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-RESTRICTIONS-
-SOUND_QUALITY- FAIR
-IMAGE_QUALITY- GOOD
-DURATION-
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-KEY_WORDS-
-NOTES-
-CONTENTS-

N.B. There wasn't any clock on the screen to record the minutes. I wrote down the counter #5. Since 92 counts = 1 minute, I summarized every 100. (I.e. 100 represents the material that was dealt with from 0 (0 to 100)

0100 She was born in the small village of Bialo-Kenitza (ph) in Poland.

02:00 She was born on February 2, 1924.

03:00 She was the oldest of three children. She has a brother and sister. Her father died when she was young. She worked with her mother in the field.

04:00 She started to go to school at seven years old. In the afternoon she helped her mother around the house and in the field. She had cows, pigs, ducks, and chicken. She took care of the house when her mother was in the fields.

0500 She was not quite ten when her father died. Her brother was not born yet. She baked bread herself. She was so young that she needed a stool to help her. She would prepare it for her mother so that her mother had something to eat when she returned from the fields. She bathed her brother and sister. It was the best time of her life. It was hard but good.

06:00 Her family was a happy one. She brought her mother over to Canada to live with her. Her mother lived with her for ten yrs. Her mother passed away eleven years ago. Her family was Catholic and very religious. On Sundays, she would take care of the animals and then go to church.

07:00 There were two Jewish families in her village. In all, there were 150 families in the village. The Jewish children went to school with them. One Jewish widow owned a store where she used to get candy. This widow had two girls and one boy. There was one boy and one girl in the other Jewish family. Nobody bothered the families.

08:00 These families attended a synagogue in a neighboring village. She saved the lives of a Jewish woman and her two children who lived in this nearby village. In May, she was planting potatoes. She returned to her house to eat lunch and found her Jewish friend Golda with her two children.

Golda asked if her children could have a drink of water. She gave them a drink. Then, Golda asked if she could have some bread. She told Golda to go around to the back of the barn and she would meet her there and give her some bread. There were Nazis in the village.

09:00 Golda and her family stayed in the barn on the straw. Later on, after everyone had gone home, Golda asked if she could stay in the barn. Although she was afraid that she and the family would be killed, she allowed them to stay in the barn. At this time, she was only 14. She was aware from going into the city that Jews were in danger. There was a big hole in the city and the Nazis used to bring the Jews to the city and kill them there.

10:00 She gave the woman food. She knew her whole family and they were good people. Golda's husband used to buy crops and grain from the farmers and bring them to the station for export. She dug a hole inside the barn in which Golda and her children stayed. She covered the hole with pieces of wood and then covered the entire hole with straw. There was one passage out of the hole. They stayed in the hole during the winter. In the summer, the family stayed in the attic (loft) of the barn.

11:00 Her mother knew about the family in the barn but her little brother and sister did not. She did not want them to know because she was afraid they would let something slip. Her mother was scared to death, as was she, but she told her mother that they were going to take the chance. The Nazis would come to her house and accuse her of hiding Jews. She always denied it. She told them that she never saw any Jews around. "There are none left. They all have been taken to the city," she told them. The Nazis told her that the neighbors had told them that she was hiding Jews.

12:00 Golda's son was not quite two. He was always hungry. Many times she would go to the German kitchen with a pot and beg for food. She would ask the soldiers at the kitchen for food for her family. She milked the cow and the goat so that Golda's son would have something to drink. Golda kept some bread on the side in case the boy started to cry. Golda's daughter was six. She understood that the extra bread was for her little brother so she only took a few bites. At the last minute the Germans arrested her. When the Russians started to come, the Germans wanted everyone out of the village.

13:00 The Germans wanted her to work in the kitchen and peel potatoes for the soldiers in the front line. She was scared she didn't want to go to the kitchen alone. Golda called her Marisia (ph). Golda asked her to for a pail of water and some bread.

Also Golda asked her to take another Jewish woman named Manya with her to the kitchen. Manya at this time was also living in the barn. Manya was a daughter of a man who worked in a vinegar factory in the city of Izboru (ph). Manya's father had asked her to take his daughter otherwise she was going to be killed. She took Manya to live in the barn.

