

Finding aid note:

The interviewee speaks with a heavy accent that is interspersed with Polish and German words. The author of this finding aid noted [as *unintelligible*] where she could not understand the interviewee. Other places have the notation [ph, sp?] where there is a best guess as to what the interviewee is saying. As a result, some of the time-coded notes and translations may not be accurate.

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Interview with Waclaw Kolodziejek

August 5, 1994

Abstract

Wacław Kołodziejek (Waclaw Kolodziejek) was a Polish Catholic born in Wola Korycka, Poland; he moved to Warsaw in 1935. His family was friendly with Jewish families; he thought the Jewish girls were beautiful and was crazy for them. He recalls overhearing a conversation in a Warsaw park where a Jewish woman tells a Polish woman that the Jews have the big houses and the Poles have the streets; this upset him. In 1940, while working as a messenger boy, he stopped to watch the Germans clear a street that they had bombed. It was here that he was picked up by the Germans and taken to Auschwitz.

In Auschwitz he saw the crematorium, but he did not work there; only Jews were selected to work at the crematorium. He recalls being brutally treated at Auschwitz; he suffered from broken eardrums and a fracture or dislocation of his shoulder. He escaped a selection in Auschwitz by being sent to the hospital because of a fever. He was experimented on by the SS doctor there — an operation on his brain.

After Auschwitz he was sent to Birkenau where he was tattooed on his chest. His job at Birkenau was repairing socks. Most of those sent to Birkenau died; he talks about the infamous Block 11. Wacław survived this death camp and was then sent to Mauthausen Gusen, where he got a new number. At Mauthausen Gusen he worked in construction and in the building of the Messerschmitt. He remained at this camp until Liberation in 1945.

After Liberation, many of the prisoners pursued and killed the German guards who were trying to run away from the camps. Even after Liberation, he and other former prisoners were attacked by the German SS. He spent some time in a U.S. Army hospital, and then joined the Polish U.S. Army in 1945. He came to the United States in 1947.

Interview:

:29 My name is Wacław Kołodziejek. I was born in Poland in Wola Korycka. I went to school in Maciejowice (Motchevitz). I came to Warsaw in 1935 until my arrest in 1940 to Auschwitz. I went to school in Maciejowice, Warsaw state. Until 1935, I went to school in Warsaw. During the occupation, I learned in night school in the German language; up to my arrest in 1940.

Tell me what was the school like in Poland?

1:31 Excellent; it was a good school.

Do you remember anybody's name in school — teachers, students?

Not much. One lady's name I remember, Aruna [ph, sp?]. That's what I remember.

1:53 **What was your favorite subject — in school?**

Subject in school? — art, geography, nature.

And did you study religion in school?

Yes we did; religion — one hour every week.

And what happened with the Jewish students? Did they ...

The Jewish students went into the hall, I believe. They had to live our religion only one hour, once a week.

2:30 **Once a week. What was your mother's name and your father's name?**

My mom's name, Katherine. My father's name, Vincente.

Do you have brothers or sisters?

I have brother, Mieczyslaw; sisters Teresa and Janet.

Did they survive?

They survived.

2:50 **What happened to you when you were about 16 years old? Why were you arrested?**

I'd been working in Warsaw.

Doing what?

As a messenger boy. It was a big office for the "old barons" from Europe. Then I was arrested — in the time I was a messenger.

Tell us about the arrest.

3:20 It was 1940, the street was bombed, it was blocked in the street. So the German army wants to get through the street and wants to pick up the people to clear up the street from rubbish — from concrete and bricks; and people been running away. And just because I was watching, I been caught.

And what happened to you then?

Well, they brought us in a schwere garotte [ph, sp?] place, in Warsaw. They keep us for three days with a machine gun — inside.

Was that a prison?

Polsko garotte [ph, sp?] Army; Polish cavalry. After three days they sent us to the Auschwitz — on a freight train.

When was this? What year, what month? Was it winter?

4:16 No, no, no. summertime; schepkie [ph, sp?], wet months. September, I believe — 1940. They brought us to Auschwitz.

You were about 16. Did you understand what this was all about?

Nothing whatsoever; I don't know what happened, what the cause was, because I don't belong to any organization — I was too young and they

4:43 **What happened when you arrived in Auschwitz?**

Umm; I got shocked. I got scared to death.

You were without your mother, father, brother. You were all alone?

Uh-huh, uh-huh.

What did you see when you arrived in Auschwitz? What happened when you rolled up to the platform?

