

-TITLE- STEPHANIA BURSZMINSKA  
-I\_DATE-  
-SOURCE- CHRISTIAN RESCUERS PROJECT  
-RESTRICTIONS-  
-SOUND\_QUALITY- FAIR  
-IMAGE\_QUALITY- GOOD  
-DURATION-  
-LANGUAGES- ENGLISH  
-KEY\_SEGMENT-  
-GEOGRAPHIC\_NAME-  
-PERSONAL\_NAME-  
-CORPORATE\_NAME-  
-KEY\_WORDS-  
-NOTES-  
-CONTENTS-  
0:75 --- Doctor, small talk, introduction  
  
1:35 --- May 18  
  
1:60 --- born in Lipa (sp?), village in Poland, does not know what year she was born, her mother simply kept telling her how old she was when she asked.  
  
2:00 --- one of nine children, 6 girls, 3 boys.  
  
2:70 --- her father was a high-ranking military man  
  
3:70 --- the family owned land, must have been relatively wealthy; she was the seventh oldest child, her mother was a midwife, family attended church regularly  
  
5:86 --- moralistic environment, father - 'fight will bring nothing good.'  
  
6:45 --- urged to help those with one leg, the handicapped.  
  
6:68 --- knew Jewish kids but most of them went to Jewish school  
  
7:05 --- Jewish parents wouldn't let their kids play with the 'goyim.'  
  
7:15-850 --- Jews as living in the past, her early impression of Jewish customs.  
  
10:20 --- Jewish separatism  
  
11:00 --- dangers, the cold  
  
11:20 --- had not heard of the pogroms as a child  
  
11:40 --- when she was about 14 she went to Shamish (sp?) near Krakow and visited her sister; worked in a bakery

13:40 --- she lived there in the city and here she tells a tale about how she lied about her age to register in the new city to get a job.

14:30 --- job to help an old woman in a small shop; stayed with her until the war, one day she left. The old woman did not want her to go and lured Stephania back. The old woman was Jewish. Stephania stayed with her, lived in the family home in a small pseudo-room and cleaned up, ran errands for her, etc.

16:10 --- she remembers the Nazis coming in.

16:60 --- start war, she recalls people fleeing to the Russian border, the four sons of the old woman left for a spell as well.

17:60 --- Russians came for a bit then they left, fleeing from the Germans.

18:75 --- She talks of the segregation of the Jews - Star of David, ghetto, etc.,  
- she mentions her confusion as to why this was happening.

19:15 --- recounts walking down the street when a Jewish boy of about eight or nine years of age was hit by a non-Jewish boy. She overheard a worker scold the boy by emphasizing the similarity between all humans. She listened to this advice and agreed.

20:20 --- 'no difference' between Jews and others.

20:70 --- the old couple and family had to move to the ghetto.

21:35 --- describes German Jewish girls who behaved like Nazis

22:00 --- worked in a factory.

22:10 --- she visited the couple in the ghetto, the ghetto was open and she would obtain food for them in exchange for their goods, etc. The ghetto later was closed.

22:65 --- The sons of the old Jewish couple constructed a hole in the ghetto through which Stephania could pass food.

23:30 --- mentions that the Jewish policemen were far from kind and that she sometimes wore a white bandage around her arm to escape their wrath.

23:55 --- the Gestapo caught her several times.

24:00 --- she was not frightened

24:15 --- sometimes guards would let her inside the ghetto in exchange for a kiss, joking around.

24:50 --- one time she was on the outside of the ghetto near curfew, couldn't find anybody - the Gestapo had found the hole. Two Gestapo with rifles stood there but they left her alone. 'A force repelled them.' She refers to the two guards as two 'mummies' who turned and walked away.

25:90 --- made friends with the Polish policeman, extra time in the ghetto in exchange for a kiss.

26:70 --- some of the Polish policemen also had friends in the ghetto, smuggled something in.

27:43 --- some Jews taken to concentration camps including the old couple.

27:90 --- taken to a camp, couldn't see that much.

28:24 --- ghetto became smaller and smaller as people were shipped off to the camps.

28:60 --- she kept wanting to go into the ghetto

29:25 --- the ghetto was not nice, two of the sons were left there, she snuck in a little food which she hid up her shirt, nothing to eat in the ghetto.

29:90 --- her future husband, Joe, one of the sons, escaped from a moving train en route to a camp. he stayed a night at a Polish acquaintance's house.

31:00 --- Joe sought her out, she took in her sister (?) to live with her, parents had left/been taken away.

