

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,190

2  
00:00:04,190 --> 00:00:08,029  
OK, the date is Friday,  
June the 5th, 1992 and we're

3  
00:00:08,029 --> 00:00:11,000  
talking with Mrs. Sylvia  
Murawski in Annandale,

4  
00:00:11,000 --> 00:00:12,200  
Virginia.

5  
00:00:12,200 --> 00:00:13,880  
Mrs. Murawski,  
could you please--

6  
00:00:13,880 --> 00:00:15,660  
Oh, call me Sylvia.

7  
00:00:15,660 --> 00:00:20,070  
Sylvia, could you please  
tell me your name,

8  
00:00:20,070 --> 00:00:22,840  
your name that you  
were given in Poland

9  
00:00:22,840 --> 00:00:26,600  
and that you used during  
the war, your date of birth,

10  
00:00:26,600 --> 00:00:29,690  
your place of birth, and  
anything you possibly

11  
00:00:29,690 --> 00:00:33,990  
can about your childhood  
and your family growing up.

12

00:00:33,990 --> 00:00:34,490  
OK.

13  
00:00:34,490 --> 00:00:50,980  
I was born July 10th of 1928.

14  
00:00:50,980 --> 00:00:53,860  
My name is Sylvia.

15  
00:00:53,860 --> 00:00:56,860  
Was-- my name was Sylwia.

16  
00:00:56,860 --> 00:00:59,630  
Sylwia Anna Winawer.

17  
00:00:59,630 --> 00:01:04,540  
But I was never, ever  
called by this name.

18  
00:01:04,540 --> 00:01:06,820  
I was Dzidzia for a--

19  
00:01:06,820 --> 00:01:08,410  
called Dzidzia at home.

20  
00:01:08,410 --> 00:01:09,730  
How do you spell that?

21  
00:01:09,730 --> 00:01:11,200  
Dzidzia.

22  
00:01:11,200 --> 00:01:13,720  
Let me write it down.

23  
00:01:13,720 --> 00:01:14,710  
OK.

24  
00:01:14,710 --> 00:01:15,475  
It was a nickname.

25  
00:01:15,475 --> 00:01:18,340

26  
00:01:18,340 --> 00:01:18,840  
Dzidzia.

27  
00:01:18,840 --> 00:01:22,770

28  
00:01:22,770 --> 00:01:38,350  
Something like it's--  
something like this.

29  
00:01:38,350 --> 00:01:39,940  
OK.

30  
00:01:39,940 --> 00:01:40,690  
Dzidzia.

31  
00:01:40,690 --> 00:01:42,550  
OK.

32  
00:01:42,550 --> 00:01:47,560  
It was quite popular  
a nickname in Poland.

33  
00:01:47,560 --> 00:01:54,280  
And I was known as Dzidzia  
through my schooldays

34  
00:01:54,280 --> 00:01:56,360  
till the--

35  
00:01:56,360 --> 00:01:57,680  
well, before the war.

36  
00:01:57,680 --> 00:02:01,250

37  
00:02:01,250 --> 00:02:04,700  
For a long time, I  
was an only child

38

00:02:04,700 --> 00:02:11,630

and I loved the status  
of being only child,

39

00:02:11,630 --> 00:02:17,160

and loved by everyone, and at  
center of attention, of course.

40

00:02:17,160 --> 00:02:21,190

I had the small  
puppy that I loved

41

00:02:21,190 --> 00:02:27,110

but she passed away as a puppy.

42

00:02:27,110 --> 00:02:30,650

But later on, I had a sister.

43

00:02:30,650 --> 00:02:37,010

And my sister, in my life,  
played a special role

44

00:02:37,010 --> 00:02:41,750

because she was nine  
years younger than me.

45

00:02:41,750 --> 00:02:49,280

And I treated her  
something between my toy

46

00:02:49,280 --> 00:02:52,490

and between my child.

47

00:02:52,490 --> 00:02:56,000

And it was very, very,  
very nice feeling.

48

00:02:56,000 --> 00:03:05,020

And my mother was  
wise enough to keep

49

00:03:05,020 --> 00:03:08,140

me believing that  
I'm the one who

50  
00:03:08,140 --> 00:03:10,780  
is responsible for my sister.

51  
00:03:10,780 --> 00:03:18,640  
So my friends at school  
were very jealous.

52  
00:03:18,640 --> 00:03:22,790  
Nobody had such a small  
sister or brother around.

53  
00:03:22,790 --> 00:03:25,510

54  
00:03:25,510 --> 00:03:28,600  
Well, I could tell you  
about my childhood.

55  
00:03:28,600 --> 00:03:31,000  
It was very happy childhood.

56  
00:03:31,000 --> 00:03:33,700  
Did you live in a suburb  
of Warsaw or in the city?

57  
00:03:33,700 --> 00:03:37,090  
No, I lived in the  
center of Warsaw.

58  
00:03:37,090 --> 00:03:39,170  
My father was a lawyer.

59  
00:03:39,170 --> 00:03:47,130  
And we lived in a big apartment.

60  
00:03:47,130 --> 00:03:49,920

61  
00:03:49,920 --> 00:03:54,360

You know, those old days,  
everybody had maids.

62  
00:03:54,360 --> 00:03:56,850  
Everybody-- well, middle  
class people had maids.

63  
00:03:56,850 --> 00:03:59,730

64  
00:03:59,730 --> 00:04:08,260  
And well, it's such a  
distant, different life.

65  
00:04:08,260 --> 00:04:11,230  
You came from a Jewish family?

66  
00:04:11,230 --> 00:04:15,010  
Well, it's very, very  
hard to say about

67  
00:04:15,010 --> 00:04:17,029  
that my family was  
a Jewish family.

68  
00:04:17,029 --> 00:04:24,610  
We were Jewish because  
my parents were converts.

69  
00:04:24,610 --> 00:04:28,570  
So it wasn't strictly  
Jewish family.

70  
00:04:28,570 --> 00:04:33,460  
I was raised more in  
Christian traditions

71  
00:04:33,460 --> 00:04:35,180  
than Jewish tradition.

72  
00:04:35,180 --> 00:04:37,300  
So your family  
had-- your parents

73  
00:04:37,300 --> 00:04:41,320  
had both converted  
to Catholicism?

74  
00:04:41,320 --> 00:04:46,690  
My father was Catholic,  
my mother was Protestant.

75  
00:04:46,690 --> 00:04:56,820  
And on my father's family  
was family of assimilaters.

76  
00:04:56,820 --> 00:04:58,320  
Is the right word?

77  
00:04:58,320 --> 00:04:59,490  
Well, they were assimilated?

78  
00:04:59,490 --> 00:05:00,030  
Assimilated.

79  
00:05:00,030 --> 00:05:02,640  
But they were Jew-- the  
father's parents were Jewish?

80  
00:05:02,640 --> 00:05:05,930

81  
00:05:05,930 --> 00:05:09,410  
Well, it takes some  
more explanation.

82  
00:05:09,410 --> 00:05:09,910  
OK.

83  
00:05:09,910 --> 00:05:19,980

84  
00:05:19,980 --> 00:05:27,720  
By face, they were Jewish,  
my father's family.

85  
00:05:27,720 --> 00:05:30,420  
My father's family  
was quite known.

86  
00:05:30,420 --> 00:05:34,310  
And I would even say  
famous family in Poland.

87  
00:05:34,310 --> 00:05:42,580

88  
00:05:42,580 --> 00:05:43,730  
Your name is Wina?

89  
00:05:43,730 --> 00:05:46,310  
Winawer.

90  
00:05:46,310 --> 00:05:58,400  
My father's cousin was a very  
well-known writer, playwright.

91  
00:05:58,400 --> 00:06:03,725  
My father's grandfather was--

92  
00:06:03,725 --> 00:06:08,250

93  
00:06:08,250 --> 00:06:08,970  
oh, my goodness.

94  
00:06:08,970 --> 00:06:12,770

95  
00:06:12,770 --> 00:06:13,710  
Can you take that?

96  
00:06:13,710 --> 00:06:14,825  
Oh, sure.

97  
00:06:14,825 --> 00:06:16,790



That's interesting.

98

00:06:16,790 --> 00:06:19,040

Famous chess player.

99

00:06:19,040 --> 00:06:22,680

And he won.

100

00:06:22,680 --> 00:06:27,000

He was a best in Europe.

101

00:06:27,000 --> 00:06:33,120

He won a tournament as a--

102

00:06:33,120 --> 00:06:35,480

well, how do you say it?

103

00:06:35,480 --> 00:06:36,020

He was a--

104

00:06:36,020 --> 00:06:36,520

Champion?

105

00:06:36,520 --> 00:06:38,590

--champion.

106

00:06:38,590 --> 00:06:39,740

Maybe once, maybe.

107

00:06:39,740 --> 00:06:41,960

But he was a European champion.

108

00:06:41,960 --> 00:06:44,150

But he felt Polish.

109

00:06:44,150 --> 00:06:51,560

Because in those old years,  
it was a very strong movement

110

00:06:51,560 --> 00:06:53,810

of assimilation.

111  
00:06:53,810 --> 00:06:59,770  
And Jewish intelligentsia--  
you know the word?

112  
00:06:59,770 --> 00:07:03,190

113  
00:07:03,190 --> 00:07:06,160  
Was very Polonized.

114  
00:07:06,160 --> 00:07:07,390  
Right.

115  
00:07:07,390 --> 00:07:14,010  
And so on my parents,  
my father's side,

116  
00:07:14,010 --> 00:07:19,370  
it was very natural that he  
felt more Polish than Jewish.

117  
00:07:19,370 --> 00:07:27,140  
And his conversion didn't  
bother anybody, I think.

118  
00:07:27,140 --> 00:07:31,910  
But on my mother's side,  
it was a different story.

119  
00:07:31,910 --> 00:07:34,840  
Because her family was more  
Jewish, more traditional

120  
00:07:34,840 --> 00:07:36,140  
and more Jewish.

121  
00:07:36,140 --> 00:07:41,390  
So there were some  
misunderstanding

122  
00:07:41,390 --> 00:07:43,505

between my mother  
and her mother.

123  
00:07:43,505 --> 00:07:46,570

124  
00:07:46,570 --> 00:07:49,430  
So did you ever see them?

125  
00:07:49,430 --> 00:07:51,250  
Well, yes.

126  
00:07:51,250 --> 00:07:55,570  
My grandmother lived in Lodz.

127  
00:07:55,570 --> 00:08:05,925  
It's a big city in Poland--

128  
00:08:05,925 --> 00:08:07,050  
Oh, sure, yes, I know Lodz.

129  
00:08:07,050 --> 00:08:11,280  
--with big Jewish and  
German population.

130  
00:08:11,280 --> 00:08:17,260  
And she used to come over for  
to visit us twice a year, stayed

131  
00:08:17,260 --> 00:08:18,900  
for a few weeks.

132  
00:08:18,900 --> 00:08:21,870  
And there were always  
some misunderstanding

133  
00:08:21,870 --> 00:08:31,700  
about synagogue, about  
Christmas, about something.

134  
00:08:31,700 --> 00:08:32,750  
I felt it.

135  
00:08:32,750 --> 00:08:36,679

136  
00:08:36,679 --> 00:08:38,809  
It wasn't very open,  
but I felt there was

137  
00:08:38,809 --> 00:08:41,809  
some tension about religion.

138  
00:08:41,809 --> 00:08:43,642  
Did you have any  
religious instruction?

139  
00:08:43,642 --> 00:08:44,600  
Any formal instruction?

140  
00:08:44,600 --> 00:08:49,233  
No because my parents weren't  
very religious people.

141  
00:08:49,233 --> 00:08:52,760

142  
00:08:52,760 --> 00:08:57,060  
It's really hard to  
understand in America

143  
00:08:57,060 --> 00:09:02,630  
why people change  
their faith only

144  
00:09:02,630 --> 00:09:11,980  
to show that sort of belonging  
to Polish society or something.

145  
00:09:11,980 --> 00:09:15,310  
I think it was, in Europe  
and in Poland especially,

146  
00:09:15,310 --> 00:09:17,770

it was a form of  
social mobility.

147  
00:09:17,770 --> 00:09:18,460  
Maybe.

148  
00:09:18,460 --> 00:09:19,840  
Definitely, definitely.

149  
00:09:19,840 --> 00:09:26,170  
Well, for my father it  
was sort of patriotism.

150  
00:09:26,170 --> 00:09:27,520  
Maybe.

151  
00:09:27,520 --> 00:09:29,460  
He was very young, it was naive.

152  
00:09:29,460 --> 00:09:36,160  
It wasn't very  
wise, what he did.

153  
00:09:36,160 --> 00:09:41,840  
But on mother's side,  
it was because she--

154  
00:09:41,840 --> 00:09:44,450  
my father wasn't Jew.

155  
00:09:44,450 --> 00:09:51,570  
I don't know how the situation  
was between Jewish and not

156  
00:09:51,570 --> 00:09:53,990  
Jewish marriage.

157  
00:09:53,990 --> 00:10:00,250  
But I think that my mother  
wanted some change, wanted

158  
00:10:00,250 --> 00:10:03,490

to conform to my  
father's standards

159  
00:10:03,490 --> 00:10:04,740  
or something like this.