When they brought us to the platform, the SS opened on the both sides the freight car, and they screamed at us: *Alle aus verfluchte Pole [ph, sp?], verfluchte Jude [ph, sp?]* [phrase in German]. So we're jumping.

5:20 **What does that mean?**

That means ... disgracing us.

What does it mean, though? Jewish what?

Jewish — Jewish swine; Polish swine.

What happened after that?

5:39 We were formed [?] on the fifth and marched to the Auschwitz — to the inside, to the camp — from the bahnhof, station. Then after couple hours, maybe next day, the rapportieren [ph, sp?] call on your name. Everyone, they have to say their name and their birth [?] and profession.

And your profession at that time?

And my profession at the time was schüler [schoolboy]. Most other people with professions like professor, doctor, engineer, directors of different kinds — they're being beaten.

Beaten?

Beaten — just because of their profession.

6:32 At what time were you tattooed? Were you tattooed right away?

No, no; not right away. In Auschwitz when I was ..., we had worn the number on a jacket with the Polish red triangle. After they shipped us to Birkenau, Brzezinka (Brzezinki), they gave us tattoo. And they mostly tattoo the Polish people; the Russian people, Russian soldiers. They got them from Leningrad; they gave us number.

Do you remember — at that time was everybody tattooed on the chest?

Everybody — no way, no difference.

Everybody on the chest?

Everybody on the chest; and the same size needle, with the number — no difference, everybody. There was no excuse, no escape; everybody had to be tattooed.

7:53 What did you observe in Auschwitz before you went to Birkenau? What did you see?

It was very strict rigor; torturing, nothing but torturing — rabbis, priests, ... [unintelligible], and the pumps. There was three pumps, four pumps, in the cold place. So during the lunch time, the rabbi and the priest, they arm each other and roll it on the pump, the cess pump, and the water — in the mouth.

Did you see the crematorium in Auschwitz, Birkenau?

I saw only crematorium. Only Jewish Sonderkommando, marching to work, to the crematorium — people, which were to the oven or gas chamber.

8:48 Were you ever forced to put the corpse of the dead people into the crematorium for the cremation? Was that one of your jobs?

No, no, no; not my job. I never, never; nobody forced me. I never got a chance to work — as far as I remember.

Any of your friends had jobs like that? Any of the Polish people?

9:15 No, I don't believe it. Mostly Polish people be working different positions — as cook, barbershop, or assist cook.

Why?

Because the backup [?] Polish people for some reason. I don't know. Polish people being more hygienic, more precision worker.

Then, who put the bodies in the crematoria? Somebody had to do that too.

9:45 To put bodies in the crematorium must have been selected from Jewish people to work the crematorium. Every six months they send people, they have to go to the fresh transports. Nobody been allowed to work the crematorium, to put people in gas chamber — only Jewish; no German, no Polish.

Do you remember specific incidents of brutality by the Germans towards the prisoners in Auschwitz?

Yes; very much, very much so.

Do you remember any incidents?

Yes, yes; I saw brutality — mostly every day; mostly every moment, every minute. [Note: tears coming down his cheeks] The SS men found [?] the people. They come drunk in the night, when the people be sleeping; 3 o'clock in the morning. Woke up everybody, throw them out the cold place; and shoot them and laughing. There was

Do you recall if there was any attempt at escape? Anyone — that you know of?

Those few attempts in Auschwitz — the people been caught. They put on a sign — on the front and back — and they say like a: *Hurra [ph, sp?]; I'm here again*. And they be marching in the cold place in front of all the people. After — beat them up or shoot them.

11:23 **Were you ever punished for anything?**

Oh, I been punished.

For what? What did you do?

Probably, I was standing; I'd been working. I was looking through binocular, and they caught me; took my number. And in the evening they called my number, then I got out in front of the people — whips, 50 whips; two whips, one count.

And how else did they punish you?

I was standing on the post. Behind ... they twist my hands behind my shoulder.

11:45 **Were you ever severely hurt from beatings or from the hangings?**

Oh, yes. I been punished — holding a stool; I creep [?] with a stool for many minutes. In a kleinburger [ph, sp?] game; I would jump — called a kleinburger game — put the hands behind the neck and jumped, like a frog.

Were you ever hurt from the beatings?

Oh, yes, my eardrums were broken.

And what else?

I was beaten so often; my shoulder — fracture I believe — dislocation or fracture. But I never went to the doctor; they cured themselves.

