

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,479

[MUSIC PLAYING]

2

00:00:03,479 --> 00:00:19,910

3

00:00:19,910 --> 00:00:22,810

I've just returned from Warsaw.

4

00:00:22,810 --> 00:00:25,450

For two weeks while  
in the besieged city,

5

00:00:25,450 --> 00:00:28,255

I photographed the  
struggles and agony

6

00:00:28,255 --> 00:00:32,140

of a people faced with  
the horror of modern war.

7

00:00:32,140 --> 00:00:35,230

I arrived in Warsaw the  
seventh day of the war,

8

00:00:35,230 --> 00:00:38,440

to find a third of the  
city already ashambled.

9

00:00:38,440 --> 00:00:40,900

The situation was  
far more serious

10

00:00:40,900 --> 00:00:44,290

than the meager censored  
news reports had indicated.

11

00:00:44,290 --> 00:00:48,010

The Polish government, and with  
it all foreign correspondents,

12

00:00:48,010 --> 00:00:50,770  
had fled Warsaw two days before.

13  
00:00:50,770 --> 00:00:52,990  
These were the only  
pictures made in the city

14  
00:00:52,990 --> 00:00:54,760  
during the siege.

15  
00:00:54,760 --> 00:00:57,670  
Barricades were being thrown  
up throughout the town.

16  
00:00:57,670 --> 00:01:01,330  
Everyone had to help, and  
soldiers conscripted civilians

17  
00:01:01,330 --> 00:01:03,610  
on the streets,  
putting them to work.

18  
00:01:03,610 --> 00:01:06,610  
I saw one man who was stopped  
six times on his way home

19  
00:01:06,610 --> 00:01:08,670  
with a loaf of bread.

20  
00:01:08,670 --> 00:01:12,340  
It took him all afternoon  
to get back to his family.

21  
00:01:12,340 --> 00:01:14,530  
By the time I arrived,  
Warsaw had already

22  
00:01:14,530 --> 00:01:17,470  
been the target for  
hundreds of bombing raids.

23  
00:01:17,470 --> 00:01:19,150  
Rails from the

trolley car system

24

00:01:19,150 --> 00:01:23,170  
were torn up from the streets,  
and replanted as tank traps.

25

00:01:23,170 --> 00:01:25,000  
The newspapers and  
radio were giving

26

00:01:25,000 --> 00:01:28,870  
reports of army victories  
to keep up civilian morale.

27

00:01:28,870 --> 00:01:31,660  
And the progress of the  
war outside the city, we

28

00:01:31,660 --> 00:01:33,800  
received only false reports.

29

00:01:33,800 --> 00:01:35,950  
But suddenly we knew the truth.

30

00:01:35,950 --> 00:01:37,870  
On the 10th day,  
soldiers started

31

00:01:37,870 --> 00:01:39,940  
flooding back, retreating.

32

00:01:39,940 --> 00:01:44,340  
Warsaw was almost surrounded.

33

00:01:44,340 --> 00:01:45,750  
The bridges over  
the Vistula were

34

00:01:45,750 --> 00:01:48,750  
the main military objectives  
of the air raiders.

35

00:01:48,750 --> 00:01:51,540  
But although thousands  
of bombs were dropped,

36  
00:01:51,540 --> 00:01:54,510  
no bridge was permanently  
put out of commission.

37  
00:01:54,510 --> 00:01:57,300  
I spent much of my time  
ducking into cellars,

38  
00:01:57,300 --> 00:02:00,510  
where German planes were  
almost constantly in the sky,

39  
00:02:00,510 --> 00:02:02,820  
and huge craters were  
blasted in the streets,

40  
00:02:02,820 --> 00:02:05,250  
sometimes almost at my feet.

41  
00:02:05,250 --> 00:02:08,370  
Bombs did great damage  
to buildings and morale.

42  
00:02:08,370 --> 00:02:11,009  
But artillery fire  
was far more deadly.

43  
00:02:11,009 --> 00:02:14,400  
And neither man nor beast  
was safe on the streets.

