

George Dynin

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Abstract

George was born Yeszhesh (Yurich) Dynin on March 19, 1925 in Lodz, Poland and to escape, the family changed their name to Dunin, a Polish aristocratic name. His sister, Aviva Marcella, was born in 1934. His family spoke both Polish and Russian. His father came to Lodz with his parents from Russia in 1917 and went into the textile business and was married there. The business was successful with a branch in Tel Aviv so they owned a Mercedes and had a chauffeur. George tells of his mischievous deeds as a child. A few days after the Germans arrived, the family left by car, leaving belongings with their maid who returned them when they returned to Lodz. It took several months and many adventures to drive to Vilnius, Lithuania, where the uncle lived. At first they were happy as his father started a new company and sold jewelry from the Bolsheviks to Embassy workers while George started high school. When the Germans occupied Lithuania, his father was arrested and spent a year in a camp before being released for amnesty. While the father was away, his friend helped the family hide in several places. Then they changed their name which enabled his mother to obtain a job as translator of German into Polish as she knew German fluently. The family lived in Barodichta, in Byelorussia. George and his mother worked for the Underground as his mother told him German plans and he would warn people, thus saving their lives. He lived as a Catholic Pole and became an altar boy and the priest helped them escape. They hid in the woods from the Germans and ate berries and soon the Russians liberated them. First they went to Lodz and then a long, difficult train ride to Vilnius where they learned the father was safe in Palestine. Jewish organizations helped them to obtain documents to go through Germany to Marseilles where they boarded a ship for Haifa. George's father had joined the Polish Army upon release from the camp and more recently got to Palestine where he bought an apartment so George and his family had a home upon arrival in '46. George lived in Israel until 1957 when he and his wife immigrated to the US for the wife's career.

Summary

00:00 George was born Yeszhesh (Yurich) Dynin on March 19, 1925 in Lodz, Poland. His younger sister, Aviva Marcella, was born in 1934. Previously to her birth, his father visited Palestine and learned that Aviva means spring in Hebrew and is named after the city of Tel Aviv. Russian and Polish were spoken at home. Usually his parents spoke Russian but sometimes they spoke Polish and always spoke Polish to the children. They did not speak Yiddish. George noticed that those that did not survive had a heavy Yiddish accent and could not be saved by pretending to be Polish. 90% of the people

spoke Polish. In their small shtetl, the Jews only spoke Yiddish. Most of the people spoke Polish and Yiddish. His father preferred kosher food but was not religious.

- 05:00 His father was David Dynin and his grandfather was Moses. He visited his grandfather's grave in Vienna with his wife. The grandfather died in a Viennese hospital which was a good center of medicine. They did not have up-to-date-medicine in Lodz. Lodz was not part of Austria. It was more German and part of Prussian empire with Russian influence. Many Germans lived there. His father had a brother, Jonah, the director of medicine in the Lodz ghetto. He died and George remembers him. His mother, Francisca (Faiga) had a brother, Glovenki, and a sister who died in the Warsaw ghetto. They had run to Lithuania and when the Germans came, they ran to the Soviet Union. They had a daughter, Myer Rachel Guarinki Chigryim (?). Samwell Guarinki (?) was the uncle who died. George only met his father's father once before he left for Vienna. He was an aristocrat who came to his house and lay in bed and asked him to kiss his hand.
- 10:00 His wife was Marisa, a good lady who loved George and died. They could not fit her in the car for Warsaw. The Germans came. George survived along with his parents and sister. His father was an optimist. The grandfather was well-to-do and had a house in Tsarist Russia. He had a pony in his house who ran around the table. His father came with his parents in 1917 as they were running from the Russian Revolution since they were Jewish aristocrats. His father married his mother in Lodz. His father was director of Ectinjon (?), a textile Company, one of the largest in the world. Lodz was a textile city so that might have been the reason for moving there. His father owned his own business. He imported parts for textile machinery. They were well-to-do and had a warehouse. George helped with the inventory. George counted some of the needles; there were 1,000 different types.
- 15:00 Sometimes he caused problems. Some of the ladies working in their business were heavy. One was Anya Bernstein who wore glasses and used a typewriter. When he was seven, George placed a plastic with water on her chair and she sat on it and he was thrown out of the office. They had many workers including an accountant, an assistant, his father's secretary and chauffeurs. They owned a Mercedes then so he owns one now.
- 20:00 They were well-to-do and moved twice. He was always well taken care of. The last place was a large apartment in a residential area in a large building. They had the entire second floor in the five-floor building. They had a lift but it was not a modern building. It was made of stone as that was available. They had a telephone and radio but no TV. They had help for laundry, cooking and cleaning. His mother read German books. Her German was perfect as she attended a German Gymnasium. Her parents lived in Lodz. She was born in Konin near the German border in western Poland. Lodz is one and a

