

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,640

2  
00:00:02,640 --> 00:00:06,090  
OK, the date is April  
1, 1992, and we're

3  
00:00:06,090 --> 00:00:11,640  
speaking with Dr. Janina Prot  
in Lexington, Massachusetts.

4  
00:00:11,640 --> 00:00:14,070  
Dr. Prot, could you  
please tell me your name,

5  
00:00:14,070 --> 00:00:16,120  
and your date of birth,  
and your place of birth?

6  
00:00:16,120 --> 00:00:16,620  
Yes.

7  
00:00:16,620 --> 00:00:18,660  
Please, don't call me Dr. Prot.

8  
00:00:18,660 --> 00:00:20,040  
My name is Jana.

9  
00:00:20,040 --> 00:00:21,510  
It is my nickname.

10  
00:00:21,510 --> 00:00:24,180  
And my full name is Janina.

11  
00:00:24,180 --> 00:00:27,080  
And my last name is Prot.

12  
00:00:27,080 --> 00:00:28,050  
Oh, date of birth.

13

00:00:28,050 --> 00:00:28,920

Yes.

14

00:00:28,920 --> 00:00:31,230

February 8, '26.

15

00:00:31,230 --> 00:00:33,690

I was born in

Poland, in small town

16

00:00:33,690 --> 00:00:38,430

named Nowe Miasto, near Warsaw.

17

00:00:38,430 --> 00:00:40,260

Could you tell me

about your childhood?

18

00:00:40,260 --> 00:00:42,960

What was it like

growing up in your town?

19

00:00:42,960 --> 00:00:44,310

What was your family like?

20

00:00:44,310 --> 00:00:46,830

Did you have

brothers and sisters?

21

00:00:46,830 --> 00:00:48,870

What did you like to do?

22

00:00:48,870 --> 00:00:51,010

Anything you can

remember about that time.

23

00:00:51,010 --> 00:00:54,400

Well, I can remember plenty.

24

00:00:54,400 --> 00:01:01,020

I grew up mostly in Warsaw.

25

00:01:01,020 --> 00:01:03,720

But my travels--  
during my childhood,

26  
00:01:03,720 --> 00:01:07,830  
I changed the place of living,  
mostly because my parents were

27  
00:01:07,830 --> 00:01:09,630  
divorced.

28  
00:01:09,630 --> 00:01:14,130  
And part of my childhood,  
I spent with my father

29  
00:01:14,130 --> 00:01:18,960  
and then part with my mother.

30  
00:01:18,960 --> 00:01:25,440  
I have a brother,  
who is two year.

31  
00:01:25,440 --> 00:01:26,320  
See I mean?

32  
00:01:26,320 --> 00:01:26,820  
That's OK.

33  
00:01:26,820 --> 00:01:29,190  
Two year younger.

34  
00:01:29,190 --> 00:01:32,490  
And for part time  
before the war,

35  
00:01:32,490 --> 00:01:36,510  
we were separated because  
he was with my mother,

36  
00:01:36,510 --> 00:01:37,530  
I was with my father.

37  
00:01:37,530 --> 00:01:43,230

It was plenty of  
family problems.

38  
00:01:43,230 --> 00:01:46,870  
My father had some kind of  
high position in Poland.

39  
00:01:46,870 --> 00:01:48,540  
What did he do?

40  
00:01:48,540 --> 00:01:54,900  
He was a director of a  
big factory of ammunition

41  
00:01:54,900 --> 00:01:59,230  
and explosive  
materials in Poland.

42  
00:01:59,230 --> 00:02:04,020  
So it was kind of high position.

43  
00:02:04,020 --> 00:02:08,550  
And living with  
him, I was living

44  
00:02:08,550 --> 00:02:11,690  
near Radom, a  
small town, Pionki,

45  
00:02:11,690 --> 00:02:16,140  
what was mostly the  
town around big factory.

46  
00:02:16,140 --> 00:02:19,710  
It was a big house, big garden.

47  
00:02:19,710 --> 00:02:21,320  
I didn't go to school.

48  
00:02:21,320 --> 00:02:22,320  
You didn't?

49

00:02:22,320 --> 00:02:27,690  
No, because it was small  
country-like elementary school.

50  
00:02:27,690 --> 00:02:31,080  
And my father didn't want to  
send me to this country school,

51  
00:02:31,080 --> 00:02:36,690  
feeling probably correctly that  
education was not too good.

52  
00:02:36,690 --> 00:02:43,170  
So I was taught at home  
with two other girls.

53  
00:02:43,170 --> 00:02:45,510  
We had a private tutor.

54  
00:02:45,510 --> 00:02:47,340  
And we had lessons at home.

55  
00:02:47,340 --> 00:02:51,510  
And in the afternoon, I  
had to do my homework,

56  
00:02:51,510 --> 00:02:52,800  
as all children.

57  
00:02:52,800 --> 00:02:56,100  
And once a year, I had  
to take some small exam.

58  
00:02:56,100 --> 00:03:01,080  
It was a government requirement  
that I have enough education

59  
00:03:01,080 --> 00:03:04,140  
to start another class.

60  
00:03:04,140 --> 00:03:06,750  
This way, I practically  
never went to school.

61  
00:03:06,750 --> 00:03:11,760  
Except last year before the  
war, when we moved to Warsaw.

62  
00:03:11,760 --> 00:03:15,660  
And I started what they call  
in Poland Gymnasium, what

63  
00:03:15,660 --> 00:03:19,020  
is about junior high.

64  
00:03:19,020 --> 00:03:19,980  
This level.

65  
00:03:19,980 --> 00:03:22,965  
And I went for one  
year to school.

66  
00:03:22,965 --> 00:03:26,420

67  
00:03:26,420 --> 00:03:28,850  
Could you tell me a little  
bit about the religious life

68  
00:03:28,850 --> 00:03:32,860  
in your home or respective  
homes with your parents?

69  
00:03:32,860 --> 00:03:35,780  
Well, it is really complicated.

70  
00:03:35,780 --> 00:03:41,030  
We start some kind of  
complicated part of my life.

71  
00:03:41,030 --> 00:03:46,970  
My parents converted to  
Catholicism before I was born.

72  
00:03:46,970 --> 00:03:49,595

Both my family were  
completely what they

73  
00:03:49,595 --> 00:03:53,000  
call assimilated Polish family.

74  
00:03:53,000 --> 00:03:58,730  
They never feel that have too  
much to do with Jewish habits.

75  
00:03:58,730 --> 00:04:02,630  
My father, I think, it  
was biggest Polish patriot

76  
00:04:02,630 --> 00:04:05,480  
what I ever met in my life.

77  
00:04:05,480 --> 00:04:11,930  
And I think almost everybody  
on my father's side,

78  
00:04:11,930 --> 00:04:16,370  
in some '20s probably,  
or after the First

79  
00:04:16,370 --> 00:04:22,250  
War, converted to Catholicism  
or to Protestantism.

80  
00:04:22,250 --> 00:04:24,050  
Not in my mother family.