12:36 **When and why were you sent to Birkenau from Auschwitz?**

After when I was sick, the doctor SS made some kind of experiment on me. Then, after the hospital, mostly the people they sent to the Birkenau, the new camp — for the finish, finishing those people — naked [?], make them dead, a slow death.

13:16 **Do you remember the block number in there?**

In Auschwitz I was on block seven; I believe, block six — that's what I remember, I was.

In Birkenau?

No, Auschwitz.

And where were you in Birkenau?

In Birkenau I don't remember the blocks.

Do you remember block 11?

Block 11 was esse karg [ph, sp?]. The Strafkompagnie mostly; people who been punished to the death; also the Sonderkommando.

What was your job in Birkenau?

My job was, in the beginning, repairing socks.

For whom?

For everybody; for the other people.

For the prisoners or for the SS men?

No, no — for us; repairing socks, ... [unintelligible], peeling the potatoes for the kitchen, inside ... I worked in the laundry shop; I worked in the fishing department.

Fishing?

Yeah, in Auschwitz; ... [unintelligible] to fishing, belonged to the Auschwitz.

14:14 **And what did you observe in Birkenau? How were you treated? What was it like?**

I was treated like an equal; like everybody. There was no

Equal to whom?

Equal to SS; I was no different from Jew or from Pole.

Oh, to the SS you were equal.

Yeah.

You were treated just like any other prisoner.

They treated me like a Jew; like a Pole.

Did you see any difference in treatments of Christians and Jews or Poles or Russians or etc.?

Yes, Christian was more punished, more tortured than non-Christian. Like a priest and a rabbi was punished, tortured.

15:00 **Oh, that means religious people were punished more severely. What else do you remember about Birkenau?**

Usually I remember the executions everyday in the 11 block; recall in the 11 block mostly they did ... And hanging torture — people in a buckle [?] before they got execution.

15:29 **When and why were you sent to another concentration camp? What year were you sent?**

I believe 1942; transport in 1943 to the Mauthausen Gusen.

Do you know why?

15:55 No, I have no reason. I believe, in my opinion to ship me after hospital [?] to Birkenau, like a death camp; make it — people to slow die.

From Auschwitz to Birkenau? And you didn't die in Birkenau. Then they sent you to Mauthausen Gusen?

Mauthausen, yes. Most people died in the Birkenau. In January they closed up the barracks. There was five barrels the Clorox water; we're supposed to take a bath. And the blocks were closed at the night, and nobody could go — we'd be naked in the barracks up to next morning — and thousands of thousands people frozen to death.

But you survived, and then you were sent to Mauthausen Gusen. What was it like? Did you get a new number in Mauthausen Gusen?

Yes, I got a new number.

Do you remember your ...?

13 thousand, 44 thousand, 25; something like that.

In Gusen?

In Gusen.

17:10 **What was life like in Gusen? What was your job there?**

We making barracks, construction barracks for the prisoners, for us — in like a construction. We made it for the street and the highway. We made Messerschmitt in the Sankt Georgen — airplane.

Can we go back just for a second to Auschwitz? Who was Bruno and Leo?

Slaughterers [?] They stop people in the camp; they could kill everyone in the camp. They were rulers — like a king.

Who were they — Germans?

Germans, German; German from high education; they were somebody like officers.

Navy?

From navy, yes.

18:09 **What did they do to the prisoners?**

Oh, geez.

Anything they wanted?

Anything — they could kill, could drown the people in a bucket of water.

Did you see someone do that?

I saw.

Tell me more about Mauthausen Gusen.

Mauthausen Gusen — there was one commandant, shipped out from the Auschwitz to the Mauthausen Gusen. His name was Kommandant Ziemeis; he was not so good — was very, very monstrous.

What did he do?

He . . . We'd be working in the . . . [unintelligible] Steinwerke; that's the mountain of the granite. He disconnected the engine from motorcycle, made it very quiet, and he took binoculars. He looked — who's talking; who's standing, not working. And he took their number and reported the rapportführer [?] in the camp.

And then what did they do?

And they punish the people with 25 . . . 50 whips.

Who administered the whips? Who beat the prisoners?

Mostly, mostly by kapos; or some . . . sometimes SS — sometimes by SS.

Did they sometimes make one prisoner beat another prisoner?

No; wait — German prisoner wasn't a prisoner at all [?] like a Leo or Bruno. There was . . ., there was . . ., there was bosses; — those people were bosses; and the other people [?]

