

-TITLE-PELAGIA SPRINGER  
-I\_DATE-  
-SOURCE-CHRISTIAN RESCUERS PROJECT  
-RESTRICTIONS-  
-SOUND\_QUALITY-  
-IMAGE\_QUALITY-  
-DURATION-  
-LANGUAGES-  
-KEY\_SEGMENT-  
-GEOGRAPHIC\_NAME-  
-PERSONAL\_NAME-  
-CORPORATE\_NAME-  
-KEY\_WORDS-  
-NOTES-  
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2.23 Born in Benjin, a small Jewish town. When she was little they came to Sostavetz. Her father was an organist. He died and her mother married twice.

3.33 Benjin is in what is called Congress Poland.

4.28 There were proportionally as many Jews as in Vilna.

5.30 Her second father had three sons with her mother.

6.05 She doesn't remember her first father, but the most Important rule of the family was that color, religion, and nationality, are unimportant. Only the inside of a person is important.

7.17 It is important to help the underdog.

8.00 Her family wasn't particularly religious. They only went three times a year to church. But they couldn't curse.

10.30 During the holidays, the polish used to antagonize the Jews. She was present at such an occurrence, and though she did not participate, her father told her she had to go to the synagogue to ask forgiveness. She had to kiss the hand of an old Jewish woman.

12.50 She is near seventy.

13.20 She is 111. She has a heart condition.

13.50 She had five brothers, but only one is still alive. Two died from the Germans, one in a camp, one was beaten badly.

15.43 Her surviving brother lives in Sofsonyetz.

16.11 She lived above a shoe factory. the Jews asked her to run it, so that it wouldn't be taken over by the Germans. 1941.

19.49 She worked in the factory. It was forbidden for a Pole to run a factory so they brought in a German. But he couldn't run the place, so he was made the figurehead and she really ran it.

21.55 She kept Jews and Poles from being deported by hiring them.

22.29 Behind the factory, there was a building where the Germans brought people as a way-station to Auschwitz. She saw them taking the Jews away.

25.39 They began the Ghetto and the Aktionen. You never know whom they will kill. Many people knew her and asked to be hidden. She hid 24 Jews and a child of the original factory owner Mr. Springer. The Jews she hid were old and young.

27.12 The most important was the child of Mr. Springer. She kept this child for the whole war.

28.00 He was three and a half years old.

29.44 Someone saw her hiding Jews and they called the Gestapo. She was near the door and a Nazi approached and asked, "where did you put the Jews?~ She answered that they all work in the factory she doesn't need to put them anywhere.

33.19 When they came, she was very strong. She says only the factory Jews are here.

34.56 She took the Gestapo to an empty room in the factory and showed them that she wasn't hiding Jews. She cried and the Germans believed her. She closed the door to the room where the Jews were, and the Germans wanted to know what was in there. She said there was nothing in there, and the Germans believed her because she had such "true" eyes so she must not be lying. A\$After they left she went back to her office and collapsed from nerves.

37.23 When she came back downstairs the family members of the Jews upstairs were nervous, because they had seen the Germans.

38.00 They said a minute was like a year. They were so nervous that some had relieved themselves involuntarily.

41.47 In their office worked a Polish woman whom she had know before the war. She saw how the Germans were taking the children. She saw how they were crying, so she asked this Polish woman if she could help to hide two children. The woman said two is too many, but perhaps one. It was dangerous for anyone to go down into the Ghetto to get a child.

43.40 She went to the Ghetto to get the child. The mother said that they were giving the child up so that he could live. She took a girl from her sister to work near the Ghetto. Her sister didn't know what she was going to do with the child. Her sister's child played near the Ghetto wall while the Jewish child played in the same place on the other side. When it was getting late, she got them both by acting like they were hers.

46.10 It was a wall, but in some places there was a fence.

46.43 In big towns there was a wall, but in small towns here was sometimes a fence.

47.08 Only in Poland there was a rule that if any Polish person helped a Jew his or her whole family would be shot.

48.07 The boy had black hair and eyes. Very semitic looking. She brought him first to her mother's house.

50.04 Everyone had to have an I.D. card. The woman with whom she worked said it was too dangerous. She bought cards for him. It was dangerous and very expensive. She went once more to the woman and gave her all she had, clothes, money and food, and the woman finally agreed to take him.

51.46 She cut his hair and lightened it. His card was only for three months. On the card it said his father went to war and was wounded.

52.58 The child was then 28 months old. The woman lived in the same town where the child was born, so it was especially dangerous. No one thought the war would last long. She had no idea that she would have to hide the Jews for so long.