quarter hours west of Warsaw. Their home was on the corner of Platz Nochi in the center of the city with a statue of Kushtuk, a man from history. The statue appeared huge when he was young.

25:00 Yankofski of the Polish underground in Lodz stayed with them in Savannah. He has his letters and books that he autographed. He passed away in Poland. Lodz was an industrial, ugly city except for the Plant Tosky. There were three groups of people: 250,000 Poles, 250,000 Jews and 200,000 Germans comprising a population of 700,000 people. Each group lived in its own area. Once he pretended to be Hitler by standing in an open convertible and went to the German area and made faces like Hitler. His own neighborhood was mixed upper class. Earlier, when George lived near the statue, his area bordered on the low class area. The last one in his building, Ponotofsky, had a coffee house downstairs on the square. George's father had him bring the neighbor cookies.

30:00 The family connections were most important and they had many friends over their house or they visited them. It was interesting when foreigners visited from Switzerland or Germany. His father spoke some German and was corrected by George's mother. George knows five languages that he learned in school. He had two years of German in high school and the German teacher only spoke German as he was German. His mother was perfect in German and did not speak Yiddish. George did not like the sound of Yiddish. He attended a private school. His first six years were preparatory. For two years he attended Portominska near Jaja Street.

35:00 In his high school, dancing was most important. They put on shows for the parents including singing. The owner of the school was a famous dancer. Then he attended four years of school in a different building which also had a high school. His father was not religious but kept kosher at home and George's mother did not care. George and his mother liked ham so when his father was not at home, they would quietly eat it. He had a tutor at home for Hebrew to learn to read his Bar Mitzvah verse. His Bar Mitzvah was held at an old people's home which smelled and he forgot his special verse. The Rabbi reminded him so he had his Bar Mitzvah. In the early 30s, his father went to Palestine and bought land from a Kibbutz. They would have a charity blue box (a pushka) from Karen ha Emet charity for coins to help those in Palestine. George would shake the pushka to make noise which was kept in his father's office.

40:00 The pushka helped him to think that one day he will have his own country. His father's store had a branch in Tel Aviv so his father traveled there periodically. One family in Lodz moved to Tel Aviv to be in charge. The family was assimilated with Zionist identity. His mother said that after the war, they would have their own country. He read Polish history but was not interested but hoped the Poles succeeded when the Germans

attacked. The Poles only thought of Poland but the Jews also thought of their land in Palestine.

- 45:00 It was very important that his father had a business in Palestine. After his father was in the Polish Army in Russia, he was able to buy lots of land in Palestine and after his service, sold lots and bought them an apartment so they had their own place to live. His family was honest and taught him to act according to the law. His father tried to help poor people. His parents spoke about the news, not politics with their friends. No one left when Hitler came to power as thought him a joke. His father mentioned moving because of his country not to run because of Hitler. George saw politics in the movies and was upset with Chamberlain who spoke of "peace in our own time" after turning over Czechoslovakia to Germany.
- 50:00 His father was successful. George only experienced anti-Semitism once. There were four Poles in his class and one was anti-Semitic but it was not a problem. On vacation, George played with a non-Jewish neighbor. He played bridge and chess with Jewish friends at home. He did not socialize with Christian Poles in class as it was a different world. Most business in Lodz was in Jewish hands with a few Germans. People from abroad in manufacturing were German. Grandchild of businessman in Lodz now as Germans opened a factory. A German from Freiburg is in Lodz and is a friend of Jews. George is a stamp collector and learned about a lot of countries. He was the best student in geography as his stamps are from all over the world.
- 55:00 He liked books. He had a big library as a child and still has one old book. When they returned to Lodz, the maid brought them their books that she had hidden in her house along with the family photographs. She saved all the pictures from the war. Their closest contact with Christians were the maids and chauffeurs (who were George's best friends). They went to the German area, Mishtok (?) and wore nice German uniforms. Abruptly life changed when the Germans crossed the border of Poland. The house opposite theirs was the only one bombed. They heard the noise and saw the dust from the bomb and the people from that house came to theirs.
- 60:00 The radio reported untrue things – that the enemy had dropped poison gas which was not true. He came up from the basement and covered his face with a napkin to save himself from the gas. On the third or fourth day, they left Lodz as the Germans were coming. The Poles were surprised by the German bombing. He was happy they left as his father never thought it would happen. They could not take their car as it was good quality and the Polish Army would need it. They used the uncle's smaller car so George sat on the floor as there was no room for him to sit. When the war started, his father was aware and willing to leave his mother as had no room for her. In the car were his parents, Uncle Shermack and a man, Vulva and Aviva. Vulva was a friend of his father's. They needed

