

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,390

2
00:00:04,390 --> 00:00:07,280
This is the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3
00:00:07,280 --> 00:00:11,080
interview of Jadwiga
Dziekonski conducted

4
00:00:11,080 --> 00:00:16,030
by Gail Schwartz
on August 21, 1997,

5
00:00:16,030 --> 00:00:18,580
in Silver Spring, Maryland.

6
00:00:18,580 --> 00:00:27,360
This is tape number 1, side
A. What is your full name?

7
00:00:27,360 --> 00:00:30,950
My full name is
Jadwiga Dziekonski.

8
00:00:30,950 --> 00:00:33,820
And what was your maiden
name, your family name?

9
00:00:33,820 --> 00:00:35,660
Chybinksi.

10
00:00:35,660 --> 00:00:37,580
Chybinksi.

11
00:00:37,580 --> 00:00:39,030
Where were you born?

12
00:00:39,030 --> 00:00:42,090
I was born in Human.

13
00:00:42,090 --> 00:00:46,490
And after two years when it
was Bolshevik Revolution,

14
00:00:46,490 --> 00:00:53,000
my parents and myself and
my sister came to Poland.

15
00:00:53,000 --> 00:00:56,150
Where was this town that
you were born in located?

16
00:00:56,150 --> 00:01:00,260
It's not very far from Kiev.

17
00:01:00,260 --> 00:01:04,760
How long had your parents'
family been in that area?

18
00:01:04,760 --> 00:01:08,540
Or were they in
that area initially?

19
00:01:08,540 --> 00:01:12,650
All the time after
partitions of Poland.

20
00:01:12,650 --> 00:01:16,070
We get three
partitions of Poland.

21
00:01:16,070 --> 00:01:21,770
My mother's family had
estates around Human.

22
00:01:21,770 --> 00:01:29,630
And the grandfather of my
father had estates around Kiev.

23
00:01:29,630 --> 00:01:33,920
So it was Ukraine
in Polish Podolia.

24
00:01:33,920 --> 00:01:42,310
And they lived there until 1917.

25
00:01:42,310 --> 00:01:45,470
What kind of work
did your father do?

26
00:01:45,470 --> 00:01:47,020
My father was a
chemical engineer,

27
00:01:47,020 --> 00:01:51,340
as they say in this country,
doctor of chemistry.

28
00:01:51,340 --> 00:01:54,610
And when you said his family
had estate, what did they grow?

29
00:01:54,610 --> 00:01:55,930
Or did they raise?

30
00:01:55,930 --> 00:01:57,610
Oh, it was a very long time ago.

31
00:01:57,610 --> 00:01:59,090
I have no idea.

32
00:01:59,090 --> 00:02:02,710
Everything grows in Ukraine.

33
00:02:02,710 --> 00:02:04,940
What were your parents' names?

34
00:02:04,940 --> 00:02:06,780
My parents' name?

35
00:02:06,780 --> 00:02:07,870
Chybinski.

36

00:02:07,870 --> 00:02:09,100
Their first names.

37
00:02:09,100 --> 00:02:13,520
Oh, Karol and Helena.

38
00:02:13,520 --> 00:02:15,070
And you said you had a sister.

39
00:02:15,070 --> 00:02:16,790
Is she older or younger?

40
00:02:16,790 --> 00:02:17,890
She's no longer alive.

41
00:02:17,890 --> 00:02:19,540
She was older.

42
00:02:19,540 --> 00:02:21,760
Her name was Maria.

43
00:02:21,760 --> 00:02:22,950
How much older was she?

44
00:02:22,950 --> 00:02:25,510
Two years.

45
00:02:25,510 --> 00:02:29,020
And so you said you
were born in that town

46
00:02:29,020 --> 00:02:33,184
and then your family
moved in 1921.

47
00:02:33,184 --> 00:02:38,260
No-- in 19-- yes,
17 and 2, 1919.

48
00:02:38,260 --> 00:02:40,200
You were born in 1919?

49

00:02:40,200 --> 00:02:42,080

Mm, hmm.

50

00:02:42,080 --> 00:02:43,190

And then they moved.

51

00:02:43,190 --> 00:02:48,170

52

00:02:48,170 --> 00:02:53,480

So you moved as a very
young child to Warsaw.

53

00:02:53,480 --> 00:02:56,840

Why did your family pick that
particular place to move to?

54

00:02:56,840 --> 00:02:59,280

I have no idea.

55

00:02:59,280 --> 00:03:00,980

I don't know.

56

00:03:00,980 --> 00:03:05,270

And did you have extended
family in that small town?

57

00:03:05,270 --> 00:03:08,030

Or did you have extended
family in Warsaw?

58

00:03:08,030 --> 00:03:10,475

No, I didn't have an
extended family in Warsaw.

59

00:03:10,475 --> 00:03:13,340

60

00:03:13,340 --> 00:03:16,910

Well, later on,
everybody had family

61

00:03:16,910 --> 00:03:20,030

who came from different
parts of Poland

62

00:03:20,030 --> 00:03:23,470

because of the situation.

63

00:03:23,470 --> 00:03:27,410

How politically oriented
was your father and mother?

64

00:03:27,410 --> 00:03:30,400

They were independent.

65

00:03:30,400 --> 00:03:37,890

And they were-- at the time,
they were very great admirer

66

00:03:37,890 --> 00:03:39,690

of PiÅsudski That's
all I can say.

67

00:03:39,690 --> 00:03:43,770

68

00:03:43,770 --> 00:03:46,740

When your family moved to
Warsaw, what part of the city

69

00:03:46,740 --> 00:03:48,120

did they settle in?

70

00:03:48,120 --> 00:03:51,240

Was it in the center of
the town or the outskirts?

71

00:03:51,240 --> 00:03:54,990

Yes, it was in the
center of the town.

72

00:03:54,990 --> 00:03:58,350

Can you describe a little

bit more where it was?

73

00:03:58,350 --> 00:04:01,590

Well, it was very close
to Children's Hospital

74

00:04:01,590 --> 00:04:05,730

and very close to
a very nice park.

75

00:04:05,730 --> 00:04:12,480

And my father started working
with the printing company,

76

00:04:12,480 --> 00:04:18,540

which wasn't very far,
because Warsaw at the time

77

00:04:18,540 --> 00:04:24,360

had factories which
were not doing

78

00:04:24,360 --> 00:04:27,270

any harm to the environment.

79

00:04:27,270 --> 00:04:28,860

So that doesn't
mean that we have

80

00:04:28,860 --> 00:04:32,280

to have miles away from Warsaw.

81

00:04:32,280 --> 00:04:36,930

So he worked, and we were there.

82

00:04:36,930 --> 00:04:40,920

What is your first
memory of Warsaw?

83

00:04:40,920 --> 00:04:43,560

My first memory
is the park, which

84

00:04:43,560 --> 00:04:48,750

was a very beautiful
park, especially

85

00:04:48,750 --> 00:04:50,230

interested in fruits.

86

00:04:50,230 --> 00:04:51,960

So there were
beautiful fruit trees.

87

00:04:51,960 --> 00:04:53,870

This is my first
memory going there.

88

00:04:53,870 --> 00:04:57,730

89

00:04:57,730 --> 00:05:01,062

How would you describe the
neighborhood that you lived in?

90

00:05:01,062 --> 00:05:02,520

Was it a middle
class neighborhood?

91

00:05:02,520 --> 00:05:03,660

Upper class?

92

00:05:03,660 --> 00:05:08,030

Yes, it was middle
class, definitely.

93

00:05:08,030 --> 00:05:09,890

And let's talk about
your schooling.

94

00:05:09,890 --> 00:05:12,110

How old were you when
you started school?

95

00:05:12,110 --> 00:05:15,710

Well, the usual, seven years.

96

00:05:15,710 --> 00:05:20,510

And then I was in
school until I was 16.

97

00:05:20,510 --> 00:05:25,170

And then from Warsaw,
I was sent to Hrabka,

98

00:05:25,170 --> 00:05:29,280

which is not far from Zakopane,
which is in the mountains.

99

00:05:29,280 --> 00:05:31,970

And then there, I
finished school.

100

00:05:31,970 --> 00:05:34,380

We'll get to that in a minute.

101

00:05:34,380 --> 00:05:36,500

So you began school
at the age of 7.

102

00:05:36,500 --> 00:05:38,360

Was this a public school?

103

00:05:38,360 --> 00:05:39,110

Yes.

104

00:05:39,110 --> 00:05:41,000

And was it boys and girls?

105

00:05:41,000 --> 00:05:43,700

No, just girls.

106

00:05:43,700 --> 00:05:44,870

It was 60 years ago.

107

00:05:44,870 --> 00:05:48,170

108
00:05:48,170 --> 00:05:50,090
So you began school.

109
00:05:50,090 --> 00:05:55,430
And did you have other
interests as a young child?

110
00:05:55,430 --> 00:05:59,600
In elementary school, were you
interested in sports or music?

111
00:05:59,600 --> 00:06:01,860
I was always
interested in music.

112
00:06:01,860 --> 00:06:04,370
And I was interested
in everything.

113
00:06:04,370 --> 00:06:06,860
So that's why when I
finished I wanted to go

114
00:06:06,860 --> 00:06:09,050
to the School of Journalism.

115
00:06:09,050 --> 00:06:13,730
You don't become a journalist
because you go to school,

116
00:06:13,730 --> 00:06:16,590
but there were all subjects
that were interesting.

117
00:06:16,590 --> 00:06:18,260
So that's why I went.

118
00:06:18,260 --> 00:06:20,270
Did you play any
musical instruments?

119

00:06:20,270 --> 00:06:20,870
No.

120
00:06:20,870 --> 00:06:23,310
I played piano badly.

121
00:06:23,310 --> 00:06:26,840
It doesn't count.

122
00:06:26,840 --> 00:06:29,360
And what about sports?

123
00:06:29,360 --> 00:06:31,370
Skiing.

124
00:06:31,370 --> 00:06:33,450
It was all.

125
00:06:33,450 --> 00:06:38,150
Now, in your neighborhood,
were there any Jewish families?

126
00:06:38,150 --> 00:06:40,130
I don't think so.

127
00:06:40,130 --> 00:06:45,760
I have Jewish
girlfriends in school.

128
00:06:45,760 --> 00:06:48,580
But I didn't know
their families.

129
00:06:48,580 --> 00:06:50,175
So they didn't
come to your house

130
00:06:50,175 --> 00:06:51,550
and you didn't go
to their house?

131
00:06:51,550 --> 00:06:54,520

No, we were so little
we didn't pay attention

132
00:06:54,520 --> 00:06:55,720
to visiting each other.

133
00:06:55,720 --> 00:06:58,660
We had enough in school.

134
00:06:58,660 --> 00:07:02,200
All right, and so then you
got a little bit older.

135
00:07:02,200 --> 00:07:02,740
Yes.

136
00:07:02,740 --> 00:07:06,840
And when I was a little
bit older, then the--

137
00:07:06,840 --> 00:07:09,190
what is it's called--
the high school

138
00:07:09,190 --> 00:07:14,380
was very nice as
far as Jewish girls.

139
00:07:14,380 --> 00:07:16,390
And I was very
friendly with them.

140
00:07:16,390 --> 00:07:17,920
We visited each other.

141
00:07:17,920 --> 00:07:22,010
And from that time, I
have my best friend,

142
00:07:22,010 --> 00:07:23,050
who is still alive.

143

00:07:23,050 --> 00:07:24,880
And we correspond.

144
00:07:24,880 --> 00:07:33,370
She is the daughter of a man
who was very active in Polish

145
00:07:33,370 --> 00:07:35,830
Socialist Party.

146
00:07:35,830 --> 00:07:37,720
And his wife was Jewish.

147
00:07:37,720 --> 00:07:38,650
They loved her.

148
00:07:38,650 --> 00:07:42,670

149
00:07:42,670 --> 00:07:45,620
Elena's mother, in other
words, my friend's mother,

150
00:07:45,620 --> 00:07:49,625
had a father in Warsaw.

151
00:07:49,625 --> 00:07:51,220
And he was just marvelous.

152
00:07:51,220 --> 00:07:53,020
He was Jewish, of course.

153
00:07:53,020 --> 00:07:55,360
And the name was Lipschitz.

154
00:07:55,360 --> 00:08:01,980
So now, she is
very happy the fact

155
00:08:01,980 --> 00:08:04,990
I remember her grandfather,
because he was lovely.

156
00:08:04,990 --> 00:08:08,240
So we were very happy together.

157
00:08:08,240 --> 00:08:13,900
And when she comes here from
where she lives in Warsaw,

158
00:08:13,900 --> 00:08:17,620
then we spend time together.

159
00:08:17,620 --> 00:08:26,050
And she has put to herself
as an important goal in life

160
00:08:26,050 --> 00:08:34,419
to collect all
writings of her father.

161
00:08:34,419 --> 00:08:36,320
And she almost succeeded.

162
00:08:36,320 --> 00:08:44,270
She had letters, and she
had other of his writings

163
00:08:44,270 --> 00:08:46,460
put into books.

164
00:08:46,460 --> 00:08:48,740
And her name is Elena Lipschitz?

165
00:08:48,740 --> 00:08:53,840
No, Elena, she was
married, and her husband

166
00:08:53,840 --> 00:08:59,580
was a very, very famous
mountain climber.

167
00:08:59,580 --> 00:09:01,950
And in an accident, he died.

168
00:09:01,950 --> 00:09:06,060
So she married again and
not very fortunately.

169
00:09:06,060 --> 00:09:07,970
The name is Blatten.

170
00:09:07,970 --> 00:09:13,530
And she separated with this
man, so she is alone now

171
00:09:13,530 --> 00:09:16,740
and has a daughter.

172
00:09:16,740 --> 00:09:19,480
How religious was your family?

173
00:09:19,480 --> 00:09:22,890
Very religious Roman Catholic.

174
00:09:22,890 --> 00:09:24,600
So what kind of
religious training

175
00:09:24,600 --> 00:09:26,350
did you have as a child?

176
00:09:26,350 --> 00:09:28,240
At school.

177
00:09:28,240 --> 00:09:29,820
That's enough.

178
00:09:29,820 --> 00:09:31,860
In Poland, that's enough.

179
00:09:31,860 --> 00:09:33,780
When you say-- but it
was a public school.

180

00:09:33,780 --> 00:09:34,590

Yes.

181

00:09:34,590 --> 00:09:35,670

And then it was private.

182

00:09:35,670 --> 00:09:39,150

In Hrabka, near
Zakopane, it was private.

183

00:09:39,150 --> 00:09:41,760

So you had religious
training at school?

184

00:09:41,760 --> 00:09:43,460

Yes.

185

00:09:43,460 --> 00:09:46,130

I had religious
training at school.

186

00:09:46,130 --> 00:09:51,180

And in Hrabka, the three women
who took care of the school

187

00:09:51,180 --> 00:09:56,700

were brought up by the, they
called them, the Sacred Heart.

