

**UNAUTHENTICATED**

INTERVIEW WITH MOLLY INGSTER  
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! 0 | ....fifteen minutes later they were already gone because they were told they are going to einklausen[ph]2, that they are going to bath. I was by <sup>get my</sup> faith[ph3], naturally, but it's a nature. Everytime when I'm sick or when I'm troubled, I always say, "Please G-d, help me. What shall I tell it to. I have nobody else. I can't say, "Jesus Christ, help me," because I don't believe in it. I was brought up in a very religious home so I say, "Please G-d, help me. I can't forgive that for what he let happen to our people. My boss in the <sup>was</sup> ~~-----~~ <sup>lastly in May</sup> [10] he died about seventeen years ago, I think. I used to see them, I worked for five years. I was next to him. I was the top secretary. I have a letter here. We used to talk about it. He was not religious but he only ate kosher meat. I said, "Why kosher meat?" He said, "I want to have some sign that I'm a Jew so at least I eat kosher meat." <sup>(in 1946)</sup> I was operated two months ago. I had a terrible infection going up ----- [17]. I took out five teeth. I had to be in the hospital because it infected my sinus and if I don't remove and drained I would get it in my brain. So I talk to you and I laugh and I feel terrible. They want two thousand dollars for fixing it so for the time being I'm without teeth, so forgive me. So I said to him, Mr. Gladstone[ph21], he was a very very intelligent man. very bright. He was a <sup>good man</sup> ~~-----~~ [22] very nice. I said, their was no G-d in Auschwitz, you know that. He said, I agree with you but what do you want me to do take G-d to torah, take G-d to court? He says after the war in 1946 all the pen men, all the writers and poets went to France, to Paris. They got together from all over the world. And there was Rabbi Herzog the head ga'on from Israel. Was it Rabbi Herzog? What was his name?

Herzog, yeah.

I think so. With a big beard[27]. He was sitting with Rabbi Herzog in Paris in a little restaurant having tea or coffee and talking about it and he said to Rabbi Herzog, Rabbi Herzog, where was G-d in Auschwitz when they took a million innocent children and tortured gassed and burned them. Where was he? How could you plead G-d Almighty so good full of mercy because when you davin in schull you say G-d, full of mercy. So the Rabbi said, all right so what do you want me to do take water in toilet. Who am I, to judge? So he told me the same thing what the Rabbi told him. I said I don't care. He said you know what it is Molly, it's like a little hill of ants. A man goes and puts his foot on the ants and

and they had to stay in line for bread and people used to die and my mother told me at night when it was quiet they used to risk their life and go and bring them bread and sugar and wood to heat their stoves. So the goyim despite the fact that my father was so religious, they loved him, - Pan[ph192] Bastocki, Pan Bastocki, Mr. Bastocki in other words. I hear them - he had a nice ??[193] you see. They had the highest respect for him because he did a lot for the Christians and I had girl from [??195] the top floor of our building, Yeneshk[ph195] her father became the finance or the educational minister of Poland in our town and she was my girlfriend and they were very classy people and they were very intelligent people but there were very few you could count them on the fingers. The rest of them...You see the classy people they knew that the whole thing about Jesus and the whole thing ???[202] of baloney, you know but they made the peasants believe that the Jews are guilty, killing their God and that's what you get from the ???[204]. Because why? For example, a Jewish man and a goy, poor people, I mean the plain ??[205] they used to go to work in the same factory, right. On Friday was pay day so the Jew got the pay day and the goy got the pay day. So the Jew went at home to the little "kleine haizel" [ph207] in a little place in a little room and the wife had washed the floor and put wood shavings or what you call to keep it dry and clean and had a couple of candles burning and whatever she had she made the piece of chicken or whatever or fish and the children, old clothes but what was clean and repaired and he would bring her the money and she would manage everything. The goyim when he got the pay day he went right away to the bar, to the beerhouse or whatever they call it in the shenk[ph214] and he would sit and drink until three o'clock in the morning and no money was left. And then he would come home and the wife would - it was dark and "finster"[ph215] and his wife was crying and saying, Jan where is the money, what happened to your pay day so he would beat her up. She said but look at Chaim, look how nice, ...??[218] poor people, a candle burning and it's warm in the house and the kids are clean and they had some food on the table. He says you know why because the Jews are thieves. They steal our money. That's why they have and we don't have it. And that's how the legend started that the Jews are thieves, that the Jews are not murderers but they steal from the poor and they take it for themselves. And that's how antisemitism spreads. What you teach the children the children teach their children. So Jan was starving only drunk to death and Chaim was having a piece of bread or whatever he had and he had it on his table. And that's how it started, you see but aristocracy did it on purpose because they didn't want to pay the people too much money. People used to work for peanuts. But the Jew started to make the best he could with this. Even the Rabbi was starving[?230]. But Rabbi was eating in our house because he couldn't afford to make a Shabbos meal. And the goy loved to drink. They're known for their alcoholism, the Polaks and the Germans and the British and???[231]. And the Jews never touched alcohol. The Jew if he'd like, once in a bar mitzvah or someplace was in ...[133] because they had to have clean

what  
he was  
drunk  
drunk

*Some words follow*

it, for nothing you know. So that's. <sup>in</sup> [indistinct 156]..1944 they start to get unhappy. Nobody got paid for what they did. - [indistinct 157]- justice. And you have - antisemitism is very high you can write.

