

From the Testimony of Avraham Sadeh: There is No Jewish Quarter in Lublin

Avraham Sadeh was born in 1918 in Tuczyn (eastern Poland). After the area was conquered by the Soviets in 1939, he was conscripted into the Red Army and fought against the Nazis. Sadeh later spent time in a Soviet labor camp in the Urals, and returned to Poland at the end of the war, as a soldier of the Popular Polish Army. After spending two years in Poland, organizing Bericha activity, he immigrated to Palestine at the end of 1947.

"After extensive wanderings and a rapid advance on the front, we reached the city of Lublin. This was already after the destruction. It was terrible to see the city - a city of ghosts, with no Jews. I also reached Majdanek, and even though I didn't know then what Majdanek was, the moment I entered this huge camp I felt that it was a Jewish cemetery. I heard stories from an inmate of Majdanek, and it completely depressed me. I was in a terrible state...

In Lublin, it was terrible to see the Jewish street. I had been in Lublin twice: before the war and during the war, when they bombed the city. I knew that there was a Jewish quarter in Lublin, and that in this quarter there were streets like Y.L. Peretz Street, Shoemakers' Street, Tailors' Street, etc. When I got to Lublin I didn't find any trace of Jewish life. I couldn't find anywhere to spend the night and I went to look for the Jewish quarter. I remembered that there was a main road nearby, then a left turn, and the Jewish quarter should be down there. I looked for it and I didn't find it - it wasn't there... the entire Jewish quarter had been wiped out. It's impossible to describe. It had a terrible effect on me - the Jewish quarter in Lublin..."

Source: The Testimony of Avraham Sadeh - Yad Vashem Archive 03/3975, pp. 21-22 (Hebrew).