188

00:09:56,700 --> 00:09:58,240

And they were not nuns.

189

00:09:58,240 --> 00:10:02,520

They were very, very
sophisticated and fun.

190

00:10:02,520 --> 00:10:06,030

But they did have
priest visiting.

191

00:10:06,030 --> 00:10:10,500

The priest who was in charge
of Laski for blind people

192
00:10:10,500 --> 00:10:14,850
was coming there for retreats.

193
00:10:14,850 --> 00:10:22,670
So we were happy Catholics
with no bigotry attached.

194
00:10:22,670 --> 00:10:25,320
So that was lovely.

195
00:10:25,320 --> 00:10:28,440
When you were getting your
Catholic training at school,

196
00:10:28,440 --> 00:10:30,690
what were the Jewish
students doing?

197
00:10:30,690 --> 00:10:35,480
They were no Jewish students
in the school in Hrabka.

198
00:10:35,480 --> 00:10:37,290
Oh, so you didn't get
any Catholic training

199
00:10:37,290 --> 00:10:39,430
in elementary school?

200
00:10:39,430 --> 00:10:46,630
No, that was their religious
lessons, that's all, you know.

201
00:10:46,630 --> 00:10:54,038
There was physics, Polish, and
other language, and religion.

202
00:10:54,038 --> 00:10:55,830
Because you said there
were Jewish students

203

00:10:55,830 --> 00:10:56,872
in the elementary school.

204
00:10:56,872 --> 00:10:57,410
Mm-hmm.

205
00:10:57,410 --> 00:11:00,260
And so they were taking the same
religion courses that you were.

206
00:11:00,260 --> 00:11:03,510
No, I think that probably they
took some religious courses

207
00:11:03,510 --> 00:11:04,350
with their parents.

208
00:11:04,350 --> 00:11:05,040
I have no idea.

209
00:11:05,040 --> 00:11:07,800
I didn't think in this way.

210
00:11:07,800 --> 00:11:09,500
They were so much
fun, I didn't think

211
00:11:09,500 --> 00:11:12,420
what they are learning
as far as religion.

212
00:11:12,420 --> 00:11:15,480
What kind of activities
did you do with them?

213
00:11:15,480 --> 00:11:18,330
Oh, we were just
regular play, you know,

214
00:11:18,330 --> 00:11:22,310
extracurriculars and so forth.

215

00:11:22,310 --> 00:11:24,230
Did you go to church often?

216
00:11:24,230 --> 00:11:25,510
Yes, every Sunday.

217
00:11:25,510 --> 00:11:27,650
Mm-hmm.

218
00:11:27,650 --> 00:11:30,340
OK, now you said you
graduated and you

219
00:11:30,340 --> 00:11:31,340
went to the next school.

220
00:11:31,340 --> 00:11:32,030
Mm-hmm.

221
00:11:32,030 --> 00:11:33,363
And for how long were you there?

222
00:11:33,363 --> 00:11:35,965

223
00:11:35,965 --> 00:11:37,340
We were talking
about elementary,

224
00:11:37,340 --> 00:11:39,880
and now we're talking
about high school, right?

225
00:11:39,880 --> 00:11:42,380
Yes.

226
00:11:42,380 --> 00:11:50,890
Well, eight years.

227
00:11:50,890 --> 00:11:53,490

228

00:11:53,490 --> 00:11:55,460

You were eight years
in elementary school.

229

00:11:55,460 --> 00:11:58,130

No, no, no, eight years in the
high school, or whatever it's

230

00:11:58,130 --> 00:11:59,720

called now.

231

00:11:59,720 --> 00:12:02,380

It is called lyceum now.

232

00:12:02,380 --> 00:12:04,370

And that's the
school near Zakopane?

233

00:12:04,370 --> 00:12:08,800

In the school near Zakopane
was where I got baccalaureate.

234

00:12:08,800 --> 00:12:11,630

There were two years after.

235

00:12:11,630 --> 00:12:14,750

It's called the small
baccalaureate in Poland now.

236

00:12:14,750 --> 00:12:17,510

I don't know what it's called
here, basic high school.

237

00:12:17,510 --> 00:12:21,950

Why did you go to a
different town to school?

238

00:12:21,950 --> 00:12:24,710

Because my family thought
that I have something

239

00:12:24,710 --> 00:12:26,170

wrong with my lungs.

240
00:12:26,170 --> 00:12:28,610
And this was very
good for way lungs

241
00:12:28,610 --> 00:12:32,040
to go there in the mountains.

242
00:12:32,040 --> 00:12:37,700
So if it was or it
wasn't, I was very happy.

243
00:12:37,700 --> 00:12:40,260
Did you have health
problems as a child?

244
00:12:40,260 --> 00:12:40,790
Yes, I did.

245
00:12:40,790 --> 00:12:46,130
I had something which was
collected with my lungs.

246
00:12:46,130 --> 00:12:49,460
I didn't actually have any
TB or anything like that,

247
00:12:49,460 --> 00:12:54,040
but we went to the south of
France because I was so weak.

248
00:12:54,040 --> 00:12:55,420
And that was all.

249
00:12:55,420 --> 00:12:56,510
It finished.

250
00:12:56,510 --> 00:13:02,810
It was very short
lived, fortunately.

251

00:13:02,810 --> 00:13:05,390
Now, you said when you
were growing up in Warsaw,

252
00:13:05,390 --> 00:13:06,680
you had Jewish friends.

253
00:13:06,680 --> 00:13:08,420
You played with them.

254
00:13:08,420 --> 00:13:11,950
Did you notice any
incidents while you were out

255
00:13:11,950 --> 00:13:13,700
in the city of antisemitism?

256
00:13:13,700 --> 00:13:15,100
Or did you sense it?

257
00:13:15,100 --> 00:13:15,750
No.

258
00:13:15,750 --> 00:13:19,320
No, of course not.

259
00:13:19,320 --> 00:13:22,560
Poland was not antisemitic.

260
00:13:22,560 --> 00:13:23,090
OK.

261
00:13:23,090 --> 00:13:28,820
And now you're, what,
about 18, 19 years old,

262
00:13:28,820 --> 00:13:30,740
and then what happened?

263
00:13:30,740 --> 00:13:40,420
After that, it was very
close to the war in 1939.

264
00:13:40,420 --> 00:13:44,138
My husband, my fiancee
then, went to war.

265
00:13:44,138 --> 00:13:46,180
Well, OK, let's talk a
little bit about that now.

266
00:13:46,180 --> 00:13:47,770
How did you meet your--

267
00:13:47,770 --> 00:13:48,700
My husband?

268
00:13:48,700 --> 00:13:51,220
Well, let's talk about
anything in 1936.

269
00:13:51,220 --> 00:13:51,940
Well, also--

270
00:13:51,940 --> 00:13:55,030
1937, I finished in 1937.

271
00:13:55,030 --> 00:13:56,620
You finished.

272
00:13:56,620 --> 00:13:59,380
Hitler came into power in 1933.

273
00:13:59,380 --> 00:14:00,940
Did your parents
talk about that?

274
00:14:00,940 --> 00:14:02,290
About what?

275
00:14:02,290 --> 00:14:05,050
Hitler came into power
in 1933 in Germany.

276

00:14:05,050 --> 00:14:07,540

Well, of course,
my parents talked--

277

00:14:07,540 --> 00:14:10,810

Do you remember what kind
of remarks they made.

278

00:14:10,810 --> 00:14:12,400

I do remember very well.

279

00:14:12,400 --> 00:14:14,230

They hated him.

280

00:14:14,230 --> 00:14:15,490

They didn't how to hate.

281

00:14:15,490 --> 00:14:19,120

But they knew how very
bad he was for his country

282

00:14:19,120 --> 00:14:21,840

and for everybody around.

283

00:14:21,840 --> 00:14:22,340

So--

284

00:14:22,340 --> 00:14:24,125

And how aware were you?

285

00:14:24,125 --> 00:14:30,320

You were only 14 years
old at that time.

286

00:14:30,320 --> 00:14:31,820

No, I was 16.

287

00:14:31,820 --> 00:14:34,250

In 1933?

288

00:14:34,250 --> 00:14:38,482

19 and 16, what is it now?

289

00:14:38,482 --> 00:14:41,530

OK, you are a teenager.

290

00:14:41,530 --> 00:14:44,450

Well, I was adult at 14.

291

00:14:44,450 --> 00:14:46,190

Why do you say you are an adult?

292

00:14:46,190 --> 00:14:48,440

Because I thought
that as an adult.

293

00:14:48,440 --> 00:14:49,570

In what way?

294

00:14:49,570 --> 00:14:51,100

In what-- in every way.

295

00:14:51,100 --> 00:14:55,340

That means interested in the
art, interested in politics,

296

00:14:55,340 --> 00:14:58,130

interested in the
history, everything.

297

00:14:58,130 --> 00:15:00,392

That's what I mean
that I was adult.

298

00:15:00,392 --> 00:15:01,850

What were you some
of your feelings

299

00:15:01,850 --> 00:15:03,950

at that age about politics?

300

00:15:03,950 --> 00:15:09,290

My feelings about politics

were very, very easily

301
00:15:09,290 --> 00:15:11,750
described as being--

302
00:15:11,750 --> 00:15:14,380

303
00:15:14,380 --> 00:15:16,880
well, I wasn't actually
afraid of Hitler,

304
00:15:16,880 --> 00:15:23,530
but being very anxious that
his power doesn't grow,

305
00:15:23,530 --> 00:15:26,770
that he will be stopped, very
much interested in people

306
00:15:26,770 --> 00:15:29,630
who are opposed him in Germany.

307
00:15:29,630 --> 00:15:31,930
So that's what I mean by adult.

308
00:15:31,930 --> 00:15:34,780
What languages did you
speak at that time?

309
00:15:34,780 --> 00:15:35,860
Polish.

310
00:15:35,860 --> 00:15:37,430
Did you understand German then?

311
00:15:37,430 --> 00:15:38,130
No.

312
00:15:38,130 --> 00:15:42,020
And I wasn't interested.

313

00:15:42,020 --> 00:15:44,370

So you couldn't
understand his words?

314

00:15:44,370 --> 00:15:46,766

No, but they were
all translated.

315

00:15:46,766 --> 00:15:48,662

It didn't make any difference.

316

00:15:48,662 --> 00:15:51,900

317

00:15:51,900 --> 00:15:52,590

OK.

318

00:15:52,590 --> 00:15:54,330

And were you aware--

319

00:15:54,330 --> 00:15:57,250

320

00:15:57,250 --> 00:16:01,230

in, let's say, the fall of 1938
when Kristallnacht happened,

321

00:16:01,230 --> 00:16:03,900

was that something that you
and your family were aware of?

322

00:16:03,900 --> 00:16:07,110

Of course, yes, we were.

323

00:16:07,110 --> 00:16:10,740

What was your response or
your parents' response?

324

00:16:10,740 --> 00:16:19,270

Well, obviously, the despair
and tragedy of this all.

325

00:16:19,270 --> 00:16:21,440

How did you meet your husband?

326

00:16:21,440 --> 00:16:28,460

I met my husband through my
later aunt's brother-in-law,

327

00:16:28,460 --> 00:16:32,370

because they were friends
and they lived together.

328

00:16:32,370 --> 00:16:36,890

And it didn't matter that my
husband was so much older.

329

00:16:36,890 --> 00:16:39,530

And I was very much interested.

330

00:16:39,530 --> 00:16:43,430

So I tried to hook him.

331

00:16:43,430 --> 00:16:44,900

What was your husband's name?

332

00:16:44,900 --> 00:16:49,220

My husband's name was
ZdziesÅ,aw, unpronouncable,

333

00:16:49,220 --> 00:16:52,730

except people think that it's
like [? Jayswaf ?] in French.

334

00:16:52,730 --> 00:16:58,030

But anyhow, ZdziesÅ,aw,
Z-D-Z-I-E-S-L-A-W,

335

00:16:58,030 --> 00:17:00,660

So it is very difficult.

336

00:17:00,660 --> 00:17:04,010

And how much older was he?

337

00:17:04,010 --> 00:17:06,140
13 years.

338

00:17:06,140 --> 00:17:07,970
Where was his family from?

339

00:17:07,970 --> 00:17:10,160
His family was from Podlachia.

340

00:17:10,160 --> 00:17:12,890
Podlachia is a
part of Poland in--

341

00:17:12,890 --> 00:17:18,270

342

00:17:18,270 --> 00:17:22,950
how shall I say that will
be easily understood?

343

00:17:22,950 --> 00:17:28,892
In the north and
center, center Poland.

344

00:17:28,892 --> 00:17:30,950
In the north, towards the north.

345

00:17:30,950 --> 00:17:33,530
Near any bigger city?

346

00:17:33,530 --> 00:17:34,492
Bialystok.

347

00:17:34,492 --> 00:17:37,210

348

00:17:37,210 --> 00:17:39,240
And what kind of work
did your husband do?

349

00:17:39,240 --> 00:17:41,490

He was a lawyer.

350
00:17:41,490 --> 00:17:43,440
What kind of law
did he practice?

351
00:17:43,440 --> 00:17:48,840
He was practicing law
in the organization--

352
00:17:48,840 --> 00:17:53,880
how shall I say-- in the
firm, which was taking care

353
00:17:53,880 --> 00:17:58,030
of the country's problem--

354
00:17:58,030 --> 00:18:03,870
in other words, the
government's cases

355
00:18:03,870 --> 00:18:08,340
against some people who
are they are litigating

356
00:18:08,340 --> 00:18:11,280
or who were trespassing the law.

357
00:18:11,280 --> 00:18:13,640
So it was called the
Prokuratora Generalnego.

358
00:18:13,640 --> 00:18:18,210
But it has nothing to
do with the Prokuratora.

359
00:18:18,210 --> 00:18:22,240
It was just-- in
other words, taking

360
00:18:22,240 --> 00:18:24,790
care of cases
which were supposed

361
00:18:24,790 --> 00:18:30,640
to be bad for the country.

362
00:18:30,640 --> 00:18:35,560
I was speaking very, very
primitive way, because I really

363
00:18:35,560 --> 00:18:36,310
didn't sleep well.

364
00:18:36,310 --> 00:18:46,600
But it is-- anyhow,
the interests

365
00:18:46,600 --> 00:18:55,960
and the goal of the cases,
which were not right

366
00:18:55,960 --> 00:18:58,180
for the government, for
the country, actually.

367
00:18:58,180 --> 00:19:01,810
Not for the government's this
and that, but for the country.

368
00:19:01,810 --> 00:19:02,710
I don't know how--

369
00:19:02,710 --> 00:19:06,550
it doesn't exist in America or
in England or in France, maybe

370
00:19:06,550 --> 00:19:09,520
in Belgium.

371
00:19:09,520 --> 00:19:11,860
And again, how political
was your husband?

372
00:19:11,860 --> 00:19:14,800

Did he have any particular political leanings?