44  
00:02:14,400 --> 00:02:16,230  
When one part of the  
city was destroyed

45  
00:02:16,230 --> 00:02:19,650  
by small incendiary bombs,  
the people who escaped

46

00:02:19,650 --> 00:02:22,200  
would search for some  
relative or friend.

47  
00:02:22,200 --> 00:02:25,230  
They huddled together,  
perhaps drawing some courage

48  
00:02:25,230 --> 00:02:27,810  
from contact with  
their fellow sufferers.

49  
00:02:27,810 --> 00:02:30,570  
It was pitiful, for  
in groups like this,

50  
00:02:30,570 --> 00:02:33,480  
a bomb could rub  
out scores of lives.

51  
00:02:33,480 --> 00:02:37,290  
Between 300 and 400 enemy  
planes a day were overhead.

52  
00:02:37,290 --> 00:02:41,370  
By the 12th day, it was  
absurd even to sound alarms,

53  
00:02:41,370 --> 00:02:43,470  
for there was  
always an air raid.

54  
00:02:43,470 --> 00:02:46,150

55  
00:02:46,150 --> 00:02:48,820  
The 15th found a great  
shortage of food.

56  
00:02:48,820 --> 00:02:52,330  
Stores had kept open so long  
as there was anything to sell.

57

00:02:52,330 --> 00:02:54,700

Then the city  
established bread lines,

58

00:02:54,700 --> 00:02:56,980

where more than half  
the population lined up

59

00:02:56,980 --> 00:02:58,930

for their daily rations.

60

00:02:58,930 --> 00:03:01,840

People were constantly  
moving, sometimes

61

00:03:01,840 --> 00:03:03,970

saving the least  
useful, but most prized

62

00:03:03,970 --> 00:03:06,680

possessions, from the  
debris of their home.

63

00:03:06,680 --> 00:03:10,690

Demoralized, they shifted  
about the city, seeking safety.

64

00:03:10,690 --> 00:03:12,130

They were lucky  
who owned a horse

65

00:03:12,130 --> 00:03:15,970

and wagon, because the entire  
family even to the house pets,

66

00:03:15,970 --> 00:03:18,580

could be moved together  
with enough necessities

67

00:03:18,580 --> 00:03:20,270

to keep them alive.

68

00:03:20,270 --> 00:03:22,570

But any sort of  
vehicle would do.

69  
00:03:22,570 --> 00:03:26,290  
While a few carted unnecessary  
things, most of the refugees

70  
00:03:26,290 --> 00:03:29,680  
saved their bed-clothing,  
almost by instinct.

71  
00:03:29,680 --> 00:03:31,990  
By this time, the  
German Air Force

72  
00:03:31,990 --> 00:03:35,560  
which had outnumbered the  
Polish planes by 20 to 1,

73  
00:03:35,560 --> 00:03:39,310  
had left not a defending  
ship in the sky.

74  
00:03:39,310 --> 00:03:42,280  
German planes dive low over  
the city as they attack.

75  
00:03:42,280 --> 00:03:44,950

76  
00:03:44,950 --> 00:03:49,420  
Polish anti-aircraft batteries  
actually made many direct hits.

77  
00:03:49,420 --> 00:03:51,910  
About 50 German  
planes, all told,

78  
00:03:51,910 --> 00:03:53,720  
were brought down  
while I was in Warsaw.

79  
00:03:53,720 --> 00:03:56,600

80  
00:03:56,600 --> 00:04:00,110  
Incendiary bombs took  
comparatively few lives.

81  
00:04:00,110 --> 00:04:02,990  
But they left hundreds  
of thousands homeless.

82  
00:04:02,990 --> 00:04:06,310  
In their wake remained  
only the smoking embers.

83  
00:04:06,310 --> 00:04:09,230  
It was almost impossible  
to put the fire out,

84  
00:04:09,230 --> 00:04:11,360  
for water mains  
had been blown up.

85  
00:04:11,360 --> 00:04:14,450  
At times machine-gunners  
tried their marksmanship,

86  
00:04:14,450 --> 00:04:17,240  
zooming low over the city,  
after they had dropped

87  
00:04:17,240 --> 00:04:19,310  
their cargoes of destruction.