32:20 --- the Gestapo tacked up posters stipulating that those helping the Jews would face death.

32:90 --- Joe was smuggled across a German barrier in a hearse, returned to his old street

33:80 --- found her in the apartment, Joe looked terrible

34:44 --- he wore her nightgown, hid him under the bed during the day

35:00 --- Joe's younger brother's fiancée fled to the apartment also, now she was hiding two Jews

35:50 --- Stephania lied to someone who saw the girl there saying that she was her pregnant runaway cousin.

36:00 --- some more Jews were taken to the ghetto including Joe's younger brother who wanted his fiancée with him - sent a 'street man' with a note to tell his fiancée to come to the ghetto

37:10 --- fear about the man going to the Gestapo

37:50 --- they were scared about the man betraying them to the Nazis but also angry at Joe's brother for being scared to come himself

38:00 --- they went to the ghetto to keep Stephania out of danger

38:27 --- the 'street man' did not tell the Gestapo

38:90 --- Stephania is wary about moving to a new apartment and hiding more Jews, she decided to make the move, talking it over with another girl who was too frightened to go in on it with Stephania believing that 'I am too young to go the grave for other people.'

40:20 --- 'For me they were people like everyone else.'

40:50 --- Stephania decided to look for an apartment herself, looked in an old Jewish neighborhood, empty, buildings in a dilapidated state, story about how she found an apartment, 2 rooms kitchen, separate attic -- no electricity, etc.

44:50 -- clean the apartment

44:65 --- more and more Jews came to hide, eventually thirteen stayed, the younger brother and fiance were still in the ghetto, one woman threatened her by saying that if she did not house her two boys and herself she would relay information to the Gestapo about her activity, letter with a street boy

46:00 --- story about the woman crying who tried to blackmail her

47:00 --- fears about survival

47:39 --- did not know what year she rented the apartment, to survive and to save others was on her mind, two winters

47:70 --- the younger brother and the fiancee came to hide as well, she discusses the people she hid.

48:70 --- describes her luck at being able to buy 50 kilos of potatoes and then lugging them home herself

49:00 --- more Jews came

49:30 --- she was told to leave her apartment within two hours, was she to run away? What about the Jews?

50:00 --- she decided not to move, she stood her ground.

50:60 --- prayed for their safety, she and her sister - Christians and the thirteen Jews

51:20 --- she heard a 'voice' - 'just be quiet, send people up to the bunker (the attic), open doors, clean apartment, etc.

52:47 --- one SS man returned, friendly - they took only one room.

53:10 --- two nurses took the room, they had boyfriends - Germans with rifles

53:40 --- 'Four Germans downstairs, thirteen Jews upstairs,' for seven months.

53:70 --- husband comes out into the video.

53:90 --- at first she hesitated to marry Joe, a Jew. She did not want to marry at the time and she also possessed religious reservations.

54:20 --- 'He wanted to fight for her life.'

54:60 --- he was adamant about marrying her.

54:80 --- Joe converted, he became Catholic, they married in Poland.

55:00 --- he converted for her

55:44 --- they went to Israel for a spell eventually before migrating to the United States.

56:00 --- publishers refused to publish her memoirs

56:50 --- to be good when there is chaos in a country is difficult.

56:80 --- war is war

57:00 --- her mind was on the Jews in her attic; it took her seven years to write her memoirs.

#### BURZMINSKA - TAPE #2 SUMMARY

Continuation of Tape #1. At the outset she discusses the problems with her memoirs not being accepted for publication; of editors changing her story, not believing her account. In essence, Burzminska displays on this tape an element of bitterness towards Jews and their lack of appreciation for the sacrifices of Christian rescuers during the War. This tape is much shorter than Tape #1 and, as with the first tape, captures the passion of Burzminska.

Early - book not being published, issue of the editor changing the story, how she returned to take photos of the place, her children knowing what she did.

2:40 - notion of children learning from her example to help people

and not to hurt them,

2:90 - "Jews are sleeping," Jews not grateful - discusses this for a spell.

4:50 - Jewish stinginess

4:80 - talks about Post-War communication with the thirteen, offer to go to Israel to plant a tree, Stephania angered that Israel would not pay for her to go and plant her tree.

7:00 - plaques, certificates, etc.

7:80 - pictures of the house, the attic, etc.

8:50 - picture of the attic, displays the cramped environs

10:00 - would she do it again? - "I don't know."

10:30 - "If you have to, you have to."

10:76 - END  
.END.