373
00:19:14,800 --> 00:19:19,060
He had very strong political ideas.

374
00:19:19,060 --> 00:19:22,510
And he was in a group of young people

375
00:19:22,510 --> 00:19:26,830
who were called the Youth of the Nation.

376
00:19:26,830 --> 00:19:30,280
And he was a very avid boy scout.

377
00:19:30,280 --> 00:19:33,610
When he was six, he was already a boy scout.

378
00:19:33,610 --> 00:19:38,891
So he was going to all international--

379
00:19:38,891 --> 00:19:40,240
what do you call it?

380
00:19:40,240 --> 00:19:41,900
Conventions or conferences.

381
00:19:41,900 --> 00:19:45,180
No, the scouts, what do they do?

382
00:19:45,180 --> 00:19:47,910
I know the Polish name, but I can't think of it.

383
00:19:47,910 --> 00:19:51,320
I'll just think of it in a minute.

384
00:19:51,320 --> 00:19:55,860
When for the birds fly and
they go into one place,

385
00:19:55,860 --> 00:19:56,997
this is a zlot.

386
00:19:56,997 --> 00:19:58,580
In other words-- I
have to look it up,

387
00:19:58,580 --> 00:20:02,225
because it must be
very easy in English.

388
00:20:02,225 --> 00:20:06,350
And then meetings,
international meetings

389
00:20:06,350 --> 00:20:12,510
of different places in Hungary,
in England, in Ireland,

390
00:20:12,510 --> 00:20:13,380
in France.

391
00:20:13,380 --> 00:20:17,730
So he was very busy with
this, along with his work.

392
00:20:17,730 --> 00:20:19,580
So even as an adult,
he stayed active?

393
00:20:19,580 --> 00:20:20,730
Yes, indeed.

394
00:20:20,730 --> 00:20:24,006
Yes, indeed, even in here.

395
00:20:24,006 --> 00:20:27,170

So he was a scout as a child,
but he stayed in the movement--

396
00:20:27,170 --> 00:20:27,770
Yes--

397
00:20:27,770 --> 00:20:29,370
Even as he got older.

398
00:20:29,370 --> 00:20:29,870
Right.

399
00:20:29,870 --> 00:20:31,460
And so you met.

400
00:20:31,460 --> 00:20:33,740
And then how long
was it before you

401
00:20:33,740 --> 00:20:35,220
became engaged and got married?

402
00:20:35,220 --> 00:20:37,900

403
00:20:37,900 --> 00:20:40,550
Well, I became engaged
right before the war.

404
00:20:40,550 --> 00:20:42,610
And we married in
1941, because we

405
00:20:42,610 --> 00:20:45,850
decided that the war
is never going to end.

406
00:20:45,850 --> 00:20:50,670
So in 1938, he was my fiancee.

407
00:20:50,670 --> 00:20:56,290
And in '39, he went to look

for the Polish army, which

408
00:20:56,290 --> 00:20:59,800
were meanwhile dissipated.

409
00:20:59,800 --> 00:21:05,210
And then he came back and
stayed with me and my mother.

410
00:21:05,210 --> 00:21:11,560
And then, 1941, we married.

411
00:21:11,560 --> 00:21:14,530
Well, let's talk a little
bit about 1939, because that

412
00:21:14,530 --> 00:21:15,760
was a very special year.

413
00:21:15,760 --> 00:21:17,510
The war began in September.

414
00:21:17,510 --> 00:21:18,190
Yes.

415
00:21:18,190 --> 00:21:22,660
What do you recall about the
German invasion in Poland,

416
00:21:22,660 --> 00:21:23,800
in Warsaw?

417
00:21:23,800 --> 00:21:26,170
Well, I recall what
everybody does.

418
00:21:26,170 --> 00:21:32,750
That means that the German
armies went in and just two

419
00:21:32,750 --> 00:21:38,800
Poland by storm, and

England and France

420

00:21:38,800 --> 00:21:45,190
were thinking if they will help,
when they thought it was over.

421

00:21:45,190 --> 00:21:48,880
It was over, Poland was
under German occupation.

422

00:21:48,880 --> 00:21:51,340
What were your feelings
as a young woman when

423

00:21:51,340 --> 00:21:54,680
you saw German soldiers in the
streets and the destruction

424

00:21:54,680 --> 00:21:56,440
and so forth?

425

00:21:56,440 --> 00:21:58,090
I hated the occupation.

426

00:21:58,090 --> 00:22:01,210

427

00:22:01,210 --> 00:22:02,680
I hated the occupation.

428

00:22:02,680 --> 00:22:09,100
I was so hopeful that maybe
one day we will throw it off.

429

00:22:09,100 --> 00:22:11,920
And then from what
I understand, Warsaw

430

00:22:11,920 --> 00:22:15,730
surrendered in
September 28, 1939.

431

00:22:15,730 --> 00:22:17,980
What was that day like for you?

432
00:22:17,980 --> 00:22:22,460
Well, it was awful, but
it was hard to criticize,

433
00:22:22,460 --> 00:22:26,191
because there was
no army to fight.

434
00:22:26,191 --> 00:22:29,020

435
00:22:29,020 --> 00:22:32,710
Was your husband with you
at that time in September?

436
00:22:32,710 --> 00:22:37,240
In September, no, he was
going towards Russia,

437
00:22:37,240 --> 00:22:43,390
because there were some parts of
Polish army which were still--

438
00:22:43,390 --> 00:22:50,100
not available-- which was
still gathering there.

439
00:22:50,100 --> 00:22:51,540
But he didn't succeed.

440
00:22:51,540 --> 00:22:56,640
And they were just
going to Romania,

441
00:22:56,640 --> 00:23:03,110
where temporarily the government
was, the Polish government.

442
00:23:03,110 --> 00:23:05,870
Had he been mobilized?

443
00:23:05,870 --> 00:23:07,970
No, he was in reserve.

444
00:23:07,970 --> 00:23:10,310
He didn't have
eyesight in one eye.

445
00:23:10,310 --> 00:23:13,990
So from the first
time, he was 16.

446
00:23:13,990 --> 00:23:15,923
It didn't show, but he didn't--

447
00:23:15,923 --> 00:23:16,840
but he did everything.

448
00:23:16,840 --> 00:23:17,800
He could drive a car.

449
00:23:17,800 --> 00:23:20,240
He could play tennis.

450
00:23:20,240 --> 00:23:23,040
But he wasn't called up and
mobilized into the army?

451
00:23:23,040 --> 00:23:23,540
No, no.

452
00:23:23,540 --> 00:23:29,270
He was going by himself trying
to find the army, the remnants

453
00:23:29,270 --> 00:23:30,980
of the army.

454
00:23:30,980 --> 00:23:33,260
So you're remaining
behind with your mother--

455
00:23:33,260 --> 00:23:34,010
Mm-hmm--

456
00:23:34,010 --> 00:23:34,625
In Warsaw--

457
00:23:34,625 --> 00:23:35,450
And my sister--

458
00:23:35,450 --> 00:23:37,490
And your sister.

459
00:23:37,490 --> 00:23:42,360
And then what was the next
thing that you remember?

460
00:23:42,360 --> 00:23:45,530
The next thing I remember
is that he came back.

461
00:23:45,530 --> 00:23:46,940
And then--

462
00:23:46,940 --> 00:23:47,930
When was that?

463
00:23:47,930 --> 00:23:50,780
Well, he came in 1941.

464
00:23:50,780 --> 00:23:53,930
So that's when we married.

465
00:23:53,930 --> 00:23:59,930
So all of the rest of 1939
and all of 1940, he was gone?

466
00:23:59,930 --> 00:24:01,950
No, actually he came in 1940.

467
00:24:01,950 --> 00:24:02,950
I'm sorry.

468
00:24:02,950 --> 00:24:05,910
Yes, then we married in 1941.

469
00:24:05,910 --> 00:24:07,440
What did you do?

470
00:24:07,440 --> 00:24:08,690
Were you working?

471
00:24:08,690 --> 00:24:12,560
What were you doing at the
time of the occupation?

472
00:24:12,560 --> 00:24:14,570
At this time, I didn't work.

473
00:24:14,570 --> 00:24:19,190
I wasn't required an Ausweis.

474
00:24:19,190 --> 00:24:21,320
Later on, I had to
work, or else I'll

475
00:24:21,320 --> 00:24:25,490
be shipped to Germany
for labor, hard labor.

476
00:24:25,490 --> 00:24:26,960
So you are now 20 years old.

477
00:24:26,960 --> 00:24:28,360
Uh, huh.

478
00:24:28,360 --> 00:24:29,840
And what did you do?

479
00:24:29,840 --> 00:24:33,830
And then I was pregnant.

480
00:24:33,830 --> 00:24:37,375

My daughter was born in 1943.

481
00:24:37,375 --> 00:24:38,840
No, no, no, let's back up.

482
00:24:38,840 --> 00:24:40,006
We're still in 19--

483
00:24:40,006 --> 00:24:40,680
Well, 1941--

484
00:24:40,680 --> 00:24:42,385
No, no, no, it's just 1940.

485
00:24:42,385 --> 00:24:43,760
I want to take
this year by year.

486
00:24:43,760 --> 00:24:44,780
Oh, I see.

487
00:24:44,780 --> 00:24:45,895
OK, we're just in 1940.

488
00:24:45,895 --> 00:24:46,980
I'm sorry.

489
00:24:46,980 --> 00:24:48,470
Yeah.

490
00:24:48,470 --> 00:24:49,790
And so what did you do?

491
00:24:49,790 --> 00:24:53,030
The Germans came in, and
you said you had to work.

492
00:24:53,030 --> 00:24:55,140
No, I didn't work in 1940.

493
00:24:55,140 --> 00:24:55,640

No.

494
00:24:55,640 --> 00:24:56,630
What did you do?

495
00:24:56,630 --> 00:24:59,920
I was staying with my family.

496
00:24:59,920 --> 00:25:02,380
And you're 21 years old now.

497
00:25:02,380 --> 00:25:03,140
Right.

498
00:25:03,140 --> 00:25:05,480
And you were just at home.

499
00:25:05,480 --> 00:25:07,893
Well, 21 in 1940--

500
00:25:07,893 --> 00:25:08,393
Mm-hmm.

501
00:25:08,393 --> 00:25:12,470

502
00:25:12,470 --> 00:25:13,700
That's funny.

503
00:25:13,700 --> 00:25:16,012
Well, oh, I stayed at home.

504
00:25:16,012 --> 00:25:16,512
Mm-hmm.

505
00:25:16,512 --> 00:25:17,720
OK.

506
00:25:17,720 --> 00:25:19,910
And what was it like for
you to see German soldiers

507
00:25:19,910 --> 00:25:21,570
on your streets?

508
00:25:21,570 --> 00:25:24,560
Horrible, obvious.

509
00:25:24,560 --> 00:25:25,765
Everybody hates them.

510
00:25:25,765 --> 00:25:27,470
Were you frightened of them?

511
00:25:27,470 --> 00:25:29,390
No.

512
00:25:29,390 --> 00:25:33,500
Why should I be frightened?

513
00:25:33,500 --> 00:25:36,150
No, I wasn't afraid of them.

514
00:25:36,150 --> 00:25:39,000
What was your relationship
to your Jewish friends

515
00:25:39,000 --> 00:25:41,160
in the beginning
of the occupation?

516
00:25:41,160 --> 00:25:42,930
I didn't have other
Jewish friends around

517
00:25:42,930 --> 00:25:46,140
at beginning of the occupation.

518
00:25:46,140 --> 00:25:47,230
They were not in Warsaw.

519
00:25:47,230 --> 00:25:51,750

520
00:25:51,750 --> 00:25:57,510
Had you heard of any
repressive decrees by Hitler?

521
00:25:57,510 --> 00:26:00,690
Were you aware at that time
of any repressive decrees

522
00:26:00,690 --> 00:26:02,560
by Hitler against the Jews?

523
00:26:02,560 --> 00:26:05,430
Well, of course, it started.

524
00:26:05,430 --> 00:26:08,350
It started and we
all heard about it.

525
00:26:08,350 --> 00:26:11,770
Did you talk this over with
your parents or with friends?

526
00:26:11,770 --> 00:26:14,460
What were people's reaction?

527
00:26:14,460 --> 00:26:17,150
The people's reaction
was just as mine.

528
00:26:17,150 --> 00:26:20,100
And that means that we
share it with horror,

529
00:26:20,100 --> 00:26:25,460
and we were just thinking
what to do to be able to help.

530
00:26:25,460 --> 00:26:29,620
And my father was already
gone across Romania

531

00:26:29,620 --> 00:26:35,340

to Portugal and then
from there to London,

532

00:26:35,340 --> 00:26:40,290

because he was evacuated
with the Polish bank.

533

00:26:40,290 --> 00:26:41,850

He was making money this way.

534

00:26:41,850 --> 00:26:47,200

My husband married me, he
thought it was more for me.

535

00:26:47,200 --> 00:26:50,310

Anyhow, so he was evacuated
with the Polish bank, Band

536

00:26:50,310 --> 00:26:51,810

of Poland, as it was called.

537

00:26:51,810 --> 00:26:57,300

And they went to London
by the way of Portugal.

538

00:26:57,300 --> 00:27:01,340

So I was with my mother
and my sister, Marysia.

539

00:27:01,340 --> 00:27:04,510

540

00:27:04,510 --> 00:27:05,790

And so this is 1940.

541

00:27:05,790 --> 00:27:06,850

Mm-hmm.

542

00:27:06,850 --> 00:27:09,430

And you're in touch
with your fiancée.

543
00:27:09,430 --> 00:27:10,360
Right.

544
00:27:10,360 --> 00:27:12,450
And then you said--

545
00:27:12,450 --> 00:27:14,980
He came back, and
then we married.

546
00:27:14,980 --> 00:27:16,490
When did you get married?

547
00:27:16,490 --> 00:27:18,305
In 1941, in June.

548
00:27:18,305 --> 00:27:19,850
In June of 1941.

549
00:27:19,850 --> 00:27:22,102
What kind of wedding
did you have?

550
00:27:22,102 --> 00:27:24,140
Had a wedding--

551
00:27:24,140 --> 00:27:31,220
Warsaw was ruined, not as
much as in 1944, but ruined.

552
00:27:31,220 --> 00:27:32,472
And we were not well to do it.

553
00:27:32,472 --> 00:27:33,680
And we didn't have any money.

554
00:27:33,680 --> 00:27:36,420
So we were very happy.

555
00:27:36,420 --> 00:27:37,930

And we married.

556

00:27:37,930 --> 00:27:42,590

And we were married in church.

557

00:27:42,590 --> 00:27:46,710

And after that we were just
happy that we were married.

558

00:27:46,710 --> 00:27:47,850

That's all.

559

00:27:47,850 --> 00:27:56,480

The kind of wedding in a
suit, navy suit for me,

560

00:27:56,480 --> 00:27:57,380

dark suit for him.

561

00:27:57,380 --> 00:27:59,930

And that was all.

