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Summary

Marion Domanski-Erdmann b. 1923 Poland; born to religious home of 2 sisters/1 brother/parents (shop owner), "None survived"; completed Polish high school after war, also Jewish education; experiencing first anti-Semitism, being called names, sometimes beaten, feeling like a stranger in class; Nazis enter Sept 1941 and by year's end, family business taken, Jews transferred to a place close to Lwow (L'viv, Ukraine); Marion shares mother's distress forced to choose only one child when captured; Marion's anguish recalling father disclosing that she had been shot - while hiding in attic, father had witnessed her execution; Nazis forcing everyone to empty pockets or "be killed"; Nazi selection of town's "strongest" - sisters "taken to crematorium," Marion & uncle imprisoned (fed only piece of bread) then taken to another place where they were stripped; uncle shot and killed; Marion taken to ghetto; 1942 slave labor 5-6 months, could come & go from ghetto (with armband); Marion escaped back to home; with father & brother, forced labor on gas pipes (Sambor, Poland); among 2000 Jews, father & brother taken to field, shot and fell into grave; (Apr 1943) labor on gas pipes ended and Marion escaped; temporary shelter with Polish family but worried they would discover he was Jewish, fled into field; learning of village people cutting off a head; finding Polish doctor willing to treat injured Jewish friend; (winter 1944) friend and Marion hide in woods, only going into village to steal food, friend captured, turned over to Nazis (hung with others in middle of city); deciding to not die alone, returned to what was left of ghetto; Marion shares kindness of friend who supported him; liberation, hearing Russian, leaping to kiss soldier; returning to hometown; disappointment in American Jews not helping - finding more hope in Stalingrad; marriage in Poland; worried for son (and lingering antisemitism), immigrated to America; Marion's reflections on Holocaust, encourages support of Zionist efforts.