81  
00:04:24,050 --> 00:04:28,070  
My mother was, I  
think, only one.

82  
00:04:28,070 --> 00:04:32,540  
So I grew up as a Catholic girl.

83  
00:04:32,540 --> 00:04:37,190  
Of course, my parents were not  
very religious in any religion,

84

00:04:37,190 --> 00:04:38,000  
simply.

85

00:04:38,000 --> 00:04:40,730  
But officially,  
they were Catholic.

86

00:04:40,730 --> 00:04:43,670  
And because I grew up  
with other children,

87

00:04:43,670 --> 00:04:47,630  
they wanted me, probably, to  
be the same as the other girls.

88

00:04:47,630 --> 00:04:53,630  
So I was baptized and I went  
to first communion, having,

89

00:04:53,630 --> 00:04:55,220  
I don't think--

90

00:04:55,220 --> 00:04:57,440  
being eight-year-old.

91

00:04:57,440 --> 00:05:00,710  
And I didn't know  
that I am Jewish.

92

00:05:00,710 --> 00:05:03,510  
We never talk about it at home.

93

00:05:03,510 --> 00:05:08,450  
I knew that we are  
a little different.

94

00:05:08,450 --> 00:05:12,260  
And it was hard for me to figure  
out what is really different.

95

00:05:12,260 --> 00:05:15,200  
I knew that we are different



than the other people.

96  
00:05:15,200 --> 00:05:18,020  
Of course, my parents never  
was going to the church.

97  
00:05:18,020 --> 00:05:21,080  
But if I wanted to go to  
the church as other girls,

98  
00:05:21,080 --> 00:05:24,230  
or if I wanted to go to  
the church with our maid,

99  
00:05:24,230 --> 00:05:26,210  
it was permitted.

100  
00:05:26,210 --> 00:05:28,790  
It was fine.

101  
00:05:28,790 --> 00:05:34,820  
I really discovered who am I  
when the war started and we all

102  
00:05:34,820 --> 00:05:37,700  
discovered that we  
are not Pole anymore,

103  
00:05:37,700 --> 00:05:44,270  
that we are Jews and treated  
as Jews by everybody around.

104  
00:05:44,270 --> 00:05:46,130  
But otherwise,  
people didn't know?

105  
00:05:46,130 --> 00:05:47,160  
Or they did know?

106  
00:05:47,160 --> 00:05:50,640  
Oh, yes, of course  
everybody knew.

107

00:05:50,640 --> 00:05:54,530

But it was some kind  
of thing what we were--

108

00:05:54,530 --> 00:05:56,940

educated people  
don't talk about.

109

00:05:56,940 --> 00:05:59,840

We were living  
between some kind of

110

00:05:59,840 --> 00:06:02,915

educated, intellectual people.

111

00:06:02,915 --> 00:06:04,730

And many of them,  
they have what they

112

00:06:04,730 --> 00:06:07,250

call in Poland mixed marriages.

113

00:06:07,250 --> 00:06:09,920

One of them was Jewish,  
one of them was Polish,

114

00:06:09,920 --> 00:06:12,320

and everybody had some  
grandmother was Jewish.

115

00:06:12,320 --> 00:06:14,630

You know, just mixed.

116

00:06:14,630 --> 00:06:21,080

And until probably late '30s, I  
don't know if my father really

117

00:06:21,080 --> 00:06:23,570

feel a big antisemitism.

118

00:06:23,570 --> 00:06:27,650

I think later, something

started because I remember then,

119  
00:06:27,650 --> 00:06:30,620  
about '38 or  
beginning of '39, he

120  
00:06:30,620 --> 00:06:34,490  
started to talk that he would  
like to quit his job, what

121  
00:06:34,490 --> 00:06:37,170  
was very well-paid.

122  
00:06:37,170 --> 00:06:39,650  
And I think he enjoyed  
doing what he was doing.

123  
00:06:39,650 --> 00:06:41,780  
Could probably move to Warsaw.

124  
00:06:41,780 --> 00:06:43,250  
And so on, and so on.

125  
00:06:43,250 --> 00:06:45,170  
It was probably some--

126  
00:06:45,170 --> 00:06:48,080  
I will never know  
this because I didn't

127  
00:06:48,080 --> 00:06:52,130  
see my father after the  
war practically started.

128  
00:06:52,130 --> 00:06:54,200  
So I never was--

129  
00:06:54,200 --> 00:06:56,210  
I never had  
opportunity to ask him.

130  
00:06:56,210 --> 00:06:58,370

I was a child.

131  
00:06:58,370 --> 00:07:04,610  
And personally, I was living  
in some kind of isolated area.

132  
00:07:04,610 --> 00:07:06,890  
I didn't go to school.

133  
00:07:06,890 --> 00:07:10,610  
I was living with my  
father at this time,

134  
00:07:10,610 --> 00:07:14,390  
being taught at home  
with other girls.

135  
00:07:14,390 --> 00:07:16,460  
It was practically  
not possible even

136  
00:07:16,460 --> 00:07:19,760  
to be exposed to the  
Polish antisemitism.

137  
00:07:19,760 --> 00:07:21,050  
I knew that it did exist.

138  
00:07:21,050 --> 00:07:23,330  
I knew that it is  
something really bad.

139  
00:07:23,330 --> 00:07:25,190  
But I never took it personally.

140  
00:07:25,190 --> 00:07:26,607  
Right, well, you  
had no reason to.

141  
00:07:26,607 --> 00:07:30,920  
I grew up in very liberal  
house, very intellectual liberal

142  
00:07:30,920 --> 00:07:32,060  
house.

143  
00:07:32,060 --> 00:07:34,670  
And it was bad to  
be antisemitic.

144  
00:07:34,670 --> 00:07:37,790  
It was bad to think that  
black people are different,

145  
00:07:37,790 --> 00:07:39,810  
and all people should be equal.

146  
00:07:39,810 --> 00:07:41,740  
And so on, and so on.

147  
00:07:41,740 --> 00:07:43,190  
You can imagine how it is.

148  
00:07:43,190 --> 00:07:46,050  
I also imagine you didn't  
have any black people, too.

149  
00:07:46,050 --> 00:07:47,260  
No, no, no.

150  
00:07:47,260 --> 00:07:50,690  
But also it was this kind  
of feeling in the house,

151  
00:07:50,690 --> 00:07:54,050  
that the people equal,  
all religions are fine.

152  
00:07:54,050 --> 00:07:55,490  
Right.

153  
00:07:55,490 --> 00:07:57,600  
Can I ask you about  
your childhood?

154

00:07:57,600 --> 00:08:00,380

Do you remember, did you have any particular interests,

155

00:08:00,380 --> 00:08:02,540

or hobbies, or music, or anything that you

156

00:08:02,540 --> 00:08:05,540

pursued or enjoyed to do?

157

00:08:05,540 --> 00:08:07,170

I don't think so.

158

00:08:07,170 --> 00:08:09,500

I was very unhappy child.