562

00:27:59,930 --> 00:28:02,660

No long dresses.

563

00:28:02,660 --> 00:28:05,000

Did you have any
kind of reception?

564

00:28:05,000 --> 00:28:05,670

No.

565

00:28:05,670 --> 00:28:10,580

No, we had just friends,
friends for dinner.

566

00:28:10,580 --> 00:28:14,270

What's it like to get married
in a city that's occupied

567

00:28:14,270 --> 00:28:18,320

and you see parts of it

being damaged and destroyed?

568

00:28:18,320 --> 00:28:21,330

What is it like
for a young bride?

569

00:28:21,330 --> 00:28:22,140

It's very sad.

570

00:28:22,140 --> 00:28:23,730

But then I'm so
happy that I married

571

00:28:23,730 --> 00:28:25,980

that I don't pay attention.

572

00:28:25,980 --> 00:28:28,290

And I hope that Warsaw
will be rebuilt.

573

00:28:28,290 --> 00:28:37,380

Little did I know that will
be ruined to the ground.

574

00:28:37,380 --> 00:28:40,380

Did you pick up any of the
German language by then?

575

00:28:40,380 --> 00:28:45,600

No, I was in school
of journalism,

576

00:28:45,600 --> 00:28:54,880

which was in 1938, because one
year after I finished school,

577

00:28:54,880 --> 00:28:55,860

I didn't do anything.

578

00:28:55,860 --> 00:28:59,310

I went to art school.

579

00:28:59,310 --> 00:29:02,190
And just enjoyed myself.

580
00:29:02,190 --> 00:29:05,340
But after that, I went
to school of journalism,

581
00:29:05,340 --> 00:29:07,350
because it was
interesting for me because

582
00:29:07,350 --> 00:29:08,950
of the different subjects.

583
00:29:08,950 --> 00:29:11,730
And I say I didn't want
to be a journalist,

584
00:29:11,730 --> 00:29:13,980
but I went to school.

585
00:29:13,980 --> 00:29:18,360
And after a year,
that was not the time

586
00:29:18,360 --> 00:29:28,480
for going to school,
because that was 1939.

587
00:29:28,480 --> 00:29:31,110
So that was the end of--

588
00:29:31,110 --> 00:29:34,470
Where was this journalism
school located, in Warsaw?

589
00:29:34,470 --> 00:29:36,210
Right, in Warsaw.

590
00:29:36,210 --> 00:29:46,190
It was a very good school
and very good professors,

591

00:29:46,190 --> 00:29:48,110

one who was teaching

Polish history,

592

00:29:48,110 --> 00:29:53,340

Polish art, and everything

Poland, who was Jewish.

593

00:29:53,340 --> 00:29:54,200

And I loved him.

594

00:29:54,200 --> 00:29:56,830

595

00:29:56,830 --> 00:30:00,940

And there were other very

good professors, very good.

596

00:30:00,940 --> 00:30:06,370

Was there any talk among these

academics and fellow students

597

00:30:06,370 --> 00:30:10,970

of your of any kind of

resistance at that time in 1938

598

00:30:10,970 --> 00:30:11,470

to Hitler.

599

00:30:11,470 --> 00:30:15,190

If it was-- if it were, I should

say-- this is better English--

600

00:30:15,190 --> 00:30:18,550

then, of course, it was secret.

601

00:30:18,550 --> 00:30:20,272

Were you aware of

any of the talk?

602

00:30:20,272 --> 00:30:21,730

Of course, but I

wasn't part of it,

603
00:30:21,730 --> 00:30:23,860
because my husband
wouldn't let me.

604
00:30:23,860 --> 00:30:25,450
And he was already
in the underground.

605
00:30:25,450 --> 00:30:28,000
But I didn't know.

606
00:30:28,000 --> 00:30:29,980
At that point, you didn't know.

607
00:30:29,980 --> 00:30:30,540
What was he--

608
00:30:30,540 --> 00:30:31,300
No, I never knew--

609
00:30:31,300 --> 00:30:33,040
What was he doing--
now that it's

610
00:30:33,040 --> 00:30:35,620
all over-- what was he
doing at that point?

611
00:30:35,620 --> 00:30:46,660
At this point, he was working
as a clerk in [? osterdamer ?]

612
00:30:46,660 --> 00:30:49,900
[? starpuk. ?] And he was--

613
00:30:49,900 --> 00:30:50,740
What is that?

614
00:30:50,740 --> 00:30:54,500
That is the--

osterdamer is a car.

615
00:30:54,500 --> 00:30:56,110
[? Osterdamer ?] is a car.

616
00:30:56,110 --> 00:31:00,960
So it was representative
of car, car dealer.

617
00:31:00,960 --> 00:31:03,440
And he was in the workshop.

618
00:31:03,440 --> 00:31:05,440
So that he could
have his Ausweis.

619
00:31:05,440 --> 00:31:09,490
But all about his work
underground was unknown to me.

620
00:31:09,490 --> 00:31:14,390
He didn't want to put me
to any kind of danger.

621
00:31:14,390 --> 00:31:20,590
So when there were Germans going
and stopping and picking up

622
00:31:20,590 --> 00:31:30,030
people from their houses,
apartments, whatever,

623
00:31:30,030 --> 00:31:33,700
he would go--

624
00:31:33,700 --> 00:31:36,470
it was once I remembered
he went to bed and said,

625
00:31:36,470 --> 00:31:39,200
tell whoever comes
that I'm very sick.

626

00:31:39,200 --> 00:31:42,410

Well, that wouldn't prevent
the Germans picking him up.

627

00:31:42,410 --> 00:31:43,270

But they didn't.

628

00:31:43,270 --> 00:31:44,960

We were lucky.

629

00:31:44,960 --> 00:31:47,510

The only other thing
that was dangerous

630

00:31:47,510 --> 00:31:50,640

was that he was working--

631

00:31:50,640 --> 00:31:55,300

was he working or-- no, he
went to the electrical company,

632

00:31:55,300 --> 00:31:55,920

the shop--

633

00:31:55,920 --> 00:32:03,750

634

00:32:03,750 --> 00:32:07,640

well, workshop and the store.

635

00:32:07,640 --> 00:32:13,660

And then the Germans came and
were picking up everybody.

636

00:32:13,660 --> 00:32:17,040

And they didn't pick up the
workers for some reason.

637

00:32:17,040 --> 00:32:23,190

So a man seeing
them in the distance

638

00:32:23,190 --> 00:32:25,890
gave him a kind of uniform.

639

00:32:25,890 --> 00:32:28,140
So he pretended
to be the worker.

640

00:32:28,140 --> 00:32:31,450
And they didn't take
the workers this time.

641

00:32:31,450 --> 00:32:33,370
Amazing.

642

00:32:33,370 --> 00:32:35,450
Did your husband speak German?

643

00:32:35,450 --> 00:32:37,870
Yes, he did a little, mm-hmm.

644

00:32:37,870 --> 00:32:40,540
Not fluently, but quite--

645

00:32:40,540 --> 00:32:41,875
Now, you said he was a lawyer.

646

00:32:41,875 --> 00:32:42,460
Mm-hmm.

647

00:32:42,460 --> 00:32:45,550
So why was he working in
this automobile factory?

648

00:32:45,550 --> 00:32:49,330
Because this was the
only thing available.

649

00:32:49,330 --> 00:32:54,170
There were no legal
firms in Warsaw.

650

00:32:54,170 --> 00:32:56,488
That was the only
available work.

651
00:32:56,488 --> 00:32:58,405
You're saying that the
Germans had abolished--

652
00:32:58,405 --> 00:32:59,500
Mm-hmm--

653
00:32:59,500 --> 00:33:00,120
This?

654
00:33:00,120 --> 00:33:01,330
Right.

655
00:33:01,330 --> 00:33:05,560
So he wanted his Ausweis.

656
00:33:05,560 --> 00:33:08,760
And he got it.

657
00:33:08,760 --> 00:33:11,500
And I was then
working in a factory

658
00:33:11,500 --> 00:33:14,670
which made bouillon cubes.

659
00:33:14,670 --> 00:33:17,920
That means that they
made it, and we--

660
00:33:17,920 --> 00:33:18,870
Wrapped them up--

661
00:33:18,870 --> 00:33:19,662
We wrapped them up.

662
00:33:19,662 --> 00:33:23,843
Now I can't wrap a

package, gift package.

663

00:33:23,843 --> 00:33:26,260

After you got married, did you
stay at your mother's house

664

00:33:26,260 --> 00:33:26,770

or did you--

665

00:33:26,770 --> 00:33:29,400

No, I went to Warsaw.

666

00:33:29,400 --> 00:33:31,030

But you were in Warsaw.

667

00:33:31,030 --> 00:33:35,200

No, my mother was
about 18 kilometers

668

00:33:35,200 --> 00:33:38,810

from Warsaw in
the house which we

669

00:33:38,810 --> 00:33:42,520

rented when we were on
vacation, and she stayed there.

670

00:33:42,520 --> 00:33:44,290

And where was that located?

671

00:33:44,290 --> 00:33:48,910

Hmm, it was located
in Chyliczki.

672

00:33:48,910 --> 00:33:51,078

Chyliczki, Chyliczki,
it's easier.

673

00:33:51,078 --> 00:33:52,870

So that's where you
lived with your mother.

674

00:33:52,870 --> 00:33:55,420
And then when you got married,
you came back to Warsaw

675
00:33:55,420 --> 00:33:57,820
to live with your husband.

676
00:33:57,820 --> 00:33:58,780
That's right.

677
00:33:58,780 --> 00:34:01,700
And you said you were working
in a factory in Warsaw.

678
00:34:01,700 --> 00:34:02,200
Yes.

679
00:34:02,200 --> 00:34:03,520
Wrapping bouillon cubes.

680
00:34:03,520 --> 00:34:04,300
Yes.

681
00:34:04,300 --> 00:34:07,000
And your husband was working
in an automobile factory.

682
00:34:07,000 --> 00:34:10,630
Yes, that's what I wanted
to have the Ausweis for.

683
00:34:10,630 --> 00:34:11,900
An Ausweis is?

684
00:34:11,900 --> 00:34:17,905
Ausweis is the
identification of work.

685
00:34:17,905 --> 00:34:19,630
These are you're
working papers--

686

00:34:19,630 --> 00:34:20,969
Working papers, right, mm-hmm.

687
00:34:20,969 --> 00:34:23,473

688
00:34:23,473 --> 00:34:25,015
And you needed these
working papers--

689
00:34:25,015 --> 00:34:25,659
Of course.

690
00:34:25,659 --> 00:34:26,530
Why?

691
00:34:26,530 --> 00:34:28,630
Because they take
all young people

692
00:34:28,630 --> 00:34:32,500
to hard labor in Germany.

693
00:34:32,500 --> 00:34:35,500
Did you ever see anybody
being taken away?

694
00:34:35,500 --> 00:34:38,370
Well, not physically, but I
knew about people who were.

695
00:34:38,370 --> 00:34:39,389
Oh, yes.

696
00:34:39,389 --> 00:34:42,200
Did you have any good
friends who were taken away?

697
00:34:42,200 --> 00:34:46,070
No, fortunately not.

698
00:34:46,070 --> 00:34:49,370

What's it like to hear that
people are being taken away?

699
00:34:49,370 --> 00:34:59,010
Awful, because it will still
become a camp for hard labor.

700
00:34:59,010 --> 00:35:00,670
They have all possibilities.

701
00:35:00,670 --> 00:35:06,230
They just take these
people from the places

702
00:35:06,230 --> 00:35:09,830
where they worked to the camp.

703
00:35:09,830 --> 00:35:13,704

704
00:35:13,704 --> 00:35:14,204
OK.

705
00:35:14,204 --> 00:35:20,040

706
00:35:20,040 --> 00:35:22,710
Did you ever see
any or did you know

707
00:35:22,710 --> 00:35:25,930
that Jews were specifically
being targeted at that point?

708
00:35:25,930 --> 00:35:28,810

709
00:35:28,810 --> 00:35:30,140
I didn't see anybody.

710
00:35:30,140 --> 00:35:36,680
But it was not far from the

time when we were hiding

711
00:35:36,680 --> 00:35:39,650
our friends, the Jewesses.

712
00:35:39,650 --> 00:35:44,720
But I didn't-- how
shall I say it?

713
00:35:44,720 --> 00:35:46,560
Everybody talked about it.

714
00:35:46,560 --> 00:35:50,490
So we knew about
it, that the Jews

715
00:35:50,490 --> 00:35:58,580
are the center of their terrible
activities and persecution.

716
00:35:58,580 --> 00:36:00,380
So we knew that.

717
00:36:00,380 --> 00:36:03,810
That's why we asked
Eugenie Kassel--

718
00:36:03,810 --> 00:36:05,750
Kassel her name was.

719
00:36:05,750 --> 00:36:10,150
And her mother's name
was, I'm not sure,

720
00:36:10,150 --> 00:36:13,560
but I think that
her name was Sylvia.

721
00:36:13,560 --> 00:36:17,550
I didn't have too much to
do with her, because she

722

00:36:17,550 --> 00:36:19,810
couldn't stand the hiding.

723
00:36:19,810 --> 00:36:23,640
And she asked if she could just
go for a walk, which we said,

724
00:36:23,640 --> 00:36:24,810
no.

725
00:36:24,810 --> 00:36:27,270
But she did, and
she never came back.

726
00:36:27,270 --> 00:36:35,740

727
00:36:35,740 --> 00:36:38,410
I'd like to talk about that
and more in detail a little bit

728
00:36:38,410 --> 00:36:40,960
later.

729
00:36:40,960 --> 00:36:42,970
The Jews in Warsaw--

730
00:36:42,970 --> 00:36:44,680
Right--

731
00:36:44,680 --> 00:36:47,980
Some of these were your
friends as you were a child.

732
00:36:47,980 --> 00:36:49,940
But did you have any
contact with them?

733
00:36:49,940 --> 00:36:50,440
No.

734
00:36:50,440 --> 00:36:51,970

No, at the time.

735

00:36:51,970 --> 00:36:56,860

They were mostly the servers,
the ones that I knew.

736

00:36:56,860 --> 00:36:58,730

So I didn't have any
contact with them.

737

00:36:58,730 --> 00:37:17,000

738

00:37:17,000 --> 00:37:21,290

This is tape number 1,
side B of the interview

739

00:37:21,290 --> 00:37:22,850

of Jadwiga Dziekonski.

740

00:37:22,850 --> 00:37:26,200

741

00:37:26,200 --> 00:37:29,250

Did you see Jews on the
street with armbands

742

00:37:29,250 --> 00:37:33,040

and any identifying markings?

743

00:37:33,040 --> 00:37:35,140

Yes, I did.

744

00:37:35,140 --> 00:37:37,990

I did, not to many because
we were in a different part

745

00:37:37,990 --> 00:37:38,560

of the city.