a document to leave and Vulva obtained it for 1,000 zlotys. They thought there might be bombs on the bridge. His father looked for gas while George waited in a restaurant.

65:00 On the way to Warsaw, the Germans were bombing small houses and the noise was terrible. They were close to the Soviet Union and found a place on the border. The Soviets were entering Poland. He thought them primitive as used horses to pull the artillery and had no cars. There were Russian police, like the Gestapo. The Soviets decided to take half of Poland. The family went to Vilnius where Uncle Zlatan (?) lived. The Soviets temporarily gave Lithuania a democracy and the people thought they would be free. They arrived in Lithuania and saw guys in long hats. They had freedom and lots of food.

70:00 They felt the democratic country of Lithuania would be better than the Soviet Union. There were no Germans there. They traveled a couple of days. On the way, the Soviet police tried to acquire the car which was a complicated story. His father and uncle disabled the car and had horses to pull it to pretend it did not work. You could make four or five movies from this experience. The roads in Poland were primitive and neglected single lanes. They came to a bridge which did not exist so had someone pull them to the other side of the river. There were few people on the road; only saw one. He saw Polish soldiers on bridges but no one was running away. There was no problem when they got to the border of Lithuania as no one stopped them nor did they see others entering.

75: 00 The local Lithuanians looked healthy and tall. At first he saw Polish soldiers and later saw Soviet soldiers. They traveled from Lodz to his father's uncle in Vilnius. By Christmas '39, he went to school. The trip took two to three months and he attended school a month after arrival. He attended high school there. There were some Jewish colleagues from Warsaw there. George does not recall the starting date for school. On the way, he saw a bomb fall in Scheltza and then traveled to Lusk before Lithuania. George shows a map of his journey from Lodz to Vilnius. They had gone to Hatchef (?) on the way to Warsaw and then to Lebomob, a religious area where he stayed one night. Then he went to Voronquez to Vormely to Worst where he attended school a month and to Soviet to Tuchin to Colbrin, to Bialystok to Vilnius. George shows the cover of his book of Byron with his mother's photo. He says the 300 pages in his memoir have 300 stories.

80:00 George shows the cover of his book of Byron with his mother's photo. He says the 300 pages in his memoir have 300 stories. He changed the "y" in his last name, Dynin to "u" Dunin because of their sad situation. George shows a map of Poland before the war. They arrived in Lithuania and went with the uncle to the streets to see freedom and all the people were happy and polite. He saw no tension. There were Lithuanian military and police. They stayed a week with his father's family.

