains and there it was necessary to change the train..
- L. - Yes.
- G.B. - So it was there that he took the trains.
- L. - Good; and did he drive the trains that left from other cities besides Bialistok?
- G.B. - Yes, others as well.
- L. - Warsaw?
- G.B. - From Warsaw too, yes.
- L. - He drove the trains that left from Warsaw? That left from where? From...from Umschlagplatz?
- G.B. - At first, it was just the trains from Warsaw.
- L. - Oh, that's it! And that happened when? That happened in the summer of 42?
- G.B. - Yes.
- L. - And the Jewish deportees at Warsaw, he took them where? Did he take them to what was called Umschlagplatz, that means the assembly place? In Polish it is called stavski..stavski.
- G.B. - Yes, that's it.
Then Mr. Gawkowski explains that he...no, no, no, no...it wasn't Umschlagplatz; him, he started to transport from the Warsaw-Tovarowa train station.
- L. - The train station is called Warsaw-Tovarowa.
- B. - In Polish yes, that means the commodities train station.
- L. - Good, yes, but that's called stavski..
- B. - Warsaw-Tovarowa.
- G.B. - Mr. Gawkowski explained again that it was not the Umschlagplatz, that it was one of the Warsaw train stations, but it was not a passenger train station, it was a commodities train station.
- L. - Yes, good, ok; but according to my information, Umschlagplatz, it was not a passenger train station anymore, it was only for Jews.
- B. - (a cut off monosyllabic intervention)

- L. - Fine; in any case agreed. The Jews who Mr. Gawkowski took to the Warsaw-Tovarowa..eh..
- B. - Claude, I'd like to explain something to you.
- L. - Yes.

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- L. - The trains of deported Jews that Mr. Gawkowski drove from the Warsaw-Tovarowa train station up to Treblinka...I mean..how did the deportees get to Warsaw-Tovarowa, how did they bring them there?
- G.B. - It was the Jews from the Warsaw ghetto, they were regrouped before and after when..when they were grouped, we put them in the trains like very, very packed herring; and there was nothing they could do, they understood, like Mr. Gawkowski said, the Jews couldn't do anything.
- L. - So, I mean..it was the trains..eh..in which the Jews were packed like herring, that Mr. Gawkowski ..drove.
- G.B. - So..eh.., precisely he drove those trains when there were no commodities trains, the people were very, very packed in, but after that Mr. Gawkowski said that, on each train the Germans marked the number of passengers in chalk.
- L. - Yes.
- G.B. - That is to say 120, 180, until they arrived at 20 (twenty) and he says..
- L. - Until?
- G.B. - Until two hundred, excuse me.
- L. - Until two hundred.
- G.B. - And Mr. Gawkowski says that maybe there were more than that, but he remembers only those numbers.
- L. - There were how many, how many cars in a train convoy?
- G.B. - At least sixty cars.
- L. - At least sixty cars!
- B. - Yes.
- G.B. - Most often sixty cars.
- L. - Does..does Mr. Gawkowski remember the first train convoy that he drove? Did the first train convoy that he drove leave from Warsaw?
- G.B. - He cannot recall if it left from Warsaw.
- L. - Then does he remember the first train convoy that he...
- G.B. - No.
- L. - Does he know..does he recall...how many train convoys in total he drove to Treblinka?
- G.B. - Fifteen or twenty.
- L. - Fifteen or twenty...
- B. - Him, by himself.
- L. - Him, personally.
- That is, that makes how many Jews in total?..if we count..take twenty train convoys, sixty cars per convoy..that comes to..that comes to what? That comes to twelve hundred cars and an average of one hundred and fifty Jews inside, that

comes to how many? Who knows how to do the calculation? I'll do it myself, I don't know how to count *de tête*. That comes to zero..., that comes to eighteen thousand Jews.

Does eighteen thousand Jews seem to him like a figure..eh..that is accurate.

G.B. - He says that more than one million people died...

L. - ..were killed at Treblinka.

B. - Yes.

L. - Yes.

G.B. - Approximately, like he says.

L. - And how many people...how many of them were there on the train?

G.B. - Two people.

L. - Two people.

G.B. - But there were also Germans.

L. - On the train also?

G.B. - Yes.

L. - Always? Were there always Germans?

G.B. - Yes; the Gestapo was always there.

L. - And..and..

G.B. - At Treblinka the Gestapo had nothing else to do; there were other Germans, among others Billy, Kriegmann; he remembers those names.

L. - Not Kriegmann, Klingmann.

B. - Klingmann?

L. - Klingmann.

G. - Kriegmann!

L. - OK Kriegmann..Good, but I mean..when leaving Bialistok or when leaving Warsaw on the train, were there always Germans with you? That's my question.

G.B. - Yes, it was required; always.

L. - And the two..eh.., the driver of the locomotive and his assistant were Polish?

G.B. - Yes, they were Polish; most of the time they were Polish. The convoys of wounded Germans that arrived from France were driven by the Germans..only the wounded Germans.

L. - Yes.

G.B. - Otherwise, the railwaymen were Polish.

L. - And generally those convoys...those convoys ran at night or during the day?

G.B. - It was both, but the convoys... (G. interrupts)

G.B. - So...it was both, but the convoys..eh.., to Treblinka...even if they arrived at night waited until the day to run all the way to the camp.

L. - He means the convoys..eh..went from the Treblinka train station all the way to the extermination camp itself.

G.B. - Yes, exactly, only those convoys.

L. - Did Mr. Gawkowski, beside the trains of deportees that he drove, whether from Warsaw, whether from Bialistok, whether from other towns, to the Treblinka train station, did he himself happen to drive..eh..the cars of deportees from the Treblinka train station into the interior of the camp?

G.B. - Yes.

L. - And..eh..

- G.B. - Especially from abroad.
 L. - He did that also?
 G.B. - From France, from Greece.
 L. - From Greece, from France!
 G.B. - From Holland, from Yugoslavia because..because all the countries occupied by Germany, they had convoys of Jews and especially in 1943.
 L. - In 43?
 B. - Yes.
 L. - Only 43?..excuse me..
 B. - In 43..yes.
 L. - 42, it was Polish Jews.
 G.B. - So..he recalls quite clearly, for example, the first convoy of Jews he transported up to the camp, it was a transport of Jews from Greece.
 L. - Why does he seem to have been so struck by that?
 B. - Can we stop?

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- L. - Yes..Barbara..Mr. Gawkowski seems to have been very struck by the convoy of Greek Jews that he drove..eh..from, (if I understood correctly), from the Treblinka train station to the inside of the camp..eh..can you ask him why he is.., he remembers this convoy of Greek Jews so well.
 G.B. - So..ok..he recalls, it was Sunday, a rather warm day, he can't remember what month it was, but in any case it was warm and..
 L. - In the summer of 43.
 G.B. - But that transport, it wasn't a cargo train, it was a passenger train; the Jews traveled in the first and second class cars; the cars weren't closed, they locked them at the Treblinka train station.
 And..eh..that transport was not driven by the Gestapo, but by the German police.
 L. - It was the German police who accompanied the convoy..and apart from the fact that the people arrived in passenger trains ..eh..were there other things that struck him?
 G.B. How could it not strike him, since he already knew, he and the others, that those people there would then be transported to an extermination camp! He showed them their fate, like he showed us..
 L. - Who showed them? Who, who, who, who, made this gesture? Them? How did that happen? How did they show them that?
 G.B. - They made this gesture there, ! to show them that it was over.
 L. - That is, they walked on the track, they passed in front of the cars...how did that happen?
 G.B. - No; they could not walk around.
 L. - Then how was it? in actuality.
 G.B. - So, ok..eh..each convoy had sixty cars, but it was divided into three parts.
 L. - That's right.

- G.B. - ..Then when they passed..eh..by the cars that were stopped, they showed them exactly..eh..they made the gesture there, to show them what fate awaited them
- L. - And then, why did they make that gesture..to warn them? to frighten them? why? What was the meaning of the gesture?
- G.B. - So ok..he says that it was a gesture that certainly frightened them, he can't know, but from the moment that he made the gesture, an uproar started in the cars..
- L. - An uproar?
- G.B. - An uproar immediately started in the cars and by the way Mr. Gawkowski adds that the Treblinka train station was six kilometers from the camp, so you could already smell the odor.
- L. - You smelled an odor?
- G.B. - ..that came from the camp; yes.
- L. - Yes, but did the people, did..., did the Jews understand the meaning of that gesture?
- G.B. - Yes, they understood it; they understood it; and it was at that moment exactly that the uproar started..they started to understand at that moment.
- L. - Can he describe the uproar?
- G.B. - It was different noises..the older people started to flee and above all they threw their children, they did what they could to escape.
- L. - But can he describe it exactly. What could they do to escape?
- G.B. - Only jump off the train; sometimes that worked, if they found bushes for example.
- L. - And they threw their children?
- G.B. - Yes, they threw their children.
- L. - There is one thing that I would like..
- G.B. - ..for somebody to take them back, these children.
- L. - Did that happen, taking back these children?
- G.B. - Yes, that happened, there were people who took them..
- L. - There is one thing that..
- G.B. - He wants again to add that, in every convoy, there were Jews who had gold; so sometimes people also took back Jews to get the gold.
- L. - Yes, but that is..we will talk about all that soon; but I would like to understand why they made that gesture of cutting the throat, when they knew that they would not cut their throats, but gas them.
- G.B. - That means death, that was meant to signify the death that waited for them.
- L. - Ok! And did Mr. Gawkowski establish a difference between the foreign Jews of which he spoke, those from France, from Greece, from Yugoslavia and the Polish Jews.
- G.B. - Evidently, yes.
- L. - What difference?
- G.B. - Above all, the foreign Jews arrived in passenger cars, while the Polish Jews arrived in commodities cars; that was a very big difference.
- L. - Was that the only difference?