88  
00:04:19,310 --> 00:04:24,230  
A new type bomb appeared, a  
500-pounder with delayed action

89  
00:04:24,230 --> 00:04:25,920  
fuse.

90  
00:04:25,920 --> 00:04:29,790  
Each afternoon, at 5:30  
enemy air squadrons



91  
00:04:29,790 --> 00:04:33,570  
would drop incendiary bombs,  
and by nightfall whole sections

92  
00:04:33,570 --> 00:04:35,260  
of the city would be blazing.

93  
00:04:35,260 --> 00:04:37,620  
At night I roamed  
through the city,

94  
00:04:37,620 --> 00:04:40,650  
photographing blocks of  
closely-packed apartments,

95  
00:04:40,650 --> 00:04:42,360  
which were in flames.

96  
00:04:42,360 --> 00:04:44,640  
Blackouts were  
completely ineffectual,

97  
00:04:44,640 --> 00:04:47,460  
and the fires lighted up  
the city for miles around.

98  
00:04:47,460 --> 00:05:09,060

99  
00:05:09,060 --> 00:05:11,100  
Many churches in  
Warsaw were damaged

100  
00:05:11,100 --> 00:05:13,050  
in the weeks of  
the siege, when one

101  
00:05:13,050 --> 00:05:14,820  
direct hit on a  
military objective

102

00:05:14,820 --> 00:05:18,660  
was accompanied by  
25 or more misses.

103  
00:05:18,660 --> 00:05:21,780  
I made these scenes  
on a Sunday afternoon.

104  
00:05:21,780 --> 00:05:25,249  
The church had been struck  
during mass that morning.

105  
00:05:25,249 --> 00:05:27,245  
[MUSIC PLAYING]

106  
00:05:27,245 --> 00:05:58,190

107  
00:05:58,190 --> 00:06:00,470  
This hospital was hit  
five times the day

108  
00:06:00,470 --> 00:06:02,210  
before I photographed it.

109  
00:06:02,210 --> 00:06:05,120  
And I followed the returning  
surgeons and nurses

110  
00:06:05,120 --> 00:06:06,515  
as they inspected the damage.

111  
00:06:06,515 --> 00:06:13,450

112  
00:06:13,450 --> 00:06:17,080  
Wounded civilian victims of  
earlier air raids in the city

113  
00:06:17,080 --> 00:06:20,530  
had occupied these beds  
when this raid came.

114

00:06:20,530 --> 00:06:23,320

It was like a grim  
avenger, relentlessly

115

00:06:23,320 --> 00:06:25,560

determined that they  
should not escape,

116

00:06:25,560 --> 00:06:27,310

that they should find no peace.

117

00:06:27,310 --> 00:06:29,960

118

00:06:29,960 --> 00:06:32,510

From the head nurse,  
I learned the details.

119

00:06:32,510 --> 00:06:37,070

She had been on constant duty  
seven days and seven nights.

120

00:06:37,070 --> 00:06:40,370

The patients had been moved  
as quickly as possible.

121

00:06:40,370 --> 00:06:44,000

In the operating room, surgeons  
had been ushering a new life

122

00:06:44,000 --> 00:06:47,900

into this world of death,  
for this was Warsaw's largest

123

00:06:47,900 --> 00:06:49,730

maternity hospital.

124

00:06:49,730 --> 00:06:51,950

When the siege had  
begun, the hospital

125

00:06:51,950 --> 00:06:56,120

had taken in other patients  
as a gesture of mercy.

126  
00:06:56,120 --> 00:06:59,450  
So it had been unusually  
crowded at the time of the raid,

127  
00:06:59,450 --> 00:07:01,340  
but there had been  
more than 50 mothers

128  
00:07:01,340 --> 00:07:04,160  
with babes only a few days old.

129  
00:07:04,160 --> 00:07:07,100  
When the bombs started  
falling, most of these mothers

130  
00:07:07,100 --> 00:07:10,490  
were removed from the wards  
and taken to the cellars.

