

This is a translation of an excerpt from:

Moje kresy. Nadwórna - brama Gorganów

-written by Stanislaw Niciejja

In 1939 the population of Nadworna was comprised of 4800 Jews, 3400 Ukrainians and 2200 Poles. 90 percent of the Jews were exterminated by the Germans.

Extermination of Jews in Nadworna

After occupying Nadworna in 1941, the Germans slaughtered almost all the Jews of Nadworna. The largest execution of Jews was carried out on the 6th of October 1941 by Germans in tandem with Ukrainians from the SS Galizien (Halyczyna) on a clearing in Bukowinka, 3 km outside of town. About 2500 human beings were buried at that time in pits built for that purpose by the victims of the execution. For a few hours afterwards the earth moved in that place because some people were not killed by the shooting and were buried alive.

Today in Bukowinka there stands a modest monument informing the passers-by about this horrendous crime. Half of the Jewish population of Nadworna is buried there. The others were murdered in Belzec. A few victims managed to escape to the nearby forest during the execution, and survived the war.

The "luck" of Emil Brigg

This is the luck of Emil Brigg who gave this harrowing testimony in 1963, in Israel, before the Commission for the Investigation of Nazi Crimes. He lived in Delatyn. He was arrested in Nadworna, at the house of his friend Josek Wunderman, where he spent the night before that abysmal day. The Gestapo barged into the house before dawn. At 6 o'clock in the morning the arrested were rounded up at the market square and loaded onto a truck, which moved towards Bukowinka. After they got there, Briggs with his friend Josek Wunderman saw an apocalyptic sight.

"In front of us - he testified years later - there were two pits. One was already filled with dead bodies. At the second one there were still people standing - men and women totally naked. We understood what was going on, that our turn has come to be gunned down. We stood in a group of 30 men. We were told to undress. To set down separately the suit jackets, the pants, the documents. 10 meters from where we were undressing there was a table and next to it two SS-men. One of them was writing something down, the other yelled in our direction: "Anyone who has gold, diamonds, money- put it on the table, and try to run away". The first person approached, threw a packet of money and ran towards the forest. They did not try to shoot him. The second person approached and did

the same. Again, they did not try to shoot him but they hit his back with a rifle butt. I was the third one. I threw my watch, and the few marcs I had with me onto the table. I heard a jeering: "you want to buy yourself out with such a paltry ransom? You can try." And he hit me over the head with a rifle butt. I ran away in a panic. I was running towards the forest, with the full conviction that I would be shot momentarily. I was running blindly, stumbling. In the end I fainted near the forest and fell down.

It was already dark when I came to. When I got up I saw both pits filled with dead bodies. Horrified, I crawled to the forest. Luckily I had my clothes on because during the undressing I only removed my suit jacket. I don't know what happened to my friend Josek. I sat the night out in the forest, far from the pits with the dead bodies.

At dawn I set out for Delatyn through Łojowa and Lubiznia. I reached it already after dark, by snaking through ravines and ditches. I reached the doorstep of my grandmother's house. She was horrified at my sight."