19:34 **How long did you stay in Mauthausen Gusen? To the end?**

To the end; to the end of the Liberation, 1945 — in May, May 1945, 5:00 P.M. We were liberated by the U.S. Army. Then an hour later come the Russian Army.

19:53 **Tell me about the Liberation Day. What was the feeling like in the camp?**

We been very excited; it was chaos.

Did you know you were being liberated? But you didn't know by whom yet?

Not yet. We were sure we were being liberated by the U.S Army. But the U.S. Army, one hour later, they moved out. They pick up, and the Russian Army be coming. And then, the next couple of hours, the Russian Army pulled out, and the American Army took over.

How were you treated then?

Very good, very friendly. The time was not so easy because the German criminal wants to run away from camp. The Polish people, I don't know, so organized it with the motorcycle; they watched it from inside and outside the camp — not to escape no one.

Who was watching?

Polish people organized it, and watching the German criminal who killed the other people.

The Polish prisoners?

Yes, like the kapo — the German kapo who kill the Polish prisoner.

21:05 **Did some of them get away?**

None of them. All been killed, even commander Ziweis been caught in the airplane [?].

Who killed him; who killed him?

A weapon, us; a prisoner — revenge.

Did you?

Not me. I was too weak; other people killed him.

With what?

They killed him because

With what? With stones?

With No — with shovels, pick, whatever they could get in their hands. And they brought them to the pile, to the crematorium; like a story higher [?].

What happened after that?

After that, we went as a group from Gusen to Linz; that's not far away from Vienna. We stayed for a couple of weeks close to the Sankt Georgen, that's where there was a Messerschmitt factory — a tunnel underneath the forest. So, a couple of German women they cooked for us; we stayed there. But German SS, when they went through, they attacking us — after liberation.

And what happened?

Well, we defended ourselves; we had machine guns, everything. We'd been guarded. [?]

How many of you were there — prisoners?

About fifteen together.

Fifteen?

Yes; well many of them died. When we went to Vienna, many people eat too much and get drunk; and they died the next day.

Were you hospitalized?

I was in a hospital in a US Army, Hagenfist [ph sp?], that's Ravensbrück for six months.
And then what happened?

Then after I joined the Polish military — Polish U.S. Army.

What year is this now?

I believe 1945.

1945?

Yeah; then after 1947, I come here.

23:06 **And you have a family here now?**

I have two daughters — Patricia and Caroline.

How do you compare your life now; now that you are in America and you are free? What ...

That's a good question. I see myself as ... [unintelligible]; I'm here.

Because you survived ...

[Shakes head yes; has tears in his eyes.] Because of that number; just ... not many people lived.

Do you find hard to tell your own children about this?

No; Patricia, my daughter, the older one ... [unintelligible].

24:08 **Do they understand what it is like to be discriminated? Your rights taken away?**

No, the children born here. They don't realize very much like we do — like I do. They respect me very much — especially Caroline.

Mr. Kołodziejek, can we go back to Birkenau, because I know that you survived many terrible things. Do you remember anything else in Birkenau?

OK, I remember one thing. We been standing in the appell [roll call] in the evening, and two people be missing. The Rapportführer, that's a sarge, SS man — each block belonged to one SS man; they called them oberscharführer. And there was two people missing and a policeman [?] The one been hiding in a coffin ... he'd been holding ... some kind of vegetable and eating. They caught him; they found him in that coffin. And the other one was somewhere near [?], far away — mixed up, mentally defected. And they caught them; both of them find out. In the meantime the Rapportführer was so angry. It was raining, snowing; we'd been standing for a couple hours. And the Rapportführer called the SS men; they collected [?] them, and was so angry. All the SS marched: *lay down, march, lay down*. The Rapportführer punish the SS men because they was so slow and disorganized. Those happen to be punished was ... [unintelligible]. Even SS, brass SS was scared to death of him. In the beginning in Auschwitz ... no later, in the beginning the execution company execute the people. Later on, a couple months later, Rapportführer wrote the report to the press, to Berlin, to say he can do that himself. He say: *You can save the bullet* — if he executed 11 block people by himself.

Do you remember the name of him?

Rapportführer Palitzsch.

Palitzsch?

Palitzsch.

27:01 **Is he a German?**

Oh, of course. He was red eyes ... [unintelligible], always smiling like a Judas. When he rode on a motorcycle between Auschwitz and Birkenau, when the SS watch him, they'd say — two SS men to each other — of passing Palitzsch: *Be careful of Palitzsch coming*. SS was scared to death even him.