- G.B. - Yes, it seems, because the foreign Jews thought that they were going to work in a colony and even after, what he heard was, there were those who chose to buy the tickets to come here themselves, because they thought they would be working.
- L. - Eh.. Yes..they paid for their transport themselves..yes but, from all that I know, it was really rather rare, in fact..the case of foreign Jews being transported in passenger cars; the majority arrived in cattle cars.
- G.B. - No that's not true, no that's not true.
- L. - That's not true?
What did Mrs. Gawkowski say?
- G.B. - Mrs. Gawkowski said that perhaps he did not see everything.
- L. - Yes.
- G.B. - He says..he saw..for example, he arrived at the train station at .. (inaudible) when a Jew from abroad left the car, he went to buy something at the bar, and the train started up, then he started to run back.
- L. - ...to catch his train.
- G.B. - to catch his train and then the Polish railwaymen told him that he was running toward extermination...then he escaped.
- L. - What exactly did they say to him, the Polish railwaymen?
- G.B. - They were people who knew how to speak German so they..Mr...
- L. - OK.

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- L. - Where did Mr. Gawkowski live at that time?
- G.B. - He lived in Malkinia.
- L. - Here? Did he live in this house?
- B. - In this house.
- L. - In this house?
- G.B. - Before, he had another house, and this house was built in 1940.
- L. - Ah, good..but I would like to know something..could he, can he explain..well..how that happened; so he lives in Malkinia and they summoned him to drive a train of deportees, for example... (interruption).

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- L. - I would like to know..Can Mr. Gawkowski describe how that happened. So, he is here, at his home, in Malkinia, and they summoned him either to Warsaw, or to Bialistok, to drive a train..a train of deportees. How did that happen, how did he get there, did he go with his train, did he take empty cars there to be refilled on the spot or were the cars already there? I would like to know a little more about all the details of the process, even the administrative process.
- G.B. - So he says that it happened quite normally, that is, each received..eh, what is called an itinerary, in German it is called "Zebel."
- L. - Zebel, yes.
- G.B. - And then they went where they were summoned.
- L. - And how did they get there, where they were summoned.

- G.B. - OK so..the train was always the same, but the cars weren't empty, there were goods that they transported over there.
- L. - Ah yes, yes.
- G.B. - And after, they gave them fake numbers..eh..like they were transporting goods, while the goods were men.
- L. - It was the Jews?
- G.B. - Exactly.
- L. - Wait..so, if I understand correctly, he left with his train and he pulled behind him cars with normal goods?
- G.B. - Exactly; gas in the trains that went to the East, ammunition..
- L. - The tank cars..the ammunition..yes. Did the Jews ride in the same cars, or were they already waiting in other cars?
- G.B. - No, they were already waiting and..
- L. - They were already waiting.
- G.B. - while..
- L. - And then for the return trip, so..eh..when they transported the Jews, they gave them false identification. Did, for example, Mr. Gawkowski, when they summoned him and when he left Malkinia to go to Bialystok to bring back a convoy of Jews, did he know what he was going to find, did he know what he was going to take away.
- G.B. - No.
- L. - When did he know?
- G.B. - Only at the last moment, when they hitched the cars to the train; there were many convoys that waited at the train station.
- L. - Yes...because..eh..when they read the train mission order... - what the Nazis called Fahrplanordnungen - , the Jewish trains had a special name – Sonderzug – isn't it, a special train; does he know what Sonderzug means?
- G.B. - Yes, he knows.
It was the special trains.
- L. - OK; and they didn't say to him, when leaving from Malkinia, that he was coming back with a Sonderzug, with a special train?
- G.B. - No, of course not.
- L. - OK. Then so, he left for Bialystok, he arrived there, but did he know that there was a good possibility, if I may say so, that he would come back with a train of Jews?
- G.B. - No, they couldn't expect that...because there were different trains circulating...
- L. - OK, then can he describe how that happened; so he arrives at Bialystok via Warsaw..
Translate please, Barbara.
- G.B. - Then, so...for example, they arrived at Warsaw, they drove their trains up to the depot..
- L. - Yes.
- G.B. - ..there, they cleaned them, they loaded the coal and then the head of service said: "Oh good, you came from Malkinia, good then I have a convoy for you." It happened like that.

- L. - But Malkinia, that's really the gateway next to Treblinka..Ok; They said to them, "Then I have a convoy for you"; so, what does he do there?
- G.B. - Then there, they saw that..that it was a transport..a convoy of Jews when they hitched the cars to their train and..there were people very tightly packed, there were all kinds, there were old men, there were small children..
- L. - Did they see them get into the cars?
- B. - ..Eh..did they see the Jews get in?
- L. - Yes: "Did they see the Jews get in?", yes.
- G.B. - No, ..he saw from afar, at Bialystok, how they put them in the cars, how they hit them, he saw that on the ramp.
- L. - Where? at..
- B. - At Bialystok.
- L. - At Bialystok; what does he mean: "from afar"; "from afar", that means what? Was he on his locomotive?
- G.B. - Their locomotives were, for example, at the front of the train station, where the train station started, and the ramp was much further away..
- L. - Yes.
- G.B. - ..so he was on his locomotive and he could see from afar what happened on the ramp..
He does not want to lie – it was between two hundred and four hundred meters – he doesn't know exactly.
He saw because, at that moment, they were preparing the next convoy.
- L. - OK, yes..
Sixty cars, that is how many meters?
- G.B. - He would have to measure, because they..the trains were not all alike.
- B. - Excuse me, I need to leave..

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- L. - Can Mr. Gawkowski..can he say, and I know that it's..it's not easy, but try to describe ..eh..how you feel, when you are on a locomotive and you pull behind you sixty cars of Jews packed like herring, as that was his own expression, eh..condemned to die, knowing that in the coming hours, they will be exterminated in the gas chambers at Treblinka and..changed into smoke. Can he say what effect that had? How you live with that? How he lived with that?
- G.B. - It was very, very difficult to live. Then, on the other hand...
He says that it was extremely difficult for him to live, but he says that on the other hand, it has to be said that the Germans gave him – and also gave to his friends – vodka for him to drink, because without having drunk "it could not have been done, because even the smell was unbearable."
- L. - What smell?
- G.B. - He doesn't know how to define it, he says "when wood burns", that's something else, while this was a burning that was extremely difficult to bear.

- L. - No, wait, wait..that I don't understand at all..I was talking to him about trains that he drove between Bialystok and Treblinka, between Warsaw and Treblinka; I wasn't talking to him about burning bodies!
- G.B. - All the time, there were "Gestapos" with their weapons pointed at you.
- L. - At you?
- B. - Yes.
- G.B. - ..and at any moment, they could open fire..so your first thought, it was to arrive at Treblinka.
- L. - But wait..tell me..he said that they gave him a drink; where did they give him a drink? When?
- G.B. - OK so...there was a sort of bonus..and..eh..that bonus..
- L. - A money bonus?
- G.B. - They gave it, not in money, but in alcohol and..those who worked on other trains did not..did not receive these alcohol bonuses.
- L. - That, that...that means that, when they drove the trains of deportees, they had the right to a special alcohol bonus.
- G.B. - Yes, most of the time.
- L. - Did he drink the alcohol there, or did he bring it home? Or did he only drink part of it?
- G.B. - He says that he drank..that they finished absolutely everything that they received, because without..al..alcohol, they couldn't bear the smell here and they even bought alcohol themselves to get drunk.
- L. - What did they drink? What was it? Vodka?
- G.B. - ...vodka, they gave them that. But they also had alcohol that was made secretly that they had on them and that they also drank.
- L. - *Du tort-boyaux*..were they drunk?
- G.B. - No, he was never drunk.
- L. - When they...when they pulled..eh..
- G.B. - No, he was never drunk, quite simply it was done to lessen eh..
- L. - the morale impression.
- G.B. - ..the impression, yes and then they smelled the odor less
- L. - But..could eh..between Bialystok and Treblinka, he smell the odor?
- G.B. - No, between Bialystok and Treblinka, no; but at Malkinia, especially when it was windy.
- L. - That, that's another matter, because it was a problem when he was at home, relaxing – the problem with the smell – not just when he drove the train.
- G.B. - Yes, evidently.
- L. - A question..a question..and I ask that you pose my question exactly..eh...: when he pulled behind him, sixty cars of Jews condemned to die, did they want to go fast or slow?
- G.B. - They liked to drive the train, as slow as possible, to give the people there the possibility of escaping.
- L. - But..
- B. - one moment..
- G.B. - So..but, he must say that, when you have.. (inaudible) .. Jews behind you..