What do you remember about antisemitism?

O'kay in 1934, 1933, '34 when Hitler came to power in Germany, in Wilno, Poland all the students they had a big university, Stephen Baturi [ph162]. They had the ?? [163], how do you say in English, - swastikas were on the windows and [indistinct 164] talk about aristocracy with the beautiful - students [???165] and I remember when I was fifteen years old, you save that picture in that little garden what I showed you, you couldn't get in anymore.

No Jews allowed?

No, ??? [167] Christian that time, anyway, they used to go around with stick, students' sticks and in their hand would stick, they had razorblades and they used to attack the Jewish people if they're going in the park and cut them with the razorblades.

This was in '33, '34?

In '33, '34 that's when Hitler came to power in Germany, the Nazis<sup>m</sup> came to Wilno and they used to scream - they used to stay by the door of our store and scream, don't buy by the Jewish [spoke in Polish 175]. Don't buy anything from the Jews. They used to stand by the door and not let in ...

In front of your store?

Right, and other stores, too, not just our store and not let in no Christians to shop.

Did people obey that? Did people not come in?

90% and they all wanted the blood from Jews. That's all what they wanted.

Were you in a Jewish neighborhood?

Well, there wasn't such a - no, I wasn't in Yidisha<sup>ge</sup> [180] that's what the Jews [indistinct 180]. I was in a very classy - across where I lived like the building here there was a court and we had doctors and lawyers and [?182]. The society of Wilno's aristocracy lived where we lived, you see because what the street [indistinct 183] by the famous poet [??184] the street and my mother had some friends who were very classy because I wasn't born then so from the first World War my mother used to --- it was against the law to --- we had bread and we had everything and there were - I remember [???188] there was a family who was very aristocratic Polish family

*Vashitzka*

*A class  
look*  
with beautiful terraces. That building don't exist. They bombed the whole - I was told after the war from people who went there to visit. They said Molly, you wouldn't recognize it, all burnt and the way the Russian built those houses like square that time [indistinct 126] ceilings and beautiful decorations. And the terraces were so gorgeous. You don't make it in the states like that, too expensive. It's the beautiful architecture ..[indistinct130]. *you don't make it,*

You lived in this whole building?

*129*  
No, no. On the main floor there was the store and the bakery and the second floor was our apartment overlooking the Buffaloberg[ph131], the famous mountains, Buffalo mountains like Buffalo, you know, Buffalo mountains. Later on they made a big stadium for soccer one of the biggest stadium there is. From our window you can see the Buffalo Mountains. What else? I attended the Hebrew Gymnasium, you have it this, right? And then I graduated it was 1938 and I got married. Now wait a moment. 1938 I was - I was eighteen years old, right? So that's right, because I was seventeen and a half, eighteen. And then I got married and the war broke out.

So you were married in '39?

Yeah, right, in the beginning of '39, March or April, I don't remember exactly when. And then the war broke out and then I had a baby; it says here when I had a baby you can look it up. I don't remember when it was.

When did the Nazis come into Wilno?

1941. They made a pact with Stalin. So we still were under the Bolsheviks, you see. And in June 1941 this was suddenly became without any - because they caught the Russians unexpectedly and they killed them, 22 million Russians they killed in the war. June 1941 the Nazis came in. I remember how the Polak was excited that they saw them. They were so happy with them. They should...[indistinct 150].

Because they were unhappy with Stalin.

No.

They thought that Hitler was going to...

Yeah, three years later they realize when 1943, 1944 they were crying their head off. But for the first couple of years they were excited. First of all they will get rid of the Jews and everything what the Jews had they will take it which they did you see so they were very happy. But then they ate up everything what the Germans -- and then the Germans made them go to work and they didn't like

be? You are the young people. You have to stand. What can you  
do? I took out some pictures.  
:72 [sighs]

I'd like to get a complete history from you.

Well, you have it here. <sup>More or less you know.</sup> Can you read this? It's very tough to read because it's condensed, but you can read this here.

Okay

As I said it's a very condensed history. Now this picture is terrible. It's smeared. This is me -----[87]. Okay let's forget.  
*in the Jewish Gymnasium*

That's important. I'll listen to that.

I went to Gymnasium Rialys, it was called. I went to <sup>Hebrew Gymnasium</sup> -----  
[89]. Do you want to know the street, too? Zolwana[ph89] That would be in Polish, Zolwana Street in Wilna, at the Polish time. I graduated it was I think in 1938 but I think you have it there. And I got married in '39. The war broke out I think in September or October of '39 and I was married I think it was in April. I don't even remember when I was married. You know how stupid young people are. I got pregnant and I didn't even know. And I lost my husband and my brother at the same time. They were running away. My baby had temperature. She got sick so I didn't go. So they ran and were caught and shot by the Nazis. I'm not sure if you have it  
:96 in this. We were five sisters and two brothers. And we lived in Wilna until the war broke out. Just before the war broke out I got married and in 1941 my husband and my brother right away were killed and then my older sister with her children. They don't like this long too. They make it very abbreviated.