- 85:00 His father found another family and offered them money. His father employed the uncle as manager of his new company dealing with yarns and they found their own place around December '39. George completed one grade of high school which was like a Polish high school except studied Lithuanian two or three times a week. The rest of the time, he spoke Polish. His father dealt with jewelry. Many Polish aristocrats lived by selling jewelry and his father was between them and the buyers. He knew the Polish aristocrats running away from the Bolsheviks and the Germans. The Bolsheviks did not like the owners of estates and felt they should be in prison. There were labor camps so they ran away to freedom, to Lithuania.
- 90:00 George talks about the German occupation repeatedly so remembers the events. His family lived in Vilnius when it was independent Lithuania. Vilnius was the center of population away from the Soviet area as they did not trust the Soviets. The aristocrats and owners of estates came to Vilnius and sold their jewelry such as diamonds. George's father used the situation with Count Platozelot and bought in Kaunas, the second largest city in Lithuania. Ambassadors of many countries lived there and they were rich and bought the jewelry. The people who worked in the Embassies did not know the sellers but the Count knew them.
- 95:00 George lived at 16 or 17 Severna Street where they rented an apartment. It was close to the center of the right side of the city. There weren't any rivers there. Volacompey (?) was south of the city. It was a small apartment building and not luxurious. They did not suffer from hunger. They were socially busy the summer of '40. Many Jews from Warsaw arrived in Vilnius and he is still in touch with one family. It was a good friend from the Gymnasium. He knew his sister, Meeka Lipshitz, in the US and married her. He was a physician and lives in Israel. She was one grade lower than George in school and never met her. They did not talk of war as thought it would not reach them.
- 100:00 Lithuania was an enemy of Poland and Molotov and the Ribbentrop Pact and did not talk of it. Germany attacked the Soviet Union and Lithuania as Lithuania was part of the Soviet Union. They started to worry about his father's occupation when the Soviets came. They did not see any military but announcements were made on the radio and posters for the first time. The currency changed as used rubles. After his first year of school, it was the time of the Soviets. They used Russian in the schools instead of Polish and Lithuanian. He learned about Marxism. The Poles hated the Russians and did not speak Russian previously.
- 105:00 Only George and one Russian already knew Russian. They continued with the same Polish teachers. His nice physics teacher cried so he gave him some bead. The Communist Police arrested his father. The police were Russian, Lithuanian and Jewish. The police found the family gold and arrested his father during the day and he went to jail

as it was incriminating. The KGB arrived in civilian clothes and took his father to Lucashey (?) Prison which was in the center of town.

110:00 George's mother went to a high Russian KGB officer to get his father out. They did not permit the family to visit him. Soon the Germans came and transferred his father to the railroad station. He was six or seven and saw long lines of trains and screamed his name and found him. They brought him food and drinks. The family had learned that the father was leaving. In June '41 they arrested entire families with children from Poland and sent them to Russia.

115:00 They were afraid their family would be sent, too. Therefore, they stayed in the street and slept elsewhere. His father was in Lucashey two months and let out later when there was amnesty. His father was an optimist and thought if they went to the Ghetto, it would save their lives. George went to visit his father again at the railroad station but he was leaving. There was a small opening in the train and, using a wire, lifted up the food and drinks he brought his father. His father was happy for the nourishment. It was a surprise when the Germans came a day and a half later.

120:00 He saw soldiers through the window and saw 100 to 200 religious Jews surrounded by Lithuanian flags and guns and screamed at them. It was clear they wanted to kill them. They were taken to the woods of Pomori and killed. George was shocked as thought Lithuanians were nice people. There was prosperity as lots of food and the people worked. He did not think such people would kill Jews under German supervision. He spoke to his mother about the incident. Two days later, his father's friend, Platter said they should hide from the Soviets with him. A farmer agreed to take them all. His mother agreed. This was late June '41. They knew the Ghetto was open. Everyone had to wear yellow patches on their arm and back but George did not wear it.

125:00 George did not wear it but carried it. Count Plata had a place in Byelorussia called Sowotha. They joined him, his wife and young daughter who George's sister played with. He still has contact with him in Poland. They walked to Pokishki which was 20 kilometers away. A man took their suitcases and they walked to meet him and would get on a cart to be taken to their new home. He was half-time farmer and half-time mover with horse and cart. He knew the plan of the city. They resided there two months and Plata returned to his estate. The Germans liked aristocrats but when they arrived at the estate, they saw someone else was already appointed.

130:00 They followed Count Plata, his wife and two older brothers and worked for the landowners, John and Helena Plata. Helena wrote to George's mother after the war. They were very nice to them. John was very gentle and taught George about farming. The area was called Sowotha. Then they moved again. The Germans sent an officer who specialized in agriculture and a Jewish translator. Mrs. Plata told the translator

about George's family. The translator came from Bromwich Musk (?), the main city of Byelorussia which was in German hands.

135:00 The translator gave them advice that the Germans are looking for a non-Jewish German translator from Byelorussia in their headquarters. He was told about Platas. George's mother knew German and the family pretended to be non-Jewish Polish aristocrats since they left the farmer's home. One boy from school and his parents looked Jewish but he did not indicate that he was Jewish.