160  
00:10:04,740 --> 00:10:08,000  
But it's interesting, then,  
that number one, that she chose

161  
00:10:08,000 --> 00:10:12,740  
Protestantism, and number two,  
that he wasn't a Polish Pole,

162  
00:10:12,740 --> 00:10:17,600  
he was formerly of a Jewish--  
you know, they still had this.

163  
00:10:17,600 --> 00:10:19,137  
Difference of religion, yes.

164  
00:10:19,137 --> 00:10:21,220  
Yeah, I mean they still  
came from that background.

165  
00:10:21,220 --> 00:10:23,210  
And that's interesting.

166  
00:10:23,210 --> 00:10:29,720

167  
00:10:29,720 --> 00:10:34,510  
The times were of utmost  
political atmosphere.

168  
00:10:34,510 --> 00:10:39,260  
And social atmosphere  
changed so quickly in Poland.

169  
00:10:39,260 --> 00:10:46,270  
So some things that in 1921  
or 1920 were appropriate

170  
00:10:46,270 --> 00:10:49,720  
might be less  
appropriate in 1927

171  
00:10:49,720 --> 00:10:55,780  
when my mother got married.

172  
00:10:55,780 --> 00:10:58,210  
I never asked my parents.

173  
00:10:58,210 --> 00:11:01,600  
I just accepted the  
situation that I was put.

174  
00:11:01,600 --> 00:11:04,480  
My father was Catholic,  
my mother was Protestant.

175  
00:11:04,480 --> 00:11:07,600  
And children were  
Protestant, too.

176  
00:11:07,600 --> 00:11:12,090

177  
00:11:12,090 --> 00:11:18,680  
We had two Jewish  
girls in our class.

178  
00:11:18,680 --> 00:11:22,970  
And they were taught  
religion by a rabbi.

179  
00:11:22,970 --> 00:11:30,320  
And I was taught  
religion by pastor.

180  
00:11:30,320 --> 00:11:37,730  
And Jewish girls didn't feel--

181  
00:11:37,730 --> 00:11:41,360  
it felt ill at

ease being Jewish.

182  
00:11:41,360 --> 00:11:44,240  
It was such an  
atmosphere in Poland.

183  
00:11:44,240 --> 00:11:48,890  
I don't know why it was like  
this, but it was like this.

184  
00:11:48,890 --> 00:11:53,040  
But we used to go to  
Protestant school.

185  
00:11:53,040 --> 00:11:55,175  
And you didn't feel different?

186  
00:11:55,175 --> 00:11:58,590  
When I spoke with  
Jana in Boston,

187  
00:11:58,590 --> 00:12:00,710  
she said even though  
she was raised

188  
00:12:00,710 --> 00:12:02,540  
with these Catholic  
parents, she said

189  
00:12:02,540 --> 00:12:04,700  
she knew they were different.

190  
00:12:04,700 --> 00:12:06,650  
She knew something  
about her family

191  
00:12:06,650 --> 00:12:09,420  
was different than all  
the other Catholic people.

192  
00:12:09,420 --> 00:12:09,920  
You know.



193

00:12:09,920 --> 00:12:13,490

Did you have a sense of that?

194

00:12:13,490 --> 00:12:15,620

Well, was something  
was different.

195

00:12:15,620 --> 00:12:19,160

But it wasn't different  
because of religion.

196

00:12:19,160 --> 00:12:21,020

It was different because of--

197

00:12:21,020 --> 00:12:23,700

198

00:12:23,700 --> 00:12:24,950

I don't know because of what.

199

00:12:24,950 --> 00:12:32,450

It was different because I  
think that my parents were

200

00:12:32,450 --> 00:12:37,940

more independent people  
than most people around.

201

00:12:37,940 --> 00:12:41,160

More free-thinking,  
free-thinkers.

202

00:12:41,160 --> 00:12:45,390

203

00:12:45,390 --> 00:12:50,010

Well, better-educated  
or something like this.

204

00:12:50,010 --> 00:12:51,720

More open mind.

205

00:12:51,720 --> 00:12:54,330

What was your  
mother's education?

206

00:12:54,330 --> 00:12:59,580

My mother's formal  
education wasn't very high.

207

00:12:59,580 --> 00:13:03,020

208

00:13:03,020 --> 00:13:05,900

She was orphaned.

209

00:13:05,900 --> 00:13:07,190

Well, not complete orphaned.

210

00:13:07,190 --> 00:13:09,210

Her father died when she was 13.

211

00:13:09,210 --> 00:13:12,980

212

00:13:12,980 --> 00:13:21,040

My grandmother married at age  
of 16 with no education at all.

213

00:13:21,040 --> 00:13:32,840

So when she widowed,  
she widowed at age of 33

214

00:13:32,840 --> 00:13:34,970

with three teenagers.

215

00:13:34,970 --> 00:13:38,000

Well, two teenagers  
and one small girl.

216

00:13:38,000 --> 00:13:41,000

Two teenagers and  
one small girl.

217

00:13:41,000 --> 00:13:49,840

And it was the end of the war,  
end of the First World War,

218

00:13:49,840 --> 00:13:52,780

in 1917.

219

00:13:52,780 --> 00:13:59,530

And they went through a  
real terrible poverty.

220

00:13:59,530 --> 00:14:07,600

And my mother was extremely  
brave, and industrious,

221

00:14:07,600 --> 00:14:10,840

and ambitious, and beautiful.

222

00:14:10,840 --> 00:14:15,550

You can't see now, but she was.

223

00:14:15,550 --> 00:14:19,150

And she didn't accept.

224

00:14:19,150 --> 00:14:24,335

She was more like American  
women, not Polish.

225

00:14:24,335 --> 00:14:27,160

226

00:14:27,160 --> 00:14:29,410

She didn't accept  
the whole situation

227

00:14:29,410 --> 00:14:32,300

of being poor, and  
poorly educated,

228

00:14:32,300 --> 00:14:35,230

and living in lower  
middle class family.

229  
00:14:35,230 --> 00:14:38,500

230  
00:14:38,500 --> 00:14:47,500  
So she, as an  
external, she tried to.

231  
00:14:47,500 --> 00:14:49,630  
She got a high school diploma.

232  
00:14:49,630 --> 00:14:52,480  
But she didn't  
finish high school.

233  
00:14:52,480 --> 00:14:59,830  
But she made her diploma, went  
through exams as an external?

234  
00:14:59,830 --> 00:15:02,710  
Is this the right word?

235  
00:15:02,710 --> 00:15:03,668  
No, you don't say this.

236  
00:15:03,668 --> 00:15:04,752  
External student, kind of?

237  
00:15:04,752 --> 00:15:05,630  
Something like.

238  
00:15:05,630 --> 00:15:06,130  
Yeah.

239  
00:15:06,130 --> 00:15:07,810  
You can say.

240  
00:15:07,810 --> 00:15:19,250  
And she took any  
chance she had in life

241

00:15:19,250 --> 00:15:27,440  
to be among interesting  
people, to learn things,

242  
00:15:27,440 --> 00:15:29,750  
and to see what.

243  
00:15:29,750 --> 00:15:32,635  
She spent few years in France.

244  
00:15:32,635 --> 00:15:35,600

245  
00:15:35,600 --> 00:15:36,800  
How did she do that?

246  
00:15:36,800 --> 00:15:43,250  
Oh, she was a student, she  
gave lessons, she tutored.

247  
00:15:43,250 --> 00:15:45,770  
She worked as a tutor.

248  
00:15:45,770 --> 00:15:52,700  
Sometimes, she was a tutor  
living with a family.

249  
00:15:52,700 --> 00:15:58,990  
She was very popular with  
people, very, very easy

250  
00:15:58,990 --> 00:16:02,080  
to make friends.

251  
00:16:02,080 --> 00:16:09,910  
And when she married  
my father, she

252  
00:16:09,910 --> 00:16:16,240  
had some few years of college  
but she didn't finish college.

253

00:16:16,240 --> 00:16:20,570  
But she had many  
talents, many interests.

254  
00:16:20,570 --> 00:16:22,090  
She was interested in art.

255  
00:16:22,090 --> 00:16:29,080

256  
00:16:29,080 --> 00:16:35,770  
She got a real knowledge in  
art, especially in China,

257  
00:16:35,770 --> 00:16:39,280  
in oriental rugs.

258  
00:16:39,280 --> 00:16:42,590  
And during the war  
when we were alone

259  
00:16:42,590 --> 00:16:52,040  
and my father went  
to the army, she

260  
00:16:52,040 --> 00:16:57,470  
started buying and  
selling things.

261  
00:16:57,470 --> 00:17:02,870  
And this is how we  
survived the war.

262  
00:17:02,870 --> 00:17:05,839  
Because she was able  
to earn that money.

263  
00:17:05,839 --> 00:17:08,869

264  
00:17:08,869 --> 00:17:16,599  
And after the war, when it  
was forbidden and very, very

265  
00:17:16,599 --> 00:17:19,190  
dangerous, she did the same.

266  
00:17:19,190 --> 00:17:24,640  
So my parents were  
very well-to-do people.

267  
00:17:24,640 --> 00:17:26,349  
So I never went through--

268  
00:17:26,349 --> 00:17:29,240

269  
00:17:29,240 --> 00:17:30,970  
never, it's not the right word.

270  
00:17:30,970 --> 00:17:37,000  
But most of the war, most  
of the time, the war time,

271  
00:17:37,000 --> 00:17:42,400  
we were well-to-do in sense  
that we weren't hungry.

272  
00:17:42,400 --> 00:17:46,750  
We, and the friend  
of my parents,

273  
00:17:46,750 --> 00:17:54,490  
and relatives of my parents  
had always at least one meal

274  
00:17:54,490 --> 00:18:00,400  
fixed at my parents' table.

275  
00:18:00,400 --> 00:18:01,330  
I see.

276  
00:18:01,330 --> 00:18:02,620  
Can we back up a little bit?

277

00:18:02,620 --> 00:18:09,085

Yes, sure because if you  
start the story of your life,

278

00:18:09,085 --> 00:18:12,040

it gets extremely  
poorly organized.

279

00:18:12,040 --> 00:18:13,360

Unorganized.

280

00:18:13,360 --> 00:18:18,650

That's fine because we'll just  
jump a little, no problem.

281

00:18:18,650 --> 00:18:20,360

So what about your schooling?

282

00:18:20,360 --> 00:18:21,610

So where did you go to school?

283

00:18:21,610 --> 00:18:22,818

Did you go to private school?

284

00:18:22,818 --> 00:18:24,955

I went-- it was  
a private school.

285

00:18:24,955 --> 00:18:28,000

286

00:18:28,000 --> 00:18:32,240

The name of the school  
was very long name.

287

00:18:32,240 --> 00:18:37,720

288

00:18:37,720 --> 00:18:38,965

It was a private school.

289



00:18:38,965 --> 00:18:46,630

290

00:18:46,630 --> 00:18:52,180

Supported-- not supported by.

291

00:18:52,180 --> 00:18:54,220

It was run by or founded by.

292

00:18:54,220 --> 00:18:56,620

Founded, run, and  
something more.

293

00:18:56,620 --> 00:18:59,922

294

00:18:59,922 --> 00:19:00,880

You want to look it up?

295

00:19:00,880 --> 00:19:03,420

No, I can't because I don't  
remember even in Polish

296

00:19:03,420 --> 00:19:04,420

this is the right word.

297

00:19:04,420 --> 00:19:11,080

298

00:19:11,080 --> 00:19:14,726

And under the help, under  
the supervision and help

299

00:19:14,726 --> 00:19:23,590

of a Lutheran church.

300

00:19:23,590 --> 00:19:26,980

301

00:19:26,980 --> 00:19:33,210

And there were two schools.

302

00:19:33,210 --> 00:19:40,530

One, the Szkola Reja,  
that school was old,

303

00:19:40,530 --> 00:19:47,520

very, very well known in  
Poland, in Warsaw for boys.

304

00:19:47,520 --> 00:19:53,880

And after the First  
World War, there

305

00:19:53,880 --> 00:20:04,860

was a parallel school for girls  
opened by the same Lutheran

306

00:20:04,860 --> 00:20:06,690

church.

307

00:20:06,690 --> 00:20:08,656

Imienia Wazowny.

308

00:20:08,656 --> 00:20:22,170

It was a Waszowna, it was  
a sister of Polish king

309

00:20:22,170 --> 00:20:25,941

from 16th century.

310

00:20:25,941 --> 00:20:31,070

They were Protestants and  
the patron of the school

311

00:20:31,070 --> 00:20:40,430

was that Protestant  
princess of the past.

312

00:20:40,430 --> 00:20:41,850

I see.

313

00:20:41,850 --> 00:20:54,930

And the school, Rej

High School, was

314  
00:20:54,930 --> 00:21:06,150  
very well-established and  
very highly accepted school.

315  
00:21:06,150 --> 00:21:08,970  
Was more for girls.

316  
00:21:08,970 --> 00:21:10,000  
But it was OK.

317  
00:21:10,000 --> 00:21:11,070  
It was OK.

318  
00:21:11,070 --> 00:21:14,488

319  
00:21:14,488 --> 00:21:15,280  
Now would that be--

320  
00:21:15,280 --> 00:21:17,950  
The atmosphere was very liberal.

321  
00:21:17,950 --> 00:21:20,660

322  
00:21:20,660 --> 00:21:27,780  
Everybody was  
well-bred, tactful.

323  
00:21:27,780 --> 00:21:31,370  
And I didn't feel--

324  
00:21:31,370 --> 00:21:33,310  
I felt at home there.