- L. - Of course.
- G.B. - ..and a weapon pointed at you, then you go as fast as you can, but you try to deceive them..
he did things to go more slowly..
he said that it wasn't working, or that it was broken down.
- L. - Was going more slowly, was that not in a certain sense, torturing the people even more?
- G.B. - He doesn't know, he can't say..
On the contrary, he can imagine what the people were feeling.
- L. - Did they hear..did they..
- G.B. - But the foreigners didn't know the "Jew". Gawkowski didn't know.
- L. - Did he hear cries behind him, behind the locomotive?
- G.B. - Evidently, evidently; because the locomotive was very close to the cars..they cried, they asked for water.. (a few words covered by the voice of Gawkowski), most often they asked for water.
- L. - While the train...while the train was moving, he heard the cries?
- G.B. - Yes.
- L. - The cries covered the sound of the steam, the rods?
- G.B. - The cries that made it to him..the..the cars that were were very close to..the loco..the locomotive, you could really feel them, listen to them clearly.
- L. - And..what did the people cry..the cries were..were they groans or were they calls, the..?
- G.B. - There was everything, there was everything, there were calls, groans also.
- L. - But tell me, they were still obligated to comply with the transport plan, they can not do what they want with a train; there are speeds imposed by the structure of the track, the slope!
- G.B. - Yes, of course, there are things that must be respected.
- L. - Because according to all the accounts eh..of deportees who survived, there are not so many, eh..they all say that the convoys were extremely slow, convoys that stopped all the time, to give way to other trains, to military trains, to other normal passenger trains..etc..
End of reel.

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- L. - Yes, but, what surprises me is that according to the accounts of the people who survived, - there are not many – all say that the convoys were very, very slow..eh..that..they stopped on the sidetrack to give way to other convoys that had priority, military convoys, normal passenger convoys, convoys of wounded soldiers, etc..and all insist on the extreme slowness of that voyage toward death.
- G.B. - It was quite exceptional, it was really exceptional cases.
- L. - What was exceptional?
- G.B. - Convoys waiting on the sidetracks were really exceptional.
- L. - What does that mean?

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- G.B. - It was during the war with the Soviet Union, when the Russians started to counter-attack, then there were military convoys and then there were convoys with..Jews waiting but only during that period of time.
- L. - But..ah, yes..that happened perhaps with the convoys that Mr. Gawkowski drove..all that happened within relatively short distances; because Bialystok to Treblinka, how many kilometers is that?
- G.B. - 96..kilometers.
- L. - Yes; and Warsaw to Treblinka?
- G.B. - 86 kilometers..that again depends from which Warsaw train station.
- L. - Yes, so..so that's really short.
- G.B. - Yes, he knows all the distances of course.
- L. - Did..did he get used to that, to pulling the convoys of Jews.
- G.B. - No; no it became very difficult for him..first of all, he knew that the beings behind him, they were humans like him, and then they were also aware that once the Jews were liquidated, it would be the Poles' turn.
- L. - Ah yes.
- G.B. - He didn't count with the Polish either.
- L. - Was...was there...was there the possibility to refuse?
- G.B. - Yes..if you refused, if you had refused, that meant death of course.
- L. - To refuse that, to say "I don't want to do that", that meant certain death?
- G.B. - Yes, because he could easily find himself sent to Treblinka; even his cousin was sent to Treblinka, when he didn't go to work.
- L. - But he wasn't at the camp for Jews!
There was a work camp for Poles.
- B. - And for the Jews who were there, they were..
- G.B. - The extermination camp was a little closer.
- L. - Yes, to Malkinia for example; How many Polish conductors and locomotive drivers participated in that?
- G.B. - On every train, there were four.
- L. - No, I'm asking: among the locomotive conductors and drivers at the Malkinia depot, ok..how many..did they all normally participate in that, - so it seemed like he said that, after all, it was..it was...even if it is an extraordinary task, he accomplished it as if he was asked to do something very ordinary – stop, stop, stop, stop.

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- L. - What I would like to know, that is..ok..eh..how many..railwaymen from the Malkinia depot, locomotive conductors and drivers participated in this task.
- G.B. - I can not say exactly, but there were many groups that had to do that.
- L. - That means all, no; really?
- G.B. - Practically, yes.
There was a schedule of expected trains.
- L. - Yes.
- G.B. - ..and there the groups could make inquiries, wasn't it so, where they were go..go..going and what they were doing..But most often, there was also what you

- call..eh..a wild plan; they called it that, it is a literal translation, that is: the trains that were not expected.
- L. - Yes.
- G.B. - Then, very often, they told them to assure the service of the trains that circulated outside of their hours.
- L. - That means the trains that were...illegal, virtually! ghost trains!
- G.B. - Yes, that's right.
- L. - Trains that didn't exist.
- G.B. - With regards to the military trains, they were also outside of their hours.
- L. - Yes.
- G.B. -..they also circulated outside of their hours.
Then...they summoned them at a given hour, and there, they were obligated to wait eleven hours; after..
- L. - Eleven in the morning or eleven at..at..at night.
- B. - No, not until eleven o'clock, they waited for eleven hours, and...
- L. - Ah...for eleven hours. They waited where, at their homes, or at the train station?
- G.B. - At the depot.
- L. - At the depot.
- G.B. - ...and after the eleventh hour, they could leave; it was the reserve
- L. - Truly, the eleventh hour..
But throughout that whole period of time, did Mr. Gawkowski also drive normal passenger trains?
- G.B. - Yes, also.
- L. - On the same line,...on the same line?
- G.B. - Eh...they didn't number those trains, the passenger trains, during the occupation..
..No, he went to Ostrowenka (?).
- L. - But did..I would like to know something..throughout the whole extermination period, that is, throughout the entire operational period – if I can use a hideous word – of the Treblinka camp, between July 1942 and August 1943, did the passenger trains continue to go through the Treblinka train station?
- G.B. - There were, if he remembers correctly, two or three passenger trains in 24 hours.
- L. - That, that went through?
- B. - that went through.
- L. - OK; did the passenger trains go through the Treblinka train station at the time when the convoys of Jew were there waiting.
- L. - Wait, wait..

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T 16

T 16

- L. - Yes; Barbara, ask Mr. Gawkowski: did the passenger trains go through the Treblinka train station, or

- stop – after all it was a station like any other, a small station like any other – at the time when the convoys of Jews were there, waiting, waiting for their transport to the camp?
- G.B. - No, that didn't happen.
So..the passenger trains circulated on the main track, while..the convoys of Jews were stopped on the sidetracks or on a track where..they didn't disturb the other trains.
- L. - No, but I wasn't talking about disruption, I simply asked if those trains,..if those normal passenger trains went by the trains of Jews, if they waited in the Treblinka train station or stopped to let out their real passengers, at the time when the convoys of Jews were there. I wasn't talking about..!
- G.B. - He says that there was a section, a sidetrack..eh..where the trains of Jews were waiting; so, it was separate, the main track from that track.
- L. - Yes, yes..but he doesn't understand my question at all..that sidetrack, how many meters was it from the main track?
- G.B. - Yes, it was five or six meters.
- L. - Ah, so..
- G.B. - Then so..he explains that...he explains that..that at the Treblinka train station, this separation was very wide, but by the camp..Yes the passengers could see the trains...the convoys of Jews.
- L. - Yes. OK. That's exactly what I..what I wanted to establish, you understand..
- G.B. - Yes. It was entirely possible.
- L. - This means that everyone, finally, knew what was happening.
- G.B. - Most often yes, they knew.
- L. - They knew..They knew that the Jews who were there, waited..eh..., to be exterminated.
- G.B. - He says that in that area, everyone knew what was happening at the Treblinka camp, yes.
- L. - Everyone knew what was happening.
- B. - Yes.
- L. - And they knew eh..can he talk about the smell; that he spoke about earlier?
- G.B. - It was like a cadaver, something like that.
- L. - Could he describe that smell, define it?
- G.B. - How do you say..maybe it was a bit like a dead body decomposing.
- L. - Ah, yes, that's what was happening.
But the smell, it came all the way here, to Malkinia? So far?
- G.B. - Yes, when the wind came from there, farther, you could smell that odor.
- L. - And there was always..there was always the same smell throughout the whole period, or were there different smells?
- G.B. - It was always the same.
It was the most unbearable in the morning, when there was dew.
- L. - Ah, dew!
- G.B. -..and also in the evening, when there was...
- L. - dew.
- B. - dew.

- L. - Why, why?
- G.B. - According to him, he imagines that, maybe, that smoke followed the dew.
- L. - That smoke?
- B. - That smo..yes, that smell, that followed the dew, that made it easier to spread.
- L. - Maybe it was that...when there was dew, the morning dew or the evening dew, the smell could not rise and the smell, instead, spread.
- G.B. - Yes, exactly, he thinks so.
- L. - But there is..there is something that I don't understand...Madame spoke of the smell of a decomposing cadaver and, earlier, he spoke – Mr. Gawkowski – of the smell of burning wood..that's not exactly the same.
- G.B. - You could say that the two smells resemble one another.
- L. - Yes; because from all that I know, there were..there were two periods at Treblinka, there was a period during which eh..they buried the Jews who were gassed in..in large mass graves and there was a second period, during which they opened the graves, at the time when the Nazis wanted to hide the signs of extermination, and they erected giant, endless pyres, since that lasted for months, they burned wood, if I can say that.
- G.B. - Then he says that in effect, there were enormous mass graves, that sometimes reached 15 meters or larger..
- L. - Yes, yes, that..yes.
- G.B. - ..and the edges were overflowing a bit, there was also dirt around..
- L. - Yes.
- G.B. - And that cars..small cars circulated all the time..it was the...the road.. (three inaudible words covered by ---)
- L. - What it..how did he live day and night, with that smell? What did she think of that, Mrs. Gawkowski?
- G.B. - So he says, I am going to tell you the truth, if they were going, they had to drink.
- L. - They had to drink..
- G.B. - It was necessary..otherwise they couldn't..even eat.
- L. - And here..here..here, in Malkinia, according to what he says, the smell was here, too..
- G.B. - That always depended on which way the wind blew.
- L. - How old was Mr. Gawkowski at that time?
- G.B. - Almost twenty years old.