It is very abbreviated.

Yes, so what would you need to know? I was one of seven children in a very very religious home, in a very very happy home.

Your father owned a grocery store and a bakery.

Yes. My father was a grain merchant but he was a rabbi. He was very religious., okay. We had a grocery store and a bakery on Portowa Street. And this is in Wilna. Wilna <sup>Poland</sup> -----[115]. Now it's Wilna-----[121]

Where did you live? Did you live in a house or in an apartment building?

We had a house on <sup>until</sup> -----[122] before I was born but then this was a big building, beautiful  
File:Ingster.Mol

:40

a million ants got killed by his foot but some of them survived and that's what happened, he said, to our Jewish people. That was his interpretation. And yet had memorized, I have his book with the poetry what he talks about this. I can ~~settle it~~ <sup>settling</sup> not forgive and never forget. And my daughter, I never talk to her about my past because it's too gruesome. I didn't want her to know what people can do to other people. She was going to medical school here in John Hopkins. She didn't tell me nothing. She just eloped with a 'goy' and got married then John Hopkins University. Now she's divorced with three kids and I almost had a heart attack right then because she was my only child, and she has a Masters in Science. She works in the National Institute of Health. But she also ruined her life. She was fourteen years with that man. So the middle one said, Grandma we're half Jews and half Christians. The oldest one said, he's ten years old now, he knows a little bit about the Nazis and bad people and he hates them; he said Grandma I hate all those people, I'm Jewish. He the oldest one said it because I ----- [53] by a very religious moel. But I can't talk to them about all those things. I can't talk to my daughter about it because if she could have run away with a "goy" and leave it me, I have nothing to say. Who am I? In my heart I know what it is but the world forgets everything. This is very good what they're doing. I hope to G-d that they wouldn't demolish this memorial place because here we're going ten years from now...the blacks hate the Jews too. The Jews sacrificed the young Jewish men, remember Goodman and some other one who were killed in Mississippi? Jewish people sacrificed their life for them, but they still hate the Jews. Jackson, the one who was running for President hated the Jews. We have that other guy, what's his name, he's a priest, pastor..

Sharfton

Beside him. No there's the other one, the muslim.

Farrakhan

Farrakhan. He hates the Jews. At Purim he said what kind of religion is this. Because the Arabs give them so much money they do everything for the Arabs. That's what they're doing. They're preaching everything for the Arabs. So wherever you turn, they hate the Jews and I would like to know the reason. O'kay the Yankees[66] when I was a kid used to tell them because they killed our G-d. Why do the Arabs[67] hate the Jews? In Germany he said this porter[68] who was on television said we saw that ~~-----~~ <sup>young German who said</sup> --[69] said the union or the Jews are running the world and we are going to get rid of them. So the reporter said that's not true. The Jews are not running the world. And this was a Christian. So the only place which is a little civilized in that respect is the United States. Yet there is so much hatred from blacks and muslims and goyim. <sup>aw) (Am. & Arab</sup> --[73]. What's going on? What' going on in this world? After all this hell. I remember when I was liberated I said to myself, now everybody will love each other. People will embrace and kiss each other. There will be no more hatred. "A nechtica tug." This happened all over again. So what's going to

hands...???[234] where to run, what to do. Jews are known for that. They ??[235]. They couldn't drink for that simple reason. But if you classy people more aristocratic people they knew but they didn't fight, they didn't give a hoot. They loved Pan Bastocki because the doctors loved mine father. ??[238] my brother-in-law used to hide all the Lithuanians from the Bolshevik what Poland took away from Lithuania the capital city so Lithuania was fighting them, you see. So if they would come to Lithuania in Wilno they would arrest him so my brother-in-law used to hide out very famous ??[242]. So when the war broke out ??[very indistinct 243] they was hiding him for awhile. I can talk till tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow even and never finish so what did we got there? See this is a book written - this is worth a fortune because there's no other one like that. I'm very mad. I will tell you what the reason is.

*in case they get prosecuted*

*only first part of tape 1:*

*starting at 000 on center, but add 245*

*this was written by a famous Jewish in Israel  
he was from my town. This was written in 1944, I don't  
know when he printed it I don't think even he had  
a copy if was sent to me by a friend who in  
Wilno ghetto and*

*249 Russian you know. Because I have been  
is all about who ghetto. And on page 33, 34 the  
author, he writes about my family and what would happen  
when I did that visit tape for the Hebrew university  
here was a Rabbi-Shapiro. I had a lot supportive  
could talk and I said we should do this in the  
Spring, but she said spring will be to late. So you can  
get it from them. I don't think they'll charge you. Just  
give them my name.*