746

00:37:38,560 --> 00:37:41,280

747
00:37:41,280 --> 00:37:43,812
Did you feel free to talk
to them on the street?

748
00:37:43,812 --> 00:37:44,895
I never talk to strangers.

749
00:37:44,895 --> 00:37:47,520
I'm not in America.

750
00:37:47,520 --> 00:37:48,610
Here I do.

751
00:37:48,610 --> 00:37:50,500
No, I didn't talk to them.

752
00:37:50,500 --> 00:37:53,000
I didn't want to endanger them.

753
00:37:53,000 --> 00:37:58,020
Some German will come and
just tell them to stop or hit

754
00:37:58,020 --> 00:38:00,300
them or something.

755
00:38:00,300 --> 00:38:02,110
Jewish people were
nothing for them.

756
00:38:02,110 --> 00:38:04,830

757
00:38:04,830 --> 00:38:08,220
No, it wasn't possible.

758
00:38:08,220 --> 00:38:10,800
And again, what thoughts
were going through your head

759

00:38:10,800 --> 00:38:14,500
when you knew this
kind of treatment?

760
00:38:14,500 --> 00:38:18,850
Well, the thoughts that I
was feeling so much with them

761
00:38:18,850 --> 00:38:24,400
and so sorry for their
being persecuted.

762
00:38:24,400 --> 00:38:30,420
So, you know, it was just very,
very, very difficult to bear.

763
00:38:30,420 --> 00:38:33,390

764
00:38:33,390 --> 00:38:37,800
Now, your husband was working
in the resistance at the time.

765
00:38:37,800 --> 00:38:40,650
But you said out of your
safety and his safety,

766
00:38:40,650 --> 00:38:41,930
he didn't want to tell you.

767
00:38:41,930 --> 00:38:44,640
Mm-hmm.

768
00:38:44,640 --> 00:38:47,550
I mean, later on, did he
tell you way after the war,

769
00:38:47,550 --> 00:38:49,860
so you can tell us
now what kind of work

770
00:38:49,860 --> 00:38:52,990
he was doing in the resistance?

771
00:38:52,990 --> 00:38:54,030
Yes, I can tell you.

772
00:38:54,030 --> 00:38:57,300
He was teaching.

773
00:38:57,300 --> 00:39:00,090
He was writing,
writing a bulletin.

774
00:39:00,090 --> 00:39:06,910
He was teaching
younger people to do--

775
00:39:06,910 --> 00:39:09,750
well, there wasn't too
much, on this part,

776
00:39:09,750 --> 00:39:16,230
there wasn't too much
of military approach,

777
00:39:16,230 --> 00:39:17,850
because there were
others for that.

778
00:39:17,850 --> 00:39:21,540
He was just teaching
them and telling them

779
00:39:21,540 --> 00:39:25,590
everything that's all about and
actually having some subjects

780
00:39:25,590 --> 00:39:29,290
in school, which they
had some resistance

781
00:39:29,290 --> 00:39:34,110
school, and the writing,
writing a bulletin.

782
00:39:34,110 --> 00:39:37,480
What particular resistance
group was he a part of?

783
00:39:37,480 --> 00:39:37,980
AK.

784
00:39:37,980 --> 00:39:41,940

785
00:39:41,940 --> 00:39:44,790
AK stands for Armia
Krowoja, which

786
00:39:44,790 --> 00:39:49,560
stands for the Army of the
Country, literally translated.

787
00:39:49,560 --> 00:39:52,160

788
00:39:52,160 --> 00:39:55,320
And did he have any
kind of leadership role

789
00:39:55,320 --> 00:40:00,030
in the AK-- is that
how you pronounce it?

790
00:40:00,030 --> 00:40:01,220
Yes, he did.

791
00:40:01,220 --> 00:40:01,720
Mm-hmm.

792
00:40:01,720 --> 00:40:04,450
Did he have a title?

793
00:40:04,450 --> 00:40:08,310
Well, he was lieutenant.

794

00:40:08,310 --> 00:40:11,880
Did he go by his own name
or did he have a pseudonym.

795
00:40:11,880 --> 00:40:13,970
No, he had a pseudonym.

796
00:40:13,970 --> 00:40:14,980
What was that?

797
00:40:14,980 --> 00:40:16,350
Two of them.

798
00:40:16,350 --> 00:40:20,400
His first was
Grajewski, because he

799
00:40:20,400 --> 00:40:23,160
used to live in the
Grajewo, which is also not

800
00:40:23,160 --> 00:40:26,790
far from where he was born.

801
00:40:26,790 --> 00:40:33,290
And the other one was Eagle.

802
00:40:33,290 --> 00:40:33,920
An eagle.

803
00:40:33,920 --> 00:40:36,840
A Polish eagle, yes.

804
00:40:36,840 --> 00:40:40,680
So these were two
that he went by.

805
00:40:40,680 --> 00:40:47,190
How do you explain his bravery
in working for the resistance?

806
00:40:47,190 --> 00:40:50,110

How does one
explain the bravery?

807
00:40:50,110 --> 00:40:52,680
Love of the country.

808
00:40:52,680 --> 00:40:54,330
He was not brave.

809
00:40:54,330 --> 00:40:56,440
He didn't have any
physical courage.

810
00:40:56,440 --> 00:41:01,230
When he was in the uprising,
of which we'll come,

811
00:41:01,230 --> 00:41:03,420
he was very much afraid.

812
00:41:03,420 --> 00:41:05,430
But that was the whole point.

813
00:41:05,430 --> 00:41:09,960
First of all, he didn't
think that the uprising

814
00:41:09,960 --> 00:41:11,410
is going to succeed.

815
00:41:11,410 --> 00:41:13,680
So that is very
difficult, because lots

816
00:41:13,680 --> 00:41:18,038
of his friends, his colleagues,
thought that we will win,

817
00:41:18,038 --> 00:41:20,790
German over.

818
00:41:20,790 --> 00:41:25,760

So though he doesn't have
any physical courage,

819
00:41:25,760 --> 00:41:30,750
but he was brave because
he loved his country.

820
00:41:30,750 --> 00:41:35,700
Now, it's 1941, '42--

821
00:41:35,700 --> 00:41:36,317
Right.

822
00:41:36,317 --> 00:41:37,650
And you said you had a daughter?

823
00:41:37,650 --> 00:41:38,280
Yes.

824
00:41:38,280 --> 00:41:40,060
When was she born?

825
00:41:40,060 --> 00:41:43,430
She was born in 1943.

826
00:41:43,430 --> 00:41:44,820
Yes.

827
00:41:44,820 --> 00:41:45,750
And her name?

828
00:41:45,750 --> 00:41:47,350
Christine.

829
00:41:47,350 --> 00:41:49,420
So she was born in Warsaw.

830
00:41:49,420 --> 00:41:51,120
Yes.

831
00:41:51,120 --> 00:41:54,060

What were the conditions
of giving birth in Warsaw

832
00:41:54,060 --> 00:41:56,460
at that time?

833
00:41:56,460 --> 00:42:02,550
The conditions required
bravery, because the nurse said

834
00:42:02,550 --> 00:42:05,940
I will come back, because
it was about 15 hours

835
00:42:05,940 --> 00:42:09,390
and I didn't lose the will.

836
00:42:09,390 --> 00:42:10,570
I'll come back when you cry.

837
00:42:10,570 --> 00:42:12,540
I said I will never cry.

838
00:42:12,540 --> 00:42:16,826
So she finally came
back after 48 hours.

839
00:42:16,826 --> 00:42:20,490
And I didn't cry, but she
said we'll have to help you.

840
00:42:20,490 --> 00:42:22,052
And they did.

841
00:42:22,052 --> 00:42:23,010
You went to a hospital.

842
00:42:23,010 --> 00:42:23,940
Oh, yes.

843
00:42:23,940 --> 00:42:26,830
You went into labor and

you went into a hospital.

844
00:42:26,830 --> 00:42:27,330
Yes.

845
00:42:27,330 --> 00:42:29,320
Well, I didn't go into labor.

846
00:42:29,320 --> 00:42:30,820
I don't know what
is before labor.

847
00:42:30,820 --> 00:42:34,320
But I was considered very ready.

848
00:42:34,320 --> 00:42:36,990
I had a wonderful doctor,
but he didn't know anything

849
00:42:36,990 --> 00:42:44,680
about my being unable
to bear a child.

850
00:42:44,680 --> 00:42:45,750
So I was working.

851
00:42:45,750 --> 00:42:53,674
I was picking up matches,
which is a good exercise.

852
00:42:53,674 --> 00:42:57,010
But I couldn't do anything.

853
00:42:57,010 --> 00:43:01,590
So finally Christine was born.

854
00:43:01,590 --> 00:43:03,720
What were the medical
conditions like at that time?

855
00:43:03,720 --> 00:43:09,930

856
00:43:09,930 --> 00:43:15,140
Very good where I
was, but it differed.

857
00:43:15,140 --> 00:43:18,482
I was in a very good hospital.

858
00:43:18,482 --> 00:43:19,940
And then you brought
the baby home.

859
00:43:19,940 --> 00:43:20,450
Right.

860
00:43:20,450 --> 00:43:22,670
Was your husband there?

861
00:43:22,670 --> 00:43:27,080
My husband was there getting
ready for the uprising.

862
00:43:27,080 --> 00:43:29,330
Of course, I didn't know it.

863
00:43:29,330 --> 00:43:35,490
1943, and 1944, the 1st
of August, they started.

864
00:43:35,490 --> 00:43:39,830
Let's talk a little bit about
the Warsaw ghetto for Jews.

865
00:43:39,830 --> 00:43:42,510
How much knowledge
did you have of that?

866
00:43:42,510 --> 00:43:44,660
We didn't have much
knowledge, except that we

867
00:43:44,660 --> 00:43:54,800

had our whole heart,
our efforts went to them

868
00:43:54,800 --> 00:44:00,560
when they had the uprising,
because it wasn't possible--

869
00:44:00,560 --> 00:44:08,000
Polish underground
didn't have much arms.

870
00:44:08,000 --> 00:44:13,490
I mean they have for five
people they had a revolver.

871
00:44:13,490 --> 00:44:16,640
Anyhow, we wanted to help.

872
00:44:16,640 --> 00:44:18,630
I mean the Polish
people wanted to help,

873
00:44:18,630 --> 00:44:22,515
but they were unable to help.

874
00:44:22,515 --> 00:44:29,720
And they did five times an
attack on ghetto's walls.

875
00:44:29,720 --> 00:44:32,360
But they didn't succeed.

876
00:44:32,360 --> 00:44:34,460
Many of them died
in these attacks,

877
00:44:34,460 --> 00:44:38,170
because they wanted
to help the uprising.

878
00:44:38,170 --> 00:44:41,120
You're saying that the
Polish resistance tried

879
00:44:41,120 --> 00:44:43,910
to help during the
Warsaw ghetto uprising

880
00:44:43,910 --> 00:44:45,950
and trying to attack
the outside walls.

881
00:44:45,950 --> 00:44:46,950
Yes.

882
00:44:46,950 --> 00:44:51,860
Well, what happened
was that there were--

883
00:44:51,860 --> 00:44:55,330

884
00:44:55,330 --> 00:44:58,910
it's incredible
about the Allies.

885
00:44:58,910 --> 00:45:03,170
Jankowski, do you
know about him?

886
00:45:03,170 --> 00:45:09,500
So when he-- how did he do--

887
00:45:09,500 --> 00:45:13,250
oh, I see, yes, he
pretended to be a Jew

888
00:45:13,250 --> 00:45:15,060
and he was behind the walls.

889
00:45:15,060 --> 00:45:17,240
So he knew how awful it was.

890
00:45:17,240 --> 00:45:25,970
And then when he escaped,

he went to England

891
00:45:25,970 --> 00:45:29,550
and the resistance
didn't believe him.

892
00:45:29,550 --> 00:45:35,520
So he said, you have to know
that these people are dying.

893
00:45:35,520 --> 00:45:37,480
They need help.

894
00:45:37,480 --> 00:45:45,670
They said, the things you say,
the tortures, the killings,

895
00:45:45,670 --> 00:45:50,810
tortures beyond understanding,
that's not true.

896
00:45:50,810 --> 00:45:55,210
He said, I promise
you its' true.

897
00:45:55,210 --> 00:45:59,920
So that was something that
I can't understand still.

898
00:45:59,920 --> 00:46:02,530
Did you know Jankowski
at that time?

899
00:46:02,530 --> 00:46:04,780
No, I didn't know him.

900
00:46:04,780 --> 00:46:07,500
So you weren't aware that he
had gone inside the ghetto?

901
00:46:07,500 --> 00:46:08,050
No.

902

00:46:08,050 --> 00:46:11,650

No, I didn't know.

903

00:46:11,650 --> 00:46:15,100

Was your husband involved with
the group going to the ghetto

904

00:46:15,100 --> 00:46:18,170

during the ghetto uprising
in the spring of '43?

905

00:46:18,170 --> 00:46:20,670

I don't think so, no.

906

00:46:20,670 --> 00:46:21,490

No, he was not.

907

00:46:21,490 --> 00:46:24,130

908

00:46:24,130 --> 00:46:28,750

How far away was your
apartment from the ghetto?

909

00:46:28,750 --> 00:46:34,092

Quite a long way, on the
other side of the city.

910

00:46:34,092 --> 00:46:35,800

So you weren't aware
of the burning and--

911

00:46:35,800 --> 00:46:38,260

Oh, we were aware, of course.

912

00:46:38,260 --> 00:46:41,910

But we couldn't do anything.

913

00:46:41,910 --> 00:46:45,072

We were aware of everything.

914

00:46:45,072 --> 00:46:46,530
Did you think that
you may have had

915
00:46:46,530 --> 00:46:48,810
some friends inside the ghetto?

916
00:46:48,810 --> 00:46:49,770
I was hoping not.

917
00:46:49,770 --> 00:46:52,520
I didn't know.

918
00:46:52,520 --> 00:46:53,180
I didn't know.

919
00:46:53,180 --> 00:46:55,960

920
00:46:55,960 --> 00:46:59,280
All right, now what month was
your daughter born in 1943?

921
00:46:59,280 --> 00:47:00,040
March.

922
00:47:00,040 --> 00:47:01,920
So that was right
before the uprising.

923
00:47:01,920 --> 00:47:04,180
So you were a new mother.

924
00:47:04,180 --> 00:47:06,000
Yes.

925
00:47:06,000 --> 00:47:09,240
Did you have to go back to
work after you had the baby?

926
00:47:09,240 --> 00:47:11,430
No, I didn't have

to go back to work.

927

00:47:11,430 --> 00:47:17,560

And also, I went
to Chyliczki again,

928

00:47:17,560 --> 00:47:21,880

because my sister had a
little boy at the same time,

929

00:47:21,880 --> 00:47:25,070

and we went back
where we started.

930

00:47:25,070 --> 00:47:28,205

So we were there and then--

931

00:47:28,205 --> 00:47:29,830

You moved back to
where your mother was

932

00:47:29,830 --> 00:47:31,900

staying to that village.