325  
00:21:33,310 --> 00:21:35,640  
I didn't feel any  
that I didn't belong.

326

00:21:35,640 --> 00:21:36,440  
I belonged.

327  
00:21:36,440 --> 00:21:38,030  
I belonged perfectly well.

328  
00:21:38,030 --> 00:21:40,610  
The education there, then,  
is equivalent or better

329  
00:21:40,610 --> 00:21:41,630  
than a Gymnasium?

330  
00:21:41,630 --> 00:21:43,730  
Or is it at the level of  
a Gymnasium education?

331  
00:21:43,730 --> 00:21:44,390  
I didn't.

332  
00:21:44,390 --> 00:21:45,290  
I didn't get.

333  
00:21:45,290 --> 00:21:47,870  
I didn't go that far  
because when the--

334  
00:21:47,870 --> 00:21:49,220  
When the war broke out.

335  
00:21:49,220 --> 00:21:53,870  
Yes, I finished, I was  
in elementary school.

336  
00:21:53,870 --> 00:21:56,560  
It was fifth grade.

337  
00:21:56,560 --> 00:21:58,770  
I finished fifth grade.

338  
00:21:58,770 --> 00:22:02,030  
And I started sixth grade.

339  
00:22:02,030 --> 00:22:05,600  
And then the trouble started.

340  
00:22:05,600 --> 00:22:10,873  
Now, did you take ballet  
lessons, or any music lessons,

341  
00:22:10,873 --> 00:22:11,790  
or anything like that?

342  
00:22:11,790 --> 00:22:17,300  
Music lessons and not ballet  
because I had no talent.

343  
00:22:17,300 --> 00:22:19,130  
Me either.

344  
00:22:19,130 --> 00:22:25,720  
Very poor ear for music,  
no talents for dance.

345  
00:22:25,720 --> 00:22:28,220  
Nothing for drawing.

346  
00:22:28,220 --> 00:22:35,060  
I had only very bad marks  
on all of those subjects.

347  
00:22:35,060 --> 00:22:36,830  
Did you enjoy to read?

348  
00:22:36,830 --> 00:22:38,300  
Read, yes.

349  
00:22:38,300 --> 00:22:47,510  
I was good in reading,  
in history, in writing.

350  
00:22:47,510 --> 00:22:50,900

351

00:22:50,900 --> 00:22:52,190

OK, well.

352

00:22:52,190 --> 00:23:00,200

I had a extremely nice,  
sweet teacher of religion.

353

00:23:00,200 --> 00:23:01,910

She was a saint.

354

00:23:01,910 --> 00:23:06,260

She never, ever--  
sometimes Christianity

355

00:23:06,260 --> 00:23:11,720

is in conflict with Judaism.

356

00:23:11,720 --> 00:23:15,080

But it wasn't the case.

357

00:23:15,080 --> 00:23:23,750

I never felt that  
something against Jews

358

00:23:23,750 --> 00:23:30,380

in my teaching of  
religion, in whatever I

359

00:23:30,380 --> 00:23:34,670

learned in my religion lessons.

360

00:23:34,670 --> 00:23:43,573

So I didn't feel anything wrong  
about my double personality,

361

00:23:43,573 --> 00:23:45,637

let's call it.

362

00:23:45,637 --> 00:23:47,720

But you didn't even feel  
that it was a double one?

363

00:23:47,720 --> 00:23:48,900

No, I knew.

364

00:23:48,900 --> 00:23:49,400

I knew.

365

00:23:49,400 --> 00:23:51,230

It wasn't a secret.

366

00:23:51,230 --> 00:23:52,730

It wasn't a secret.

367

00:23:52,730 --> 00:24:00,410

It wasn't anything to  
keep in hiding for us.

368

00:24:00,410 --> 00:24:11,840

My family was very proud  
of being one of Winawers.

369

00:24:11,840 --> 00:24:16,160

It was very special  
thing that my father

370

00:24:16,160 --> 00:24:19,005

tried to explain  
me before he-- when

371

00:24:19,005 --> 00:24:25,700

he visited me before he died.

372

00:24:25,700 --> 00:24:33,050

It was the last visit and  
last like saying goodbye.

373

00:24:33,050 --> 00:24:35,570

And we were very  
open with each other.

374

00:24:35,570 --> 00:24:41,130

And he told me, it's  
very hard to explain.

375  
00:24:41,130 --> 00:24:44,320  
But I felt more  
Polish than Jewish.

376  
00:24:44,320 --> 00:24:50,800  
It didn't have anything  
to do with my religion.

377  
00:24:50,800 --> 00:24:52,490  
That's understandable.

378  
00:24:52,490 --> 00:25:02,590  
So it wasn't more like trying  
to hide whatever you were.

379  
00:25:02,590 --> 00:25:07,720  
My parents were Jewish friends.

380  
00:25:07,720 --> 00:25:14,800  
And the best friends, they  
didn't feel like my parents.

381  
00:25:14,800 --> 00:25:23,350  
They felt very-- how to say it?

382  
00:25:23,350 --> 00:25:26,591

383  
00:25:26,591 --> 00:25:28,710  
Rebellious.

384  
00:25:28,710 --> 00:25:32,430  
They felt Jewish and rebellious.

385  
00:25:32,430 --> 00:25:41,640  
It wasn't to confirm  
to Polish standards.

386  
00:25:41,640 --> 00:25:44,290  
It wasn't done to  
conform to anything.



387  
00:25:44,290 --> 00:25:48,480  
It was sort of  
emotional attitude.

388  
00:25:48,480 --> 00:25:49,830  
Did your family ever--

389  
00:25:49,830 --> 00:25:53,760  
I mean, your parents' best  
friends, then, were Jewish?

390  
00:25:53,760 --> 00:25:56,127  
Did they ever spend any  
holidays or anything

391  
00:25:56,127 --> 00:25:56,960  
like that with them?

392  
00:25:56,960 --> 00:25:58,130  
No, they weren't that religious.

393  
00:25:58,130 --> 00:25:58,630  
No.

394  
00:25:58,630 --> 00:25:59,310  
Oh, OK.

395  
00:25:59,310 --> 00:26:00,450  
I see, OK.

396  
00:26:00,450 --> 00:26:02,680  
It was a young generation.

397  
00:26:02,680 --> 00:26:14,420  
You never, ever saw in  
Poland any Jewish holiday,

398  
00:26:14,420 --> 00:26:21,690  
any Seder, any Passover,  
anything like this.

399

00:26:21,690 --> 00:26:22,700

I'm sorry.

400

00:26:22,700 --> 00:26:23,880

I'm very sorry.

401

00:26:23,880 --> 00:26:29,550

I wish I knew more  
about Jewish tradition.

402

00:26:29,550 --> 00:26:31,640

But I had no chance to.

403

00:26:31,640 --> 00:26:36,330

People, young people  
weren't religious.

404

00:26:36,330 --> 00:26:37,768

They were being progressive.

405

00:26:37,768 --> 00:26:39,290

They were progressive.

406

00:26:39,290 --> 00:26:41,590

OK, I understand.

407

00:26:41,590 --> 00:26:43,420

OK, so we've  
established a little bit

408

00:26:43,420 --> 00:26:44,500

about your childhood.

409

00:26:44,500 --> 00:26:45,910

Did you play with your friends?

410

00:26:45,910 --> 00:26:47,860

Or your sister was  
so much younger,

411

00:26:47,860 --> 00:26:49,365

I assume she was  
just a baby when--

412  
00:26:49,365 --> 00:26:49,990  
She was a baby.

413  
00:26:49,990 --> 00:26:51,130  
--most of this started.

414  
00:26:51,130 --> 00:26:55,030  
I had an aunt.

415  
00:26:55,030 --> 00:26:56,090  
It takes long time.

416  
00:26:56,090 --> 00:26:59,410  
Yeah, I'm just keeping an eye on  
it so when I need to switch it.

417  
00:26:59,410 --> 00:27:01,150  
Don't let people talk.

418  
00:27:01,150 --> 00:27:04,387  
Once people start  
talking, they can't stop.

419  
00:27:04,387 --> 00:27:05,220  
That's what we want.

420  
00:27:05,220 --> 00:27:06,012  
That's what I want.

421  
00:27:06,012 --> 00:27:06,880  
I want you to tell.

422  
00:27:06,880 --> 00:27:07,907  
I have five tapes here.

423  
00:27:07,907 --> 00:27:09,490  
If you want to fill  
them up, go ahead.

424

00:27:09,490 --> 00:27:12,580

425

00:27:12,580 --> 00:27:15,230

Now we talk to enter into.

426

00:27:15,230 --> 00:27:23,960

So I had an aunt in Warsaw  
suburbs, in Podkowa Lesna.

427

00:27:23,960 --> 00:27:29,950

It was something like or to  
place we are living here.

428

00:27:29,950 --> 00:27:36,130

And every Sunday--  
she wasn't married.

429

00:27:36,130 --> 00:27:41,830

She lived with her  
old, charming father.

430

00:27:41,830 --> 00:27:45,160

I was the only  
child in the family.

431

00:27:45,160 --> 00:27:49,600

And I used to go to visit  
her from almost every

432

00:27:49,600 --> 00:27:52,270

Saturday and Sunday.

433

00:27:52,270 --> 00:27:54,970

From Saturday till  
Sunday evening.

434

00:27:54,970 --> 00:27:58,130

And I had friends over there.

435

00:27:58,130 --> 00:28:01,610

And we played together.

436  
00:28:01,610 --> 00:28:07,700  
And of course, I had other  
friends in the town, too.

437  
00:28:07,700 --> 00:28:13,460  
But it wasn't like  
American suburban life.

438  
00:28:13,460 --> 00:28:25,350  
If you visiting friends,  
was a big happening.

439  
00:28:25,350 --> 00:28:33,430  
Because in big city, long  
distance to go everywhere.

440  
00:28:33,430 --> 00:28:38,485  
So it was always planned event.

441  
00:28:38,485 --> 00:28:39,880  
I see.

442  
00:28:39,880 --> 00:28:43,255  
Mostly planned for two  
days, usually, from Saturday

443  
00:28:43,255 --> 00:28:44,980  
till Sunday.

444  
00:28:44,980 --> 00:28:47,570  
Oh, it was very exciting.

445  
00:28:47,570 --> 00:28:52,990  
And I had some friends  
in my building, too.

446  
00:28:52,990 --> 00:28:54,790  
They played together.

447  
00:28:54,790 --> 00:28:57,370  
Before the war, there wasn't--

448  
00:28:57,370 --> 00:29:01,930  
I didn't go downstairs  
to play in the yard.

449  
00:29:01,930 --> 00:29:06,580  
But I visited my  
friends in my building.

450  
00:29:06,580 --> 00:29:13,290  
But well, it was such a  
typical life of a child.

451  
00:29:13,290 --> 00:29:14,300  
Nothing, nothing.

452  
00:29:14,300 --> 00:29:17,220

453  
00:29:17,220 --> 00:29:18,660  
Nothing out of the ordinary?

454  
00:29:18,660 --> 00:29:19,620  
No.

455  
00:29:19,620 --> 00:29:21,540  
So would you like  
to discuss, then,

456  
00:29:21,540 --> 00:29:24,330  
about what happened  
to your family

457  
00:29:24,330 --> 00:29:26,370  
in 1939, when the war broke out?

458  
00:29:26,370 --> 00:29:29,490  
Well, first thing happened,  
it was raining like this,

459  
00:29:29,490 --> 00:29:31,800  
with just before the--

460  
00:29:31,800 --> 00:29:35,200  
like today, night  
before the war.

461  
00:29:35,200 --> 00:29:37,050  
Maybe two nights earlier.

462  
00:29:37,050 --> 00:29:39,010  
Maybe three nights earlier.

463  
00:29:39,010 --> 00:29:45,330  
And I was stupid enough to  
leave a book that I was reading,

464  
00:29:45,330 --> 00:29:48,270  
to leave my book outside.

465  
00:29:48,270 --> 00:29:52,740  
And the rain damaged the book.

466  
00:29:52,740 --> 00:29:56,270  
And the book didn't  
belong to me,

467  
00:29:56,270 --> 00:30:01,700  
it belonged to my  
mother's friend daughter.

468  
00:30:01,700 --> 00:30:02,930  
And I was so scared.

469  
00:30:02,930 --> 00:30:12,220  
So I didn't know what  
to do to hide the book.

470  
00:30:12,220 --> 00:30:22,030  
But those people didn't let me  
go without returning that book.

471  
00:30:22,030 --> 00:30:25,550  
I know that they

were very strict.

472

00:30:25,550 --> 00:30:31,030

So the war broke out, and  
I was so happy, oh, my.

473

00:30:31,030 --> 00:30:33,640

I'm saved, I'm saved.

474

00:30:33,640 --> 00:30:35,380

And no school.

475

00:30:35,380 --> 00:30:37,827

And no school.

476

00:30:37,827 --> 00:30:38,410

That was good?

477

00:30:38,410 --> 00:30:39,035

You liked that?

478

00:30:39,035 --> 00:30:44,750

Ah, it was great,  
it was fantastic.

479

00:30:44,750 --> 00:30:48,880

It was extremely  
exciting happening.

480

00:30:48,880 --> 00:30:54,220

But before that great,  
fantastic thing happened,

481

00:30:54,220 --> 00:30:58,600

some bad things happened before.