131  
00:07:10,490 --> 00:07:14,510  
There they sat on the  
cold dank tile floor,

132  
00:07:14,510 --> 00:07:18,500  
holding their newborn  
infants on their laps.

133  
00:07:18,500 --> 00:07:23,030  
Four days old, and  
already a casualty of war.

134  
00:07:23,030 --> 00:07:26,150  
Here where youngsters  
with life just started

135  
00:07:26,150 --> 00:07:27,860  
being hidden away from death.

136  
00:07:27,860 --> 00:07:33,460

137  
00:07:33,460 --> 00:07:35,865  
This story almost  
missed being told.

138  
00:07:35,865 --> 00:07:37,240  
The pictures you  
have been seeing

139  
00:07:37,240 --> 00:07:39,070  
were in that developing tank.

140  
00:07:39,070 --> 00:07:41,860  
But I had moved them across the  
room to a drier half an hour

141  
00:07:41,860 --> 00:07:44,490  
before the bomb struck.

142  
00:07:44,490 --> 00:07:49,050  
It was the 21st day, and I was  
leaving that city of sorrow.

143  
00:07:49,050 --> 00:07:52,050  
In the fields outside  
was the most tragic scene

144  
00:07:52,050 --> 00:07:53,340  
I ever witnessed.

145  
00:07:53,340 --> 00:07:55,080  
Seven women had  
been machine gunned

146  
00:07:55,080 --> 00:07:57,810  
from the air while  
digging potatoes.

147  
00:07:57,810 --> 00:08:00,570  
Beside one mother's  
body, a stunned child

148

00:08:00,570 --> 00:08:03,090  
waited for what  
might happen next.

149  
00:08:03,090 --> 00:08:04,860  
Even as I passed,  
the peasants were

150  
00:08:04,860 --> 00:08:07,110  
returning to the potato field.

151  
00:08:07,110 --> 00:08:10,170  
They knew that if they dug,  
they might be machine gunned.

152  
00:08:10,170 --> 00:08:12,930  
But if they didn't, that  
they would surely starve.

153  
00:08:12,930 --> 00:08:25,470

154  
00:08:25,470 --> 00:08:28,530  
I questioned the residents  
of a small suburb lying

155  
00:08:28,530 --> 00:08:30,390  
on the outskirts of Warsaw.

156  
00:08:30,390 --> 00:08:33,419  
When they learned that I was an  
American photographer, somehow

157  
00:08:33,419 --> 00:08:35,070  
they seemed to  
believe that I come

158  
00:08:35,070 --> 00:08:38,070  
all the way from the  
United States to help them.

159  
00:08:38,070 --> 00:08:40,799  
But I could do no more

than capture the record

160  
00:08:40,799 --> 00:08:47,440  
written in their faces-  
dazed, angry, magnificent.

161  
00:08:47,440 --> 00:08:49,660  
One woman explained that  
the planes flew low,

162  
00:08:49,660 --> 00:08:52,600  
just above the treetops,  
spraying the fleeing women

163  
00:08:52,600 --> 00:08:54,340  
with machine gun bullets.

164  
00:08:54,340 --> 00:08:57,940  
Still another told of nine  
who were killed by shellfire

165  
00:08:57,940 --> 00:09:00,130  
as they stood in a bread line.

166  
00:09:00,130 --> 00:09:03,480  
Many of the middle-aged  
were sullen and angry.

167  
00:09:03,480 --> 00:09:07,230  
Youngsters were half  
resentful, half resigned,

168  
00:09:07,230 --> 00:09:10,320  
while their elders  
turned to prayer.

169  
00:09:10,320 --> 00:09:13,770  
These are the faces  
of a nation besieged.

170  
00:09:13,770 --> 00:09:17,460  
These helpless civilians  
were the real victims

171

00:09:17,460 --> 00:09:20,695

and the unhappy heroes  
of the war of siege.

172

00:09:20,695 --> 00:09:37,690

173

00:09:37,690 --> 00:09:40,360

May God have mercy on them.

174

00:09:40,360 --> 00:09:42,510

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175

00:09:42,510 --> 00:09:49,437