159

00:08:09,500 --> 00:08:12,935

In all this financial possibility

160

00:08:12,935 --> 00:08:15,030

till then, I was very unhappy.

161

00:08:15,030 --> 00:08:18,680

I was very unhappy because my parents were divorced.

162

00:08:18,680 --> 00:08:20,810

How old were you when they divorced?

163

00:08:20,810 --> 00:08:24,560

I was about four year old.

164

00:08:24,560 --> 00:08:29,230

And they were constantly fighting to have children.

165

00:08:29,230 --> 00:08:31,290

My father wanted to have both of us.

166  
00:08:31,290 --> 00:08:34,320  
And my mother, of course,  
wanted to have both of us.

167  
00:08:34,320 --> 00:08:38,010  
And we are constantly from  
different reasons switched

168  
00:08:38,010 --> 00:08:39,980  
from one parent to the other.

169  
00:08:39,980 --> 00:08:42,690  
And you know, my mother  
was very nervous,

170  
00:08:42,690 --> 00:08:45,435  
tense, anxious, neurotic person.

171  
00:08:45,435 --> 00:08:48,030

172  
00:08:48,030 --> 00:08:52,620  
I was much, much more  
happy to be with my father.

173  
00:08:52,620 --> 00:08:55,560  
But my mother, when I went  
with her for vacation,

174  
00:08:55,560 --> 00:08:57,600  
was constantly  
telling me, how come

175  
00:08:57,600 --> 00:08:59,578  
that you are with your father?

176  
00:08:59,578 --> 00:09:00,870  
You should be with your mother.

177  
00:09:00,870 --> 00:09:02,220  
You are a girl.

178  
00:09:02,220 --> 00:09:04,480  
And children should  
stay with mother.

179  
00:09:04,480 --> 00:09:05,790  
And so on, and so on.

180  
00:09:05,790 --> 00:09:10,830  
I was really very, very  
shy, unhappy, frustrated,

181  
00:09:10,830 --> 00:09:11,790  
frustrated child.

182  
00:09:11,790 --> 00:09:14,980  
I was very good student.

183  
00:09:14,980 --> 00:09:19,510  
And I was reading  
books from age five.

184  
00:09:19,510 --> 00:09:24,360  
I had time that I was  
reading two books per day.

185  
00:09:24,360 --> 00:09:28,080  
And I know and understand now  
why everybody was looking, oh,

186  
00:09:28,080 --> 00:09:31,710  
what a wonderful child, reading,  
and reading, and reading.

187  
00:09:31,710 --> 00:09:34,620  
No, it was my escape, simply.

188  
00:09:34,620 --> 00:09:37,920  
Not to be exposed on  
this family problem,

189  
00:09:37,920 --> 00:09:40,260



not to play with children,  
what they can ask me,

190  
00:09:40,260 --> 00:09:42,750  
where is your mother?

191  
00:09:42,750 --> 00:09:45,570  
I had very strong feeling  
that I am different,

192  
00:09:45,570 --> 00:09:47,010  
and I should keep away.

193  
00:09:47,010 --> 00:09:50,160  
I was very happy.

194  
00:09:50,160 --> 00:09:53,760  
Even now-- this is up  
through your teenagerhood?

195  
00:09:53,760 --> 00:09:55,920  
No, teenager I was  
during the war.

196  
00:09:55,920 --> 00:09:58,830  
I was also unhappy,  
but different way.

197  
00:09:58,830 --> 00:09:59,760  
OK.

198  
00:09:59,760 --> 00:10:02,850  
The war started when I was 13.

199  
00:10:02,850 --> 00:10:08,440  
And just before the  
war, I moved to Warsaw.

200  
00:10:08,440 --> 00:10:11,640  
My father stayed, and  
I moved with my brother

201

00:10:11,640 --> 00:10:13,950  
to my mother's apartment.

202  
00:10:13,950 --> 00:10:16,595  
And we stayed with her.

203  
00:10:16,595 --> 00:10:18,720  
Can you tell me when you  
found out you were Jewish?

204  
00:10:18,720 --> 00:10:21,960

205  
00:10:21,960 --> 00:10:23,220  
I remember.

206  
00:10:23,220 --> 00:10:24,420  
It was very funny.

207  
00:10:24,420 --> 00:10:30,210  
I remember one  
talk with our maid.

208  
00:10:30,210 --> 00:10:34,020  
I was probably 17 year old.

209  
00:10:34,020 --> 00:10:36,480  
And I wanted to go  
with her to the church.

210  
00:10:36,480 --> 00:10:40,500  
And my grandmother,  
paternal grandmother,

211  
00:10:40,500 --> 00:10:44,040  
she was living with us  
when I was with my father.

212  
00:10:44,040 --> 00:10:46,210  
And I really didn't like her.

213  
00:10:46,210 --> 00:10:50,100

She was very Victorian,  
very rigid, and stiff.

214  
00:10:50,100 --> 00:10:55,860  
And constantly trying  
to correct my behavior.

215  
00:10:55,860 --> 00:10:58,440  
And I remember  
telling my maid, I

216  
00:10:58,440 --> 00:11:02,040  
know why she does not want  
me to go to the church,

217  
00:11:02,040 --> 00:11:04,960  
because she is Jewish.

218  
00:11:04,960 --> 00:11:08,460  
And I remember my maid  
was looking around,

219  
00:11:08,460 --> 00:11:14,410  
you know, and didn't probably  
know what to say on this.

220  
00:11:14,410 --> 00:11:20,700  
So I knew that  
something was around.

221  
00:11:20,700 --> 00:11:24,510  
I cannot clearly tell  
you what I find out.

222  
00:11:24,510 --> 00:11:26,520  
Probably, I was about 12.

223  
00:11:26,520 --> 00:11:31,080  
But was still, I think, what  
the people don't talk about it.

224  
00:11:31,080 --> 00:11:34,080  
It was full denial.

225  
00:11:34,080 --> 00:11:35,640  
It was full denial.

226  
00:11:35,640 --> 00:11:39,720  
And of course, immediately  
after war, we find out.

227  
00:11:39,720 --> 00:11:42,790  
We all find out that you are  
nothing more, nothing more,

228  
00:11:42,790 --> 00:11:43,343  
nothing less.

229  
00:11:43,343 --> 00:11:44,010  
But you're Jews.

230  
00:11:44,010 --> 00:11:45,060  
Oh, after the war,  
you found out.

231  
00:11:45,060 --> 00:11:45,975  
When the war started.

232  
00:11:45,975 --> 00:11:47,660  
Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, OK.

233  
00:11:47,660 --> 00:11:48,160  
OK.

234  
00:11:48,160 --> 00:11:49,500  
Of course, when the war started.

235  
00:11:49,500 --> 00:11:50,490  
Right.

236  
00:11:50,490 --> 00:11:52,770  
So would you like to  
talk about that a little?

237

00:11:52,770 --> 00:11:54,900  
Where were you, and  
what was going on,

238  
00:11:54,900 --> 00:11:57,150  
and what did you end up doing?