482

00:30:58,600 --> 00:31:06,910

In August, 1939, last month  
before the war broke out,

483

00:31:06,910 --> 00:31:12,370

my parents went for



vacation for a week or two.

484

00:31:12,370 --> 00:31:15,010

They left my grandmother,  
that grandmother

485

00:31:15,010 --> 00:31:22,540

that I told you about from Lodz,  
me, my little daughter, and--

486

00:31:22,540 --> 00:31:23,680

Your little sister.

487

00:31:23,680 --> 00:31:30,110

--my little sister, and  
some, oh, maid, well,

488

00:31:30,110 --> 00:31:33,790

some maid who worked for.

489

00:31:33,790 --> 00:31:40,440

But my mother had  
a younger sister.

490

00:31:40,440 --> 00:31:41,460

She lived in France.

491

00:31:41,460 --> 00:31:48,220

492

00:31:48,220 --> 00:31:52,570

My mother always  
worried about her

493

00:31:52,570 --> 00:32:00,100

because she married very young.

494

00:32:00,100 --> 00:32:02,530

She didn't finish any school.

495

00:32:02,530 --> 00:32:05,110

She was little, she

was very unbalanced,

496

00:32:05,110 --> 00:32:07,000  
emotionally unbalanced.

497

00:32:07,000 --> 00:32:08,650  
She had a very  
bad, bad marriage.

498

00:32:08,650 --> 00:32:12,160

499

00:32:12,160 --> 00:32:17,830  
And her husband was communist.

500

00:32:17,830 --> 00:32:24,010  
And they were deported  
from France to Poland.

501

00:32:24,010 --> 00:32:32,680  
And my mother's sister,  
with her small son, Claude,

502

00:32:32,680 --> 00:32:37,570  
came to stay with us for  
two weeks, for three weeks.

503

00:32:37,570 --> 00:32:43,030  
And part of the time,  
my parents were out.

504

00:32:43,030 --> 00:32:48,130  
And this was only one,  
only time in my life

505

00:32:48,130 --> 00:32:51,130  
I met my cousin Claude.

506

00:32:51,130 --> 00:32:52,660  
He came from France.

507

00:32:52,660 --> 00:32:55,115

He hated everything Polish.

508  
00:32:55,115 --> 00:33:03,050

509  
00:33:03,050 --> 00:33:10,280  
Looking at them, I  
had a premonition

510  
00:33:10,280 --> 00:33:14,960  
of what will happen to us.

511  
00:33:14,960 --> 00:33:18,090  
Because they were so poor, so--

512  
00:33:18,090 --> 00:33:21,440

513  
00:33:21,440 --> 00:33:24,440  
they were deportees.

514  
00:33:24,440 --> 00:33:26,750  
They had no work.

515  
00:33:26,750 --> 00:33:30,310  
His close parents had no work.

516  
00:33:30,310 --> 00:33:32,810  
They didn't belong anywhere.

517  
00:33:32,810 --> 00:33:34,622  
Because they didn't  
belong to France,

518  
00:33:34,622 --> 00:33:35,830  
they didn't belong to Poland.

519  
00:33:35,830 --> 00:33:39,620

520  
00:33:39,620 --> 00:33:51,740

They were victims of some social forces that we became later on.

521  
00:33:51,740 --> 00:33:56,780  
And they perished  
in the Holocaust.

522  
00:33:56,780 --> 00:33:59,930  
They were in Lodz ghetto.

523  
00:33:59,930 --> 00:34:01,100  
And they perished.

524  
00:34:01,100 --> 00:34:07,040  
And they took probably were  
first to die from hunger

525  
00:34:07,040 --> 00:34:11,690  
because they were  
not able to work.

526  
00:34:11,690 --> 00:34:15,350  
They were not able to  
work in normal conditions.

527  
00:34:15,350 --> 00:34:23,989  
Not only in Lodz ghetto, which  
was terrible place to live in.

528  
00:34:23,989 --> 00:34:31,690  
And that small child,  
that Claude, and my aunt,

529  
00:34:31,690 --> 00:34:38,130  
whom I didn't like and  
I didn't know well.

530  
00:34:38,130 --> 00:34:40,170  
I hardly knew them.

531  
00:34:40,170 --> 00:34:44,400

532

00:34:44,400 --> 00:34:45,480

Are still with me.

533

00:34:45,480 --> 00:34:52,679

534

00:34:52,679 --> 00:34:59,210

Did you see the picture  
of Mr. Lanzmann from--

535

00:34:59,210 --> 00:35:00,400

Yeah, Shoah.

536

00:35:00,400 --> 00:35:00,980

--Shoah.

537

00:35:00,980 --> 00:35:02,210

Oh, yes.

538

00:35:02,210 --> 00:35:03,830

His name is Claude.

539

00:35:03,830 --> 00:35:07,910

And he looks exactly  
like my cousin Claude.

540

00:35:07,910 --> 00:35:17,480

Because they were the same age,  
the same family, the same--

541

00:35:17,480 --> 00:35:24,280

very similar kind of  
family, Polish emigres.

542

00:35:24,280 --> 00:35:32,570

And it's such a  
similarity between them.

543

00:35:32,570 --> 00:35:35,030

And I can't forget that.

544

00:35:35,030 --> 00:35:42,120  
And my grandmother that  
lived with us in Warsaw

545  
00:35:42,120 --> 00:35:50,530  
during the time, war time,  
she didn't get any letter

546  
00:35:50,530 --> 00:35:54,950  
from her daughter  
in Lodz ghetto.

547  
00:35:54,950 --> 00:36:10,910  
And it was sort of constant work  
and tragedy that killed her.

548  
00:36:10,910 --> 00:36:12,110  
Yeah.

549  
00:36:12,110 --> 00:36:14,840  
Can I ask you-- what  
type of awareness

550  
00:36:14,840 --> 00:36:20,240  
did you have of the rise of  
Nazism in Germany and Austria?

551  
00:36:20,240 --> 00:36:22,070  
Did you have a sense  
that the danger?

552  
00:36:22,070 --> 00:36:27,380  
Oh, I have something  
before my aunt, Helenka,

553  
00:36:27,380 --> 00:36:30,230  
and Claude came to visit us.

554  
00:36:30,230 --> 00:36:33,455  
I had another  
experience with Nazism.

555  
00:36:33,455 --> 00:36:37,940

556  
00:36:37,940 --> 00:36:42,155  
Not with Germans, but Germans.

557  
00:36:42,155 --> 00:36:45,930

558  
00:36:45,930 --> 00:36:53,540  
Nazi Germany deported German  
Jews who were born in Poland--

559  
00:36:53,540 --> 00:36:54,380  
That's right, right.

560  
00:36:54,380 --> 00:36:57,380  
--in 1937.

561  
00:36:57,380 --> 00:37:01,100  
And it was sort of  
obligation, sort

562  
00:37:01,100 --> 00:37:04,190  
of moral obligation  
of everybody who

563  
00:37:04,190 --> 00:37:08,660  
belonged to the Jewish--  
somehow to Jewish community

564  
00:37:08,660 --> 00:37:10,190  
to help them.

565  
00:37:10,190 --> 00:37:17,210  
And my mother took a young girl  
who was maybe 19, maybe 20,

566  
00:37:17,210 --> 00:37:24,410  
gave her a job of  
teaching me German sort of

567  
00:37:24,410 --> 00:37:27,590

like being governess.

568

00:37:27,590 --> 00:37:30,560

It wasn't exactly  
governess, but something

569

00:37:30,560 --> 00:37:35,930

like teacher and governess,  
something in between.

570

00:37:35,930 --> 00:37:40,340

She was boring,  
stupid, and I didn't

571

00:37:40,340 --> 00:37:44,210

want to learn German like that.

572

00:37:44,210 --> 00:37:47,580

But she was-- on the other  
hand, I knew she was so poor,

573

00:37:47,580 --> 00:37:49,610

she was so troubled.

574

00:37:49,610 --> 00:37:51,410

She didn't feel happy.

575

00:37:51,410 --> 00:37:55,310

She was so out of place.

576

00:37:55,310 --> 00:37:57,080

So it was bad experience.

577

00:37:57,080 --> 00:37:59,720

But I felt that  
this was my fault.

578

00:37:59,720 --> 00:38:01,295

Did she live in  
your home with you?

579

00:38:01,295 --> 00:38:05,180



No, she used to come over,  
well, twice a week or so.

580  
00:38:05,180 --> 00:38:15,830  
But that relation  
didn't last long.

581  
00:38:15,830 --> 00:38:18,560  
Because it didn't work at all.

582  
00:38:18,560 --> 00:38:20,180  
Right.

583  
00:38:20,180 --> 00:38:25,930  
She wasn't born to be teacher,  
or governess, or anything

584  
00:38:25,930 --> 00:38:26,620  
like this.

585  
00:38:26,620 --> 00:38:29,950  
And she wasn't any  
companion to me, either.

586  
00:38:29,950 --> 00:38:30,920  
So it didn't work.

587  
00:38:30,920 --> 00:38:34,600  
But I know that that  
was something always

588  
00:38:34,600 --> 00:38:38,290  
sort of talking  
about helping those.

589  
00:38:38,290 --> 00:38:44,650  
And I had, in my school-- oh,  
the school wasn't antisemitic.

590  
00:38:44,650 --> 00:38:47,516  
In my school, there was a girl.

591

00:38:47,516 --> 00:38:48,620  
Too long?

592  
00:38:48,620 --> 00:38:49,120  
No.

593  
00:38:49,120 --> 00:38:49,620  
No?

594  
00:38:49,620 --> 00:38:52,330  
But a few more minutes  
and I'll flip it.

595  
00:38:52,330 --> 00:39:02,680  
There was a girl  
deported from Austria.

596  
00:39:02,680 --> 00:39:05,430  
Her name was Ingeborga.

597  
00:39:05,430 --> 00:39:11,400  
Her parents didn't speak Polish  
at all, they spoke German.

598  
00:39:11,400 --> 00:39:13,320  
She was very poor.

599  
00:39:13,320 --> 00:39:17,350  
And during the war, I had  
a special, special relation

600  
00:39:17,350 --> 00:39:18,280  
with her.

601  
00:39:18,280 --> 00:39:21,540  
But this is the story later  
that I will tell you later on.

602  
00:39:21,540 --> 00:39:22,530  
OK.

603  
00:39:22,530 --> 00:39:30,510

And it was only  
two people I knew,

604  
00:39:30,510 --> 00:39:34,630  
two deportees I  
knew from Germany.

605  
00:39:34,630 --> 00:39:37,330  
I didn't know.

606  
00:39:37,330 --> 00:39:40,610  
We children didn't  
take Germans seriously.

607  
00:39:40,610 --> 00:39:43,480  
They were something so--

608  
00:39:43,480 --> 00:39:47,140  
Poland was strong,  
and prepared for war,

609  
00:39:47,140 --> 00:39:50,955  
and the whole world was  
supposed to help Poland.

610  
00:39:50,955 --> 00:39:54,500  
No, Germans were  
something to make fun of.

611  
00:39:54,500 --> 00:39:55,060  
No.

612  
00:39:55,060 --> 00:39:57,843  
I was only 10 and 11.

613  
00:39:57,843 --> 00:39:59,260  
Do you know, did  
your parents have

614  
00:39:59,260 --> 00:40:01,940  
a sense of the German racial  
laws and things like that?

615  
00:40:01,940 --> 00:40:04,000  
Oh, you are kidding.

616  
00:40:04,000 --> 00:40:05,030  
Of course they did.

617  
00:40:05,030 --> 00:40:05,590  
Yeah.

618  
00:40:05,590 --> 00:40:10,430  
So I mean, they knew the  
extreme danger that was posed?

619  
00:40:10,430 --> 00:40:15,040  
Well, they knew, but  
somehow people didn't know.

620  
00:40:15,040 --> 00:40:18,730  
There was some blockage  
in their heads.

621  
00:40:18,730 --> 00:40:22,570  
No, your imagination  
can't go that far.

622  
00:40:22,570 --> 00:40:30,550  
You have to have some  
experience to imagine things.

623  
00:40:30,550 --> 00:40:34,270  
If you don't experience  
things like that, you can't.

624  
00:40:34,270 --> 00:40:40,990  
They knew that life  
would be very hard.

625  
00:40:40,990 --> 00:40:45,490  
But there was always hope  
the war won't break out.

626  
00:40:45,490 --> 00:40:52,000

There was always hope  
that Hitler will stop.

627  
00:40:52,000 --> 00:40:55,480  
Well, and this was  
sort of loyalty.

628  
00:40:55,480 --> 00:41:03,070  
You can't escape from place  
where the others have to live.

629  
00:41:03,070 --> 00:41:08,470  
You know, and this is  
something not honorable

630  
00:41:08,470 --> 00:41:12,300  
that my father  
was-- well, it was

631  
00:41:12,300 --> 00:41:16,840  
sort of romantic generation.

632  
00:41:16,840 --> 00:41:19,120  
Well, I'm going to  
flip the tape over.

633  
00:41:19,120 --> 00:42:02,940

634  
00:42:02,940 --> 00:42:05,640  
So he was 40 at that time.

635  
00:42:05,640 --> 00:42:07,680  
He was in peak of his career.

636  
00:42:07,680 --> 00:42:10,090  
He was very well.