Were you ever experimented on? And did you ever meet Mengele?

Mengele was ... [unintelligible]; he did something to me. This I know.

But you never met him personally or observed him?

No, I never observed him, but I know someone did something to me — in my operation.

27:28 **In Auschwitz?**

In Auschwitz, before I went to Birkenau. I don't know which one.

What kind of operation?

Head, water in the right side; in water, in the ... [?] Also, blood clot — blocked; flooded my brain.

Were you given an anesthetic for this operation? Is that why you can remember it?

Not anesthetic; they call it ... I do German ... I guess it did something to me, yes.

Is that why you don't remember too much of it?

I believe so, but I still got good memory; and I cause it. It's much more than the anesthetic.

And after the operation, were you allowed to rest for a while?

Maybe couple of days. But after the operation, this shipped out to Birkenau.

Did you meet any of your friends in Auschwitz that were arrested before you or after you?

No. In Auschwitz, I met Ludwik Sobieranski [ph sp?], still in Gdansk; is very good. He helped me in Auschwitz; he was cook in Auschwitz, and he helped me — lot. Was nice looking, handsome man.

29:16 **Were there other prisoners that you knew?**

Ah, two, yes; many intelligent people that helped me. Many people working in the Politic Bureau; they called Politische Büro. And they were very intelligent — very, very smart people; and they help each other.

Do you remember in Auschwitz, how they were exterminating the people — the selections in Auschwitz?

Oh yes. I was in a selection before ... before ... before I was sick. After appell — appell finished up in, doctor kept, kept on selecting people; sick to the revier, the hospital. I was sick. I had my foot like that, with the phlegm on; yet I had swollen in the right side.

Were you afraid to be sent to the hospital?

That time, I don't care; that time I don't care what happen to me. The doctors selected people. Many people did not want to go to work. They was happy — no club to them [?]. They had no marks, like me, and they want to go to hospital. It's the opposite.

30:46 **Why did they want to go to the hospital?**

Ahh ... [unintelligible]. Not to go to work; I believe so. So the SS told them — go naked. There was 20 army trucks, ready, to ship them to the crematorium; which they did. And me selected to the revier [Note: where sick were taken]; the time I was operated — as far as I remember.

Why do you think they sent you to the hospital?

That is a good question.

You never knew why?

I know one doctor say in Polish: *Masz gorączkę, pokaz język.*

You have a fever, show me your tongue.

Yeah, yeah, then I showed him, OK. *Links nach nehman lebensscheine bravo* [ph, sp?]; links [this is a German word], left or right

That's the selection.

Yeah. And many people — those selection [?], which I believed at the time. And many people — healthy, nice looking men — stripped from the uniform, and went on the truck; and to the gas chamber. Those selection that time — on my time.

31:55 **Do you remember, we heard about the orchestra in Auschwitz?**

Yes

Do you remember, what was that like watching them?

They give us little bit, to me; they give us little bit spirit — proud.

When did they play? When was the most popular ...?

They played mostly when they go out during, after lunch time. And they played to us when we marched — after work. And they played us when we be off — sometimes Saturday, Sunday. And they played us, afternoon, and marched in. There were many Gestapo, SS, with their wives. They was best musicians I ever hear.

32:45 **Is it true that every time the Germans brought German dignitaries into Auschwitz that the orchestra was made to play for them? Did you see that kind of thing?**

No, I don't. But I remember one thing. When the top brass from Berlin come — Goering (Göring), Himmler, Goebbels — that time we get good food, we get pillows and two sheets, white. Not, it was not allowed to raise the voice; nobody kept any stick in their hands. Everyone's button was buttoned up; shoes shined — that I remember.

Do you remember what year this was — more or less?

I believe before it was to be Birkenau; I believe 1941.

What were your thoughts at that time when you saw them doing that?

That mean that not everybody knows what's happening in the concentration camps.

33:39 **Did you feel that nobody will ever know what's really going on?**

That's right; that's right. When the top brass come from Berlin, inspecting Auschwitz, and we get good food, makam [ph, sp?], and some kind of beef. And everything was quiet, so politeful. We get good sheets — cleaner; pillow on the bed.

And what happened when the big shots left? What happened to the pillows?

Ah; the same as before — Sodom and Gomorrah.

Did somebody come and pick up the pillows and the sheets?

Absolutely, absolutely. There was chaos; it was like a revolution.

What was the feeling in the camp with the prisoners when they saw this happen?

It be like something cover up. Some ...

