

-TITLE-LEON WEINSTEIN
-I_DATE-
-SOURCE-UCLA HOLOCAUST DOCUMENTATION ARCHIVES
-RESTRICTIONS-
-SOUND_QUALITY-EXCELLENT
-IMAGE_QUALITY-EXCELLENT
-DURATION-
-LANGUAGES-
-KEY_SEGMENT-
-GEOGRAPHIC_NAME-
-PERSONAL_NAME-
-CORPORATE_NAME-
-KEY_WORDS-
-NOTES-
-CONTENTS-
1:00 Leon Weinstein b. Poland Radzymin - 18km from Warsaw
1911. Family - 80-85 people - grand mother died natural
death father and mother died in Treblinka 1942. Brothers
2:00 sisters, etc. all died in Treblinka - about 80 people
died.
3:00 3 sisters lived as non Jews in Warsaw but were denounced
neighbors. One sister in Warsaw Ghetto uprising.
4:00 This sister wanted to die finally she didn't want to live
in such a world. She died in a bunker where the Germans
threw a gas grenade in. He could have saved her but she
didn't want to live.
5:00
6:00 This sister was the last family member he saw. The rest
went to Treblinka Radzymin . He was in the Ghetto.
7:00 He took law in his own hands - Ghetto closed like prison
but he would leave it and try to make a living - he was
8:00 a contact between Radzymin Ghetto to Warsaw Ghetto - on
train no papers - big chance. October 1942 - found out
about liquidation of Radzymin Ghetto through his contacts
he used to deal with Germans to get food.
9:00 Leon found out from a German Nazi contact that the Ghetto
would be liquidated.
10:00 Rumors that something was going on - he organized group
of 70 - day before - they ran away sonder??? surrendered
Ghetto 5 pm last night.

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11:00 Someone (a cook) took his baby for money. - He and wife went with 70 people.

12:00 They were close to a Russian labor camp at another labor camp (local camp of surrounding Ghettos).

13:00 Met a Pole who used to sell things to the people in the Russian camp. Told her about his situation - a friend of his saw the cook who was

14:00 taking care of his baby - threatened to kill the baby if he didn't come and get it - would throw it to wild dogs.

15:00 Asked guard of labor camp to get his baby for \$200. and he did. Now he wanted to leave labor camp because of baby.

16:00 Asked Polish woman if they could stay with her she agreed - she lived in Warsaw/Prague - very good.

17:00 His wife ?? - left in labor camp - a few days after they left the Nazi's surrounded the camp and killed everyone - sister, brother escaped - ran away naked - to a ranger (?) that he knew.

18:00

19:00 Leon was discovered - denied who he was - man started beating him up.

20:00 Ran away middle of night - had some Polish "friends" - beginning of December - stayed and went from place to place.

21:00 Poles were worse than Germans - he believed that they had no chance.

22:00 He wanted his daughter to live no matter what - even if they died - she was 18 months old. something even made that 18 months old and adult.

23:00

24:00 Believes that something was taking care of them.

25:00

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- 26:00 His wife thought that she would never see their daughter again - but they had to give her away for the time being. They left her dressed.
- 27:00 Warmly with a note ("My husband in prison camp...") and she was wearing a cross. Put her on the doorstep of a Polish lawyer he used to know. He didn't know if he'd
- 28:00 take her on if the Polish Police would put her in an orphanage she looked polish (blond, etc.)
- 29:00 He saw two policemen pick her up and take her to the station. This was the first place both of them would have to go after the war.
- 30:00 He got his wife a job cleaning someone house.
- 31:00 He didn't know what to do with himself. At this time he thinks they were liquidating Warsaw Ghetto. (He was in Prague
- 32:00 Saw a group of Jews with armbands saw a truck with Jewish police and he jumped in. He wanted to go to the Ghetto.
- 33:00 He wanted to get into the Warsaw Ghetto to save himself because he couldn't survive on the Catholic side.
- 34:00 He was very confused.
- 35:00 He snuck into the Ghetto.
- 36:00 Met people from his town. Met a man Isodore from his town.
- 37:00 He was in contact through him with the Jewish underground JUP(?) He went into the underground, snuck in and out of Ghetto.
- 38:00 Before Passover (Ghetto uprising) April 19, 1943 - leader decided that Leon would be a big help because he had connections on the other. Where did they get the guns, etc from?
- 39:00 Leon had connections to get guns, etc and they all put their lives on the line to get these things. Knew that the Germans would liquidate soon
- 40:00 There were actually 60,000 people not 40,000 in the Ghetto at that time - 20,000 or so weren't registered.

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- 41:00 He went and told his wife about the uprising and said

goodbye to her.

42:00 He thinks that if he hadn't gone into the Ghetto uprising his wife might have survived - Warsaw was burning it was a real war.

43:00 And she went with his two sisters to try and find out about him - a next door neighbor denounced his wife.

44:00 It's impossible to describe what went on in the Ghetto at that time. - When he found out his wife had died he knew he had to survive to take care of his daughter after the war. He had twice the will to live - he had an obligation.

45:00 Second day of fight - he was on a roof - caught - no way out - fire burning.

46:00 Thought there was no way out - he would have to jump 5 stories - he had to think fast - he was a Ghetto fighter and if caught would be shot on the spot- had 1/2% chance to live if he jumped - he did and nothing happened- when you've that desperate you can fly.

48:00 After looking back 40 years he can't believe it. 8th May - worst hell on earth of Ghetto uprising - blackest day- shattered uprising, discovered people.

49:00 He survived this too.

50:00 Needed to find food - in a basement for 7 weeks - would look in old bunkers and look for food.

51:00 He was with a very religious man - on a Friday night they discovered a package of dried macaroni - They also lived in the sewers.

52:00 His friend wanted to cook the macaroni in honor of Shabbos - Leon said - we'll put ourselves in the hands of
53:00 the Germans if we make a fire - but he convinced him -
Nazi's saw the smoke from the fire -

54:00 The hunger, the horrible lie - no vitamins, no H2O

55:00 Made everyone get down on the floor - no movement -

56:00 He want to check the situation - see where the Nazi's were -

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57:00 That night they all went into the sewer.

NEW TAPE

- 6:02 3rd August - went into the sewers. If you didn't know your way around you could get COSL forever.
- 6:03 Rats like cats in the sewer - stinking water - got to where they could get out and they were exhausted - he couldn't push the covering over
- 6:04
- 6:05
- 6:06 He pushed with all his body weight and got them all out - They all went out - they couldn't walk around because it was curfew time.
- 6:07 The weren't that far from the Ghetto - too near - snuck into a building - went into some public restrooms.
- 6:08 A janitor found them - demanded gold and diamonds - he said are you kidding we have hardly eaten for 7 weeks - you SOB (there were 7 of them)
- 6:09 He ran away - knew they were in trouble - 6 O'clock - they left - maybe 100 Schinalzonikis - they make a deal -
- 6:10 One of them said "you dirty jew you're giving me conditions?" He said yes - let the others go and take me.
- 6:11 Took him away, wanted him to undress to look for diamonds. He said no way and didn't - he had nothing to lose.
- 6:12 Wanted money (5,000 zlotys) from him - he paid him and he (Leon) left. He had the money in his coat. He wanted the man to promise that if he went into the street care that they would not have it stopped.
- 6:13 He didn't
- 6:14 last stop - he had to change streetcars -
- 6:15
.END.