637  
00:42:10,090 --> 00:42:13,620  
He had big clientele.

638  
00:42:13,620 --> 00:42:17,400

He was a very well-known  
lawyer, hardworking lawyer,

639  
00:42:17,400 --> 00:42:18,360  
very, very clever.

640  
00:42:18,360 --> 00:42:27,680

641  
00:42:27,680 --> 00:42:31,370  
My father says, we have  
to go back to Warsaw,

642  
00:42:31,370 --> 00:42:33,650  
things are getting dangerous.

643  
00:42:33,650 --> 00:42:39,840  
So he packed all of us  
into that small car.

644  
00:42:39,840 --> 00:42:43,700  
We left everything  
that we had at home.

645  
00:42:43,700 --> 00:42:46,770  
It wasn't anything  
very valuable.

646  
00:42:46,770 --> 00:42:50,620  
And we went back to  
Warsaw the next day.

647  
00:42:50,620 --> 00:42:53,940  
My father said to my  
mother, I love you all,

648  
00:42:53,940 --> 00:42:58,510  
but I love my country more,  
or something like this.

649  
00:42:58,510 --> 00:43:04,890  
And he kissed us goodbye and  
went to fight for the country.

650  
00:43:04,890 --> 00:43:12,070  
And he left my mother with  
two-years-old, and me,

651  
00:43:12,070 --> 00:43:17,540  
and everything, with no money.

652  
00:43:17,540 --> 00:43:23,090  
Because somehow, people  
weren't prepared.

653  
00:43:23,090 --> 00:43:26,000  
If he had anything, he  
didn't have at home.

654  
00:43:26,000 --> 00:43:27,320  
Maybe in bank.

655  
00:43:27,320 --> 00:43:29,510  
Maybe clients were.

656  
00:43:29,510 --> 00:43:33,770  
It was a normal, regular  
life, like every day.

657  
00:43:33,770 --> 00:43:38,210  
Day like every day from  
financial point of view.

658  
00:43:38,210 --> 00:43:39,800  
Right, right.

659  
00:43:39,800 --> 00:43:46,910  
So the war started this  
way for almost everybody.

660  
00:43:46,910 --> 00:43:52,970  
With not mentally  
prepared for the change.

661  
00:43:52,970 --> 00:44:03,650

So my mother-- and the  
bombardment started.

662  
00:44:03,650 --> 00:44:09,030

And there was no  
food in the stores.

663  
00:44:09,030 --> 00:44:13,920

The stores were shut closed.

664  
00:44:13,920 --> 00:44:23,970

And well, every day was  
worse than the day before.

665  
00:44:23,970 --> 00:44:31,080

And my sister became ill, sick.

666  
00:44:31,080 --> 00:44:34,890

And she got a very high  
fever, and she was dying.

667  
00:44:34,890 --> 00:44:36,150

Oh, my.

668  
00:44:36,150 --> 00:44:38,040

And she was dying.

669  
00:44:38,040 --> 00:44:41,310

And well, I don't  
know how far you

670  
00:44:41,310 --> 00:44:44,520

want to go into gossips,  
into small things.

671  
00:44:44,520 --> 00:44:45,270

This is fine.

672  
00:44:45,270 --> 00:44:45,810

Fine?

673  
00:44:45,810 --> 00:44:47,130



Yeah.

674  
00:44:47,130 --> 00:44:52,500  
And we lived on--

675  
00:44:52,500 --> 00:44:54,540  
I didn't give you my address.

676  
00:44:54,540 --> 00:44:55,920  
But you don't want any address.

677  
00:44:55,920 --> 00:44:57,700  
Sure, why don't you tell me?

678  
00:44:57,700 --> 00:44:59,750  
Tell it on the tape.

679  
00:44:59,750 --> 00:45:01,260  
Well, it was at--

680  
00:45:01,260 --> 00:45:04,620

681  
00:45:04,620 --> 00:45:07,650  
I lived at Kapucynska  
[POLISH] in the war.

682  
00:45:07,650 --> 00:45:18,360  
It was a very small  
street with dead end.

683  
00:45:18,360 --> 00:45:20,505  
So the traffic was limited.

684  
00:45:20,505 --> 00:45:26,820

685  
00:45:26,820 --> 00:45:31,440  
They were habited  
mostly by lawyers

686

00:45:31,440 --> 00:45:36,780  
because the court  
was very close.

687  
00:45:36,780 --> 00:45:42,150  
Court and hipoteca, I  
don't know how you--

688  
00:45:42,150 --> 00:45:43,980  
whatever it is.

689  
00:45:43,980 --> 00:45:46,034  
The place that--

690  
00:45:46,034 --> 00:45:47,360  
I will check.

691  
00:45:47,360 --> 00:45:47,960  
Can you stop?

692  
00:45:47,960 --> 00:45:49,785  
Yeah, sure.

693  
00:45:49,785 --> 00:45:50,285  
OK.

694  
00:45:50,285 --> 00:45:53,850

695  
00:45:53,850 --> 00:45:54,900  
And there was a--

696  
00:45:54,900 --> 00:45:58,260

697  
00:45:58,260 --> 00:45:59,520  
can you stop again?

698  
00:45:59,520 --> 00:46:02,250  
Sure.

699

00:46:02,250 --> 00:46:05,910  
OK, so you were  
telling me about--

700  
00:46:05,910 --> 00:46:11,130  
About that strange  
street we lived on

701  
00:46:11,130 --> 00:46:21,330  
with historic monuments, with  
monastery, Kapucyn monastery

702  
00:46:21,330 --> 00:46:23,410  
with big, big garden.

703  
00:46:23,410 --> 00:46:30,190  
So it was very  
quiet, quiet place.

704  
00:46:30,190 --> 00:46:32,940  
But I don't remember  
why I told you that.

705  
00:46:32,940 --> 00:46:34,020  
I had some idea.

706  
00:46:34,020 --> 00:46:34,920  
But I forgot.

707  
00:46:34,920 --> 00:46:39,930  
So you can forget what.

708  
00:46:39,930 --> 00:46:42,450  
But we came back home.

709  
00:46:42,450 --> 00:46:44,010  
And oh, I know.

710  
00:46:44,010 --> 00:46:46,920  
On the first floor  
of the same building,

711

00:46:46,920 --> 00:46:50,490  
we lived with our  
aunt, my father's aunt.

712  
00:46:50,490 --> 00:46:57,650  
She was old lady, was a  
widow with two daughters.

713  
00:46:57,650 --> 00:47:01,110  
They had no children because  
she didn't like children.

714  
00:47:01,110 --> 00:47:04,920  
And when my small  
sister, Kicia--

715  
00:47:04,920 --> 00:47:08,130  
she had nickname Kicia.

716  
00:47:08,130 --> 00:47:09,420  
Kicia became ill.

717  
00:47:09,420 --> 00:47:12,120

718  
00:47:12,120 --> 00:47:14,820  
And we lived on the third floor.

719  
00:47:14,820 --> 00:47:18,900  
And bombardment  
became very frequent.

720  
00:47:18,900 --> 00:47:22,110  
We were forbidden  
to live upstairs.

721  
00:47:22,110 --> 00:47:27,000  
And we couldn't  
stay in the basement

722  
00:47:27,000 --> 00:47:30,450  
all the time because  
of sick child.

723  
00:47:30,450 --> 00:47:34,080  
So we asked that aunt  
to let us stay with her.

724  
00:47:34,080 --> 00:47:36,450  
She lived on the second floor.

725  
00:47:36,450 --> 00:47:39,300  
And she said no because  
I don't like children.

726  
00:47:39,300 --> 00:47:42,750  
And sick children is  
something that I really hate.

727  
00:47:42,750 --> 00:47:46,770  
And I [LAUGHS] she  
was my father's aunt.

728  
00:47:46,770 --> 00:47:49,620  
Nice lady.

729  
00:47:49,620 --> 00:47:53,160  
But before the war,  
she was extremely nice.

730  
00:47:53,160 --> 00:47:57,030  
She became-- she was very  
nice as long as everything

731  
00:47:57,030 --> 00:47:59,190  
was planned and organized.

732  
00:47:59,190 --> 00:48:05,370  
She loved guests from 5:00  
till 7:00 every Tuesday

733  
00:48:05,370 --> 00:48:07,740  
and that's it.

734  
00:48:07,740 --> 00:48:16,560

So my mother was  
absolutely astonished.

735  
00:48:16,560 --> 00:48:18,880  
It was something unbelievable.

736  
00:48:18,880 --> 00:48:23,610  
So we went down  
to the first floor

737  
00:48:23,610 --> 00:48:26,560  
to the neighbors, who  
were very unfriendly.

738  
00:48:26,560 --> 00:48:30,240  
But he couldn't-- he  
had no guts to say no.

739  
00:48:30,240 --> 00:48:35,230  
So we spent part  
of the September

740  
00:48:35,230 --> 00:48:41,170  
of 1939, the terrible--

741  
00:48:41,170 --> 00:48:45,593  
you know what was September  
of '39 in Poland in Warsaw?

742  
00:48:45,593 --> 00:48:46,760  
At the beginning of the war.

743  
00:48:46,760 --> 00:48:48,620  
It was the beginning of the war.

744  
00:48:48,620 --> 00:48:54,570  
It was the  
bombardment of Warsaw.

745  
00:48:54,570 --> 00:49:00,080  
And we spent partly  
in the basement,

746

00:49:00,080 --> 00:49:05,600

partly in that  
neighbor's apartment.

747

00:49:05,600 --> 00:49:13,280

In the basement, people  
prayed all the time.

748

00:49:13,280 --> 00:49:18,110

And then I felt the very  
tension between my mother

749

00:49:18,110 --> 00:49:19,640

and my grandmother.

750

00:49:19,640 --> 00:49:23,390

She was strongly against  
accepting and being

751

00:49:23,390 --> 00:49:25,670

part of that prayers.

752

00:49:25,670 --> 00:49:31,720

She felt it was a time of trial.

753

00:49:31,720 --> 00:49:35,260

And she felt that  
she's Jewish, and she

754

00:49:35,260 --> 00:49:41,470

didn't want to stay with  
those praying people.

755

00:49:41,470 --> 00:49:55,100

And well, after Warsaw  
came into hands of Germans,

756

00:49:55,100 --> 00:49:58,940

my grandmother  
went back to Lodz.

757

00:49:58,940 --> 00:50:07,400

And she was evacuated,  
deported in very brutal manner.

758  
00:50:07,400 --> 00:50:12,950

759  
00:50:12,950 --> 00:50:14,930  
Not all Jews, but some--

760  
00:50:14,930 --> 00:50:21,130  
I don't know why my grandmother,  
maybe all the people

761  
00:50:21,130 --> 00:50:24,950  
were departed from Lodz.

762  
00:50:24,950 --> 00:50:28,130  
Took to small towns.

763  
00:50:28,130 --> 00:50:33,830  
And because she had--

764  
00:50:33,830 --> 00:50:48,250  
and Jewish-- [POLISH], Judenrat.

765  
00:50:48,250 --> 00:50:49,730  
Do you know the word Judenrat?

766  
00:50:49,730 --> 00:50:51,730  
Yeah, the Jewish council.

767  
00:50:51,730 --> 00:50:56,830  
Jewish council used to find  
place for those deportees.

768  
00:50:56,830 --> 00:50:59,410  
But my grandmother  
didn't need any place

769  
00:50:59,410 --> 00:51:02,230  
because she had her  
daughter in Warsaw.



770  
00:51:02,230 --> 00:51:03,400  
She came to us.

771  
00:51:03,400 --> 00:51:08,350  
But when she was in Radom,  
she had such an experience

772  
00:51:08,350 --> 00:51:13,060  
that is worth telling  
and worth remembering.

773  
00:51:13,060 --> 00:51:18,120  
Those poor, poor deportees  
were placed among people

774  
00:51:18,120 --> 00:51:22,270  
by Jewish council.

775  
00:51:22,270 --> 00:51:26,350  
And there were many  
in one building.

776  
00:51:26,350 --> 00:51:30,760  
And in the evening, one  
of a German captain,

777  
00:51:30,760 --> 00:51:36,490  
or lieutenant, or something  
used to gather them.

778  
00:51:36,490 --> 00:51:40,420  
They stayed there for few days.

779  
00:51:40,420 --> 00:51:48,380  
And he gathered-- the German  
captain gathered them and wrote

780  
00:51:48,380 --> 00:51:50,080  
Bible to them.

781  
00:51:50,080 --> 00:51:58,490

And told them that  
monster and Antichrist

782  
00:51:58,490 --> 00:52:00,830  
will be punished by God.

783  
00:52:00,830 --> 00:52:04,406  
And that something will happen.

784  
00:52:04,406 --> 00:52:11,420  
You know who am I talking  
in, Antichrist and monster.

785  
00:52:11,420 --> 00:52:12,900  
It was Hitler.

786  
00:52:12,900 --> 00:52:15,950  
And his, well--

787  
00:52:15,950 --> 00:52:17,290  
His theology.

788  
00:52:17,290 --> 00:52:20,780  
Yes, that he will be punished.

789  
00:52:20,780 --> 00:52:27,530  
And that everybody has  
to keep faith, and hope.

790  
00:52:27,530 --> 00:52:36,380  
And he gave them  
extreme consolation.

791  
00:52:36,380 --> 00:52:39,860  
And he was sort of saint.