140:00 They said they were Kereiterns as they looked Jewish. George's family lived in the outskirts of Vilnius, about five kilometers from the Kashites and visited them and were told to change the "y" in their name to a "u," thus becoming Dunin, an aristocratic Polish name on their documents. The Widenfelds had document indicating they were Kereiterns. They made two trips to become Dunin. They visited Widenfeld who lived near the Porovich farm and said they would do it for two golden chains and on the third trip, received the documents. Aviva had no documents as she was a child.

145:00 His mother was Francesca Dunin. Now they felt safer. His mother applied as a translator from German to Polish but first she applied to another farm and did not find anything. Plata found the Budachosinya farm and his mother worked there as a housekeeper for the few months. Then she talked to the German officer and was hired. She did not look Jewish as her mother had an interesting life. They provided a car as transportation to switch with another to Harodichta, a small town where she worked.

150:00 Barodichta was in Byelorussia and 50 miles north to Harodichta. Perhaps there were 5,000 people in the town which had a main square. Their house was in the main square which was not pleasant as that is where the Germans hung people. They saw relatives of Partisans hung. The population was Jewish and a few hundred Poles. They had a Catholic Church and a Russian Orthodox Church for Byelorussians. They arrived after 2,000 Jews were killed, leaving a few hundred. They learned this from talking to the people. People walked on the street carrying clothing and furnishings from the Jews. They had looted Jewish homes and stores. His family were asked if they wanted anything but did not as they did not want to steal from the Jews.

155:00 This surprised the people. In the beginning, George was careful to pretend he was Polish and not Jewish and later learned how to do this. The Poles were very religious and went to church on Sunday so he went to church on Sunday. He was careful not to make mistakes so copied others in kneeling at the right time. Eventually, he was perfect and the priests loved him and asked him to be altar boy at the wedding of an anti-Partisan man. Compared to the Germans, the Soviets were angels. George learned the prayers and at holidays went with the priest to farms where he got food. The priest prayed for those on the farm and George drove the priest home.

- 160:00 His mother translated the printed documents from the Germans for the Burgomeister (Mayor) of the city. She translated them into Byelorussian as she knew both Russian and German. She had contact with civilians and held the job for two or three years from '42 to '44. By reading the correspondence, his mother learned of the Germans' plans so told the Underground. When she learned of the date and time the Jews from the Ghetto would be killed, she informed them to run away.
- 165:00 Another time she saw Jews near the water well and told them to run away. They were afraid to run as would be hungry. Eighteen ran away and the police complained that 18 did not show up. George saved two Poles as the Germans told the Mayor that two Poles were coming for a conference. The Mayor wrote the names and his mother told him and he warned them not to come. The Underground asked him for help as knew his mother worked for the Mayor. His mother looked for a job for George. He worked in the woods and cut trees.
- 170:00 One of the Underground people there asked him to join them and gave him the Polish Underground newspaper. Horodishtan was a married man who cooperated with the German Army and the Soviet Partisans. In another battalion were Germans and some Ukrainians. The Germans were officers and there were some Byelorussians. They burned villages thought to be Partisan. They had a camp with barracks. There were seven Germans who were nice to him but he refused their hospitality. Later all the Poles were arrested who had good relations with the Germans. There was a small fortification as they were afraid of the Partisans and had a few bunkers. The Byelorussian police were terrible against the Jews and Partisans. They killed people at farms and were more militarized but not as organized as the police.
- 175:00 George was working in the woods and a man asked him if he wants his job and horse and he accepted them. The Germans needed wood for fire so went to George and organized an escort for him as they were not afraid of Partisans. They would shoot in an area if they did not find Partisans. George did not attend school but Aviva (Marcelka) did. Her friend, Ruja, went with her and they danced and sang. His mother was Francesca and his sister was five or six. His mother was in the Underground and knew he was also a member. They arrested Poles all over Byelorussia.
- 180:00 The forestry man ran away to the woods as was in danger. At first George pretended to be friends of the Germans and they gave him weapons and George showed them how to use a machine gun. They told him to go into the woods since he is not a good horse rider. The Gestapo was suspicious of him as he remained. From his window, George saw a guy going to the Gestapo and recognized his old-fashioned hat. He thought he was coming to see George for a room. George knows he is with the police and has a message from the Underground. The man ran away and wants George to write back. The man showed him

an envelope with a letter from the Underground and knows the guy would never send him a letter. George said, "OK, he will write him" and wrote, "Kiss my ass."