239  
00:11:57,150 --> 00:12:01,170  
OK, war started, as you  
know, September 1, '39.

240  
00:12:01,170 --> 00:12:02,880  
I came from vacation.

241  
00:12:02,880 --> 00:12:06,330  
It was last vacation was  
I spent with my father.

242  
00:12:06,330 --> 00:12:08,460  
To Warsaw.

243  
00:12:08,460 --> 00:12:11,970  
And the war started.

244  
00:12:11,970 --> 00:12:14,580  
And we moved from  
our apartment, which

245  
00:12:14,580 --> 00:12:20,280  
was on the north part  
in Warsaw, in Bielany,

246  
00:12:20,280 --> 00:12:24,280  
to the huge  
apartment of my aunt.

247  
00:12:24,280 --> 00:12:27,060  
It was a sister of my father.

248  
00:12:27,060 --> 00:12:31,230  
Because for a reason what I  
was never able to understand,

249

00:12:31,230 --> 00:12:33,000

everybody had the  
feeling that it

250

00:12:33,000 --> 00:12:37,500

is more safe to be in downtown  
Warsaw than all around.

251

00:12:37,500 --> 00:12:42,450

Of course, life showed that  
it was completely different.

252

00:12:42,450 --> 00:12:44,310

And then it was--

253

00:12:44,310 --> 00:12:46,170

how is siege in English?

254

00:12:46,170 --> 00:12:46,890

Siege.

255

00:12:46,890 --> 00:12:47,910

Siege.

256

00:12:47,910 --> 00:12:49,420

Thank you.

257

00:12:49,420 --> 00:12:50,350

Same word.

258

00:12:50,350 --> 00:12:50,850

Yeah.

259

00:12:50,850 --> 00:12:52,030

Of the Warsaw.

260

00:12:52,030 --> 00:12:59,730

And we stay all time until  
in the apartment of my aunt,

261

00:12:59,730 --> 00:13:03,790

with her husband and  
her daughter, which was

262  
00:13:03,790 --> 00:13:06,600  
10 years older at this time.

263  
00:13:06,600 --> 00:13:12,630  
It was also her daughter-in-law  
because the son, my cousin,

264  
00:13:12,630 --> 00:13:13,455  
was in the army.

265  
00:13:13,455 --> 00:13:16,020  
Was an officer in the army.

266  
00:13:16,020 --> 00:13:21,390  
But his wife was in  
this big apartment.

267  
00:13:21,390 --> 00:13:26,540  
And three months old child.

268  
00:13:26,540 --> 00:13:29,540  
It was seven, or eight  
room, enormous apartment

269  
00:13:29,540 --> 00:13:31,850  
in downtown Warsaw.

270  
00:13:31,850 --> 00:13:38,030  
And September 25, it was the  
worst bombardment of Warsaw.

271  
00:13:38,030 --> 00:13:43,320  
And it was one of the first  
bomb dropped on this house.

272  
00:13:43,320 --> 00:13:47,910  
My cousin was  
killed on the place.

273

00:13:47,910 --> 00:13:52,310  
A wife of my cousin and  
three-month-old baby

274  
00:13:52,310 --> 00:13:54,890  
was killed.

275  
00:13:54,890 --> 00:13:56,360  
And her mother was killed.

276  
00:13:56,360 --> 00:13:59,540  
Four people was  
killed, being about,

277  
00:13:59,540 --> 00:14:02,810  
I don't know, five  
yards from me.

278  
00:14:02,810 --> 00:14:04,490  
Simply, this house collapsed.

279  
00:14:04,490 --> 00:14:07,190  
And I was on the verge  
of the collapsed house.

280  
00:14:07,190 --> 00:14:10,920  
And we survived.

281  
00:14:10,920 --> 00:14:14,970  
My aunt survived, her husband,  
my mother, my brother,

282  
00:14:14,970 --> 00:14:17,240  
and myself.

283  
00:14:17,240 --> 00:14:23,180  
And then the first  
phase of war finished.

284  
00:14:23,180 --> 00:14:25,580  
Warsaw give up, as you know.

285



00:14:25,580 --> 00:14:30,110  
It was September 29 or 30.

286  
00:14:30,110 --> 00:14:32,960  
And we moved back  
to our apartment

287  
00:14:32,960 --> 00:14:35,210  
on the north part  
of Warsaw, what

288  
00:14:35,210 --> 00:14:37,190  
was not too badly destroyed.

289  
00:14:37,190 --> 00:14:41,000  
It was no glass, no windows.

290  
00:14:41,000 --> 00:14:43,790  
But otherwise, it was  
the same as before.

291  
00:14:43,790 --> 00:14:47,460  
And then we discovered  
that first of all,

292  
00:14:47,460 --> 00:14:49,475  
we don't have any money.

293  
00:14:49,475 --> 00:14:52,710

294  
00:14:52,710 --> 00:14:54,930  
My father disappeared.

295  
00:14:54,930 --> 00:14:56,540  
We knew that he's in the army.

296  
00:14:56,540 --> 00:15:00,080  
We didn't know was he  
killed or what's happened.

297  
00:15:00,080 --> 00:15:02,690

And also, I don't  
know how it was,

298  
00:15:02,690 --> 00:15:06,080  
but I think my mother had the  
feeling that it is pressure

299  
00:15:06,080 --> 00:15:10,220  
against Jews, and we  
cannot stay too long.

300  
00:15:10,220 --> 00:15:18,590  
I think in October, probably, or  
November '39, it was the order

301  
00:15:18,590 --> 00:15:25,730  
that the Jews had put the  
bands with Zion star--

302  
00:15:25,730 --> 00:15:26,750  
David Star.

303  
00:15:26,750 --> 00:15:27,650  
Star of David, yeah.

304  
00:15:27,650 --> 00:15:30,200  
With Star of David,  
star of the David.

305  
00:15:30,200 --> 00:15:34,370  
Of course, we didn't because  
we lived in complete denial,

306  
00:15:34,370 --> 00:15:36,470  
that we are not.

307  
00:15:36,470 --> 00:15:38,720  
We are not, we are not.

308  
00:15:38,720 --> 00:15:40,130  
But we knew about it.

309

00:15:40,130 --> 00:15:43,580  
And I think that the landlord,  
the owner of the house what we

310  
00:15:43,580 --> 00:15:46,550  
are living, he probably knew.

311  
00:15:46,550 --> 00:15:51,270  
Well, people know  
these kind of things.

312  
00:15:51,270 --> 00:15:53,870  
So we're hanging around,  
not having too much

313  
00:15:53,870 --> 00:15:56,150  
money, able to buy  
bread and not too

314  
00:15:56,150 --> 00:16:01,400  
much until in November, my  
father show up from the army.

315  
00:16:01,400 --> 00:16:06,140  
But he knew very well that he  
cannot stay for all possible

316  
00:16:06,140 --> 00:16:07,370  
reason.