792  
00:52:39,860 --> 00:52:42,980  
But he was taken next day.

793  
00:52:42,980 --> 00:52:44,840  
Was some evening he didn't come.

794

00:52:44,840 --> 00:52:49,130

And those people asked  
what happened to them.

795

00:52:49,130 --> 00:52:55,170

And they were told that better  
not to ask because he was.

796

00:52:55,170 --> 00:52:56,700

He was a German officer?

797

00:52:56,700 --> 00:52:58,170

German officer.

798

00:52:58,170 --> 00:52:59,550

I see.

799

00:52:59,550 --> 00:53:04,710

So it was something that  
doesn't happen very often.

800

00:53:04,710 --> 00:53:09,670

And something that  
shouldn't be forgotten.

801

00:53:09,670 --> 00:53:14,970

And so my grandmother came  
to us, and stayed with us,

802

00:53:14,970 --> 00:53:17,780

and went to ghetto with us.

803

00:53:17,780 --> 00:53:19,470

Oh, you were sent to the?

804

00:53:19,470 --> 00:53:25,820

We went to ghetto  
in October of 1940.

805

00:53:25,820 --> 00:53:26,930

How did that happen?

806

00:53:26,930 --> 00:53:28,910

You were deported to the ghetto?

807

00:53:28,910 --> 00:53:31,820

No, because there  
wasn't deportation,

808

00:53:31,820 --> 00:53:33,170

anything like this.

809

00:53:33,170 --> 00:53:45,540

The ghetto was built. The place  
for Jewish population was--

810

00:53:45,540 --> 00:53:49,030

811

00:53:49,030 --> 00:53:49,800

It was marked.

812

00:53:49,800 --> 00:53:51,960

It was marked out.

813

00:53:51,960 --> 00:54:01,260

The wall was start to be built.  
And the deadline was set.

814

00:54:01,260 --> 00:54:03,920

We were in trouble  
because my parents

815

00:54:03,920 --> 00:54:06,830

had beautiful,  
beautiful apartment,

816

00:54:06,830 --> 00:54:13,430

with beautiful furniture, and  
charming place, and everything.

817

00:54:13,430 --> 00:54:18,380

And somehow, they  
couldn't find anybody to.

818  
00:54:18,380 --> 00:54:21,050

819  
00:54:21,050 --> 00:54:23,720  
Jewish population  
outside the ghetto

820  
00:54:23,720 --> 00:54:28,990  
had to find place in  
the ghetto district.

821  
00:54:28,990 --> 00:54:33,100  
And people from Polish  
population from ghetto

822  
00:54:33,100 --> 00:54:37,810  
used to trade their apartments.

823  
00:54:37,810 --> 00:54:41,440  
So it was very unpleasant time.

824  
00:54:41,440 --> 00:54:48,310  
Because it was time for a  
very easy, quick bucks, mostly

825  
00:54:48,310 --> 00:54:51,430  
for people who lived in--

826  
00:54:51,430 --> 00:54:55,600  
Polish people who lived  
in the ghetto quarters.

827  
00:54:55,600 --> 00:55:04,150  
And it was a big, big tension,  
the deadline was very close.

828  
00:55:04,150 --> 00:55:06,860  
And we didn't have  
place to live.

829  
00:55:06,860 --> 00:55:11,880

But at last, in last  
minute, in the court,

830  
00:55:11,880 --> 00:55:21,300  
one of the clerks, court  
clerks, told my father,

831  
00:55:21,300 --> 00:55:24,000  
there's a judge who  
lives in ghetto,

832  
00:55:24,000 --> 00:55:26,280  
one of judges who  
lives in ghetto,

833  
00:55:26,280 --> 00:55:27,900  
and who is in the  
same situation.

834  
00:55:27,900 --> 00:55:32,290  
He has to go out of ghetto  
and has no place to live.

835  
00:55:32,290 --> 00:55:34,400  
He was very unpractical man.

836  
00:55:34,400 --> 00:55:41,510  
So we quickly  
changed apartments.

837  
00:55:41,510 --> 00:55:44,690  
Traded apartments  
among ourselves.

838  
00:55:44,690 --> 00:55:48,430  
And we moved into  
Nowolipie [POLISH]..

839  
00:55:48,430 --> 00:55:51,830

840  
00:55:51,830 --> 00:55:54,630  
Did your parents ever

consider trying not to go?

841  
00:55:54,630 --> 00:55:55,190  
It wasn't.

842  
00:55:55,190 --> 00:55:55,690  
They were--

843  
00:55:55,690 --> 00:55:57,990  
It wasn't possible.

844  
00:55:57,990 --> 00:56:00,390  
Do you have my  
parents, my father's?

845  
00:56:00,390 --> 00:56:01,080  
Yeah.

846  
00:56:01,080 --> 00:56:06,510  
He looks like absolutely--

847  
00:56:06,510 --> 00:56:13,600  
he's quintessence of Jewish.

848  
00:56:13,600 --> 00:56:16,120  
Yeah, yeah.

849  
00:56:16,120 --> 00:56:17,930  
More than me.

850  
00:56:17,930 --> 00:56:20,345  
I'm Jewish enough, but  
he looks more than me.

851  
00:56:20,345 --> 00:56:21,340  
Yeah, I would think so.

852  
00:56:21,340 --> 00:56:26,760  
And he had too  
many acquaintances.

853

00:56:26,760 --> 00:56:29,820

He was well-known among people.

854

00:56:29,820 --> 00:56:31,800

And it was too risky.

855

00:56:31,800 --> 00:56:34,040

Absolutely.

856

00:56:34,040 --> 00:56:36,150

They didn't take that.

857

00:56:36,150 --> 00:56:37,830

It was a chance.

858

00:56:37,830 --> 00:56:41,490

They considered it,  
but they decided not.

859

00:56:41,490 --> 00:56:47,230

At the same time,  
my grandmother--

860

00:56:47,230 --> 00:56:48,620

I had two grandmothers.

861

00:56:48,620 --> 00:56:49,220

Right.

862

00:56:49,220 --> 00:56:52,400

One from Lodz that  
I told you about.

863

00:56:52,400 --> 00:56:54,500

Another, my father's mother.

864

00:56:54,500 --> 00:56:55,910

And she lost her mind.

865

00:56:55,910 --> 00:57:01,040

She was very seriously mentally  
ill, very dangerous for her.



866  
00:57:01,040 --> 00:57:02,540  
So dangerous for her.

867  
00:57:02,540 --> 00:57:06,240  
It was something  
very, very acute.

868  
00:57:06,240 --> 00:57:09,650  
Acute illness.

869  
00:57:09,650 --> 00:57:11,290  
You asked me about family.

870  
00:57:11,290 --> 00:57:12,770  
Yeah, this is important.

871  
00:57:12,770 --> 00:57:23,340  
Well, on my father's side, my  
mother, her mother's family

872  
00:57:23,340 --> 00:57:28,150  
were manufacturers.

873  
00:57:28,150 --> 00:57:35,710  
And her father-- it's too  
long story to go that far.

874  
00:57:35,710 --> 00:57:44,450  
But he had to quit Poland  
because as a young boy,

875  
00:57:44,450 --> 00:57:49,820  
14 years old, in some case,  
11 years old, and other,

876  
00:57:49,820 --> 00:57:51,830  
14 years old.

877  
00:57:51,830 --> 00:57:58,760  
Because the Russians  
deported Jewish young boys

878  
00:57:58,760 --> 00:58:00,710  
to make them--

879  
00:58:00,710 --> 00:58:06,650  
young, strong, healthy  
boys to make them,

880  
00:58:06,650 --> 00:58:13,130  
to take them to  
army, and make them

881  
00:58:13,130 --> 00:58:14,960  
something of special guard.

882  
00:58:14,960 --> 00:58:20,930

883  
00:58:20,930 --> 00:58:25,310  
Well, I don't even  
understand it myself.

884  
00:58:25,310 --> 00:58:27,440  
But it was something  
very dangerous.

885  
00:58:27,440 --> 00:58:33,530  
And he had to escape at  
night, go through border.

886  
00:58:33,530 --> 00:58:36,590  
He lived in a border,  
in a small town

887  
00:58:36,590 --> 00:58:39,170  
at the border with Austria.

888  
00:58:39,170 --> 00:58:51,880  
And his father got  
information by policemen

889  
00:58:51,880 --> 00:58:59,350

that that night there will  
be hunting for Jewish boys.

890  
00:58:59,350 --> 00:59:04,030  
And that same-- in 15  
minutes, he left home

891  
00:59:04,030 --> 00:59:10,480  
with few rubles, whatever  
he had, they had at home.

892  
00:59:10,480 --> 00:59:13,540  
And he went through the border.

893  
00:59:13,540 --> 00:59:17,590  
And he started his  
independent life.

894  
00:59:17,590 --> 00:59:20,433  
And he worked for farmers.

895  
00:59:20,433 --> 00:59:24,490

896  
00:59:24,490 --> 00:59:36,550  
At last, he worked in the  
manufacture of ribbons.

897  
00:59:36,550 --> 00:59:42,070  
And when he grew up, at the  
age of 20 and something,

898  
00:59:42,070 --> 00:59:43,420  
he returned home.

899  
00:59:43,420 --> 00:59:47,080  
But he didn't speak Polish.

900  
00:59:47,080 --> 00:59:49,600  
And I don't know  
about his Jewish.

901

00:59:49,600 --> 00:59:51,790  
But he spoke only  
German that time.

902  
00:59:51,790 --> 00:59:57,100  
So my grandmother's  
family was bilingual.

903  
00:59:57,100 --> 00:59:59,290  
They spoke German at home.

904  
00:59:59,290 --> 01:00:03,550  
And my grandmother was very,  
very, very fluent in German.

905  
01:00:03,550 --> 01:00:09,250  
And being so sick  
and out of mind, she

906  
01:00:09,250 --> 01:00:15,490  
used to open the windows  
and start very, very

907  
01:00:15,490 --> 01:00:23,170  
convincing speeches to German  
people to get rid of Hitler.

908  
01:00:23,170 --> 01:00:24,610  
Oh, my god.

909  
01:00:24,610 --> 01:00:26,320  
It was very dangerous.

910  
01:00:26,320 --> 01:00:27,730  
It was very dangerous.

911  
01:00:27,730 --> 01:00:31,930  
So my parents need  
get to wire windows.

912  
01:00:31,930 --> 01:00:35,050  
And she had to be under  
constant supervision.

913  
01:00:35,050 --> 01:00:37,850  
But she didn't trust  
anybody except me.

914  
01:00:37,850 --> 01:00:42,510  
So I stayed with  
her day and night.

915  
01:00:42,510 --> 01:00:44,040  
Was she dangerous?

916  
01:00:44,040 --> 01:00:45,930  
She was dangerous,  
she was dangerous.

917  
01:00:45,930 --> 01:00:47,370  
I mean, physically dangerous.

918  
01:00:47,370 --> 01:00:48,360  
Physically dangerous.

919  
01:00:48,360 --> 01:00:49,830  
She had hallucinations.

920  
01:00:49,830 --> 01:00:52,380

921  
01:00:52,380 --> 01:00:56,580  
and when something  
came into her mind,

922  
01:00:56,580 --> 01:01:00,470  
she was dangerous because  
she believed that.

923  
01:01:00,470 --> 01:01:04,640

924  
01:01:04,640 --> 01:01:09,860  
Like seriously  
mentally ill people.

925

01:01:09,860 --> 01:01:13,340

It happened very sudden  
after the whole--

926

01:01:13,340 --> 01:01:17,750

because my father went for war.

927

01:01:17,750 --> 01:01:20,720

And there was no  
information on what happened

928

01:01:20,720 --> 01:01:24,650

to him for a long time.

929

01:01:24,650 --> 01:01:34,430

And my grandmother pledged not  
to eat until he comes back.

930

01:01:34,430 --> 01:01:37,670

And I don't know if  
she was sick then

931

01:01:37,670 --> 01:01:49,550

or she became sick because  
of emotions and of her pain.

932

01:01:49,550 --> 01:01:55,490

933

01:01:55,490 --> 01:01:58,310

So we stayed with grandmother.

934

01:01:58,310 --> 01:02:06,800

We had to keep her  
separate from the world.

935

01:02:06,800 --> 01:02:11,060

And at last, we had to  
put her into a hospital

936

01:02:11,060 --> 01:02:18,110

because the place  
we got in ghetto, we

937  
01:02:18,110 --> 01:02:24,990  
divided with another relatives,  
another family of five people.

938  
01:02:24,990 --> 01:02:32,690  
So we had no room to  
keep grandmother safely.

939  
01:02:32,690 --> 01:02:38,210  
So she went to  
hospital, in Sofiowka.

940  
01:02:38,210 --> 01:02:43,970  
It was in suburbs of Warsaw,  
Jewish hospital for mentally

941  
01:02:43,970 --> 01:02:46,740  
ill.

942  
01:02:46,740 --> 01:02:48,686  
Before that hospital was--

943  
01:02:48,686 --> 01:02:54,340

944  
01:02:54,340 --> 01:02:55,020  
Liquidated?

945  
01:02:55,020 --> 01:02:58,950  
--liquidated, she  
took away her life.

946  
01:02:58,950 --> 01:03:07,060  
So she died in December of 1940.

947  
01:03:07,060 --> 01:03:13,670  
And well, we went to ghetto.