185:00 George told his mother and the man said he would give the letter to the commandant. His mother told the guy to bring more letters like that one. They made fake documents. This was a Polish guy from the Gestapo who was an informer. George did not run into the woods as thought they might kill his mother. He was asked to be the contact between them and the city. He could view the Priest's residence where he lived with his housekeeper and her daughter. George saw the priest walking with his prayer book in his hand. He had been arrested and was brought near George's house.

190:00 The man next door told the German officer not to bother George and his life was saved. They took 150 Poles for 15 miles to a concentration camp and killed them. George's family was lucky as most Poles were arrested but not them. The Priest asked George if there was an uprising in Warsaw and George said, "No" which was the same as telling George not to go to the woods. Besides them, a photographer and a doctor with his daughter survived – six people in all. It was helpful when evacuation of the town was declared. George lived near the police department and it was not true when they said they were going to Warsaw. They decided it safer to go to the woods. They took Crimean's uniforms and sold them later. George was an apprentice baker and his mother was working. So many unbelievable things happened!

195:00 Russian offensive started from Minsk when the Germans were retreated east to west. They started to walk. Under their cart were guns and uniforms. They decided to get away and asked the priest where to go. The priest gave them a letter for the soldiers. They were closely watched with a horseman on both sides of their cart. The guard on the left disappeared and the one on the right fell asleep so they went where the priest told them. There was a German camp nearby. Their horse ran fast and they find the soldiers who helped them. They left the cart and went to the woods. They felt it was safer to be with others. Ukrainians were there and left their uniforms which they later sold.

200:00 They took their guns and ammunition and his mother turned to a side street and sold the uniforms. The Soviet Army was nearby. There were German officers with a couple of guns shooting toward the Russians which was noisy. There were shots in his direction to hit the Germans who had heavy artillery. Hiding in the ground was safer. One shot was close by. They were inside the woods with others who ran away from villages that were bombed. There was nothing to eat so they collected berries on leaves.

205:00 Someone called in Russian to come and he was scared that they are Russians working with Nazis. George came closer and saw their epaulets indicated they were Soviet and he was happy and hugged them and gave them berries. They were on the border between life and death. He felt he was safe and no one would kill him because he was Jewish.

The two soldiers in the woods were: Stanef on a bicycle and Majionoff on horseback. In Russian he called his mother and sister to come. It was late summer.

210:00 It was the Soviet offense in the Poland of today. He did not know if his father was alive. Soon more soldiers arrived and one asked, "Where are the Germans?" The night before he slept under bushes and saw German boots passing nearby running away. He returned to Sokuska for one day and went to Vilnius as thought his father would look for them there and he was right. He went to his aunt's friend's sister, Van Glover where there was a telegram from his father from Russia in '44 that he was safe. He was liberated from the Nazis. After his father was arrested by the KGB, he was in a camp for a year and got amnesty. The Germans had attacked Russia. His father was in the Polish Army in Poland. All the Poles in Russia who were imprisoned were freed. He joined the Polish Army and went many places including Tashkent where there was fighting and ended up in Palestine.

215:00 Then they got a cable from Moscow as his father was visiting family there. They stayed with a relative of his uncle's girlfriend in Vilnius. The uncle and girlfriend were Jewish and not married. He did not see any bombing as the city looked the same to him. No one was in the Ghetto area. He only saw bakeries. A man found a job for him in a bakery. A bakery was the best job you could find as bread was like gold. They made high class bread from terrible flour and made pure flour bread which sold for lots of money. His sister sold bread. The bakery was open 24 hours a day and was state-run. His mother worked in a weather station. They were rationed food for one day and George got the rest of their food. Bread business was dangerous as the Soviets could put you in jail. They remained in Vilnius until Lodz and the rest of Poland was occupied by the Soviets.