317  
00:16:07,370 --> 00:16:09,410  
And he started,  
immediately tried

318  
00:16:09,410 --> 00:16:14,110  
to go through the green  
border, what they call--

319  
00:16:14,110 --> 00:16:16,700  
illegally to Hungary.

320  
00:16:16,700 --> 00:16:21,620  
And jumping a little

farther, he went to Hungary

321  
00:16:21,620 --> 00:16:25,010  
in end of December '39.

322  
00:16:25,010 --> 00:16:28,580  
And from Hungary to France,  
and from France to England,

323  
00:16:28,580 --> 00:16:30,590  
and I never saw him again.

324  
00:16:30,590 --> 00:16:35,690  
So last time when I saw  
him, it was a brief time

325  
00:16:35,690 --> 00:16:40,700  
in December or November '39.

326  
00:16:40,700 --> 00:16:47,480  
And we decided to move  
near Warsaw to the big

327  
00:16:47,480 --> 00:16:51,860  
some kind of convent  
what was near Warsaw.

328  
00:16:51,860 --> 00:16:58,820  
And my mother had good  
friends in this area.

329  
00:16:58,820 --> 00:17:01,460  
Could you tell me a little  
bit about this convent?

330  
00:17:01,460 --> 00:17:05,329  
It was some interesting  
place the convent was sister

331  
00:17:05,329 --> 00:17:08,119  
of Franciszkanki, Franciscan?

332

00:17:08,119 --> 00:17:09,260  
Franciscan.

333  
00:17:09,260 --> 00:17:10,940  
Franciscan sister.

334  
00:17:10,940 --> 00:17:14,599  
It was organized  
by mother Czacka.

335  
00:17:14,599 --> 00:17:21,170  
She was one from the Polish very  
well-known aristocratic name.

336  
00:17:21,170 --> 00:17:25,339  
And they were quite  
liberal from the beginning.

337  
00:17:25,339 --> 00:17:33,330  
And plenty of people from Polish  
aristocracy, from intellect.

338  
00:17:33,330 --> 00:17:36,650  
They some kind of  
stick to this convent.

339  
00:17:36,650 --> 00:17:41,030  
And it was what they  
call French Catholicism.

340  
00:17:41,030 --> 00:17:44,420  
They were running school  
from blind children,

341  
00:17:44,420 --> 00:17:46,880  
they were mostly interested  
in blind children.

342  
00:17:46,880 --> 00:17:50,590  
And mother Czacka,  
she was blind herself,

343  
00:17:50,590 --> 00:17:54,260

the mother superior,  
she was blind.

344  
00:17:54,260 --> 00:17:57,820  
Some way, Jewish  
intellectual was also

345  
00:17:57,820 --> 00:17:59,560  
interested in this convent.

346  
00:17:59,560 --> 00:18:03,460  
It was planned to be  
very friendly with them.

347  
00:18:03,460 --> 00:18:08,350  
And two of the nuns on higher  
position were of Jewish origin.

348  
00:18:08,350 --> 00:18:11,290  
They converted and  
they became nuns.

349  
00:18:11,290 --> 00:18:14,740  
My mother knew some of  
them before the war,

350  
00:18:14,740 --> 00:18:16,390  
was very friendly with them.

351  
00:18:16,390 --> 00:18:21,640  
And with all the  
situation, they invited

352  
00:18:21,640 --> 00:18:25,000  
us to stay over there,  
telling that they

353  
00:18:25,000 --> 00:18:28,930  
can give us some-- not so much  
apartment, some room, simply.

354  
00:18:28,930 --> 00:18:31,900  
And my mother can

help in the garden,

355

00:18:31,900 --> 00:18:33,380

what she loved to do it.

356

00:18:33,380 --> 00:18:36,220

And I can go to the  
school or whatever.

357

00:18:36,220 --> 00:18:38,120

I don't think that we  
had very clear plan

358

00:18:38,120 --> 00:18:39,250

what we will be doing.

359

00:18:39,250 --> 00:18:41,180

Everybody hoped at  
this time that the war

360

00:18:41,180 --> 00:18:42,880

would finish in one year.

361

00:18:42,880 --> 00:18:45,460

So what, survive one  
year and that's all.

362

00:18:45,460 --> 00:18:50,260

Nobody expected what  
really happened.

363

00:18:50,260 --> 00:18:54,835

So in the very end of 1939,  
we pack our belongings,

364

00:18:54,835 --> 00:18:58,300

we take very few  
of our furniture,

365

00:18:58,300 --> 00:19:00,880

some basic things  
only, and we moved

366

00:19:00,880 --> 00:19:05,690  
to Laski, which was 10  
kilometers north from Warsaw.

367

00:19:05,690 --> 00:19:07,490  
And we stayed in  
small apartment.

368

00:19:07,490 --> 00:19:10,180  
My mother was working  
helping in the garden,

369

00:19:10,180 --> 00:19:14,150  
or sometimes in the kitchen,  
whatever was needed.

370

00:19:14,150 --> 00:19:16,960  
My brother stayed mostly home.

371

00:19:16,960 --> 00:19:20,620  
And for the first year,  
I was simply helping.

372

00:19:20,620 --> 00:19:23,720  
I remember working  
also in the kitchen,

373

00:19:23,720 --> 00:19:27,460  
and working in washroom.

374

00:19:27,460 --> 00:19:30,460  
And doing everything  
what it should be done.

375

00:19:30,460 --> 00:19:31,750  
I remember clearly.

376

00:19:31,750 --> 00:19:34,930  
I was, at this time, 13, 14.

377

00:19:34,930 --> 00:19:37,210  
I was bored to death.



378  
00:19:37,210 --> 00:19:39,880  
It was nothing to read,  
it was nothing to do,

379  
00:19:39,880 --> 00:19:42,640  
it was no people in my age.

380  
00:19:42,640 --> 00:19:44,750  
I was not allowed  
to go, of course,

381  
00:19:44,750 --> 00:19:47,770  
to Warsaw or any other place.

382  
00:19:47,770 --> 00:19:49,840  
I probably-- here  
is a good place

383  
00:19:49,840 --> 00:19:54,130  
to mention that I didn't  
look as a Polish girl.

384  
00:19:54,130 --> 00:20:02,050  
I had very black hair, black  
eyes, rather dark skin.

385  
00:20:02,050 --> 00:20:05,620  
And from obvious reason,  
it was difficult for me

386  
00:20:05,620 --> 00:20:11,290  
to walk on Warsaw street  
not being asked by people,

387  
00:20:11,290 --> 00:20:12,430  
are you Jewish?

388  
00:20:12,430 --> 00:20:15,490  
Or hey, stop, you're  
Jew, and so on.

389

00:20:15,490 --> 00:20:17,860  
My brother didn't look  
as a Polish child,

390  
00:20:17,860 --> 00:20:20,660  
too, with curly black hair.

391  
00:20:20,660 --> 00:20:23,590  
But he was not circumcised.

392  
00:20:23,590 --> 00:20:26,320  
And this way, some  
way, my mother

393  
00:20:26,320 --> 00:20:31,660  
knew that it was easier to  
save him than to save me.