948  
01:03:13,670 --> 01:03:17,420

949

01:03:17,420 --> 01:03:25,670

The first year of war was  
still a normal life for me.

950

01:03:25,670 --> 01:03:27,920

I used to go to underground.

951

01:03:27,920 --> 01:03:30,500

No, it wasn't even underground.

952

01:03:30,500 --> 01:03:31,610

To school.

953

01:03:31,610 --> 01:03:36,730

Because children  
in that time were--

954

01:03:36,730 --> 01:03:42,550

well, there was no  
statute to forbid

955

01:03:42,550 --> 01:03:45,400

children, Jewish  
children, to go to school.

956

01:03:45,400 --> 01:03:49,450

So I used to go  
to regular school.

957

01:03:49,450 --> 01:04:02,790

And from 1940, from  
the summer of 1940,

958

01:04:02,790 --> 01:04:08,160

the real war life started to  
me because everything changed.

959

01:04:08,160 --> 01:04:12,780

First with illness  
of my grandmother.



960

01:04:12,780 --> 01:04:18,130

Later in ghetto, everything  
was completely different.

961

01:04:18,130 --> 01:04:26,500

And well, in the ghetto,  
when it came to ghetto,

962

01:04:26,500 --> 01:04:28,230

we started our--

963

01:04:28,230 --> 01:04:32,770

964

01:04:32,770 --> 01:04:34,802

started meeting people  
from over there.

965

01:04:34,802 --> 01:04:48,250

And we learned that that  
judge who we traded apartments

966

01:04:48,250 --> 01:04:49,900

was a special person.

967

01:04:49,900 --> 01:04:53,410

And his family was  
very, very unusual.

968

01:04:53,410 --> 01:04:58,300

They were owners of the  
possession of the land.

969

01:04:58,300 --> 01:05:01,990

970

01:05:01,990 --> 01:05:09,860

Owners of the buildings.

971

01:05:09,860 --> 01:05:15,850

And they were  
owners of the lumber

972  
01:05:15,850 --> 01:05:20,960  
that was behind the building.

973  
01:05:20,960 --> 01:05:24,920  
It was very, very unusual.

974  
01:05:24,920 --> 01:05:28,230  
It's important to  
part of my story.

975  
01:05:28,230 --> 01:05:29,750  
OK.

976  
01:05:29,750 --> 01:05:34,360  
So we moved Nowolipie [POLISH].

977  
01:05:34,360 --> 01:05:39,340  
Around, we have regular  
buildings, three,

978  
01:05:39,340 --> 01:05:48,430  
four-story buildings, like  
in a crowded city street.

979  
01:05:48,430 --> 01:05:52,850  
But our building was  
completely different.

980  
01:05:52,850 --> 01:05:58,730  
We had three courts,  
very long three courts.

981  
01:05:58,730 --> 01:06:06,080  
It was very old part of  
a farm, of plantation

982  
01:06:06,080 --> 01:06:12,330  
that existed in Warsaw  
few hundred years ago.

983  
01:06:12,330 --> 01:06:20,360

The people who-- the owners  
were owners of plantation,

984  
01:06:20,360 --> 01:06:25,760  
they had plantation in the  
eastern part of Poland.

985  
01:06:25,760 --> 01:06:30,840  
But they lost everything  
because of revolution.

986  
01:06:30,840 --> 01:06:32,700  
Sorry, they return.

987  
01:06:32,700 --> 01:06:35,550  
Russian revolution in 1917.

988  
01:06:35,550 --> 01:06:39,900  
The returned to Warsaw,  
and they treated

989  
01:06:39,900 --> 01:06:43,620  
the place they lived  
like their plantation.

990  
01:06:43,620 --> 01:06:46,370  
They took care of  
people who lived there.

991  
01:06:46,370 --> 01:06:47,880  
Oh, really?

992  
01:06:47,880 --> 01:06:53,460  
They didn't expect  
to be paid for rent

993  
01:06:53,460 --> 01:06:56,139  
because they treated them like--

994  
01:06:56,139 --> 01:06:58,230  
Serfs?

995

01:06:58,230 --> 01:07:00,580  
No, they didn't expect any work.

996  
01:07:00,580 --> 01:07:09,780  
But they had the mentality  
of people of plantation

997  
01:07:09,780 --> 01:07:13,710  
in the best sense of that word.

998  
01:07:13,710 --> 01:07:16,570  
That you take care,  
they are your people,

999  
01:07:16,570 --> 01:07:17,770  
you take care of them.

1000  
01:07:17,770 --> 01:07:22,500  
They teached them, they give  
them help if they need you.

1001  
01:07:22,500 --> 01:07:28,860  
If they need medication,  
the mistress is there, too.

1002  
01:07:28,860 --> 01:07:31,260  
They were absolutely  
crazy people.

1003  
01:07:31,260 --> 01:07:32,790  
It sounds like it.

1004  
01:07:32,790 --> 01:07:36,120  
They lived in poverty.

1005  
01:07:36,120 --> 01:07:42,890  
The apartment was  
never painted, never

1006  
01:07:42,890 --> 01:07:51,930  
nothing was repaired for  
probably, oh, more than years.

1007

01:07:51,930 --> 01:07:58,690

There was plenty of space,  
but on the right side

1008

01:07:58,690 --> 01:08:03,550

of those courts were  
sort of buildings,

1009

01:08:03,550 --> 01:08:05,140

two, three-story buildings.

1010

01:08:05,140 --> 01:08:07,120

Very primitive, but buildings.

1011

01:08:07,120 --> 01:08:13,180

On the left side was sort of  
barracks, like in the country.

1012

01:08:13,180 --> 01:08:21,100

The poor country dwellings.

1013

01:08:21,100 --> 01:08:25,029

So keep it in mind  
because this is important.

1014

01:08:25,029 --> 01:08:33,140

And lumber factory in the back.

1015

01:08:33,140 --> 01:08:40,550

So when my father learned  
who the place belonged

1016

01:08:40,550 --> 01:08:45,560

to saint people who took  
care of all poor, terribly

1017

01:08:45,560 --> 01:08:52,429

poor, Jewish, the poorest of the  
poor who lived in the building.

1018

01:08:52,429 --> 01:08:56,910

1019  
01:08:56,910 --> 01:09:01,069  
It was sort of obligation,  
sort of challenge for us.

1020  
01:09:01,069 --> 01:09:07,609  
So in the same apartment  
with us lived our--

1021  
01:09:07,609 --> 01:09:12,319  
moved into the same  
apartment, moved our family

1022  
01:09:12,319 --> 01:09:17,204  
two doctors, my  
father, two doctors.

1023  
01:09:17,204 --> 01:09:22,310

1024  
01:09:22,310 --> 01:09:32,840  
And my father organized sort  
of community association,

1025  
01:09:32,840 --> 01:09:33,800  
you can say it.

1026  
01:09:33,800 --> 01:09:35,689  
It wasn't association.

1027  
01:09:35,689 --> 01:09:39,080  
But he was so convincing  
that everybody

1028  
01:09:39,080 --> 01:09:49,310  
tried to take care in improving  
our life in our building.

1029  
01:09:49,310 --> 01:09:56,450  
So he built some grass, some  
places to play for children.

1030

01:09:56,450 --> 01:10:00,410  
He organized kitchen soup?

1031  
01:10:00,410 --> 01:10:01,040  
Soup kitchens.

1032  
01:10:01,040 --> 01:10:02,520  
Soup kitchen.

1033  
01:10:02,520 --> 01:10:05,270  
Soup kitchen for poor people.

1034  
01:10:05,270 --> 01:10:12,260  
There was one prostitute  
who lived in the attic of--

1035  
01:10:12,260 --> 01:10:14,630  
because it wasn't a  
building, it was something

1036  
01:10:14,630 --> 01:10:22,760  
like rural, like rural house.

1037  
01:10:22,760 --> 01:10:25,190  
So the prostitute came once.

1038  
01:10:25,190 --> 01:10:33,750  
I remember, she said, I  
earn money very easily.

1039  
01:10:33,750 --> 01:10:35,540  
So I can money easily, too.

1040  
01:10:35,540 --> 01:10:39,050  
But I can't help  
people to feed them.

1041  
01:10:39,050 --> 01:10:42,930  
Because I work at my apartment.

1042  
01:10:42,930 --> 01:10:44,870  
This is my place of work.

1043  
01:10:44,870 --> 01:10:47,400  
So I will give money,  
whatever you need.

1044  
01:10:47,400 --> 01:10:53,390  
But I can't take  
people for dinners.

1045  
01:10:53,390 --> 01:10:58,400  
Because people felt  
sort of obligation.

1046  
01:10:58,400 --> 01:11:03,260  
And my father gave  
initiative, too,

1047  
01:11:03,260 --> 01:11:07,040  
that everybody has  
to give once a week

1048  
01:11:07,040 --> 01:11:10,250  
dinner for at least one person.

1049  
01:11:10,250 --> 01:11:12,380  
And give money if  
they can do it.

1050  
01:11:12,380 --> 01:11:15,500

1051  
01:11:15,500 --> 01:11:22,070  
And I taught  
children, two girls.

1052  
01:11:22,070 --> 01:11:27,620  
I taught program of third class.

1053  
01:11:27,620 --> 01:11:32,330  
Well, I was then in high school,  
I should be in high school.

1054



01:11:32,330 --> 01:11:37,820  
So I taught them some, gave  
them some elementary program

1055  
01:11:37,820 --> 01:11:39,230  
teaching.

1056  
01:11:39,230 --> 01:11:43,700  
And we became very,  
very, very friendly,

1057  
01:11:43,700 --> 01:11:50,240  
with very, very close to  
those people in our building.

1058  
01:11:50,240 --> 01:11:54,210  
Well, you can tell,  
in our neighborhood.

1059  
01:11:54,210 --> 01:11:55,550  
In our area.

1060  
01:11:55,550 --> 01:12:00,790  
So we had books, so  
some young people

1061  
01:12:00,790 --> 01:12:04,580  
used to come over  
to borrow books.

1062  
01:12:04,580 --> 01:12:11,120  
And doctors used to give  
medical help to people

1063  
01:12:11,120 --> 01:12:15,680  
who lived in those barracks.

1064  
01:12:15,680 --> 01:12:19,190  
About how many people  
what was this altogether?

1065  
01:12:19,190 --> 01:12:23,210  
I tried to figure it

out, but it's impossible.

1066

01:12:23,210 --> 01:12:29,780

There were at least two, two parts of one, three maybe.

1067

01:12:29,780 --> 01:12:30,870

Maybe 12.

1068

01:12:30,870 --> 01:12:36,860

Maybe 12 apartments, 12 regular apartments.

1069

01:12:36,860 --> 01:12:39,980

Middle-sized, three, four rooms.

1070

01:12:39,980 --> 01:12:51,650

And probably 10 small apartments, one room,

1071

01:12:51,650 --> 01:12:57,500

one kitchen in the barracks for 10 families.

1072

01:12:57,500 --> 01:13:04,505

And maybe one or two small stores.

1073

01:13:04,505 --> 01:13:07,410

1074

01:13:07,410 --> 01:13:09,160

But people were crowded.

1075

01:13:09,160 --> 01:13:10,340

Oh, yeah.

1076

01:13:10,340 --> 01:13:12,293

So there were many, many people.

1077

01:13:12,293 --> 01:13:14,210

It was probably a couple

hundred people or so.

1078  
01:13:14,210 --> 01:13:16,310  
Probably couple of  
hundred people but not

1079  
01:13:16,310 --> 01:13:18,950  
that many apartments.

1080  
01:13:18,950 --> 01:13:29,500  
And one of those girls that  
I taught, her name was Faiga.

1081  
01:13:29,500 --> 01:13:35,105  
But I didn't feel Jewish.

1082  
01:13:35,105 --> 01:13:38,600

1083  
01:13:38,600 --> 01:13:45,580  
My mission was keep  
those kids Polish.

1084  
01:13:45,580 --> 01:13:49,820  
So I didn't know German.

1085  
01:13:49,820 --> 01:13:50,980  
I didn't.

1086  
01:13:50,980 --> 01:13:54,970  
So one of the girls  
promised to teach me German.

1087  
01:13:54,970 --> 01:13:57,520  
Because some people  
didn't speak Polish.

1088  
01:13:57,520 --> 01:13:58,990  
Right, oh, they spoke Yiddish.

1089  
01:13:58,990 --> 01:14:01,210  
They speak Yiddish

because they were

1090

01:14:01,210 --> 01:14:07,640

very, very poor, poor

Jewish population

1091

01:14:07,640 --> 01:14:11,240

of uneducated Jewish population.

1092

01:14:11,240 --> 01:14:13,940

Some [NON-ENGLISH].

1093

01:14:13,940 --> 01:14:18,170

Oh, I remember that but

I don't know the name.

1094

01:14:18,170 --> 01:14:21,530

Let me check.

1095

01:14:21,530 --> 01:14:28,940

They discussed politics

and everything in Yiddish.

1096

01:14:28,940 --> 01:14:38,740

And they were different

type of people

1097

01:14:38,740 --> 01:14:44,690

than I knew before because they

were real Jewish population,

1098

01:14:44,690 --> 01:14:45,920

Jewish proletarian.

1099

01:14:45,920 --> 01:14:50,800

1100

01:14:50,800 --> 01:14:53,200

And we were very,

very close friends.

1101

01:14:53,200 --> 01:14:56,650

Especially with  
that girl, Faiga.