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- L. - How old was Mr. Gawkowski at that time?
- G.B. - He started to drive the trains when he was pretty young, but at that time, he was 20-21 years old.
- L. - 20-21 years old! That was a young man!
- G.B. - Yes, that's why he remembers so well what happened at that time.
- L. - OK..then, then he remembers..
- G.B. - Now, he doesn't have a good memory.

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- L. - Ah! He has an excellent memory; it's not even a memory that he has, one has the impression that he relives it all! Tell him!
- G.B. - Yes, that's true. Yes, he..it is like he is seeing it all right now, it's happening in his head.
Then, for example, he remembers his first convoy of Greek Jews.
- L. - Ah, ah..that..
- G.B. - ..there was a young man who got on the train and then on the coal, and he wanted to see what was happening over there.
- L. - Over there, where?
- G.B. - Because behind the ramps, there was another area..
- L. - No, but wait, we'll get there...we'll get there..
OK, so, we'll get there..we'll get there now.
OK, very good...then now, second phase of his activity..
OK, from what I understood, he not only drove the trains from..from the deportation place to Treblinka, but also from the Treblinka train station to the inside of the camp.
- G.B. - Yes.
- L. - OK, then..then wait, a question: did he do that often?
- G.B. - Two or three times per week.
- L. - Per week..
- B. - Yes.
- L. - For how long?
- G.B. - About a year and a half.
- L. - That means throughout the entire time the camp existed.
- G.B. - Yes..of course..he drove other trains when there were..they lacked personnel..etc.
- B. - I think that he doesn't clearly understand that he moved the transport between the..the train station and the camp.
- L. - OK, so wait..but so..ask him the question again, so: did..you understand? Between the train station and the camp, did he drive the cars, two times per week, throughout the entire time the camp existed? Then, ask him the question, simply and exactly.
- G.B. - (Three inaudible words)..asked.., otherwise he went for example to the gravel pit.
- L. - No, no, but wait..ok, very good..in all the cases, he drive the...he drove eh..the cars from the Treblinka train station to the inside of the camp?
- G.B. - Yes.
- L. - OK, then..a train of sixty cars..how did that happen.?
So wait..
- G.B. - So those who drove the locomotives had already divided them in three, twenty cars with a locomotive.
- L. - Yes, yes..ok between the train station and the ramp where the people were getting off inside the camp, how many kilometers was that?
- G.B. - I don't know..I can't say precisely..but he thinks about 6....6 kilometers.
- L. - About 6..6 kilometers.
So.., I mean..a convoy of 60 cars can't fit inside the camp?

- G.B. - No.
- L. - How many cars?
- G.B. - Twenty cars could go in at a time.
- L. - That means..they divided the convoy in three parts?
- G.B. - Yes.
- L. - Of course.
- B. - Yes; that's what he said; yes, they divided it in three.
- L. - And then, those that..the forty cars that didn't go in, what did they do, where did they wait?
- G.B. - Those cars were stooped at the Treblinka train station.
- L. - OK, then wait..I would like for him to explain to me; I have the map..the map of the camp..of Treblinka.
- G.B. - He is going to put on his glasses.
- L. - He sees like that or he doesn't see? Not with my glasses, surely not.
- B. - He will find his glasses; that's right.
- L. - OK, that that is..the Treblinka train station is here, you tell him, by there..eh...ok..ok. Then he comes and there's the ramp...eh..there's the "ramp"..there's the *Tor*, the gate,...you tell him the gate and then the ramp. So he is here; he takes the train to the end and he has all the..he has the twenty cars behind him? Ask him the question.
- G.B. - No, he had them in front of him.
- L. - Ah, he pushed them!
- G.B. - Yes, exactly, he pushed them.
- L. - He pushed them.
- B. - Yes.
- L. - Ask him...which is more difficult? Pulling the cars of Jews or pushing them? (It's easier, he doesn't know..)
- G.B. - He doesn't really understand your question.
- L. - My question, it is..it is simple! For him, what was the..the..the..the least difficult or the easiest or the least hard..
- B. - Morally.
- L. - ..so he said that it was morally very difficult, to have Jews behind him when he brought them to Treblinka or to have them in front of him..when he pushed them..to the inside of the camp.
- G.B. - The worst..the worst, it was when they pushed them toward the camp because they knew that these people were headed for death.
- L. - That it was the end?
- B. - That it was the end.
- L. - And he also knew that before, when he pulled them?
- G.B. - Yes, I think: when he saw the convoy all ready to leave, he knew that those people were going to be killed.
- L. - OK.
- G.B. - (A barely audible sentence: Indeed, one must not warn the Jews, there are other Jews..they were men..)
Is a Jew not a man? He knows it as well as I and others.
- L. - That that is..that is a question.

Eh..I forgot to ask him..the locomotives..eh..the locomotives that he used to drive the trains of deportees, what type were they?

G.B. - T.P.2. to Treblinka.

L. - That was the only type of locomotive?

G.B. - Sometimes O.D.2. , but that was pretty unusual.

L. - O.D.2.

G.B. - But those locomotives weren't very good, so they retired them.

L. - Those were the..the..the steam locomotives?

End of the reel.

T 18

T 18

L. - Does he have nightmares..today?

G.B. - Yes, that has happened more than once; really, more than once..Sometimes it feels like he's there and he sees all of that..., he sees.

L. - Then what did he see? He can tell us now?

G.B. - There of course, there is a junction, he knows what it is, that gate also...(barely audible after "junctions")

L. - Then he is there, with his locomotive, the twenty cars in front of him, he is stopped..what does he see?

G.B. - That is..that..that is always in front and never behind – like I said – the train.

L. - Yes, yes...I said ...I said it correctly: the cars were in front of you..

B. - Yes, yes; he confirms.

L. - Yes, then what..what does he see?

G.B. - There, for example, he saw...when they opened the cars and, it was no longer the Germans who dealt with the Jews, it was groups of Jews, other Jews, who worked for.. for..

L. - blue commando...blue commando; red commando.

G.B. - ..Jewish commandos, yes; then, he saw that there was again a palisade, there was again a gate and inside the gate, there was a Jew who had a blue cuff and he yells...children and women..go..eh..

L. - to the left.

G.B. - ..to the left and men to the right.

L. - Here, there.

B. - Yes.

L. - But...but how long did he stay with his locomotive on the inside?

G.B. - That depends, it could go for a half an hour.., while they unloaded the twenty cars.

L. - Did he know where the gas chambers were located?

G.B. - His stepbrother told him, the gas chambers were located far away; of course, he could see the buildings, but he didn't know where the gas chambers were installed.

L. - But did he know that they were very close to the ramp?

G.B. - Yes, it wasn't very far, behind the palisade, the sec..second palisade; it wasn't far at all.

L. - Did he know the German SS from the camp?

G.B. - Stangen was the commandant.

- L. - He saw Stangen [Stangl]?
- G.B. - Yes, he saw him with his own eyes; when the convoys arrived, he was there; he wore a vest that was called a canadian, cream colored.
- L. - And he..he knew others besides Stangen? I mean...if he went two or three times per week..over a year, he saw..because there were SS there who assisted...who watched the unloading.
Lahnken (?)? Kurtfranz.
- G. - Yes.
- G.B. - He also knew someone who was the adjutant to the commander and who we called l'“Alka” (?), that means doll.
- L. - Doll, yes.
- G.B. - He..eh..always walked with a dog.
It seemed that Stangen was Austrian, and for a few days.. (an inaudible word).
- L. - Absolutely.
- G.B. - and the person who they called doll, it made sense because he was a handsome guy.
- L. - Yes, yes.
- G.B. - ..and he walked with his wolf dog, (an inaudible word): “he looks like his dog.”
- L. - And does he remember the Ukrainians?
- G.B. - They were...it seems..eh..that after, they planted and built a farm.
..There was a Ukranian there; but for the moment they *maudissaient*; he remembers his name.
- L. - Did..he sometimes talk with the..with the SS or with..the Ukrainians?
- G.B. - With the Ukrainians, yes, I believe; but they never spoke of the killings because they were afraid.
- L. - What did he say? what type of conversation was it?
- G.B. - They wanted them to bring them vodka, chocolate, and liquor.
- L. - The Ukranians, they asked them to do that?
- G.B. - Yes.
- L. - And what did they give them in exchange? What did they give them in exchange?
- G.B. - They have money or gold.
- L. - Money or gold.
- G.B. - Yes.
Then, one time for example he was on his locomotive; a Ukrainian came to see him and said in Russian: “vodka”? “Do you have vodka”? At first, he was scared. But after he understood how it worked; he had vodka on him, he gave him the vodka and the other took out a bunch of cash that he had in his pocket and gave it to him. And after, “he couldn't believe his eyes”, because he had 1200 dollars, 400 marks, without mentioning the Polish money.
- L. - And..a small fortune, no?
- G.B. - Yes, but he spent it like...he went to play cards..
- L. - He lost it all?
- G.B. - He lost it all, yes; it is money easily won, easily lost.
- L. - But was this dollars or deutschmarks?
- G.B. - Yes, yes...

- L. - 1200 dollars at...at that time, that wasn't a lot of money.
 G.B. -.it was the money that they used here during the occupation.
 L. - Was there a lot of money in the area during the occupation? Ask him.
 G.B. - Yes, always in that (barely audible: moreover, that's not Mr. Gawkowski's response to the question because he continues to talk, so it is the end of the translation), and we would like for you to bring us liquor and chocolate, because we need them..then they went to a train station that was called Kosfo (?), where there was everything that the Ukrainians wanted, we gave them that, they..they paid us very well; they had money!
 L. - Yes..but..that money, it was Jewish money, no?
 G.B. - But of course, otherwise they wouldn't have had it.
 L. - How was it that Jews always had money?
 G.B. - How could he know? Those who worked had money.
 L. - Yes, it was not common to have dollars at that time, no?
 G.B. - No, it was not simple at all, it was not easy.
 L. - But was there lots of money in..