933

00:47:31,900 --> 00:47:34,510

So we went there.

934

00:47:34,510 --> 00:47:38,530

And then I have
to cut it shorter

935

00:47:38,530 --> 00:47:44,170

because it's not feasible
to say what we were doing.

936

00:47:44,170 --> 00:47:46,450

Lots of people went
to the same house,

937

00:47:46,450 --> 00:47:50,500

people who were afraid of
staying in their apartments

938
00:47:50,500 --> 00:47:51,160
and houses.

939
00:47:51,160 --> 00:47:54,070
So there was a huge group.

940
00:47:54,070 --> 00:47:57,680
And we were helping these
people, cooking for them,

941
00:47:57,680 --> 00:47:58,340
and so forth.

942
00:47:58,340 --> 00:47:59,800
So we were busy.

943
00:47:59,800 --> 00:48:03,400
These were Polish people
who left Warsaw to come out

944
00:48:03,400 --> 00:48:06,790
into the country to be safe,
and they came to your house.

945
00:48:06,790 --> 00:48:07,390
Why did--

946
00:48:07,390 --> 00:48:09,290
Not my house, the
house that we rented.

947
00:48:09,290 --> 00:48:11,290
Well, I'm meant the house
that you were staying.

948
00:48:11,290 --> 00:48:14,920
Why did they come
to you specifically?

949
00:48:14,920 --> 00:48:17,800
Because this was the only
house which could help them.

950
00:48:17,800 --> 00:48:20,710
The other ones were empty.

951
00:48:20,710 --> 00:48:25,690
And this was something that
we could afford to help them.

952
00:48:25,690 --> 00:48:27,670
So you provided a
place for them to stay.

953
00:48:27,670 --> 00:48:29,020
And food?

954
00:48:29,020 --> 00:48:30,010
Right.

955
00:48:30,010 --> 00:48:31,930
How did you get
the money for this?

956
00:48:31,930 --> 00:48:36,040
Well, we still had some
money after we both worked,

957
00:48:36,040 --> 00:48:41,747
my husband and I. And it was
the country, so it was cheap.

958
00:48:41,747 --> 00:48:43,580
Was your husband out
in the village with you

959
00:48:43,580 --> 00:48:44,890
or did he stay in Warsaw?

960
00:48:44,890 --> 00:48:46,720
No, no, he was with me.

961
00:48:46,720 --> 00:48:48,940
He came and said--

962
00:48:48,940 --> 00:48:52,810
this was August 1944,
before the 1st--

963
00:48:52,810 --> 00:48:57,820
you have to stay here,
because this is not

964
00:48:57,820 --> 00:48:59,420
going to be for women.

965
00:48:59,420 --> 00:49:03,290
Women with children should
take care of the children,

966
00:49:03,290 --> 00:49:11,350
because everybody would like
to be either help with the--

967
00:49:11,350 --> 00:49:14,200
what do you call
people-- liaison

968
00:49:14,200 --> 00:49:18,520
and help otherwise in fighting.

969
00:49:18,520 --> 00:49:21,320
There were maybe some
grenades being thrown.

970
00:49:21,320 --> 00:49:27,790
So you better stay here
because grenades, my goodness.

971
00:49:27,790 --> 00:49:32,300
So he was trying to
make it easy for us.

972
00:49:32,300 --> 00:49:34,928
But she was crying all
the time, my sister.

973

00:49:34,928 --> 00:49:36,470

And they knew that
he will come back.

974

00:49:36,470 --> 00:49:40,210

And she said that,
oh, we don't know.

975

00:49:40,210 --> 00:49:41,020

She was crying.

976

00:49:41,020 --> 00:49:41,920

Anyhow--

977

00:49:41,920 --> 00:49:43,720

Where was her husband?

978

00:49:43,720 --> 00:49:47,500

Her husband was also
in the underground.

979

00:49:47,500 --> 00:49:49,090

Working with your husband?

980

00:49:49,090 --> 00:49:51,040

Well, I don't know
if it was-- yes, yes,

981

00:49:51,040 --> 00:49:59,810

but it was different squadron,
whatever it was called.

982

00:49:59,810 --> 00:50:01,810

So your husband was talking
about in preparation

983

00:50:01,810 --> 00:50:05,350

for the Warsaw city
uprising in August of '44?

984

00:50:05,350 --> 00:50:07,180

He wasn't talking

about the preparation.

985

00:50:07,180 --> 00:50:11,170

He was saying that it
is going to be 5 o'clock

986

00:50:11,170 --> 00:50:14,890

and he is going
to have to fight.

987

00:50:14,890 --> 00:50:17,402

After your baby was born
in the spring of '43,

988

00:50:17,402 --> 00:50:18,610

then you went to the village.

989

00:50:18,610 --> 00:50:19,110

Right--

990

00:50:19,110 --> 00:50:20,995

And stayed there
for over a year--

991

00:50:20,995 --> 00:50:21,810

Right--

992

00:50:21,810 --> 00:50:23,140

And sheltering other people.

993

00:50:23,140 --> 00:50:24,040

Right.

994

00:50:24,040 --> 00:50:25,480

And then in August,
he came to you

995

00:50:25,480 --> 00:50:27,022

to tell you what
was going to happen.

996

00:50:27,022 --> 00:50:28,400

Right.

997

00:50:28,400 --> 00:50:29,740

What thoughts did you have?

998

00:50:29,740 --> 00:50:32,470

999

00:50:32,470 --> 00:50:37,630

I was scared for him, very.

1000

00:50:37,630 --> 00:50:39,010

He didn't tell me
that he doesn't

1001

00:50:39,010 --> 00:50:42,550

believe about the
end of the uprising,

1002

00:50:42,550 --> 00:50:47,000

so that he wouldn't tell me.

1003

00:50:47,000 --> 00:50:48,850

What did you know
about the uprising?

1004

00:50:48,850 --> 00:50:51,550

You were about 20
miles outside of town.

1005

00:50:51,550 --> 00:50:53,150

What did while it
was happening--

1006

00:50:53,150 --> 00:50:57,250

[BOTH TALKING] 18
kilometers is what?

1007

00:50:57,250 --> 00:50:59,710

15 miles.

1008

00:50:59,710 --> 00:51:03,340

While it was happening, what did you know what about what

1009
00:51:03,340 --> 00:51:03,990
was going on?

1010
00:51:03,990 --> 00:51:06,400
We saw Warsaw burning.

1011
00:51:06,400 --> 00:51:14,770
So we didn't have to have any details, because the Germans

1012
00:51:14,770 --> 00:51:17,650
attacked with such force.

1013
00:51:17,650 --> 00:51:20,436
They had such wonderful tanks and everything.

1014
00:51:20,436 --> 00:51:23,070

1015
00:51:23,070 --> 00:51:25,030
Did you see German tanks?

1016
00:51:25,030 --> 00:51:26,160
No, I didn't.

1017
00:51:26,160 --> 00:51:28,090
We couldn't see it from such a distance.

1018
00:51:28,090 --> 00:51:34,400
Well, before that, we could see some in the street.

1019
00:51:34,400 --> 00:51:35,690
So you did see German tanks?

1020
00:51:35,690 --> 00:51:36,190
Oh, yes.

1021
00:51:36,190 --> 00:51:37,690
What's it like to
see a German tank?

1022
00:51:37,690 --> 00:51:38,500
Hmm?

1023
00:51:38,500 --> 00:51:41,470
What's it like to see a
German tank in your street?

1024
00:51:41,470 --> 00:51:42,400
Terrible.

1025
00:51:42,400 --> 00:51:42,900
Terrible.

1026
00:51:42,900 --> 00:51:48,830

1027
00:51:48,830 --> 00:51:51,890
What were your feelings
about the Germans then?

1028
00:51:51,890 --> 00:51:54,170
Well, I don't know how
to hate, but I certainly

1029
00:51:54,170 --> 00:51:57,980
didn't think how I
am going to forgive.

1030
00:51:57,980 --> 00:52:00,600

1031
00:52:00,600 --> 00:52:01,460
I never forgot.

1032
00:52:01,460 --> 00:52:04,550

1033

00:52:04,550 --> 00:52:07,660

I mean that's very difficult.

1034

00:52:07,660 --> 00:52:10,320

Did you ever try talking to
any of the German soldiers?

1035

00:52:10,320 --> 00:52:12,580

I don't speak German.

1036

00:52:12,580 --> 00:52:13,750

No.

1037

00:52:13,750 --> 00:52:15,820

Did any of them speak Polish?

1038

00:52:15,820 --> 00:52:20,440

Probably some, but not to
me, because some of them

1039

00:52:20,440 --> 00:52:27,340

were from Silesia, so they
would probably know Polish.

1040

00:52:27,340 --> 00:52:30,070

How was your mother managing
during this very difficult

1041

00:52:30,070 --> 00:52:30,580

time?

1042

00:52:30,580 --> 00:52:31,780

Very well, very well.

1043

00:52:31,780 --> 00:52:34,360

1044

00:52:34,360 --> 00:52:35,800

She was really quite brave.

1045

00:52:35,800 --> 00:52:38,140

And she managed well.

1046

00:52:38,140 --> 00:52:40,000

And her health was OK?

1047

00:52:40,000 --> 00:52:40,720

Yes, mm-hmm.

1048

00:52:40,720 --> 00:52:44,200

She has asthma, but not
in such a terrible way

1049

00:52:44,200 --> 00:52:48,920

which caught her later.

1050

00:52:48,920 --> 00:52:52,370

At the end of the uprising,
Warsaw city uprising,

1051

00:52:52,370 --> 00:52:54,600

what happened?

1052

00:52:54,600 --> 00:52:58,160

Well, people went to camps.

1053

00:52:58,160 --> 00:53:06,740

And the only group of people
who were taken prisoners

1054

00:53:06,740 --> 00:53:08,810

was my husband's group.

1055

00:53:08,810 --> 00:53:13,530

And they were for some reason
sent to concentration camp.

1056

00:53:13,530 --> 00:53:16,310

So whenever we say that my
husband was in a concentration

1057

00:53:16,310 --> 00:53:18,690

camp, they will say,

well, he was Jewish.

1058
00:53:18,690 --> 00:53:20,720
I said, no, he wasn't.

1059
00:53:20,720 --> 00:53:25,620
So it was very, very difficult.

1060
00:53:25,620 --> 00:53:33,840
So the uprising, did he
ever come back home first?

1061
00:53:33,840 --> 00:53:36,190
No, no, no, he never came back.

1062
00:53:36,190 --> 00:53:38,670
So he left to participate
in the uprising.

1063
00:53:38,670 --> 00:53:42,540
What particular part-- do you
know what particular group

1064
00:53:42,540 --> 00:53:45,540
of the AK that he was in?

1065
00:53:45,540 --> 00:53:46,380
Yes, I know.

1066
00:53:46,380 --> 00:53:49,530
He was in the old town.

1067
00:53:49,530 --> 00:53:55,080
And when it was
impossible to stay there

1068
00:53:55,080 --> 00:53:58,320
because everything was burnt
and everything was taken

1069
00:53:58,320 --> 00:54:01,260
by the Germans, then we

went through the canals

1070
00:54:01,260 --> 00:54:03,310
to the center of the city.

1071
00:54:03,310 --> 00:54:09,760
That was terrible up to here in
dirty water with rats flying--

1072
00:54:09,760 --> 00:54:12,870
not flying, swimming.

1073
00:54:12,870 --> 00:54:13,890
It was awful.

1074
00:54:13,890 --> 00:54:16,460
But he made it.

1075
00:54:16,460 --> 00:54:21,640
And he's in his what, mid
to late 30s at this point?

1076
00:54:21,640 --> 00:54:23,655
When I was 20, he was--

1077
00:54:23,655 --> 00:54:25,260
tak, mid 20s, you're right.

1078
00:54:25,260 --> 00:54:26,710
Tak, I say in Polish.

1079
00:54:26,710 --> 00:54:28,510
Yes.

1080
00:54:28,510 --> 00:54:30,430
I'm sorry.

1081
00:54:30,430 --> 00:54:36,610
So did his particular unit
have a name, his particular--

1082

00:54:36,610 --> 00:54:37,630
Yes, Wigry.

1083
00:54:37,630 --> 00:54:39,240
Wigry.

1084
00:54:39,240 --> 00:54:45,550
Wigry is the name of the
lake in Poland in the north.

1085
00:54:45,550 --> 00:54:48,620
The larger group
was Szare Szeregi,

1086
00:54:48,620 --> 00:54:54,400
which is gray army, gray army.

1087
00:54:54,400 --> 00:54:58,330
And then his particular
regiment was Wigry.

1088
00:54:58,330 --> 00:55:02,110
And did he occupy a position
of authority in that?

1089
00:55:02,110 --> 00:55:07,290
Yes, he was a lieutenant.

1090
00:55:07,290 --> 00:55:09,090
And did he later
tell you that he

1091
00:55:09,090 --> 00:55:12,000
was involved in actual
fighting, physical fighting?

1092
00:55:12,000 --> 00:55:12,810
Yes, he did.

1093
00:55:12,810 --> 00:55:13,320
He was.

1094

00:55:13,320 --> 00:55:14,610
Mm-hmm.

1095
00:55:14,610 --> 00:55:17,100
Even though his
vision wasn't 100%?

1096
00:55:17,100 --> 00:55:19,586
Didn't matter.

1097
00:55:19,586 --> 00:55:21,510
Didn't matter.

1098
00:55:21,510 --> 00:55:24,045
So he was then taken
away by the Germans.

1099
00:55:24,045 --> 00:55:24,870
Yes.

1100
00:55:24,870 --> 00:55:25,920
Captured and taken away.

1101
00:55:25,920 --> 00:55:27,180
And where was he taken to?

1102
00:55:27,180 --> 00:55:29,940
To Bergen-Belsen.

1103
00:55:29,940 --> 00:55:33,630
And then, for some reason,
he was in Gross-Rosen,

1104
00:55:33,630 --> 00:55:36,720
which is officers camp.

1105
00:55:36,720 --> 00:55:38,620
But it wasn't a long time.

1106
00:55:38,620 --> 00:55:41,000
Most of the time he
was in Bergen-Belsen.

1107
00:55:41,000 --> 00:55:44,220
What did he say about his
stay in Bergen-Belsen?

1108
00:55:44,220 --> 00:55:45,855
Well, what can he say?

1109
00:55:45,855 --> 00:55:48,680
What can he say?

1110
00:55:48,680 --> 00:55:50,930
He couldn't stand the food.

1111
00:55:50,930 --> 00:55:53,780
So he didn't eat
anything for 100 days,

1112
00:55:53,780 --> 00:55:56,900
except that some
rations gave him over--

1113
00:55:56,900 --> 00:56:01,290
because they were close,
gave him some apples.

1114
00:56:01,290 --> 00:56:04,520
Other than that, he
didn't eat anything.