14:00 When she brought Manya home, her mother wanted to know what she was doing. Her mother told her that she was going to get them all killed. Her mother added that it was going to take a long time for the Russians to arrive and the Germans to leave. Manya was around her age. Manya then asked her to go and get her mother. She said to herself, "O my God, what am I going to do?" She had a lot of courage to get these people; her mother was too scared. She left for Izboru (ph) to get Manya's mother. She took her mother's clothes and dressed Manya's mother in them. On the way back, they were in a cheery orchard when they saw a man coming toward them. They both bent down and pretended to be picking cherries. The man asked her whom she was with. She said she was with her mother. Manya's mother asked the man without lifting her head, "What do you want? Don't you remember me?" He replied that he couldn't see her face. Manya's mother quickly answered "You don't have to see my face. I'm picking up cherries." With that the man left.

15:00 Manya's mother did not stay in the barn long though. She stayed for only two days. She wanted to go back to Izboru. Manya begged her to take her mother back. Manya was afraid her mother might accidentally give them away. She brought her back. Two days later all the Jews in Izboru were killed. She did not tell Manya about the terrible news. After the Russians came, she told Manya that her whole family died. Manya said she knew that but nobody bothered to tell her anything. She told Manya that at the time she already had enough to deal with. When the Germans came to take her, Manya went with her disguised as an old lady.

16:00 Golda stayed in the barn which now was on the Russian side. She and Manya were a few villages over on the German side. The Germans took her into jail for two weeks and beat her very badly. Her thighs, shoulders, and face were black from the beatings. They repeatedly asked her if she was hiding Jews. She continued to deny it. After a while, she could no longer stand the beatings and she gouged the eyes of her torturer. She said to herself, "They are going to kill me but he's going to be blind. " From that point on the beatings stopped. This occurred in 1944.

17:00 They took her to a bigger jail. She now thought that she would be killed. One day, a German soldier who spoke perfect Polish talked to her. He asked her why she was Jail. She told him that she did not know anything. "You're to something," he told her. He asked her if she was a spy or half Jewish. He pat her on the back but she told him not to touch her shoulders because she was hurt. She showed him her shoulders. He could not believe that she beaten in that way. That night, the soldier returned.

18:00 He told her to go an empty Jewish house and sit there until the morning. He told her that she was free to leave. She was shaking as she got up to leave the jail because she thought that she was going to be shot in the back. She still shakes today when she thinks of it. She went through a huge steel door.

She stayed in an empty house. In the morning, when she heard the voices of Germans, she left the house and ran home 70 miles in her bare feet. She had huge blisters on her feet. When she reached her home, smoke was coming out of her home. Much of the village had been burned. The people who were around told that they thought the Germans had killed her.

19:00 She went to check if the storage hole where she hid food and grain was untouched. Fortunately, all the food was there. One week later her mother came back. When her mother saw her, she collapsed in disbelief that her daughter was still alive. They had moved everyone from the village when the Russians came. Her mother had brought back her cow. People had to miles in order to exchange clothes for food. Golda with her two kids and Manya also returned. One neighbor said he heard a baby crying one evening. She told him that it was her brother crying.

20:00 She played stupid often. She was surprised that she was capable of playing stupid. Golda and her decided that they + would have to move to Izboru (ph) in order to make a living to buy food. They all moved there to an empty Jewish house. Her mother, sister, and brother stayed in the village. She and Golda used to go to the city of Lambert (ph) where there was a salt factory. A Russian fellow who carried salt from there in a truck gave them salt which they sold to make money. They along with Golda's daughter Freida would stand in stores and sell the salt. They would also exchange clothes for food.

21:00 After a while everyone knew she had been keeping Jews. They might even kill her neighbors if they had found out. She took a big risk hiding them. Freida was eight and Martin, the baby was 18 months. She hid them for almost two years. She would to the barn at night to allow them to stretch and get fresh air.

22:00 Every night at ten o'clock she would visit them in the barn and let them walk. She would also give them something to eat. One time while Golda and she were riding on the highway on the back of a truck. She saw Russian police up the road and she immediately jumped off the truck and hid in a ditch. The police arrested Golda for selling salt. She ran to the city and asked a friend to help Golda get out of jail.

23:00 Her friend gave the Russians some moonshine and Golda was released. With Golda's family and Manya, she move to "The Poland" Golda's husband had been killed before Golda sought shelter in her barn. He was found lying dead in a ditch on the highway that leads to Izboru. He was buried in that ditch. They stayed in "The Poland" for a while.