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- L. - That money..eh..Mr. Gawkowski lost it at poker?
 G.B. - Yes, of course it happened like that; because he really didn't know how to play!
 L. - Who...
 G.B. - If he..
 L. - Who beat him?
 G.B. - If he had been married, it would not have happened like that.
 L. - I heard that there were..that there were..traffickers who set up from..from Warsaw and who had organized a real traffic., that there was a real traffic around the camp, between the Ukrainians, those traffickers, even the people from the town.
 G.B. - Yes, that is true; there were men who came from Warsaw, the area around Warsaw, yes..from different sides.
 L. - And that..that, that, that existed, all that?
 G.B. - Yes, that really existed.
 L. - Yes? What did Mrs. Gawkowski say?
 G.B. - ..there were people who came especially to see the Ukrainians.
 Ma.G. - ..by the way, she trafficked also.
 L. - What did she do, what did she do?
 Ma.G. - She bought goods at Warsaw, then she went to the borders, she resold those goods to make money.
 L. - What border?
 Ma.G. - The border (*passait sur le Bug*), between the Russians and the Germans.
 L. - Did she traffic with the camp, with the Ukrainians?
 Ma.G. - No, of course not.
 L. - And, is it true that there were prostitutes from Warsaw located all around the camp, in the towns around the camp?

- G.B. - Yes, that's absolutely true.
- L. - And where did those prostitutes live?
- G.B. - Most often, they were located in Wolkaukenblick (?)
- L. - In Wolkaukenblick, yes..and they lived there? They lived there?
- G.B. - There were girls originally from that town who did that work, but there were also many prostitutes that came from other towns.
- L. - They were located where? They lived in the town?
- G.B. - Yes.
- L. - Were there those who stayed?
- G.B. - No, because they knew what they were doing..they came to spend a week or two then they went home.
- L. - And they were..
- G.B. - Yes and then other girls came to station to situate themselves there.
- L. - And they earned some money?
- G.B. - Evidently.
- L. - And what did they do? They slept with the Ukrainians, and they paid them in gold.
- G.B. - The Ukrainians had lots of gold.
- L. - It was..it was the Jews who had lots of gold.
- G.B. - The foreign Jews came with everything they had because they told them they were coming to work in a German colony..Those Jews who knew better than the others what was going to happen had gold to try to get away, maybe, eh..in certain circumstances, but gold – like Mr. Gawkowski says – could help in all circumstances.
- L. - Yes, but at the gas chambers, it was no longer of use to them.
- G.B. - Yes, men did the same..they had gold teeth that they pulled out , but it is necessary to say that the Jew.. (an inaudible word) ..to work.
- L. - They used their gold teeth like a bargaining chip...
- G.B. - That, he can't say, but he knew that people had them.
- L. - The people in the towns had gold teeth?
- G.B. - He doesn't know that; but he can say...the people who lived in the towns located around the camp, after liberation, when the Russians had come..eh..dug up the ground, and then found gold.
- L. - Found gold, yes. And they found it, they found it?
- G.B. - Yes, yes, they found it.
- L. - Gold and what? Money, jewels...?
- G.B. - Gold and jewels especially. Then, they forbid doing that and..
- L. - In his opinion, is there still gold there?
- G.B. - Certainly, certainly, only you don't know where to find it.
- L. - It would be a pain to find.
- G.B. - Yes, I believe..especially there where the bodies burned, you would certainly find it: it would be necessary to search..in the ground.
- L. - I've heard that the..young ladies at the Malkinia post office here, were postal workers by day, and at night...eh trafficked with the Ukrainians..with their charm.
- G.B. - That could have also happened.
- L. - That's sad..

- G.B. - He can't say categorically.
He knew by sight several women of that type, but he didn't know their names.
- L. - Are there still girls here who came from Warsaw and who were assigned here?
Did they stay in the area?
- G.B. - No, no: they all left.
- L. - They left, then they are old.
And amongst themselves, since everyone knew everything, amongst themselves, did they talk about this?
- G.B. - There was time when those girls were convicted by the interior army courts and then they killed them.
- L. - By the interior army.
- G.B. - They killed them.
- L. - And amongst themselves, since everyone knew everything, since the extermination of the Jews was public knowledge, - did people talk about it amongst themselves?
- G.B. - Yes, they talked about it.
- L. - What did they say?
- G.B. - Nobody had a good opinion of that type of approach.
- L. - Did..did they talk about it in the churches? For example, did the priests talk about it in their sermons?
- G.B. - The priests were also scared, because you know all too well what it was like during that period...but they gave their opinions all the same.
- L. - At that time, Mr. Gawkowski was a believer, are you still a believer today?
- G.B. - Evidently yes he was raised in the fear.. (two incomprehensible words)..he will die.
- L. - Did the priest from Prostyn (?), which is the closest parish, for all the towns around Treblinka, did the priest from Prostyn talk about it in his sermons?
- G.B. - Certainly.
- L. - Certainly..he knows that or he assumes that?
Cut.

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- L. - According to Mr. Gawkowski, could the Jews have done anything to stop what was happening to them?
- G.B. - He thinks that, if the contacts between those who were at the camp and the secret Polish organizations had been..had been closer, maybe that could have done something; he must say that they tried to set fire to the camp, but that did nothing in the end.
- L. - OK, first the contacts..the contacts between the Jews at the camp and The Polish resistance organizations, there were none at all, from what I know, of the revolt at the Treblinka camp, that was a Jewish revolt..and this really accomplished something, because around sixty people succeeded in escaping...that wasn't the essence of the question.
- G.B. - Yes, it was very difficult to do, says Mr. Gawkowski..yes, it is true they escaped.

- L. - No, no; but what I mean to say...the essence of my question had nothing to do with the revolt at Treblinka, but really of those who were part of..of the 6 million Jews killed and I say: "what does he think of that?", "why did that history come to the Jews"?
- G.B. - According to him..according to him, those who, for example, were at the camp here, resisted very little, that means they res..they went almost directly to the gas..and the revolt that they organized here, it was organized by those who stayed longer because they were working.
- L. - Yes....I ask my question again..I ask my question differently: why were the Jews so detested that they deprived them of the right to live?
- G.B. - That is Hitler's business. That is fascism..and his elite, you know that.
- L. - Did Mr. Gawkowski...before the war..eh..know any Jews?
- G.B. - Yes, of course he knew some Jews; when he was in school..primary school, there were two Jews who sat, just..just in front of me, he sometimes whistled responses to them, they offered him sunflower seeds...so he knew them well..there were..
- L. - Female Jews..
- G.B. - Female Jews yes, his friends from school.
- L. - Were there Jews in Malkinia?
- G.B. - Not bad...there, next to "Noufka" (?) street, there were few...few Poles, it was primarily Jews who resided there.
- L. - What percentage of the population was that?
- G.B. - Almost 3000...almost 25 to 30%
- L. - And what happened to them?
- G.B. - When the Germans entered here, there was a border between the Russians and the Germans here...and..those Jews escaped...he says that there were very few Jews from this region who were killed.
- L. - Almost all of them escaped..
- G.B. - Yes, almost all.
- L. - And those that did not escape?
- G.B. - They were killed by the Germans.
- L. - Where?
- G.B. - Even here they killed them, even in the towns, in the beginning when there wasn't a camp.
- L. - In the beginning...he saw that, he helped with that?
- G.B. - Yes..excuse me (Barbara coughs)..there was someone called Salomon who was the baker's son and he saw himself how they killed him..he remembers very clearly.
- L. - And when did they kill him?
- G.B. - In 39.
- L. - Ah, right away! And he remembers how they killed him?
- G.B. - Quite simply, they took him into the street and then they killed him. As for R..him, he succeeded in escaping, he was about his age.
- L. - Was there a ghetto in Malkinia?
- G.B. - There was one, in a town that is close to Malkinia called Zawiste (?).
- L. - In Zawiste.

- G.B. - They made a ghetto, they assembled the Jews from the area? (What followed is barely comprehensible because everyone talks at once until “in Russia at that time”).
- B. - Excuse me, I was mistaken; that Jew tried to escape to Zawiste..he didn’t understand your question...here, there was no ghetto.
- L. - There wasn’t one at Zawiste?
- G.B. - The Jews here left to go abroad, that was in Russia at that time.
...No, at Zawiste, there was no longer a ghetto.
- L. - And were there still Jews at Treblinka?
- G.B. - No, at Prost (?).
- L. - Were there a lot at Prost?
- G.B. - He doesn’t know exactly, more than ten families in any case. At Kosfou (?), there were more, in the beginning, they made a ghetto at Kosfou, but then they transported them here by car..in trucks in all the towns occupied by the Germans (barely audible after “truck”)
- L. - to...
- G.B. - Yes, to Treblinka.
- L. - They killed them very close to their homes.
- G.B. - Yes, that means all those who lived in the area were quickly transported to Treblinka, evidently as soon as they constructed the camp...
- L. - But..
- G.B. - ...in the beginning there wasn’t a ghetto, then they made the ghetto, they emptied it.
- L. - But according to him, the Jews have atoned for what fault?
- G.B. - He doesn’t know..according to him, they were only men..they proved it categorically..a man has compassion for an animal, and then he has more compassion for another human being.
- L. - Is that true?