1115
00:56:04,520 --> 00:56:06,900
Sometimes I think,
oh, I'm hungry.

1116
00:56:06,900 --> 00:56:09,431
I didn't have my breakfast.

1117
00:56:09,431 --> 00:56:11,330
100 days.

1118
00:56:11,330 --> 00:56:14,840
Actually, at some

point, the Germans

1119
00:56:14,840 --> 00:56:20,090
decided that the camp
along with other camps

1120
00:56:20,090 --> 00:56:24,140
should be moved towards Russia.

1121
00:56:24,140 --> 00:56:25,490
So they marched.

1122
00:56:25,490 --> 00:56:27,650
They didn't have any
shoes left, but they

1123
00:56:27,650 --> 00:56:31,620
marched 100 kilometers.

1124
00:56:31,620 --> 00:56:34,220
That's a lot.

1125
00:56:34,220 --> 00:56:37,640
But he survived.

1126
00:56:37,640 --> 00:56:40,880
When he was in
Bergen-Belsen, he was

1127
00:56:40,880 --> 00:56:45,530
with a group of other
Polish resistance prisoners.

1128
00:56:45,530 --> 00:56:47,890
Did he see any of the
Jewish part of the camp?

1129
00:56:47,890 --> 00:56:49,440
No.

1130
00:56:49,440 --> 00:56:49,970
No.

1131
00:56:49,970 --> 00:56:52,683
So he was not aware then
of the other prisoners?

1132
00:56:52,683 --> 00:56:54,850
I don't know if he was not
aware of other prisoners,

1133
00:56:54,850 --> 00:56:56,930
but he didn't see other Jews.

1134
00:56:56,930 --> 00:57:00,200
Did he have to work at
all in Bergen-Belsen?

1135
00:57:00,200 --> 00:57:01,250
No.

1136
00:57:01,250 --> 00:57:02,420
No.

1137
00:57:02,420 --> 00:57:05,930
He was so weak, they
could take him to work.

1138
00:57:05,930 --> 00:57:07,780
Did he just wear
his regular clothes

1139
00:57:07,780 --> 00:57:09,140
or was he given a uniform?

1140
00:57:09,140 --> 00:57:16,430
He was given some drab
clothes from the camp--

1141
00:57:16,430 --> 00:57:25,290

1142
00:57:25,290 --> 00:57:30,960
well, people who take care of

the camp give them the clothes.

1143

00:57:30,960 --> 00:57:33,210

And then he was
marched to Gross-Rosen.

1144

00:57:33,210 --> 00:57:34,410

Yes.

1145

00:57:34,410 --> 00:57:36,590

And for how long was he there?

1146

00:57:36,590 --> 00:57:38,410

Mm, I'm not sure.

1147

00:57:38,410 --> 00:57:43,200

But that was probably
some five months.

1148

00:57:43,200 --> 00:57:45,240

What did he do there?

1149

00:57:45,240 --> 00:57:49,980

Well, there, he was organizing
the amateur theater.

1150

00:57:49,980 --> 00:57:52,350

He was very good
at writing songs.

1151

00:57:52,350 --> 00:57:54,570

I still have a woman who
writes to me, asks me,

1152

00:57:54,570 --> 00:57:56,580

do we have any more songs?

1153

00:57:56,580 --> 00:57:59,640

Because we sing,
traveling around Europe

1154

00:57:59,640 --> 00:58:03,360

we sing it with my family.

1155

00:58:03,360 --> 00:58:08,400

So anyhow, he was a very good theater I understand.

1156

00:58:08,400 --> 00:58:14,300

They got their paper from the Italians.

1157

00:58:14,300 --> 00:58:17,130

This was the leftover brown paper,

1158

00:58:17,130 --> 00:58:24,420

because they buried their dead in big pieces of brown paper.

1159

00:58:24,420 --> 00:58:26,320

There wasn't anything else available.

1160

00:58:26,320 --> 00:58:28,930

But they had some leftover pieces,

1161

00:58:28,930 --> 00:58:35,590

so they gave them something to write on, these brown paper.

1162

00:58:35,590 --> 00:58:37,050

I still have some.

1163

00:58:37,050 --> 00:58:39,960

You're saying that the Italians bury the prisoners who

1164

00:58:39,960 --> 00:58:41,910

died in this brown--

1165

00:58:41,910 --> 00:58:45,730

Brown coffins, brown paper coffins.

1166
00:58:45,730 --> 00:58:48,520
Amazing.

1167
00:58:48,520 --> 00:58:51,970
Were you aware of where your
husband was at this point?

1168
00:58:51,970 --> 00:58:54,090
Did you know he was in
Bergen-Belsen first?

1169
00:58:54,090 --> 00:58:58,090
Because through Red
Cross he contacted

1170
00:58:58,090 --> 00:59:00,040
me and I wrote to him.

1171
00:59:00,040 --> 00:59:02,210
And he was able to
get your letters?

1172
00:59:02,210 --> 00:59:02,710
He was.

1173
00:59:02,710 --> 00:59:05,220

1174
00:59:05,220 --> 00:59:07,440
And was he able to
write back to you?

1175
00:59:07,440 --> 00:59:10,170
He was not able to
write back to me.

1176
00:59:10,170 --> 00:59:13,920
And also, I could
send him some food.

1177
00:59:13,920 --> 00:59:17,800

But it was very often, you know.

1178
00:59:17,800 --> 00:59:19,710
There were some
people, his colleagues,

1179
00:59:19,710 --> 00:59:25,790
who shared everything,
and some who were just

1180
00:59:25,790 --> 00:59:28,950
keeping it for themselves.

1181
00:59:28,950 --> 00:59:31,650
But now it's very
interesting how

1182
00:59:31,650 --> 00:59:39,120
he reacted to some noise
that was under his bed.

1183
00:59:39,120 --> 00:59:42,510
He said to himself, I
don't see anybody stealing.

1184
00:59:42,510 --> 00:59:44,190
Who could this be?

1185
00:59:44,190 --> 00:59:45,910
It was a gerbil.

1186
00:59:45,910 --> 00:59:51,490
And he found his way and
loved some of the stuff.

1187
00:59:51,490 --> 00:59:54,010
I find this funny.

1188
00:59:54,010 --> 00:59:56,040
And when was your
husband liberated?

1189

00:59:56,040 --> 01:00:03,090
He was liberated in 1945.

1190
01:00:03,090 --> 01:00:07,950
Through some connections,
he went to London.

1191
01:00:07,950 --> 01:00:12,880
And from there, he was
trying to get me to England.

1192
01:00:12,880 --> 01:00:15,840
OK, now, let's talk,
you said that you

1193
01:00:15,840 --> 01:00:20,370
had helped many of the
Polish citizens coming out

1194
01:00:20,370 --> 01:00:22,560
to your home in the country.

1195
01:00:22,560 --> 01:00:26,100
But you also said you helped
to shelter two Jewish women.

1196
01:00:26,100 --> 01:00:27,180
When was that?

1197
01:00:27,180 --> 01:00:29,190
And let's talk in
detail about that.

1198
01:00:29,190 --> 01:00:30,810
When did that begin?

1199
01:00:30,810 --> 01:00:34,590
Well, but this was
earlier, because then

1200
01:00:34,590 --> 01:00:43,440
both of these husbands, my
brother-in-law and my husband

1201
01:00:43,440 --> 01:00:46,450
worked with this workshop.

1202
01:00:46,450 --> 01:00:48,970
So that was in Warsaw.

1203
01:00:48,970 --> 01:00:50,790
So we have to go back to this.

1204
01:00:50,790 --> 01:00:56,580
And then Eugenie
Kassel was a colleague.

1205
01:00:56,580 --> 01:01:00,240
She was a secretary
in this factory.

1206
01:01:00,240 --> 01:01:05,370
And my brother-in-law told
us about her and her mother.

1207
01:01:05,370 --> 01:01:08,140
And then my mother
said they could

1208
01:01:08,140 --> 01:01:12,780
stay with me, because your
apartment is so small.

1209
01:01:12,780 --> 01:01:15,670
It's too dangerous for them.

1210
01:01:15,670 --> 01:01:20,160
And she had a nice apartment
on Aleja Niepodlegosciowa,

1211
01:01:20,160 --> 01:01:22,020
Independence Street.

1212
01:01:22,020 --> 01:01:28,480
And one small room was for

Sylvia, for the mother.

1213
01:01:28,480 --> 01:01:34,740
So it could be covered
up with a big armoire.

1214
01:01:34,740 --> 01:01:36,630
And that was like a little box.

1215
01:01:36,630 --> 01:01:38,270
And she ended that, of course.

1216
01:01:38,270 --> 01:01:40,800
That is why she
went out for a walk.

1217
01:01:40,800 --> 01:01:44,940
And the other woman, she
was pre-warned somehow.

1218
01:01:44,940 --> 01:01:47,710
I don't know by whom.

1219
01:01:47,710 --> 01:01:51,370
So she was the hide in the room.

1220
01:01:51,370 --> 01:01:52,860
But it wasn't so small.

1221
01:01:52,860 --> 01:01:57,250
It was just another
armoire, you know.

1222
01:01:57,250 --> 01:02:05,740
So she would stay there until
the visitation was over.

1223
01:02:05,740 --> 01:02:10,390
Then she wasn't as depressed
by it as her mother was.

1224
01:02:10,390 --> 01:02:12,790

What were the ages
of these women?

1225

01:02:12,790 --> 01:02:23,360
Well, Eugenie, the daughter was
about 40, no, 30, 40, no, 30.

1226

01:02:23,360 --> 01:02:27,910
And the mother was
respectively probably about 60.

1227

01:02:27,910 --> 01:02:30,560
And it was the daughter who
worked in your husband's-- was

1228

01:02:30,560 --> 01:02:34,150
a secretary in your husbands
and your brother-in-law's place

1229

01:02:34,150 --> 01:02:34,740
of work.

1230

01:02:34,740 --> 01:02:38,340

1231

01:02:38,340 --> 01:02:42,570
How is it that your mother was
so open to sheltering people

1232

01:02:42,570 --> 01:02:44,790
that put her life in danger?

1233

01:02:44,790 --> 01:02:45,670
She wasn't open.

1234

01:02:45,670 --> 01:02:47,070
Nobody knew about it.

1235

01:02:47,070 --> 01:02:49,650
No, I didn't mean that
she was open to the world,

1236

01:02:49,650 --> 01:02:51,790
but that she was
willing to do that.

1237
01:02:51,790 --> 01:02:53,460
She was putting
her life in danger.

1238
01:02:53,460 --> 01:02:55,290
She was risking her life.

1239
01:02:55,290 --> 01:02:58,650
Because we wanted to
do and we couldn't.

1240
01:02:58,650 --> 01:03:05,100
So she felt very much with us.

1241
01:03:05,100 --> 01:03:06,750
And she was brave.

1242
01:03:06,750 --> 01:03:12,390
So she knew she could be
executed if they find her.

1243
01:03:12,390 --> 01:03:14,970
How do you explain that she
had the bravery to do this?

1244
01:03:14,970 --> 01:03:19,738
It was a very brave thing to
do, exceptionally brave to put

1245
01:03:19,738 --> 01:03:20,530
her life in danger.

1246
01:03:20,530 --> 01:03:21,820
She was very brave.

1247
01:03:21,820 --> 01:03:27,610
20,000 people were as brave in
Warsaw, 20,000 people with Jews

1248

01:03:27,610 --> 01:03:29,730
in Warsaw.

1249

01:03:29,730 --> 01:03:30,870
So she was one of them.

1250

01:03:30,870 --> 01:03:35,010

1251

01:03:35,010 --> 01:03:37,520
So what do you attribute
her willingness

1252

01:03:37,520 --> 01:03:40,730
and your willingness?

1253

01:03:40,730 --> 01:03:43,310
I think that's we
love people, and we

1254

01:03:43,310 --> 01:03:46,780
love people, especially
when they are persecuted.

1255

01:03:46,780 --> 01:03:49,850
And we love to help.

1256

01:03:49,850 --> 01:03:52,310
Even if it means putting
your life in danger?

1257

01:03:52,310 --> 01:03:53,990
Oh, yes, of course.

1258

01:03:53,990 --> 01:03:55,730
Of course.

1259

01:03:55,730 --> 01:04:01,470
Otherwise it's not very
difficult to help people

1260

01:04:01,470 --> 01:04:05,220
unless you take a risk.

1261
01:04:05,220 --> 01:04:07,500
This was incredible
how much they suffered.

1262
01:04:07,500 --> 01:04:13,250
Oh, these people.

1263
01:04:13,250 --> 01:04:17,310
And I really don't know
how my friends who found me

1264
01:04:17,310 --> 01:04:20,606
now in America how she--

1265
01:04:20,606 --> 01:04:23,120
oh, because she was
in the suburbs, yes.

1266
01:04:23,120 --> 01:04:27,820
And she wasn't as vulnerable
as people in Warsaw

1267
01:04:27,820 --> 01:04:30,210
or close to Warsaw, the Jews.

1268
01:04:30,210 --> 01:04:33,230

1269
01:04:33,230 --> 01:04:38,870
So you were saying that 20,000
Polish people sheltered Jews

1270
01:04:38,870 --> 01:04:41,075
in their apartments or offices.

1271
01:04:41,075 --> 01:04:43,870

1272
01:04:43,870 --> 01:04:48,820

Did you ever come
across a book called

1273
01:04:48,820 --> 01:04:54,270
Poles and Jews in the Second
World War by Stefan Korbonski?

1274
01:04:54,270 --> 01:04:55,860
Do you know who
Stefan Korbonski is?

1275
01:04:55,860 --> 01:04:58,420
Well, Stefan Korbonski
is no longer alive.

1276
01:04:58,420 --> 01:05:00,010
He died 10 years ago.

1277
01:05:00,010 --> 01:05:02,590
They were very good
friends of ours.

1278
01:05:02,590 --> 01:05:08,800
And in the underground,
he was representing

1279
01:05:08,800 --> 01:05:14,300
the Polish government in exile.

1280
01:05:14,300 --> 01:05:18,870
And he was very brave too.

1281
01:05:18,870 --> 01:05:22,680

1282
01:05:22,680 --> 01:05:28,440
He organized all, along
with General Kowalski,

1283
01:05:28,440 --> 01:05:31,470
who was the head of
the Polish uprising.

1284

01:05:31,470 --> 01:05:41,150

And then he wrote this book
not that long before he died.

1285

01:05:41,150 --> 01:05:47,420

And there are many, many
interesting subjects,

1286

01:05:47,420 --> 01:05:50,990

which he touched.

1287

01:05:50,990 --> 01:05:58,970

And he was very well
educated on all what happened

1288

01:05:58,970 --> 01:06:00,890

between Polish and Jews.

1289

01:06:00,890 --> 01:06:06,620

And he-- oh, how
about Bartoszewski?

1290

01:06:06,620 --> 01:06:13,850

He was also-- the Yad Vashem
has of a Yad Vashem which I

1291

01:06:13,850 --> 01:06:17,190

saw when I was in a Jerusalem.