1102  
01:14:56,650 --> 01:15:26,570

1103  
01:15:26,570 --> 01:15:28,606  
Tinsmith workshop.

1104  
01:15:28,606 --> 01:15:29,106  
Tinsmith.

1105  
01:15:29,106 --> 01:15:33,000

1106  
01:15:33,000 --> 01:15:37,090  
We don't-- it's a  
tinsmith, tinman.

1107  
01:15:37,090 --> 01:15:39,590  
Zinc.

1108  
01:15:39,590 --> 01:15:41,320  
I don't know what they--

1109  
01:15:41,320 --> 01:15:47,210  
oh, they probably fixed  
parts, something like this.

1110  
01:15:47,210 --> 01:15:48,410  
This kind of people.

1111  
01:15:48,410 --> 01:15:50,806  
So not a full-fledged tinsmith.

1112  
01:15:50,806 --> 01:15:52,270  
No, no.

1113  
01:15:52,270 --> 01:15:58,032  
They were extremely poor,  
extremely smelly, extremely--

1114  
01:15:58,032 --> 01:16:00,740

1115  
01:16:00,740 --> 01:16:03,641  
and they were always  
hungry, I know.

1116  
01:16:03,641 --> 01:16:10,370  
I remember that my  
student, my pupil Faiga,

1117  
01:16:10,370 --> 01:16:15,111  
how hungry she was, how  
thin she was, how pale.

1118  
01:16:15,111 --> 01:16:18,560  
How did you manage to get  
food in the Warsaw ghetto?

1119  
01:16:18,560 --> 01:16:20,120  
Oh, how it was.

1120  
01:16:20,120 --> 01:16:22,340  
If you had the money, it  
wasn't hard to get food.

1121  
01:16:22,340 --> 01:16:30,270  
And my mother was  
a businesswoman.

1122  
01:16:30,270 --> 01:16:31,370  
Right.

1123  
01:16:31,370 --> 01:16:32,300  
So she managed to.

1124  
01:16:32,300 --> 01:16:33,260  
She managed.

1125  
01:16:33,260 --> 01:16:37,370  
And well, she didn't  
have any other ambition.

1126  
01:16:37,370 --> 01:16:40,850  
She didn't have ambition  
to gather money,

1127  
01:16:40,850 --> 01:16:48,660  
she had ambition to buy  
food and let people work.

1128  
01:16:48,660 --> 01:16:52,470  
And help some people  
with feeding them.

1129  
01:16:52,470 --> 01:16:57,230  
So we had three meals daily.

1130  
01:16:57,230 --> 01:16:57,730  
Wow.

1131  
01:16:57,730 --> 01:17:02,900  
And not everybody  
was hungry in ghetto.

1132  
01:17:02,900 --> 01:17:06,740  
There were people who were  
very rich in ghetto, too.

1133  
01:17:06,740 --> 01:17:09,650  
So we had three meals.

1134  
01:17:09,650 --> 01:17:15,280  
And we had always two,  
three, four people

1135  
01:17:15,280 --> 01:17:22,930  
who were regular boarders.

1136  
01:17:22,930 --> 01:17:25,540  
Two uncles of my mother.

1137  
01:17:25,540 --> 01:17:31,220  
And well, I don't remember all

of them because it changed.

1138  
01:17:31,220 --> 01:17:38,860  
But we had always 12  
people for every meal.

1139  
01:17:38,860 --> 01:17:45,900  
And most of them were  
regular boarders.

1140  
01:17:45,900 --> 01:17:49,770  
They didn't live with us,  
but they used to eat with us.

1141  
01:17:49,770 --> 01:17:55,590  
It was sort of, well, sort  
of help because it was fixed.

1142  
01:17:55,590 --> 01:18:02,485  
And they could trust.

1143  
01:18:02,485 --> 01:18:05,440

1144  
01:18:05,440 --> 01:18:06,400  
They could rely on it.

1145  
01:18:06,400 --> 01:18:07,720  
They could rely.

1146  
01:18:07,720 --> 01:18:10,420  
But there were  
tragic situations.

1147  
01:18:10,420 --> 01:18:25,480  
Behind every jolly and cheerful  
meal that we tried to keep,

1148  
01:18:25,480 --> 01:18:29,120  
there was always tragedy.

1149  
01:18:29,120 --> 01:18:36,150



One of my mother's  
uncles had grown up

1150  
01:18:36,150 --> 01:18:45,270  
son who was mentally ill and  
not able to work and to do

1151  
01:18:45,270 --> 01:18:46,700  
anything.

1152  
01:18:46,700 --> 01:18:53,370  
And my uncle had a girlfriend.

1153  
01:18:53,370 --> 01:18:56,040  
Not a wife, but sort of wife.

1154  
01:18:56,040 --> 01:19:02,220  
She was, we call it common law.

1155  
01:19:02,220 --> 01:19:04,500  
Common law.

1156  
01:19:04,500 --> 01:19:08,640  
And she didn't come  
over for meals to us.

1157  
01:19:08,640 --> 01:19:09,630  
I don't know.

1158  
01:19:09,630 --> 01:19:14,080  
It was impossible to feed  
everything, just impossible.

1159  
01:19:14,080 --> 01:19:21,980  
So it was a very, very  
unpleasant situation

1160  
01:19:21,980 --> 01:19:24,170  
of making choices.

1161  
01:19:24,170 --> 01:19:29,030  
And it was the very bad

part because my grandmother

1162  
01:19:29,030 --> 01:19:32,180  
had bad feelings.

1163  
01:19:32,180 --> 01:19:37,400  
Give this, give him for Vera.

1164  
01:19:37,400 --> 01:19:41,600  
Vera was that common law wife.

1165  
01:19:41,600 --> 01:19:48,380  
Give some well food  
for Julek, his son.

1166  
01:19:48,380 --> 01:19:53,270  
So whoever used to  
eat at our table

1167  
01:19:53,270 --> 01:19:57,620  
had many people who  
should be fed, too.

1168  
01:19:57,620 --> 01:20:01,760  
And it was absolutely--

1169  
01:20:01,760 --> 01:20:04,310  
it was absolutely impossible.

1170  
01:20:04,310 --> 01:20:09,680  
It was always a choice of  
every day that one day,

1171  
01:20:09,680 --> 01:20:13,070  
you could give them,  
another day you couldn't.

1172  
01:20:13,070 --> 01:20:14,420  
It wasn't pleasant.

1173  
01:20:14,420 --> 01:20:16,220  
It wasn't pleasant situation.

1174  
01:20:16,220 --> 01:20:20,630  
It wasn't pleasant situation  
even for my mother's uncle.

1175  
01:20:20,630 --> 01:20:23,520  
Because he wasn't hungry.

1176  
01:20:23,520 --> 01:20:25,410  
And I don't know.

1177  
01:20:25,410 --> 01:20:31,450  
But the art of life, of  
living, in those days

1178  
01:20:31,450 --> 01:20:35,470  
was not to talk  
about everything.

1179  
01:20:35,470 --> 01:20:38,720  
To avoid negative talking.

1180  
01:20:38,720 --> 01:20:40,470  
What type of goods  
were available, though?

1181  
01:20:40,470 --> 01:20:42,370  
I mean, you said  
food was available.

1182  
01:20:42,370 --> 01:20:45,980  
Of course, it wasn't any  
problem if you had money.

1183  
01:20:45,980 --> 01:20:48,190  
There was a big market.

1184  
01:20:48,190 --> 01:20:52,480  
The problem was to get  
food in the nearest

1185  
01:20:52,480 --> 01:20:55,260

close, nearest store.

1186  
01:20:55,260 --> 01:20:58,420  
We had a very small  
store in our home

1187  
01:20:58,420 --> 01:21:02,260  
or maybe in the  
neighboring house.

1188  
01:21:02,260 --> 01:21:08,170  
But the problem was,  
the art, the challenge

1189  
01:21:08,170 --> 01:21:15,280  
was to buy a loaf of  
bread and take it home.

1190  
01:21:15,280 --> 01:21:22,390  
Because the moment, very  
moment you left the store,

1191  
01:21:22,390 --> 01:21:27,520  
the buggers, the hungry  
people, tried to--

1192  
01:21:27,520 --> 01:21:32,660

1193  
01:21:32,660 --> 01:21:33,330  
Take it away.

1194  
01:21:33,330 --> 01:21:34,490  
--take it away.

1195  
01:21:34,490 --> 01:21:35,780  
And they did.

1196  
01:21:35,780 --> 01:21:37,650  
Most of the time, they did.

1197  
01:21:37,650 --> 01:21:43,730

I assume that you did go  
out of this little enclave

1198  
01:21:43,730 --> 01:21:45,500  
during your time in the ghetto.

1199  
01:21:45,500 --> 01:21:47,180  
Do you want to discuss  
any of the things

1200  
01:21:47,180 --> 01:21:50,090  
that you might have  
seen, anything that you

1201  
01:21:50,090 --> 01:21:51,590  
witnessed while you were there?

1202  
01:21:51,590 --> 01:21:52,320  
In the ghetto?

1203  
01:21:52,320 --> 01:21:52,820  
Yeah.

1204  
01:21:52,820 --> 01:21:55,840  
Well, I want to tell  
about two things.

1205  
01:21:55,840 --> 01:21:57,860  
One about Faiga.

1206  
01:21:57,860 --> 01:22:03,080  
I called her Frania,  
but she accepted it.

1207  
01:22:03,080 --> 01:22:07,430  
I felt Polish and  
I tried to-- well,

1208  
01:22:07,430 --> 01:22:11,780  
I didn't understand the  
Jewish-Polish problems

1209

01:22:11,780 --> 01:22:14,030  
in those days.

1210  
01:22:14,030 --> 01:22:20,770  
So eventually, because  
her uncle was so poor,

1211  
01:22:20,770 --> 01:22:27,790  
eventually she had been  
taken to Korczak's orphanage.

1212  
01:22:27,790 --> 01:22:31,660  
And I was over there  
and visited her.

1213  
01:22:31,660 --> 01:22:47,990  
And I didn't-- it was the most  
remembered by me experience,

1214  
01:22:47,990 --> 01:22:52,810  
very touching thing to do.

1215  
01:22:52,810 --> 01:22:53,590  
I don't know.

1216  
01:22:53,590 --> 01:22:55,540  
I don't use the right word.

1217  
01:22:55,540 --> 01:23:02,225  
But something very inspiring  
going to Korczak's orphanage

1218  
01:23:02,225 --> 01:23:02,725  
and taking.

1219  
01:23:02,725 --> 01:23:03,517  
Well, his work was.

1220  
01:23:03,517 --> 01:23:20,250  
It was absolutely-- it was  
the place for like well,

1221

01:23:20,250 --> 01:23:23,720  
how do you call the  
place where Eve and--

1222  
01:23:23,720 --> 01:23:25,980  
Oh, the Garden of Eden.

1223  
01:23:25,980 --> 01:23:27,720  
Garden of Eden, Garden of Eden.

1224  
01:23:27,720 --> 01:23:31,370

1225  
01:23:31,370 --> 01:23:34,230  
So it was the last  
time I saw my Faiga,

1226  
01:23:34,230 --> 01:23:38,460  
it was only in that orphanage.

1227  
01:23:38,460 --> 01:23:42,720  
And another thing I  
wanted to tell you,

1228  
01:23:42,720 --> 01:23:47,190  
it was the girl from Austria.

1229  
01:23:47,190 --> 01:23:54,690  
The girls from Austria  
somehow lost her parents

1230  
01:23:54,690 --> 01:23:57,580  
during the ghetto.

1231  
01:23:57,580 --> 01:24:04,130  
She was my classmate  
before the war.

1232  
01:24:04,130 --> 01:24:06,550  
Her name was Ingeborga.

1233  
01:24:06,550 --> 01:24:12,110

And we, her friends, few  
friends who lived in ghetto,

1234  
01:24:12,110 --> 01:24:17,600  
tried to help her by making  
cigarettes, and selling

1235  
01:24:17,600 --> 01:24:20,390  
cigarettes, and  
giving money to her.

1236  
01:24:20,390 --> 01:24:26,180  
But any time I saw her,  
she was more like a ghost,

1237  
01:24:26,180 --> 01:24:27,800  
not like a living person.

1238  
01:24:27,800 --> 01:24:29,960  
She didn't look like  
a living person.

1239  
01:24:29,960 --> 01:24:33,110  
She went through typhus.

1240  
01:24:33,110 --> 01:24:36,230  
She went through hunger.

1241  
01:24:36,230 --> 01:24:39,950  
It was in ghetto,  
it wasn't in a camp.

1242  
01:24:39,950 --> 01:24:44,990  
But there were places in  
ghetto that people lived like--

1243  
01:24:44,990 --> 01:24:46,700  
she looked like skeleton.

1244  
01:24:46,700 --> 01:24:50,860  
And had her mind, her mind  
was almost gone in there.



1245

01:24:50,860 --> 01:24:55,014

1246

01:24:55,014 --> 01:25:00,560

And all, but  
otherwise, there were

1247

01:25:00,560 --> 01:25:06,850

some people who lived a  
regular life, more or less.

1248

01:25:06,850 --> 01:25:08,900

I want to change tapes  
if that's OK for you.

1249

01:25:08,900 --> 01:25:10,450

OK.

1250

01:25:10,450 --> 01:25:12,000