Bobine No 16Bobine No 17T 21T 21

- L. - According to Mr. Gawkowski – the question I ask him is not simple and I apologize for doing that – the Jews, by their massive death, 6 million, that’s a lot, atoned for what fault?
- G.B. - In his opinion, they are an innocent people, like he said: man has compassion for an animal, and how could it be worse for a man than for..for an animal?
- L. - And that..that was however the case, no?
- G.B. - That did not dep..that did not depend on us.
- L. - No, no...that’s not at all the essence of my question!
- B. - No, he responded to you in a philosophical manner.
- G.B. - All that, that did not depend on us.
- L. - But I know..
- G.B. - Everyone understands it...all that, that is..governments’ faults.
- L. - Did the Jews...eh..

- G.B. - Because until 39, those people lived here, the Jews..eh..did their military service in the Polish army..they respected their religious celebrations..they gave them holidays so that they could celebrate those observances..
- L. - Was there Polish anti-Semitism?
- G.B. - He thinks not..for example, here there was not..maybe in other places, yes, but here for example, no. For example, here, in Malkinia, they had a synagogue, they went there, their observances started Friday evening and lasted until Saturday, then after that they went back to work as usual.
- L. - And..the synagogue building still exists?
- G.B. - No, but for a long time..it existed even after the war..it was on Noufka street (?), where there was the Jewish quarter.
- L. - What was the function of that building after the war, it served what purpose?
- G.B. - People came there..there weren't many houses to live in anymore, so there were people who lived there.
- L. - So people lived there..that is what can happen to a better synagogue.
- G.B. - And Mr. Gawkowski says that for example, before the war, when a bishop came to Malkinia, the Jews came to welcome him like the Catholics, because they were believers, so they wanted to celebrate the.. (two inaudible words)..God.
- L. - They came to welcome the bishop?
- B. - Excuse me?
- L. - They came to welcome the bishop?
- G.B. - Yes, yes.
- L. - And did the Catholics welcome the rabbi?
- G.B. - The rabbi was here.
- L. - Yes, the visits of the great rabbi Zadik (?)..
- G.B. - So one time, before the war of course, when he was in Bialystok at a friend's house, he saw the arrival of "Zadik"...so..eh..there was a crowd of people who welcomed him.
- L. - Yes?
- G.B. - Yes, there was a large crowd.
- L. - of Jews?
- G.B. - Yes, yes, Jews. And they touched him, they wanted to touch that man..considered like a saint..there was always him..because in Bialystok, there were really a lot of Jews, before the war.
- L. - Does he regret that there are hardly any more Jews in Poland?
- G.B. - He says that he lived very well with them; and now one can't say that there are hardly any Jews in Poland; there are; there aren't a lot, but there are some all the same.
- L. - Yes, that's what I meant to say.
- G.B. - There are some..the others went to America, to Israel, even so there are Jews from..from Russia...
- L. - Yes, yes, OK, thank you Mr. Gawkowski, thank you very much for your..I thank you..and cut.
End of this interview.

Interview of Mr. Gawkowski, on the track, near the Treblinka train station.

Bobine No 17

Bobine No 18

T 22

T 22

Interruption lasting several seconds.

T 23

T 23

L. - I mean..it's the same track, are they the same rails?

G.B. - Yes, except for those rails there.

L. - Except for which?

Those there, those that are on my right...all the others existed?

G.B. - Yes, yes.

L. - And..there are how..there are how many..how many tracks at Treblinka, here, how many rails?

G.B. - We can count them.

L. - One, two, three..and then on the other side of the central quay..how many?

G.B. - I believe there are three except for those there..eh..excluding those there.

L. - But tell me..ask him, has the train station changed or is it fundamentally the same?

G.B. - No, the train station has not changed.

L. - It's the same..

G.B. - Only the switch didn't exist at that time.

L. - The switch system, yes: but the buildings are the same?

G.B. - Yes.

L. wait..we will look...that building there at the bottom of all that, is that the same?
Cut camera, asked to stop.

T 24

T 24

L. - OK, ask him, ask Mr..Mr Gawkowski..the rail on which we are sitting, did it already exist or not?

G.B. - No.

L. - Which ones existed? Those...those that are behind us?

G.B. - Behind us; all the others existed at that time.

L. - All the others existed?

G.B. - Yes, exactly.

L. - There were how many tracks?

G.B. - We can easily count.

L. - That makes..one, two, three...four..yes?

G.B. - ..because that, they made it now, that there.

The main track..between the two quays, that..that..that was made after liberation.
So all..all that, that which we see existed during

- the occupation
- L. - And it's true those rails there, that they..
- G.B. - He counted five, five tracks.
- L. - Yes. And it's on those rails there that the trains of deported Jews arrived?
- G.B. - Yes, the same..and those convoys did not stop on the main track, but on the others.
- L. - That means?
- G.B. - The main track, that is the first track.
- L. - Ah! That over there.
- B. - Yes.
- L. - OK, but..so they stopped here, here and here on these three or four tracks here.
- B. - Yes.
- L. - OK, they go..they go..
But excluding that, the train station has not changed fundamentally..the general appearance.
- G.B. - Yes, that it? all that existed.
- L. - All that existed..
- B. - Yes, except for the switch system.
- L. - OK, then there..there, they walk south, that means in the direction of the camp, carefully said, eh?
- G.B. - Yes.
- L. - Then he arrived with the empty convoys from Bialystok..
- End of the reel.

Bobine No 19

TR 25

- M.B. - You ask if the last track existed, but they are not in agreement: they say that the last track existed, Mr. Gawkowski says that this has more recently been made.
- L. - That track existed? It also existed?
- M.B. - So..now, the gentlemen claim that the last track existed during the occupation.
- L. - Ask him..according to him, all the tracks existed?
- B. - Yes; then Mr. Gawkowski says that's not true..
- M.B. - (Barely comprehensible, because everyone talks at the same time), he...during the occupation, and even they wanted to shoot on the tracks.
- L. - Who did they want to shoot?
- M.B. - And that is where they gave water to the shot Jews.
- L. - Where..where..OK, excuse me, where did they give water to the Jews?
- M.B. - Here, exactly..from that track there exactly..when the convoys arrived, they gave water to the Jews.
- L. - Who gave water to the Jews?
- M.B. - We, we the Polish...there was a tiny well, we took a bottle and gave it to the Jews.
- L. - And it was not dangerous for you to give them water.
- M.B. - It was very dangerous, because we could be shot if we gave them a bottle of water or a drink of water, but despite that, we gave them water.

- G.B. - Mr. Gawkowski says that that's absolutely true.
 L. - Do..do they remember at all?
 M.B. - He is the age of fifty...fifty three years..
 L. - So they were about 20 years old at that time.
 M.B. - Yes..they were about 20 years old at that time.
 L. - And they are from Treblinka, they live..they live in Treblinka.
 M.B. - Yes, here.
 L. - They were born here?
 M.B. - Yes, they were born in Treblinka.
 L. - And they still work at the..at the train station from that time.
 M.B. - This gentleman, not anymore; him, yes.
 G.B. - Mr. Gawkowski's step-brother also worked here and he also transported convoys to the camp.
 L. - Step...step-brother?
 B. - Yes.
 L. - They..they saw lots of Jews here?
 M.B. - Do you know how many? To tell the truth, three or four convoys per day.
 L. - Three or four convoys per day.
 G.B. - Per day yes, but only three convoys entered the camp per day.
 L. - Three convoys entered the came per day, and the other, the extra, what did it do?
 M.B. - The others stayed here, waiting.
 L. - They waited?
 G.B. - Yes, they waited, because over there, they could not take more than twenty cars at a time.
 L. - Yes, yes...and then, what happened while they waited
 M.B. - They waited..they cried..they asked for water..they died, they were sometimes totally naked in the cars.
 L. - Totally naked in the cars.
 M.B. - One hundred yes..up to one hundred and seventy people and they would die.
 L. - And what did they think..wait, wait..what did they think of all that, them?
 M.B. - Yes..they lived through quite a lot, yes..he asked me if I..if I could imagine my reaction, if they had killed my brother and my sister – that's what he lived, him.
 L. - They killed his brother and his sister?
 M.B. - Yes and they could not find a solution, they could not be saved in that situation..besides, you know better than them what happened.
 L. - Ah bah..I don't know better than them, I wasn't there myself!
 M.B. - Yes, that's true.
 L. - Why did he say that I know better than them?
 M.B. - No..then of course you could couldn't know everything because you..you were not here.
 B. - Excuse me a second, he wants to tell me something.
 L. - What does he want to tell you?
 B. - I don't know.
 M.B. - ..they jumped from the train..they jumped from the window; there was a mother with a baby..
 L. - A Jewish mother?