57.17 It wasn't allowed for Poles to go to certain parts of Poland. She was to deliver the child to Schlesian. She put the child in baby clothes. She asked God for help and it rained, 80 none paid attention to her. The child was nervous and he cried. When she got to the station and tried to read the woman's address, the rain washed it away. The other woman was afraid that she had been arrested so she asked around if anyone had been arrested that day. They met in the streets as if God had brought them together.

101.47 The woman had to steal food to support the family with the child. The child also got sick and the woman had to risk everything to have a doctor look at him.

103.48 Every time something happened, the woman would come to her and say take him back. She always had to give the woman food, money, and clothes.

105.07 She did it for three reasons. First, because she knew the child before the war. It was her Boss' child. Second it is part of her nature. She helps people even today. Third, when she saw the children killed on the streets, she felt she had to do something.

105.59 Did they ask her first to take the child? He was in hiding before the Ghetto.

107.35 When she brought the child home to her mother, her father came and asked her if she knew what she was doing. She was only 23, and it was so dangerous.

109.12 She took the child away, because her mother was not strong in dangerous situations. The father understood, and he didn't say a word.

110.11 The woman only took the child for the money.

112.03 She decided to build an underground shelter for the parents of the child. She told them that someone would come first to get the mother. On that same day, there was an action and the woman's whole family was taken. She couldn't take the separation so she followed with them. She died in Auschwitz.

115.30 She knew it was dangerous to stay with her family because she wasn't sure what had happened, and she didn't want anything to happen to her family. She went to live in a house near the factory. When people asked her why she wanted to live there, she told them that she was protecting the factory from thieves. She was poor and she couldn't pay for everyone, so she stole shoes from the factory, and gave them to the Jews to finish. The woman who took the child took the shoes as payment.

118.30 One night five Jewish men were preparing shoes for the woman. It was getting late, near curfew for the Ghetto, but one of the men stayed to finish the shoes. It was lucky of him because that night they closed the Ghetto. They took everyone away.

120.33 He stayed in the room upstairs for twenty-three months.

124.05 50 Jews remained behind as cleanup, and among them were the four who were fixing shoes. They knew that one had stayed behind, so they told on him. She and he were very afraid.

125.07 She decided to clothe him as a woman, but she had no shoes. She asked a cousin for some shoes. He left for the partisans, because he didn't want to endanger her, but she caught him before he got away. She put him upstairs at the factory where he stayed for twenty three months until the end of the war.

129.30 It was a factory for slippers. She put him in a room full of fifty sacks, and she cut one in the middle so that if anyone came he could hide in it and look like the other sacks. She built him a heater, because it was cold during the winter.

134.35 He was intelligent and very nice. She had to bring out his toilet every day. One day he thought it to much for her, and he threw it out the window. Someone called the police.

136.08 She heard a commotion. Someone shouting "aufmachen" (open up). "To us, 'Aufmachen' means death. The door opened and they asked where she was keeping Jews. She said it was too small to keep Jews.

137.26 The S.A. came and were very dirty from crawling around looking for people. She saw how dirty they were, and she knew that they would look everywhere for the Jews she had hidden. It was winter. She had told the man earlier that it was too cold upstairs for him to stay, and he should come instead to the office where they had a heater. In the morning she would take him back upstairs before the workers came.

138.03 On this morning he was in the office. At that time it was illegal for the Germans to search the office of another German without permission. Her Boss was away, so the Jew escaped the search.

141.03 On this day he was afraid that they had found out and would kill her family because of it. So he climbed out of a window and went to her cousin's house. Then the Russians came and liberated them.

143.38 After the war, a picture of the child.

144.30 She brought the father and boy together after the war.

145.38 They lived in the factory. She took the child back to her mother's house.

147.25 He became a very strong polish pupil. She wanted to give him a better future so she came to Israel.

148.33 After the war, when they came to Israel she and the man married. He's not alive.

151.40 She has many friends, but she misses her life in Poland. She did it all for her step-son.

152.33 She worked in a hospital.

153.25 She is the companion and cook for an eighty year old man.

154.33 She married twice, but she wasn't lucky.

155.15 Picture after the war.

155.40 Her sister.

156.33 A picture of her son and his aunt and a child whom they gave to her  
to hold because she saved her son's life.

158.55 Its hard to say, but if anyone is in a situation where they need help they can come to her. It is impossible to explain the situation as it really was, because it was so unbelievable. If anything Like that ever happens again come see her and she will help

200.48 Her son asks her why she brought him to Israel. He's not happy, because he had to fight the Israeli wars.

201.45 She says she left her country and brought him to Israel so that he could have a country.

202.46 Her husband died seven years ago.  
.END.