The Jewish people were all planning to go to Israel. Golda said that they would not leave Marisia (ph) there in Poland. They moved from there to Czechoslovakia where they stayed for eight weeks. Then they went to Austria and stayed in Lintz (ph) for five weeks.

24:00 They finally moved to Salzburg (ph) where they stayed in displaced persons camp for two year. One day, a lady asked her if she wanted to go to Canada. She wanted to go to America. She had not heard of Canada but she did not want to stay in Salzburg. In 1948, she came to Canada by herself. She wrote to Golda at the camp and sent her money but the letters never reached Golda. Others at the camp, had opened them to take the money. When she was living in Montreal, a woman who was with her in Austria told her that Golda was trying to contact her.

25:00 The woman had Golda's address in Chicago. She wrote her and gave Golda her phone number. With her first husband, she went to Chicago and visited Golda often. Golda did not go to Israel because they were not sending people there at the time. Golda and her children, along with Manya and her new husband were all in Chicago. She attends all their family affairs. Last year, she went to the bar mitzvah of Martin's son (Golda's grandson). Manya has three children.

26:00 When she came to Canada with two Jewish girls who had relatives in Canada. She felt very alone in Montreal. She worked in a hospital and eventually met her husband who served in Monte Casino, Italy during WWII. One year after she was married she moved to London, Ontario.

27:00 Golda had a restaurant in Chicago called "Golda's Special Kosher Restaurant." Golda sold that one later and bought another one. Golda never remarried. Her son Martin is a lawyer.

28:00 Golda last name was Schechter. Manya married a man in Austria. Manya's last name is now Birenberg.

29:00 Her brother is married. Her little sister, Julie, is married. Her mother wanted to come and live with her in Canada. She told her mother to move from Russia to Poland and live with Julie for a while because it would be easier to bring her to Canada. In 1965, she went to Poland to see her mother. Two years later she brought her mother back to Canada. Both Julie and Julie's son are now in Canada with her.

30:00 She never had any children. She saw the way the Germans killed the Jews. The Jews were people like everyone else. They wanted to live. What difference does religion make. She had to keep these people. If the Germans killed her, well that's the way it was. She tried to do her best. There was no way she could have refused to hide them.

31:00 One time she went to the city to buy flour she saw the Germans standing with their machine guns. It was so quiet that she was scared for her life and she hurried home to tell her mother that they were killing all the Jews in the ghetto.

32:00 One evening, the Germans came to my house and asked her if she was hiding any Jews. She told them no in fact she said she could kill them herself. They wanted to look in the attic of the barn. They took a step ladder to take a look.

She planned to pull the ladder the second they saw anything but they said all was up there was spiders and cobwebs. She thanks God. They were in attic hiding and they were horrified. They tell her that she is one of theirs now. In life, she says you have to help other people.

33:00 The best time of her life was when she was a little girl and when she came to Canada. She loves to travel. She loves Cuba and she has been there twice.

34:00 She is now trying to get her brother's daughter to Canada from Russia for the holiday. It is very difficult to leave Russia.

35:00 She has worked in men's clothing factory. She worked in the hospital for 22 years. Last year, she retired. Her first husband name was Stephen. He fought in WWII for the Polish English.

37:00 Her second husband is Ukrainian-Pole. Golda's daughter Freida is like a daughter to her. She told Freida that if she survived she would have to remember her. If she survived, she would remember Freida.

38:00 Jewish parents are suppose to tell their children about what happened. Freida tells her children as well as Manya. Many ask her and Manya to tell the stories of the experiences.

39:00 Many parents, though, are not willing to explain and talk about it. It is important for children to know what they went through.

40:00 Jewish people in London asked her to speak at the synagogue about her life. They honored her with a certificate at the 40 year celebration of the state of Israel.

41:00 She is amazed that she had the courage to do what she did.

42:00 The Russians gave them some food when they came. They told her that she was lucky to be alive. She still is religious.

43:00 She went to Rescuer's meeting in Washington, D.C. She met people from everywhere. Last year she went to Chicago to plant a tree that honored her as a rescuer. The park where the trees are is called Evanston Park.

44:00 The people from Evanston Park's Jewish organization organized

46:00 Her mother taught her that everyone is equal.

47:00 [Time was spent looking at old pictures and articles.