394  
00:20:31,660 --> 00:20:34,120  
My mother, if we are  
talking about how they look,

395  
00:20:34,120 --> 00:20:35,380  
looked wonderful.

396  
00:20:35,380 --> 00:20:38,770  
She absolutely  
didn't look Jewish.

397  
00:20:38,770 --> 00:20:41,890  
Nobody never  
suspect that she can

398  
00:20:41,890 --> 00:20:49,060  
be Jewish, a very kind of small,  
very pretty face, with gray.

399  
00:20:49,060 --> 00:20:51,610  
At the time,  
completely gray hair.

400  
00:20:51,610 --> 00:20:54,860  
We have gray hair

early in the family.

401

00:20:54,860 --> 00:20:58,420

And she did not have any problem  
when she was walking around,

402

00:20:58,420 --> 00:21:01,720

and never had any difficulties.

403

00:21:01,720 --> 00:21:06,370

Of course, we had always also  
difficulty with our documents.

404

00:21:06,370 --> 00:21:09,010

We keep our name  
Prot because does not

405

00:21:09,010 --> 00:21:13,660

have any Polish, Jewish,  
or any other meaning.

406

00:21:13,660 --> 00:21:20,890

But my mother's maiden  
name is Dajches.

407

00:21:20,890 --> 00:21:22,420

She was Zosia Dajches.

408

00:21:22,420 --> 00:21:24,850

Dajches, it is not the  
name what you can have

409

00:21:24,850 --> 00:21:27,700

in documents during the war.

410

00:21:27,700 --> 00:21:31,090

So all our documents  
were changed.

411

00:21:31,090 --> 00:21:35,680

And my mother's maiden name  
was given Kossuth, what

412

00:21:35,680 --> 00:21:38,320  
is a typical Hungarian name.

413

00:21:38,320 --> 00:21:42,850  
And it was given in this goal  
that if somebody was asking me

414

00:21:42,850 --> 00:21:46,330  
during the war, oh, you  
look some fine strange,

415

00:21:46,330 --> 00:21:48,280  
well, probably you  
look Jewish, you

416

00:21:48,280 --> 00:21:51,430  
have so hard, so black hair.

417

00:21:51,430 --> 00:21:56,200  
I was telling immediately,  
oh, yes, oh, well, I

418

00:21:56,200 --> 00:22:00,830  
have a black hair because my  
grandmother were Hungarian,

419

00:22:00,830 --> 00:22:01,330  
you know.

420

00:22:01,330 --> 00:22:06,280  
My mother is Kossuth, my  
mother's name is Kossuth.

421

00:22:06,280 --> 00:22:12,280  
And the documents were changed  
with the help of these nuns

422

00:22:12,280 --> 00:22:16,330  
and this when we stayed.

423

00:22:16,330 --> 00:22:19,570  
And I think it was

very good documents.

424

00:22:19,570 --> 00:22:24,880

My baptism document,  
baptisal document?

425

00:22:24,880 --> 00:22:32,380

It was fill out in some  
kind of church in the books.

426

00:22:32,380 --> 00:22:35,800

So it was possible to  
check that it is not

427

00:22:35,800 --> 00:22:39,670

a false, that is true, and  
you know, some church was--

428

00:22:39,670 --> 00:22:42,120

some priests were  
able to do this

429

00:22:42,120 --> 00:22:43,930

if they wanted to  
false the book.

430

00:22:43,930 --> 00:22:47,050

Make them before  
the war, and so on.

431

00:22:47,050 --> 00:22:52,090

So we had not too bad  
documents for the war.

432

00:22:52,090 --> 00:22:56,750

And we are walking around.

433

00:22:56,750 --> 00:23:00,400

So you would like to know what's  
happened to me later, yeah?

434

00:23:00,400 --> 00:23:02,950

Yeah, if you just want to

give the straight narrative

435

00:23:02,950 --> 00:23:04,940

of you're in the  
convent and then?

436

00:23:04,940 --> 00:23:11,770

Then I am in the convent and  
it was about 1940, we moved.

437

00:23:11,770 --> 00:23:14,020

All of this year,  
we stayed together.

438

00:23:14,020 --> 00:23:17,950

It was very hard, it was very  
poor, it was not enough food.

439

00:23:17,950 --> 00:23:19,660

We did not have enough clothes.

440

00:23:19,660 --> 00:23:23,380

But we are quite,  
we feel quite safe.

441

00:23:23,380 --> 00:23:28,150

In 1940, it was start feeling  
that the war will not finish so

442

00:23:28,150 --> 00:23:29,980

quickly and it is not so easy.

443

00:23:29,980 --> 00:23:33,160

And I started to press my  
mother very badly that I would

444

00:23:33,160 --> 00:23:35,620

like to go back to school.

445

00:23:35,620 --> 00:23:38,860

And I begged her that I  
want to go back to Warsaw.

446

00:23:38,860 --> 00:23:43,000

And I want to go to school  
and to my Gymnasium.

447

00:23:43,000 --> 00:23:47,020

And that is not possible  
for me to lose so much time.

448

00:23:47,020 --> 00:23:51,310

So first at all, my mother  
had friends in Warsaw.

449

00:23:51,310 --> 00:23:58,490

And they agreed to take me and  
to stay with their children.

450

00:23:58,490 --> 00:24:00,520

And I would be able  
to live with them

451

00:24:00,520 --> 00:24:05,590

and simply to go to school.

452

00:24:05,590 --> 00:24:09,010

And I move with them.

453

00:24:09,010 --> 00:24:09,730

I don't know.

454

00:24:09,730 --> 00:24:13,510

I am sure they knew who  
am I. I am quite sure.

455

00:24:13,510 --> 00:24:16,120

But we, of course,  
never talk about it.

456

00:24:16,120 --> 00:24:21,280

It was some kind of agreement  
that it is complete denial.

457

00:24:21,280 --> 00:24:23,590

They don't know  
that I am Jewish.

458  
00:24:23,590 --> 00:24:25,810  
I have all my documents.

459  
00:24:25,810 --> 00:24:30,220  
I am a Polish girl, with  
Polish name, I am Catholic.

460  
00:24:30,220 --> 00:24:33,620  
It was very helpful that I knew  
Catholic religion very well.

461  
00:24:33,620 --> 00:24:37,630  
And of course, to  
tell all prayers?

462  
00:24:37,630 --> 00:24:39,280  
Prayers.

463  
00:24:39,280 --> 00:24:41,140  
It was no problem for me.

464  
00:24:41,140 --> 00:24:44,590  
And I knew all the habits,  
that I can go to the church,

465  
00:24:44,590 --> 00:24:46,820  
and knew how to  
behave during a mass,

466  
00:24:46,820 --> 00:24:48,400  
and so on, and so on, and so on.

467  
00:24:48,400 --> 00:24:53,200  
It was big help, of course.

468  
00:24:53,200 --> 00:24:56,380  
So I started to go to school.