- M.B. - Yes, with a baby..she escaped and they..they shot her in the heart..then..
- L. - What? They?
- M.B. - They shot her in the heart.
- L. - They shot the mother in the heart?
- B. - the mother.
- L. - Yes..
- M.B. - This gentleman has been here for..a very long time..he can't forget, he can't look at it like that and he...still, he can't talk about it, because he feels too sick.
- L. - Who..who shot that women in the heart?
- M.B. - Those who serviced the cars, who took care of the car service.
- L. - The Germans?
- B. - Yes.
- M.B. - There were Lithuanians, there were Ukrainians also, yes.
- L. - The Ukrainians..and what is that? That was..that was a Jewish woman..they shot her in the heart?
- M.B. - Yes, they can't forget that scene..he can't tell it.
- L. - Yes...he can..he can describe that scene?
- B. - But he says that he can't tell because he..it makes him..
- L. - Can he try..ask him to try.
- M.B. - The baby was maybe six months old, he was tiny..he can't really tell it, like the gentleman says.
- L. - Tell him..tell him to try, tell him that..that it is very important that he try.
- M.B. - So..there was barbed wire in the windows of the cars..
- L. - In the windows of the cars?
- M.B. - Yes, the cars...but they pulled out all that; because they hoped they could escape.
- L. - Yes, and then?
- M.B. - She jumped from a window like that.
- L. - That woman?
- B. - Yes.
- M.B. - Yes, he says that he's telling the truth.
- L. - But of course he's telling the truth!
- M.B. - He says that they betray nobody.
- L. - They, who?
- M.B. - That they betray nobody. They can say everything because it was like that.
- L. - OK, yes, of course.
- B. - Yes.
- L. - Yes, but it is necessary to say it because people forget all that.
- M.B. - The young people..don't..don't believe it; yes, the young people who are around can't believe it..there is no possibility of believing it...but, he who was there, he knows all too well how it was.
- L. - And according to him, how does he explain that..why did they do that to the Jews?
- M.B. - The gentleman says that..that that bothers him too much, when he remembers all that, really he can't talk for a long time...the gentleman says that..that..happened to the Jews and the Poles were next.

- L. - It would have been the Poles' turn...
- B. - Yes.
- L. - Thankfully, it was not the Poles' turn.
- M.B. - Yes, there are many things to say, but he doesn't want to talk anymore.
- L. - But why..why doesn't he want to talk?
- M.B. - The gentleman says it is the opposite..it is necessary to talk about it.
- L. - Good yes, he's right.
- M.B. - There was a time when you couldn't talk about it, but now finally, you can talk about it.
- L. - Now you can talk about it.
- M.B. - And he's not afraid.
- Cut.

Bobine No 19T 26

Continuing the interview of two Polish gentlemen, on the railway track.

- L. - OK, then...ask..ask them, where was..where was the junction?
- M.B. - There was a track, a special track.
- L. - What, what?
- M.B. - A little bit after the signal post.
- L. - A little bit after the signal post, yes.
- M.B. - Yes, a track like this and they led toward the forest.
- L. - After..after..after the red signal post there?
- M.B. - Yes, there where you see the second signal post.
- L. - There were I see the.. (an incomprehensible word)
- M.B. - Four meters from the track, there is another that led toward the camp.
- L. - That led toward the camp..it doesn't exist anymore?
- M.B. - No.
- L. - When did it disappear?
- M.B. - After the liberation, it was demolished.
- L. - And there was a track that went into the forest?
- M.B. - Yes.
- L. - Yes?
- M.B. - Because there was an extermination center and then..there was a work camp, there was a gravel pit.
- L. - Yes.
- M.B. - And those who worked at the gravel pit, they would die standing up, they were so exhausted!
- L. - Yes, those from the gravel pit, were they Poles?
- M.B. - Yes, they were Poles.
Yes, because they had mandatory deliveries, and those who didn't give the products..finished..
- L. - Ah, they were the farmers who..who didn't give the products.
- M.B. - By the way, his father was also there.
- L. - Over there?

Bobine No 20T 26

- B. - Yes.
- L. - And his father survived?
- M.B. - Yes, he survived.
- L. - Thankfully..OK..wait, let's go through because...Ah OK..no, let's stay here, we'll stay here stay here..OK, OK.
- M.B. - Yes, when he went to work at Malkinia, sometimes they gave a few pieces of bread to the Jews.
- L. - Then they passed on the tracks, where were they, where were the trains of Jews?
- M.B. - Yes..eh..there was a train switch that..twisted, that we displaced.
- L. - They let them pass?
- M.B. - Yes..so..the gentleman says in Polish, it's a junction..that's called..
- L. - Do..do..they remember...eh..do they..
- M.B. - He said that that junction, it's Kaputmachen..in German.
- L. - Kaputmachen..ah, they called the junction Kaputmachen.
- B. - Yes.
- L. - That's a good expression..nicht zuruck! Yes, that was true. Do they remember the smell?
- M.B. - Especially during the harvest, they were burning. The gentleman says that when there was a wind blowing..
- L. - Translate!
- M.B. - The gentleman..the gentleman says that when he was there..at night, when the wind was blowing in that direction there, he could not have dinner, and on principle, they did not have dinner.
- L. - They didn't have dinner.
- M.B. - No, he could not eat after having suffered that smell.
- L. - Why? He wanted to vomit..that..
- M.B. - Us, if you were near a decomposing body, that had been decomposing for a week, could we, you could eat?
- L. - Yes, so?
- M.B. - Say no...it's exactly the same.
- L. - So? But that lasted for months, that smell!
- M.B. - About two years.
- L. - Yes, and then what? They didn't eat for two years.
- M.B. - He asks if you speak German.
- L. - Yes, yes; of course.
- L. - (He repeats what he has just said) Zwei Jahre, ganz gar...Ja wohl.
- M.B. - They couldn't eat dinner for almost two years..and in the whole surrounding area, it was the same.
- L. - The smell went far? How many kilometers?
- M.B. - Four or six kilometers.
- L. - Strong smell. And how was the morning?
- M.B. - It was a little less strong because..
Yes, after the gentleman said that there was a revolt at the camp.
- L. - Ah yes, that.
- M.B. - They cut the barbed wire.

End of the interview.

TR 30

Interview of the railwaymen on the railway track.

- L. - Yes, ask him..if the Ukrainians ..ho..how could the Ukrainians sing?
- M.B. - He can say that they sang because they paid them with Jewish dollars.
- L. - Yes?
- M.B. - Then against..with that money they could do anything..with money like that, you could have anything..
- L. - Wi..with such money, they could sing.
- B. - Yes, yes.
- L. - Did the Ukrainians have lots of money?
- M.B. - We can't...talk about that...can't talk about that.
- L. - But yes! Let's talk about it..let's talk about it...
What? Why did he make that sign?
- M.B. - Ah, ah! Yes..because they...the gentleman says that..they showed that to the Jews when they entered here.
- L. - Who showed them that? Who, who?
- M.B. - Yes, because it was...always the story of colonies. So, they showed them: "Your colonies, that's right".
- L. - Ah! The colonies in which the Jews thought...
- B. - Yes, yes...going...
- L. - ...going to work. Who..who..who showed them that? Did the gentleman show them that?
- M.B. - Yes, the railwaymen, the people who were there...everyone.
- L. - Everyone did that.
In front of the cars there?
- B. - ..in the vicinity.
- M.B. - They did not dare leave; they were...
- L. - They did that.
- M.B. - Then when..when they informed them with that sign there..they all tried to escape.
- L. - But they couldn't escape! They knew that.
- M.B. - Yes, they tried to..to leave..by the windows or they pulled out the floor boards..
- L. - ..of the car.
- M.B. - ..of the car..and they escaped from below also.
- L. - And what did..they succeed in escaping?
- M.B. - The gentleman says that..there were those that succeeded..and who are still living today.
He says that it is very good and from the books he's read there are those who survived because they escaped.
- L. - Ah! Tell him that I read the books also and that there were not many who survived and escaped from the Treblinka train station. I know of no examples..of that. It doesn't exist..there are no examples.

- B. - Wait.
- M.B. - There were...very old people...who..who were old at that time and are no longer living, says the gentleman.
- L. - Poles, he says.
- M.B. - No, Jews who escaped.
But he was 20 years old, there were lots of people who described all that, who saw all that.
- L. - Did they see the Jews who succeeded in escaping from the Treblinka train station? The cars?
- M.B. - Why not, he says?
- L. - Did he see?
- M.B. - Yes.
- L. - He speaks of the woman who they shot in the heart.
- (LINE CUT OFF)

- very often, they helped them get to the border by the Bug.
- L. - Yes.
- M.B. - Because they were not culprits, so they lived..
- L. - Wait..ask him to talk about the money..the Ukrainian money again.
- B. - That works?
- M.B. - Yes, that..there is still the pain of talking about it..
You know how they did it.
Let's walk, maybe a little.
- L. - There is no camera anyway, so we will wait.
We will wait.
- N. - No...the gentleman is worked up.

CLAUDE LANZMANN

FILMING POLAND

Bobine No 21

F.B. = Barbara's girls

G.B. = Barbara's boys

TREBLINKA 31

L = Lanzmann

Enfants Voie Ferree

B = Barbara

- L. - Barbara, ask your kids what they think of this whole story.
- G.B. - they..they don't believe a lot of the stories that the older people tell.
- L. - They don't believe it.
- G.B. - No.
- L. - Eh! A little quiet!
Eh?
Do they hear their parents talking about it? Ask them!
- G.B. - They talk about it all the time.
- L. - So, if they talk about it all the time, why don't they believe it?
- G.B. - They weren't there.
- L. - Ask them...ask them if they know what Jews are like?
- G.B. - Yes; they know.
- L. - What..What are Jews like? Ask!
- B. - I asked several times.
- F.B. - She doesn't know how to define it, but she knows.
- L. - Good, then she tries to define it.
And the boys..and the boys, behind. Him for example; him, him..he interests me!
Ask him to come here. Eh? Ask them...
- G.B. - Yes...he says...I know lots of things, but not everything.
- L. - What are...what are Jews like to them? Eh?
- G.B. - It is the type of person who has a beard and...
- L. - It is the type of person who has a beard.
- B. - Yes.
- L. - Ask them, in their opinion, why were they killed.
That's what I want to know; shit!
What do they say?
- B. - I didn't understand, I think that it is a story of gold.
He says that at Treblinka, there are..
He says that there are three Ukrainians at Treblinka.
- L. - There are three Ukrainians at Treblinka..
- B. - Yes.
- L. - Do they know them?
- G.B. - Ah! Last year they were there, I believe.
- L. - OK...But what did he say that – what is the link to the story of gold? Ask them please. I heard one of them say capitalism.
- G.B. - It is something that has value. He says that if they had gold, they wouldn't live here.
- L. - If they had gold, they wouldn't live here. And did the Jews have gold?
- G.B. - Of course...they even had gold teeth.