48:00 [same thing]

Tape 1

Date : June 3, 1988

Q:(100) Where were you born?

Tape 1

A: I was born in Poland.

Q: (100) Where were you born?

A: I was born in Poland.

Q: What town?

Q: What town?

A: In a village called Bialu-Chernitza (phon).A: In a village called Bialu-Chernitza (phon)

Q: In what year were you born?

A: I was born 1924, February 2nd.

Q: (255) How many children?

A: Three of us, but I am the oldest. My sister, my brother, my mother. Father died early.

Q: Tell me about your mother.

A: she alone. The three of us started working early in the field.

Q: How old were you when your father died?

A: I was not quite ten. My father passed away -- my brother not born yet. But we survived.
This was the happiest time of my life. Hard but good. Sometimes I run out with the kids and play.

Q: So it was a happy family?

A: Yes, happy, I couldn't complain.

Q: Even through your mother was mother hard-working, she wasn't unhappy?

A: No, she was happy. I bring her here to live with for ten years.

Q: When did she die?

A: Eleven years ago.

Q: (5:55) Was your family always religious?

A: Yes, two families out of 150 families. Mostly farmers.

Q: (6:15) Did they go to school with you? Were they friends of yours?

A: They were friends with everybody. One woman had a store. She gave us candy. Nobody bothered a Jewish people.

Q: Did they have a schule? (phon.)

A: In another village. They go over there. They have a synagogue and all that.

Q: (7:02) Now, tell me what you were going to tell me.

A: Well, one day, in the spring time, we planted the potatoes. Golda [a Jewish woman, mentioned in passing before] came in with her two children and said, "Can I have a drink, can I have a bread?" And I said, "You have to go behind the barn, behind that little door, and when nobody see it, I give you some food."

Q: Was this after the Nazis came?

A: Yes.

Q: Were there any Nazis in your village?

A: Yes, oh, yes. Not so much as in the city. So, she did that, and she stayed on the straw and I brought her some food. And she said, "Can I stay here?" And I said, "I don't know. This is really hard now. I'm afraid they going to kill you and me."

Q: (8:44) How old were you at this time?

A: I was 14.

Q: When was the first time you realized the Jewish people were in danger?

A: In public, I go to the city, I see how they took Jewish people and kill. There's this big thing, where they take all the people and kill. At that time, I give the food. She was crying. She said, "I have no food, no clothes for the children. What should I do?"

(9:69) ... After that, I keep her. In the wintertime, we dig in the barn a big hole and put on top of it a board and cover it with lots of straw. In the summertime, we keep them in a big room near the roof with lots of stuff.

Q: Did your mother know you were doing this?

A: Yeah, but my brother and sister don't know nothingm because kids always say something. She was scared to death. She say lots of times, "The Germans going to kill you".

Lots of times the Germans come to our place and say, you hiding Jews." And I said, "Me? I never see the Jews. Everyone was taken to the cities and killed."

The neighbors knew. The youngest boy (of Golda) was two years old. He would cry--he wanted to play, wanted food. We don't have food to give. Three of them, and three of us. Lots of times, I go to the German kitchen, and ask for food. I would eat some and give a little bit to my brother and sister, and the rest give to the (Jewish) people.

...At the last minute, they grabbed me, and arrest me; the Germans wanted everybody out from that place. The wanted me to work in the kitchen, they wanted a woman to peel the potatoes. I scared to be there all alonem with the Jewish people in my house. I say to them, "you stay here."

The lady said, "Marisa, just give ne some water and bread, and i'll try my best. "Now, Manya, she...

Q: Many is?

A: Is that other lady. A Jewish lady.

Q: When did the second lady come?

A: After that, one day I go to the city. Manya's father, he have a factory that makes vinigar. He said, "Take my daughter. Otherwise we are all going to die and nobody going to live."

(13:60) My mother said, "What you trying to do, kill all of s? One day, I go to Zborow and get Manya and say, "You go to a Golda, and stay with her." After that, she said, "Marisia, go get my mom." And I say, "Oh my God, what am I going to do." And I went Zborow, and got her mother.

I dress her (Manya's mother) up in a scarf, We have little orchard, She picks up some cherries. Some guy come by and say, "Who's this?" I say, "its my mother." She said, "What you want,you don't remember me?"

I bring that poor lady. After two days she says, "Take me back to Zborow." I said, "They going to kill you there."