34:35 **When the brass came to visit Auschwitz, did any of the prisoners take a chance and try to report what was going on? Did they try, or were they afraid to?**

If they try, they are afraid to; no way impossible. Because for that report would be [interviewer: death] would be on the spot death or be shot in the 11 block. No, impossible —I don't believe it. No such complaint or ... report; absolutely no way. Not even SS if they give a report to the other brass; SS, he would be punished himself.

Mr. Kołodziejek, when you ..., did you observe that the Germans were selecting ... when they were selecting Jews for extermination, was it ever a time when only Jews were being picked for extermination? And did you wonder 'why'? Or did you just think that 'well, my turn is coming also'? What were your thoughts?

I was thinking, they all [see us] equal. Jewish and Polish, it was just the same for the massacre, for the torture. And sooner or later we're all gonna die. Because I know SS once told us: *Say, say, do you see that chimney?* I say: *Yes, we see it.* [SS]: *See it, this is the way you will go.* [Tears]

36:02 **Tell me more about Auschwitz.**

It was very ... Auschwitz was, was ... Auschwitz was only flat; one story.

Tell me about the food and the SS men who allowed the Polish women to give you food. What was that story?

That was when we went out from the Auschwitz. And we'd been working on the landscape.

And what happened?

So they ... in the beginning we'd been working somewhere, and the SS went to They treated us or followed us; went to the SS, and talked to them. They told they had food; they'd like to give it to us at noon-time. And the SS — bodyguard — was scared to death. Then after they looked around, and there was a big ... like a bunkhouse — szopa [shed]. So the security guard, SS, let us know; led us, went inside, and they stocked the basket from them and brought to the house and give it to us.

And who ate all that food? All prisoners?

All prisoners, all prisoners. I'm not sure the SS

Why do you think that the SS-men allowed the Polish women to bring that food to share it?

37:22 Just because they knew each other from the good times — from the school.

They went to school together?

Absolutely — I believe from Śląsk [Silesia]. The German SS before the war time, there was no SS — those are regular soldiers belong to Poland. When the Germans occupied Poland, so many, many soldiers — people went to SS; by their own or by force.

The Germans?

The Germans, yeah. Many of the German people, the Polish people in Śląsk, they went to the school with them. So that's why they knew each other.

They were students then?

They were students, right.

Together, together.

So when the German, the guard, saw the Polish women, they knew each other from the good time, from the school. This is the reason why they brought the food; because they knew each other. And this to the SS guard, giving us food. And the German, in the beginning they were scared to death; and have to look around, nobody looking, [unintelligible], nobody coming — any top brass officers. So they took baskets with the food from those Polish women, and brought us to the inside — in the bunkhouse.

37:00 **I'd like to go back to what life was like before war broke out. What were your connections with the Jewish community — which stores, with neighbors; what was life like?**

My mom usually buy fabric — wool fabric or silk — from Jewish people in Maciejowice. And my mom was friendly with the Jewish people, very well — just like a family. I was friendly with the Jewish people too. Even I was crazy for the Jewish girls — was so beautiful.

What else do you remember?

Then I remember when I moved to Warsaw, 1935. Many times, I loved the park — I forgot the park.

Why did you go to the Park? Why did you love it?

Relax, beautiful — flowers, beautiful trees, beautiful benches, beautiful people.

Did everybody like to go there?

Oh, of course — especially families with children; Ogród Saski, Saski's [Note: Saxon] Garden.

40:23 **So what do you remember?**

So I remember when the Jewish ladies was with children, the Polish ladies with the children. So the Jewish lady told to the Polish lady: *So we having houses like a skyscraper houses*; which had three, four stories — not like in New York. *We have houses, you have street*. That mean Jewish have houses and Polish people have street.

How did that make you feel?

I was sad, but I think I was upset [?]. I was not happy; nothing I can do — I was too young. I ignore them.

How did your mother feel?

My mom was not in the city; our city ... city. My mom was in Maciejowice at the time. But I was raised in the city — I knew city very well.

Did you understand that kind of ...?

Well, no, I don't pay much attention because I was too young. Now I understand; after the war I understand what happened. When the city was bombed, so nobody wanted big houses. This is — I woke up. It was an example; it was like it was a story.

41:54 **What else do you remember about your life in Warsaw?**

My life in Warsaw before the war — I was happy go-lucky. I was hanging around with the high society people in Poland. [Tears] People helped me; I was very lucky. Warsaw, to me, was like a Motherland.