- L. - They had gold teeth. How does he know that?
 G.B. - He sa..he says that he found a gold tooth.
 L. - Who, who? Which one found a gold tooth.
 G.B. - No, his brother.
 L. - And where did his brother find the gold tooth? At the camp? When was that?
 B. - Or instead in the forest.
 A Polish child: in the camp.
 L. - When was that?
 In the camp?
 B. - No, in that forest that you see there.
 L. - And what did his brother do with the gold tooth?
 B. - But no...he kept it.
 L. - He kept it.
 And do they sometimes go and see if there are still gold teeth over there?
 G.B. - Anyway, they can find not only gold teeth but other stuff still.
 L. - And what can they find?
 G.B. - There are lots of bones.
 L. - There are bones. And do they..
 G.B. - There are rings, links..
 L. - There are what? Bones, rings, links..
 Did they find bones for example?
 G.B. - One time, when he went to find mushrooms, he found...eh..bones. He found one bone.
 L. - And how did he know it was a human bone?
 G.B. - He does not know but his friends, his friends say that they could certainly recognize what it is.
 L. - OK, then so, that means that that story is true. Why do they say that they don't believe their parents?
 G.B. - That one there he says that he believes.
 L. - He believes...
 G.B. - And the other he says: me, I don't believe; I am Ukrainian.
 L. - Which is Ukrainian?
 Yes?
 G.B. - No, his grandfather was Ukrainian.
 L. - Ah ah! And have they ever seen Jews in their lives?
 L. - And then, what are Jews like?
 G.B. - He says that..that..that the one who he has seen, he had a crooked nose.
 This year, there was a congress of Jews, he said, a reunion of Jews, here, at the camp.
 L. - Ah, here! The people who came, yes.
 B. - Yes.
 L. - Do they have sympathy for Jews?
 No, they say no.
 G.B. - Ah! They are black, they have beards.
 L. - They are black, they have beards
 And what...

Ask the ones who said no, why they don't have any sympathy?
Well yes they turn, shit!

Treblinka 32

- L. - Yes, ask them if they go to mass.
 G.B. - Yes, they go there.
 L. - And are they believers? Do they believe in God?
 G.B. - Yes. They ask if you, do you believe?
 L. - No.
 G.B. - Then you are a capitalist! Jew.
 L. - Ah OK! Because capitalists don't believe in God! And communists believe in God? Ask them.
 G.B. - That depends on which ones.
 L. - And Jews, are they capitalists?
 G.B. - Yes.
 L. - How does he know that?
 G.B. - Because he knows.
 L. - How does he know that? What does that prove to him?
 What does he say?
 B. - I didn't hear very well, but I think that he... (inaudible).
 L. - What did he say?
 G.B. - They explained. They say that they believe in God and that that man there doesn't believe.
 L. And yes, alas!
 B. - So, yesterday you lied to Gawkowski! Ah, ah, ah
 L. - Why do they find it bad not to believe in God?
 G.B. - Of course it's bad.
 L. - Why is it bad?
 Why is it bad?
 G.B. - He knows, but he won't tell you.
 L. - Ah, ah!
 Ask him, which is worse: to not believe in God, or to kill people. What did he say?
 G.B. - Nobody will live forever.
 L. - So, it's not very bad to kill.
 G.B. - It is very bad.
 L. - Ah, it is very bad.
 G.B. - It is a sin; but when you don't believe in God, it's also very bad. That's also a sin, you see!
 L. - And did they talk about Jews at the mass at church?
 G.B. - No.
 L. - No.
 G.B. - Yes.
 L. - Yes? What do they say?
 G.B. - You can go and hear.
 L. - What has he learned? I would like to know.

- G.B. - Yes, when he learned religion, the catechism, he learned..why, he says.
 L. - So, what did he learn about Jews?
 G.B. - Ah, that is his own business.
 L. - Can he tell me? Tell me, it's not a secret, no?
 G.B. - So, he says it.
 G.B. - There, they don't want to say anything.
 L. - They don't want to say anything.
 End of picture.
 L. - And you, do you know what a Jew is?
 OK, cut!

Bobine No 37

Interview of Mr. Gawkowski on the locomotive.

We will note L. for Mr. Lanzmann's questions

E. for the interventions of Eva.

G.E. when Eva translates or interprets Mr. Gawkowski

TR 71

- L. - Eva, ask Mr. Gawkowski, why does he seem sad?
 G.E. - Because I saw that the men walked toward death.
 L. - And here, you are in what spot exactly?
 G.E. - It is not far, it is two to two and a half kilometers from here.
 L. - What, the camp?
 G.E. - Yes, yes.
 L. - And so, was it the dirt road that took you there?
 G.E. - There, there was at one time, a track.
 L. - What track, what track?
 E.G. - a train track to the camp.
 L. - Ah, was that from the junction...the junction that led to the camp?
 G.E. - The junction started at Treblinka.
 L. - Yes, of course...no, but here, this track..what was it? Were there rails on the track?
 There, there, there!
 Excuse me, excuse me...the dirt track that you see here, that sinks into the trees...OK...
 G.E. - There, there was a train track.
 L. - Ah! That was good..that was
 E. - Yes.
 L. - ...It was the track that led toward the ramp..toward the ramp...
 E. - Yes, yes!
 L. - ...on the inside of the camp. And according to him, it is here, with his locomotive, that he pushed twenty cars each time?
 E.G. - That's it.
 L. - That's it..and he was...actually on the locomotive. Was it the same type of locomotive that he drove in 42-43.
 E.G. - That was a locomotive for trains.

- L. - Yes, no, but I meant, the trains left..that is my question..no
- G.E. - It was T.B2..
- L. - Yes, no, but...
- G.E. - ...the eng...
- L. - The question that I ask – he says it is a locomotive for trains, - when he drove the deportees from Bialystok or from Warsaw to Treblinka, was he on the same type of locomotive?
- G.E. -.. (2 covered words)..there were D 52 also.
- L. - Wait..ask him; ask him...was the landscape at that time..did the landscape at that time resemble what it is now, these trees, this calm, this softness? Ask him that?
- G.E. - No.
- L. - Then how was it? What..how was it here?
- G.E. - There were trees of course, but there were fewer than now. It was thirty years ago.
- L. - Yes, yes. OK then, what was there?
- G.E. - There there was a town, further away there was also a town and behind that another town.
- L. - But those towns always existed?
- G.E. - Yes, of course.
- L. - Yes, OK, of course; but, what was there here? There were fewer trees than now, OK; Were there train stations near here? In this exact spot where we are, what was here?
- G.E. - No, there were only two railway tracks there, that is all, a track to Chjeleste (??) and a track to the camp.
- L. - And the track, that was here, the junction that led to the camp?
- G.E. - Yes, yes.
- L. - So, and ask him again to explain a bit better, because he is...why is all this making him so sad.
- G.E. - He says that there, he could not kill an animal and how could they kill a man? Another man?
- L. - Yes, but he saw many of those who were going to be killed, no?
- G.E. - Yes.
- L. - And he drove many of them to their deaths himself?
- G.E. - Yes, they demanded that of me. It is not..it is not my fault.
- L. - OK, of course, of course!
- G.E. - Hitler, I would hang him!
- L. - He makes the gesture that they made to the Jews during that time!
- G.E. - Yes, that's right; because they were going toward the gallows, toward death!
- L. - And tell me...he explained to us the other night that he drank a lot, for..so that he could do this work. Could he explain that a bit better from the top?
- G.E. - Since that time, and because of all that, I am sick now!
- L. He is sick..what does he have?
- G.E. - When I see this, it makes me really sick..it is a very strong feeling. ...because I understand, when a man is not guilty..because they took people who were not guilty, and they took babies. They took them by the feet and they threw them against the wheels of the trains!

- L. - He saw that himself?
- G.E. - Yes, I saw it myself.
- L. - And he saw that where?
- G.E. - ...and I will never say no!
- L. - He saw that where? At Treblinka, at the station, or at the train station?
- G.E. - Yes, it was only at Treblinka.
- L. - And he was not the only person who saw that! Everyone saw that!
- G.E. - Of course! But not everyone saw what was there..only those who were in service, because the others couldn't come to the train station.
- L. - And all the people who worked at the railway station, in all cases, saw that.
- G.E. - The others turned away sometimes, but we saw that, because we were moving, we saw much better from the locomotive!
- L. - Yes.
- G.E. - They passed by, they saw it.
They prayed for water.
- L. - They asked for water.
- G.E. - Yes...and when we..when we gave it to them, secretly of course, I risked my life more than one time, just for that.
- L. - That he..that he came to give them water.
- G.E. - Yes, only for having given it.
It is necessary that a man be a man.
- L. - But how does he explain everybody, at Treblinka and in the surrounding area, they remember that so clearly, they talk about all of it almost as if it was still here! Ask him.
- G.E. - A thing like that, stays in your memory for a long time! I remember everything that happened when I was young..because today, my memory is not so great!
And it is already old!
- L. - Stop, stop!