220:00 They could leave by taking the evacuation train to Warsaw. Since they were not natives of Vilnius, they had permission to leave. They were given documents. It was a difficult trip as it took many days. It was not a passenger train. They had to change trains. From Warsaw to Lodz, travel was worse as everyone had a big suitcase as all the people were moving. They returned to their old house and were told they were no longer the owners. The next day, George's mother went to the Russian officer in charge of the city who ordered the Police Department that George's family owns the home and the others should leave. Soon a Polish servant brought their photographs and other belongings that she had saved for them. They brought them many paintings as his father had collected paintings. The war was not over immediately. They remained in Lodz until new documents arrived from Jewish organizations including one George was active in. The organizations tried to bring people to Palestine and he was on their list.

225:00 The documents indicated he could leave on a certain date but it was not simple. It was winter and the border was full of snow and there were guards. They went to the German city of Chizen (?) to get to the British zone in West Germany. They remained six months

in Germany until he documents arrived for Palestine. Then they took a boat from Marseilles through the Mediterranean to Haifa. When they arrived, his father was away on a business trip in Italy and returned a week later. His father had bought them a very nice apartment so they had a place to live with no mortgage. They could sell it and buy another place. His father's appearance had not changed much. He had helped others in the camp. He showed lots of photos of himself in the Polish Army. The family did not talk much of their experiences.

230:00 Now it is so many years and he is 90 so can talk about his experiences. At that time, nobody talked of their experiences. His father was still an optimist and died in an accident. He fell on the floor and hit his head. George arrived in Haifa in 1936 and started writing his book. He was with the Hagenah. They settled in Saranah (?), a village near Tel Aviv built by Germans in the 19th century for religious reasons. When the war started, there was fighting between the Nazis and non-Nazis so the Germans ran away. The houses were empty and George went inside one and found five or six school writing books.

235:00 One had a picture of Nazis with swastikas which he kept. This motivated him to start writing his book. He worked on his manuscript periodically. George feels he did what he could for Jews as fought for Palestine. His first wife came to the US to study psychiatry and later he met Madelyn Hand to start life again. He loves the US as it is like another Israel to him. Israel felt like home when he lived there. He found ancient coins. George served in the Israeli Army in their fight for independence. He was in the Hagenah and it was semi-illegal but the British did not arrest him. He was proud to hold a semi-automatic gun which belongs to him. It felt good to be there. He left in 1957 as his wife got the opportunity to work in psychiatry as little opportunity in Palestine at that time. George shows some items:

240:00 1) His mother's photo ID with name Dunin, Polish aristocrat (instead of Dynin, Jewish). 2) Map of pre-war Poland indicating Lodz, Warsaw and Vilnius in independent Lithuania. 3) Map showing three areas during the war: Horodichta (?) where he stayed three years hiding with his name as Dunin; below is Barononiches, the center of the German occupation in Byelorussia, and Minsk, the main city of occupied German area. From Vilnius, George returned to Lodz. 4) Map of Harodichta (?) - saw life and death in the town center. Next-door neighbor joined the Byelorussian police who saved the family by telling the police not to arrest them. Through his window, George saw people hanging. His mother worked as the Mayor's secretary. He could see the barracks of the Byelorussian police, the German police, the priest's residence and the route taken. If he was arrested, George would have been killed with the 150 Poles.

245:00 He saw Jews at the water well and told them the date they would be killed and they ran away so 18 less were killed. 5) Map of cart route - Germans watched them so they would

not run away. They asked the priest where to run to and he said near the hill and gave them a letter for the Polish Manager of the Village of Koshwook. They were afraid the Germans would see them and run after them. They saw a man riding a horse and he was sleeping so waited until he passed and their horse ran so fast that they escaped.

250:00 6) Five booklets- Notebooks found after the war in the German house left by the Nazis in Saranah, Palestine. It was a German colony founded before the 19th century. The notebooks were used and had the German flag. 7) Diary of a young German – Cover has a swastika which made George angry to see in Palestine. 8) Front page of Savannah newspaper from 7/30/2000 about Yankowki, a hero from the Polish Underground who saved Jews and visited George for a week in Savannah. George knew him from Lodz. Afterwards Yankowski returned to Poland where he passed away.

255:00 George shows a picture of himself with Yankowski who was in the Polish Army when George was in the Israeli Army. 9) Letter from President Obama in the White House indicating he read George's book that was sent to him.

257:00