469  
00:24:56,380 --> 00:24:59,090



I went to school.

470  
00:24:59,090 --> 00:25:02,590  
And it was very  
difficult for first year.

471  
00:25:02,590 --> 00:25:07,870  
And then the next  
year, how it was?

472  
00:25:07,870 --> 00:25:09,850  
Then it was about '41.

473  
00:25:09,850 --> 00:25:13,090  
I stayed with these friends  
for about half a year.

474  
00:25:13,090 --> 00:25:16,070  
And then I was quite  
unhappy with them.

475  
00:25:16,070 --> 00:25:20,020  
The children were impossible,  
it was very cold, it was dirty,

476  
00:25:20,020 --> 00:25:23,380  
and I was hungry all the time.

477  
00:25:23,380 --> 00:25:27,910  
And my mother decided  
that I am big enough--

478  
00:25:27,910 --> 00:25:30,010  
I was about 14, 15--

479  
00:25:30,010 --> 00:25:32,380  
that I can live alone.

480  
00:25:32,380 --> 00:25:35,170  
So they rent me, not a  
room, because nobody did

481

00:25:35,170 --> 00:25:37,660  
have money for a room.

482  
00:25:37,660 --> 00:25:39,820  
But also through  
some friends, they

483  
00:25:39,820 --> 00:25:46,030  
find an older woman which wanted  
to have some kind of company.

484  
00:25:46,030 --> 00:25:49,360  
And she rent me a  
bed in her room.

485  
00:25:49,360 --> 00:25:51,340  
It was in Zoliborz.

486  
00:25:51,340 --> 00:25:54,700  
It was much more  
close to my school.

487  
00:25:54,700 --> 00:25:56,050  
And I stay with her.

488  
00:25:56,050 --> 00:25:57,730  
I'm sure it was her.

489  
00:25:57,730 --> 00:26:00,775  
She was some kind of nice woman.

490  
00:26:00,775 --> 00:26:03,940

491  
00:26:03,940 --> 00:26:05,620  
And I was going to school.

492  
00:26:05,620 --> 00:26:08,440  
Only I remembered that I  
had to cook for myself.

493  
00:26:08,440 --> 00:26:10,450

I had to feed myself.

494

00:26:10,450 --> 00:26:12,550

And it was absolutely  
nothing to eat.

495

00:26:12,550 --> 00:26:18,070

I was awful, terribly  
hungry all day long.

496

00:26:18,070 --> 00:26:22,660

I had only this bread,  
what was [POLISH],, what

497

00:26:22,660 --> 00:26:24,760

was permitted to buy.

498

00:26:24,760 --> 00:26:28,060

And of course, you can  
buy many thing in Warsaw

499

00:26:28,060 --> 00:26:30,710

during a war on  
the black market.

500

00:26:30,710 --> 00:26:33,020

But I didn't have any money.

501

00:26:33,020 --> 00:26:35,710

So for dinner, I cook  
some kind of kasza.

502

00:26:35,710 --> 00:26:39,490

And I eat every day the same,  
piece of bread for breakfast,

503

00:26:39,490 --> 00:26:42,550

and this kasza what I cook  
with water for myself.

504

00:26:42,550 --> 00:26:44,350

And I did this in the afternoon.

505

00:26:44,350 --> 00:26:49,420

And I remember being  
very, very, very hungry.

506

00:26:49,420 --> 00:26:52,150

At this time, I have to  
move back a little bit.

507

00:26:52,150 --> 00:26:54,850

Because ghetto was organized,  
of course, much earlier.

508

00:26:54,850 --> 00:26:56,420

But I was going  
to ask you, yeah.

509

00:26:56,420 --> 00:26:59,040

Yeah, ghetto was  
organized much earlier.

510

00:26:59,040 --> 00:27:02,540

But the ghetto was more  
south from the part of town

511

00:27:02,540 --> 00:27:03,910

what I was living.

512

00:27:03,910 --> 00:27:08,600

And I avoid very much  
going to the downtown.

513

00:27:08,600 --> 00:27:11,890

Doesn't mean I was living  
in north part of the Warsaw,

514

00:27:11,890 --> 00:27:15,340

Bielany, and later in Zoriborz.

515

00:27:15,340 --> 00:27:18,280

School was in Zoriborz.

516

00:27:18,280 --> 00:27:21,910

And I practically  
never go downtown

517  
00:27:21,910 --> 00:27:24,700  
because it was  
very, very unsafe.

518  
00:27:24,700 --> 00:27:30,700  
But few times when I went, I  
saw the wall of the ghetto.

519  
00:27:30,700 --> 00:27:33,880  
And the streetcar was  
going-- for some times

520  
00:27:33,880 --> 00:27:38,500  
was going through ghetto.

521  
00:27:38,500 --> 00:27:41,050  
Because it was a big  
ghetto and a small ghetto.

522  
00:27:41,050 --> 00:27:42,460  
Probably the people told you.

523  
00:27:42,460 --> 00:27:43,073  
I don't.

524  
00:27:43,073 --> 00:27:43,990  
Yeah, I know about it.

525  
00:27:43,990 --> 00:27:44,490  
Yeah.

526  
00:27:44,490 --> 00:27:47,500  
And the car, streetcar  
was going for sometimes

527  
00:27:47,500 --> 00:27:50,200  
through ghetto, not  
stopping, of course.

528

00:27:50,200 --> 00:27:54,400  
And I remember, one my  
trip through the ghetto,

529  
00:27:54,400 --> 00:28:00,070  
it was probably in '42, I took  
streetcar, I don't know why.

530  
00:28:00,070 --> 00:28:05,200  
And then it was possible  
to see street on the ghetto

531  
00:28:05,200 --> 00:28:07,870  
through windows.

532  
00:28:07,870 --> 00:28:11,980  
And then I saw dead people lying  
on the street, this I remember,

533  
00:28:11,980 --> 00:28:19,330  
and dead probably children  
bodies, covered with newspaper.

534  
00:28:19,330 --> 00:28:20,780  
I didn't know what to do.

535  
00:28:20,780 --> 00:28:24,370  
I didn't want to look, or  
not to look, or what to do.

536  
00:28:24,370 --> 00:28:27,850  
This I remember  
very, very clearly.

537  
00:28:27,850 --> 00:28:30,305  
Did people talk about--  
when the streetcar went

538  
00:28:30,305 --> 00:28:31,930  
through the thing,  
did anyone make any?

539  
00:28:31,930 --> 00:28:33,295

No one said a word?

540  
00:28:33,295 --> 00:28:35,700  
No, nobody said any words.

541  
00:28:35,700 --> 00:28:38,290  
People, I think,  
try not to look.

542  
00:28:38,290 --> 00:28:39,190  
Yeah.

543  
00:28:39,190 --> 00:28:40,320  
Now, were the windows.

544  
00:28:40,320 --> 00:28:43,210  
I mean, I've heard things that  
the windows were like blocked.

545  
00:28:43,210 --> 00:28:46,270  
The windows were  
locked in some towns.