1292

01:06:17,190 --> 01:06:19,430

And so that's Stefan Korbonski.

1293

01:06:19,430 --> 01:06:22,070

Bartoszewski is married
to a Jewish lady.

1294

01:06:22,070 --> 01:06:26,930

And he was the last
ambassador to Austria.

1295

01:06:26,930 --> 01:06:29,110

He is now in Warsaw.

1296
01:06:29,110 --> 01:06:31,740
And he is a professor.

1297
01:06:31,740 --> 01:06:35,150
He teaches and writes books.

1298
01:06:35,150 --> 01:06:39,150
And I wonder, will you be
interested in this Poles

1299
01:06:39,150 --> 01:06:42,644
and Jews in the
Second World War?

1300
01:06:42,644 --> 01:06:44,480
Well, we'll look at in a moment.

1301
01:06:44,480 --> 01:06:47,140
OK.

1302
01:06:47,140 --> 01:06:49,600
Let's talk again a
little bit in detail

1303
01:06:49,600 --> 01:06:53,500
how your mother handled
having these two women, what

1304
01:06:53,500 --> 01:06:55,600
measures she took,
and so forth, and what

1305
01:06:55,600 --> 01:06:57,490
a typical day was like.

1306
01:06:57,490 --> 01:07:00,370
Well, that I wouldn't
know, because, you know,

1307
01:07:00,370 --> 01:07:04,060
it's so far away from me

now that I don't know--

1308

01:07:04,060 --> 01:07:10,210

I couldn't imagine the plan of their day because it was so a

1309

01:07:10,210 --> 01:07:14,860

depending upon movement of those Germans who would have come

1310

01:07:14,860 --> 01:07:20,090

and would require hiding of the two women.

1311

01:07:20,090 --> 01:07:27,820

So when did the women go into hiding at your mother's house?

1312

01:07:27,820 --> 01:07:32,300

Which will be the year then?

1313

01:07:32,300 --> 01:07:36,730

That would be before the ghetto uprising.

1314

01:07:36,730 --> 01:07:39,140

It was before the ghetto uprising.

1315

01:07:39,140 --> 01:07:42,070

So it would be what?

1316

01:07:42,070 --> 01:07:46,700

1940 probably, I would say.

1317

01:07:46,700 --> 01:07:50,150

The ghetto uprising was in spring of '43.

1318

01:07:50,150 --> 01:07:52,670

So it was quite a bit before that?

1319

01:07:52,670 --> 01:07:54,810

Yes, it was quite
it was before that.

1320

01:07:54,810 --> 01:07:57,380

And the two women came together.

1321

01:07:57,380 --> 01:07:58,100

Mm-hmm.

1322

01:07:58,100 --> 01:08:01,790

And then how long did they
stay together before--

1323

01:08:01,790 --> 01:08:05,830

Well, Eugenie
stayed five months.

1324

01:08:05,830 --> 01:08:08,120

And I don't know where she went.

1325

01:08:08,120 --> 01:08:11,180

But her mother, as I say,
a few days because she

1326

01:08:11,180 --> 01:08:15,470

wanted to get out and
get some fresh her.

1327

01:08:15,470 --> 01:08:18,319

It was very dangerous,
because people

1328

01:08:18,319 --> 01:08:25,880

who owned the apartment
house were Volksdeutsche.

1329

01:08:25,880 --> 01:08:28,250

But they didn't
think anything of it.

1330

01:08:28,250 --> 01:08:29,819

Eugenie wasn't very
Jewish looking.

1331
01:08:29,819 --> 01:08:36,640
And besides, I suppose
that they thought

1332
01:08:36,640 --> 01:08:38,859
that they will get
some money out of it

1333
01:08:38,859 --> 01:08:46,270
or something like that, that
they could bribe the Germans.

1334
01:08:46,270 --> 01:08:49,149
So they waited.

1335
01:08:49,149 --> 01:08:51,010
Did you know these women?

1336
01:08:51,010 --> 01:08:51,510
Yes.

1337
01:08:51,510 --> 01:08:52,300
The Kassels?

1338
01:08:52,300 --> 01:08:54,040
I didn't know her mother.

1339
01:08:54,040 --> 01:08:55,810
But I knew Eugenie.

1340
01:08:55,810 --> 01:08:58,960
Did you know her before she
moved into your mother's house?

1341
01:08:58,960 --> 01:09:00,330
No, I didn't.

1342
01:09:00,330 --> 01:09:01,590
So that's when you met her.

1343
01:09:01,590 --> 01:09:02,880
Right.

1344
01:09:02,880 --> 01:09:06,340
And what kind of relationship
did you have with her?

1345
01:09:06,340 --> 01:09:08,399
How often were you
able to see her?

1346
01:09:08,399 --> 01:09:11,177
Oh, I would see her every
five days, every week,

1347
01:09:11,177 --> 01:09:12,010
something like that.

1348
01:09:12,010 --> 01:09:14,670

1349
01:09:14,670 --> 01:09:17,010
I liked her very much.

1350
01:09:17,010 --> 01:09:18,210
Was she married?

1351
01:09:18,210 --> 01:09:23,010
No, she was not.

1352
01:09:23,010 --> 01:09:24,750
So you spent time with her.

1353
01:09:24,750 --> 01:09:25,270
Yes.

1354
01:09:25,270 --> 01:09:26,864
And what did you talk about?

1355
01:09:26,864 --> 01:09:29,790

Oh, I have no idea.

1356
01:09:29,790 --> 01:09:31,950
I'm sure she loved
music, because I did.

1357
01:09:31,950 --> 01:09:35,200
And she would love
books as I did.

1358
01:09:35,200 --> 01:09:38,370
So we had a lots of
things to talk about.

1359
01:09:38,370 --> 01:09:41,130
What was it like for her once
her mother did not return?

1360
01:09:41,130 --> 01:09:45,870
Oh, I didn't even go there then.

1361
01:09:45,870 --> 01:09:48,479
I couldn't.

1362
01:09:48,479 --> 01:09:50,630
Tragedy, complete tragedy.

1363
01:09:50,630 --> 01:09:53,180

1364
01:09:53,180 --> 01:09:56,340
For some time, she
thought she would be back,

1365
01:09:56,340 --> 01:10:00,570
because there's always this
chance, a very slim chance.

1366
01:10:00,570 --> 01:10:03,580
But there is.

1367
01:10:03,580 --> 01:10:13,140

After that she just
had to give up.

1368
01:10:13,140 --> 01:10:16,010
Poor girl.

1369
01:10:16,010 --> 01:10:18,680
So during the day, unless
someone came and knocked

1370
01:10:18,680 --> 01:10:20,210
on the door, she
was free to walk

1371
01:10:20,210 --> 01:10:22,220
around your mother's apartment?

1372
01:10:22,220 --> 01:10:23,910
Yes, she was.

1373
01:10:23,910 --> 01:10:26,390
And where did your
mother get enough food

1374
01:10:26,390 --> 01:10:28,710
to feed additional people?

1375
01:10:28,710 --> 01:10:30,050
I don't know.

1376
01:10:30,050 --> 01:10:31,180
I really don't know.

1377
01:10:31,180 --> 01:10:32,700
She manages.

1378
01:10:32,700 --> 01:10:33,280
She managed.

1379
01:10:33,280 --> 01:10:36,070

1380

01:10:36,070 --> 01:10:40,420

Were you ever really concerned
for your mother's safety?

1381

01:10:40,420 --> 01:10:50,830

I wasn't sure that it means
that she will be killed.

1382

01:10:50,830 --> 01:10:53,350

I thought that she would
go to prison maybe.

1383

01:10:53,350 --> 01:10:56,940

I didn't know that
she would be killed.

1384

01:10:56,940 --> 01:10:58,390

I had no idea.

1385

01:10:58,390 --> 01:11:00,810

But even knowing your
mother would go to prison

1386

01:11:00,810 --> 01:11:02,120

is difficult.

1387

01:11:02,120 --> 01:11:03,800

Of course.

1388

01:11:03,800 --> 01:11:05,290

Of course, it will be.

1389

01:11:05,290 --> 01:11:09,000

1390

01:11:09,000 --> 01:11:11,640

Were you aware at that
time of other people

1391

01:11:11,640 --> 01:11:14,670

who were sheltering other Jews?

1392

01:11:14,670 --> 01:11:17,563

At that time, no, I didn't know.

1393

01:11:17,563 --> 01:11:19,230

So this is obviously
something you never

1394

01:11:19,230 --> 01:11:21,718

talked about with anybody else.

1395

01:11:21,718 --> 01:11:22,260

No, I didn't.

1396

01:11:22,260 --> 01:11:25,990

1397

01:11:25,990 --> 01:11:28,568

And then what happened
after those five months?

1398

01:11:28,568 --> 01:11:30,776

You said she stayed with
your mother for five months.

1399

01:11:30,776 --> 01:11:33,040

I don't know where she went.

1400

01:11:33,040 --> 01:11:39,120

I have no idea because we
lost contact completely.

1401

01:11:39,120 --> 01:11:41,700

She left on her own, or
was she told to leave?

1402

01:11:41,700 --> 01:11:42,630

Do you know?

1403

01:11:42,630 --> 01:11:45,072

Well, she told my mother
where she's going.

1404

01:11:45,072 --> 01:11:45,780

But I don't know.

1405

01:11:45,780 --> 01:11:48,180

My mother is no longer alive.

1406

01:11:48,180 --> 01:11:51,210

Do you know why she felt she
had to leave your mother?

1407

01:11:51,210 --> 01:11:52,860

That I don't know.

1408

01:11:52,860 --> 01:11:55,362

I never asked my mother.

1409

01:11:55,362 --> 01:12:01,810

You know, very
soon after this, I

1410

01:12:01,810 --> 01:12:05,680

left Poland and
escaped from Poland

1411

01:12:05,680 --> 01:12:09,420

with Christine, my daughter,
on a Swedish cargo boat

1412

01:12:09,420 --> 01:12:11,130

and went to London.

1413

01:12:11,130 --> 01:12:14,130

I left in 1947.

1414

01:12:14,130 --> 01:12:20,360

Yeah, but you're saying
that your mother sheltered

1415

01:12:20,360 --> 01:12:22,670

these women in the early 1940s.

1416

01:12:22,670 --> 01:12:23,360

Yes.

1417

01:12:23,360 --> 01:12:24,640

Pre-ghetto uprising--

1418

01:12:24,640 --> 01:12:25,140

Right.

1419

01:12:25,140 --> 01:12:26,472

So it was in '42.

1420

01:12:26,472 --> 01:12:28,670

Mm-hmm.

1421

01:12:28,670 --> 01:12:30,320

You don't recall exactly.

1422

01:12:30,320 --> 01:12:31,660

No.

1423

01:12:31,660 --> 01:12:32,160

OK.

1424

01:12:32,160 --> 01:12:35,940

1425

01:12:35,940 --> 01:12:37,910

All right, it's
the end of the war.

1426

01:12:37,910 --> 01:12:43,520

And what was it like
for the end of the war

1427

01:12:43,520 --> 01:12:47,180

for you and your family?

1428

01:12:47,180 --> 01:12:49,520

It was magnificent.

1429

01:12:49,520 --> 01:12:51,470
We couldn't believe it.

1430
01:12:51,470 --> 01:12:56,810
Did you really feel
liberated in a sense?

1431
01:12:56,810 --> 01:13:01,100
I felt liberated when I
stepped on the Swedish soil.

1432
01:13:01,100 --> 01:13:06,540
Before that, I wasn't,
because I escaped from Poland.

1433
01:13:06,540 --> 01:13:08,780
I couldn't get any passport.

1434
01:13:08,780 --> 01:13:12,620
So I had to go illegally.

1435
01:13:12,620 --> 01:13:17,345
And my husband was in London,
and he waited for us in London.

1436
01:13:17,345 --> 01:13:21,170
Well, OK, let's talk about
1945, the end of the war.

1437
01:13:21,170 --> 01:13:23,070
Your husband is--

1438
01:13:23,070 --> 01:13:25,060
In London.

1439
01:13:25,060 --> 01:13:27,890
Had been liberated
from Gross-Rosen

1440
01:13:27,890 --> 01:13:31,370
and then went to London.

1441

01:13:31,370 --> 01:13:35,950
He came from Gross-Rosen and
he was liberated by the Allies,

1442
01:13:35,950 --> 01:13:38,290
well, yes, from Gross-Rosen.

1443
01:13:38,290 --> 01:13:40,400
And then he went to London.

1444
01:13:40,400 --> 01:13:41,930
Did he come back to you first?

1445
01:13:41,930 --> 01:13:44,820
Oh, no, he couldn't.

1446
01:13:44,820 --> 01:13:46,070
He wouldn't be able to leave.

1447
01:13:46,070 --> 01:13:48,740
He didn't want to stay
in Poland, oh, no.

1448
01:13:48,740 --> 01:13:50,480
Why did he not want
to stay in Poland?

1449
01:13:50,480 --> 01:13:53,730
Because he didn't want to stay
with the communist government

1450
01:13:53,730 --> 01:13:54,500
ever.

1451
01:13:54,500 --> 01:14:01,040
It was a funny incident
when his friend, an MP,

1452
01:14:01,040 --> 01:14:05,330
member of parliament, who was
delighted to see my husband

1453

01:14:05,330 --> 01:14:07,000
right after the war.

1454
01:14:07,000 --> 01:14:11,810
And he said, well, it's
so lovely to see you.

1455
01:14:11,810 --> 01:14:15,410
I'm just going to
Winston Churchill.

1456
01:14:15,410 --> 01:14:17,090
Do you want to come
with me to meet him?

1457
01:14:17,090 --> 01:14:20,250
So he said, sure,
I would like to.

1458
01:14:20,250 --> 01:14:34,090
So the friend said, this is
my friend, a Polish friend

1459
01:14:34,090 --> 01:14:37,750
of mine, who is now
going to stay here

1460
01:14:37,750 --> 01:14:41,380
and tries to get his wife here.

1461
01:14:41,380 --> 01:14:47,290
And Churchill said, you mean
he is not going to Poland?

1462
01:14:47,290 --> 01:14:53,330
And the friend said, no.

1463
01:14:53,330 --> 01:14:58,550
He said, come, come, you Polish
people, I hate -- like hell,

1464
01:14:58,550 --> 01:15:02,080
but I wouldn't emigrate.

1465
01:15:02,080 --> 01:15:04,420
Typical.

1466
01:15:04,420 --> 01:15:06,700
Well, he would not
emigrate because he

1467
01:15:06,700 --> 01:15:09,040
didn't have a reason.

1468
01:15:09,040 --> 01:15:14,390
And it couldn't be
previewed how it's

1469
01:15:14,390 --> 01:15:19,495
going to end, how long would
the communist government going

1470
01:15:19,495 --> 01:15:21,200
to stay.

1471
01:15:21,200 --> 01:15:25,000