(14:70) But, I have to take her. Two days later they kill everybody. But, I don't tell Manya nothing. After the Russians

come, I tell Manya, "your family is dead." She said, "I know. I feel that. But, nobody tell me nothing" I said, "How am I supposed to tell you?"

... After that, the Germans catch me and arrest me. And I go with Manya four or five villages away. She no look Jewish. Golda, she stay in the same place. We still on the German side.

(15:38) I spend weeks in the jails there. I was beaten to death. My legs and shoulders, they were just black. They say, "You hide the Jew." And I say, "No." All the time, "No." I said I don't know nobody. They beat me.

One time they beat me so bad, I say, "I got to do something and I prepare myself. With my fingernails I go (making a clawing, stabbing motion right to his eyes. From that time on, they stop beating me.

Q: Did you hurt the man?

A: I don't know. I just say, "You're going to blind, you no hurt no more people."

(16:02) This is the time they took me further, to a really big jail. One day a big German came, but he speak perfect Polish. He said to me, "Why you here in jail?" I say, "I don't know. They come and take me and beat me for no reason." He said, "Are you spy? You hide Jews?" I said, "What's a spy?"

He then patted me on the back and I said, "No, they hurt me." I showed him my shoulder. At night, he came, opened the doors. He said, "Come on child...you have to go quietly through the jail and go some place down there in an empty Jewish house and sit till morning. And when people wake up, you get up and go. "And I walk through the jail and I was shaking. I still shaking because I was thinking, "Maybe they going to shoot me in the back." I go to the door and I open it, and I sit in this cold, empty, abandoned Jewish house. People start to go. I start walking home. I ran home, 70 miles I run. I have big blisters on my feet because I run in bare feet. (17:80)

(18:75)... We survived, After that, Golda come out with two children, and Manya came. The neighbors say, "Where all this coming?" And I say, "I don't know. Lots of times one of the neighbors say, "I hear a little boy crying." And I say, "Oh, it's my little brother."

We then moved to the big city. We have to making a living. We have no food. We took one Jewish house there. My mother and brother and sister stay in the village.

Golda and me, we go to the big city. She meet somebody who has a big factory.

(19:80) ... Lots of time, I bring food to my mother. Sometimes, we change the clothes, or carry the (unintelligible word). Anything to get money.

(20:80).. Close to two years I hid all of them.

Q: Did they never go out?

A: They go to the barn, only to the barn. They have to stretch, catch fresh air. In the attic it's not so bad, but in the ground... They had to walk, otherwise they would be paralyzed. So, late at night, I take them out for a walk, give them something to eat or drink.

(22:18) ... After that, we moved to Poland. Everybody Polish was to move to Poland. Alltogether we moved to Poland. With Golda's children.

Q: What happened to Golda's husband?

A: They kill before Golda come to my place. People just found him, luying dead face in the ditch. It was terrible.

From Poland we go to Czechoslovakia. We stayed eight weeks, then we go to Austria.

Q: You were in a displaced persons camp?

A: Yeah. We stayed in Linz five weeks. We have are papers, then we go to Salzburg. We stayed in a camp in Salzburg for two years. One day, a lady say, "Marisia, you want to go to Canada? I say, "No. I want to go to America. I don't know Canada." They say, "It's a new country, like America. If you want to go, you go." I say, "I want to go someplace." I move that time, 1948.

Q: By yourself?

A: By myself.

(23:85) ... One day, when I was in Montreal, a lady who was in Austria say, "Marisia, Golda is here. She tried to locate you, but shecouldn't find you." I was happy. She was in Chicago. We sent letters, phone calls. One day when I was with my first husband, I go to Chicago. And from that time we go and see her here and there.

Q:(29:58) What made you able to save these people?

A: Before I took those people, I saw how Germans kill those people and I think, "these people are like other people." It doesn't matter their religion. I think, "I got to keep them. If they (the Germans) come and kill me, I couldn't do nothing else. "I tried my best.

Q: So you saw people being killed?

A: Yeah, one day I go to the village with the horse and buggy. I

wanted to buy flour. Everybody was quiet. I said, "What's going on?" I see the Germans with their machine guns. And I think, "They going to kill me!" I turn the horse and ran away. And I see them take the Jews, and kill then. And I go home and I say, "Mom, no flour, no nothing. They killed all those ghettos."
.END.