546  
00:28:46,270 --> 00:28:50,840  
And if you see a movie Europa,  
Europa, I'm sure you did,

547  
00:28:50,840 --> 00:28:53,530  
he's looking for  
some kind of scratch.

548  
00:28:53,530 --> 00:28:56,980  
If I remember  
correctly, the windows

549  
00:28:56,980 --> 00:29:00,460  
were not blocked in this  
streetcar what I took.

550  
00:29:00,460 --> 00:29:05,890  
And shortly after this,  
it was some change

551

00:29:05,890 --> 00:29:10,675

in the relationship between  
big ghetto and small ghetto.

552

00:29:10,675 --> 00:29:12,760

I think small ghetto  
was liquidated.

553

00:29:12,760 --> 00:29:15,770

And the streetcar was not  
going anymore through ghetto.

554

00:29:15,770 --> 00:29:22,060

Only along the walls what  
we see the big opening,

555

00:29:22,060 --> 00:29:26,440

[POLISH],, port, port,  
[POLISH],, entrance.

556

00:29:26,440 --> 00:29:32,260

Entrance to the ghetto with  
Polish and German police.

557

00:29:32,260 --> 00:29:33,190

And the people.

558

00:29:33,190 --> 00:29:35,410

At this time,  
sometimes, you were

559

00:29:35,410 --> 00:29:39,640

able to see Jews  
on the street going

560

00:29:39,640 --> 00:29:42,250

to do some work on the street.

561

00:29:42,250 --> 00:29:44,140

Pavement of the  
street or something.

562



00:29:44,140 --> 00:29:47,740  
Going men.

563  
00:29:47,740 --> 00:29:53,560  
And with, of course, German  
soldiers and police with guns,

564  
00:29:53,560 --> 00:29:54,640  
and so on.

565  
00:29:54,640 --> 00:29:58,700  
Sometimes we saw the small  
group of Jews out of the ghetto.

566  
00:29:58,700 --> 00:30:02,170  
I think it was  
about at this time.

567  
00:30:02,170 --> 00:30:07,390  
Also, oh, this is  
probably in '41.

568  
00:30:07,390 --> 00:30:12,242  
I was in ghetto, inside of the  
ghetto once during the war.

569  
00:30:12,242 --> 00:30:14,075  
Should I tell you the  
story what's happened?

570  
00:30:14,075 --> 00:30:15,070  
Yes, please, yes.

571  
00:30:15,070 --> 00:30:20,020  
I went with some other  
children of my friends.

572  
00:30:20,020 --> 00:30:21,118  
Well, they're half Jewish.

573  
00:30:21,118 --> 00:30:22,660  
And they didn't look  
too Polish, too.

574  
00:30:22,660 --> 00:30:24,130  
We are very stupid.

575  
00:30:24,130 --> 00:30:32,170  
And we tried to change streetcar  
near the ghetto wall, what

576  
00:30:32,170 --> 00:30:34,420  
was the most always  
dangerous place.

577  
00:30:34,420 --> 00:30:37,600  
Because plenty of the people  
what we call in Poland

578  
00:30:37,600 --> 00:30:39,405  
during the war, [POLISH].

579  
00:30:39,405 --> 00:30:42,040  
You know the word [POLISH]?

580  
00:30:42,040 --> 00:30:43,420  
Informers.

581  
00:30:43,420 --> 00:30:45,770  
The people where they  
pick up the people

582  
00:30:45,770 --> 00:30:48,490  
on the street, and they, oh,  
you are a Jew, give us money.

583  
00:30:48,490 --> 00:30:52,690  
If not, we are  
going to the police.

584  
00:30:52,690 --> 00:30:56,830  
And we stop over  
there on the street,

585  
00:30:56,830 --> 00:30:58,690

what was very bad place.

586  
00:30:58,690 --> 00:31:02,620  
And of course,  
immediately, they pick us.

587  
00:31:02,620 --> 00:31:04,310  
They went with us.

588  
00:31:04,310 --> 00:31:07,180  
We are all teenagers.

589  
00:31:07,180 --> 00:31:07,900  
Two of them.

590  
00:31:07,900 --> 00:31:09,820  
I was with the other girl.

591  
00:31:09,820 --> 00:31:10,840  
She was a little older.

592  
00:31:10,840 --> 00:31:14,650  
I was about 14, and  
she was, I think, 16.

593  
00:31:14,650 --> 00:31:18,280  
And they took us to the  
police station on the entrance

594  
00:31:18,280 --> 00:31:19,720  
to the ghetto.

595  
00:31:19,720 --> 00:31:25,720  
And inside to some ghetto, some  
kind of, I remember, big room.

596  
00:31:25,720 --> 00:31:28,600  
And they started to  
ask us for documents,

597  
00:31:28,600 --> 00:31:30,700  
and what we are

doing, we are Jews,

598  
00:31:30,700 --> 00:31:34,700  
and how come that we  
are out of the ghetto?

599  
00:31:34,700 --> 00:31:37,850  
And we are sitting and both  
or I was telling constantly,

600  
00:31:37,850 --> 00:31:38,770  
we are not.

601  
00:31:38,770 --> 00:31:40,150  
We are absolutely not.

602  
00:31:40,150 --> 00:31:41,740  
It is a mistake.

603  
00:31:41,740 --> 00:31:45,730  
Please let us go,  
it is a mistake.

604  
00:31:45,730 --> 00:31:48,670  
I don't know how I have,  
and the other girl,

605  
00:31:48,670 --> 00:31:52,600  
too, how we have nerve to tell.

606  
00:31:52,600 --> 00:31:55,750  
Because in some  
moment, it was some--

607  
00:31:55,750 --> 00:31:58,060  
this I remember very clearly--

608  
00:31:58,060 --> 00:32:06,010  
some older man, a Jew, with band  
on the arm, and he came to me,

609  
00:32:06,010 --> 00:32:09,850

and he told me,  
[POLISH],, mademoiselle,

610  
00:32:09,850 --> 00:32:12,310  
why you don't have a band?

611  
00:32:12,310 --> 00:32:15,880  
So I said, I'm not Jewish.

612  
00:32:15,880 --> 00:32:18,340  
There's no reason for  
me to have a band.

613  
00:32:18,340 --> 00:32:19,540  
Oh, how come?

614  
00:32:19,540 --> 00:32:20,280  
You are Jewish.

615  
00:32:20,280 --> 00:32:22,786  
It's enough to look at you.

616  
00:32:22,786 --> 00:32:24,320  
It's enough to look at you.

617  
00:32:24,320 --> 00:32:25,850  
You are Jewish.

618  
00:32:25,850 --> 00:32:27,500  
And I don't understand.

619  
00:32:27,500 --> 00:32:32,290  
But if you will give me  
some money, I can help you.

620  
00:32:32,290 --> 00:32:33,250  
I can help you.

621  
00:32:33,250 --> 00:32:34,120  
Do you have parents?

622

00:32:34,120 --> 00:32:34,930  
I can call them.

623  
00:32:34,930 --> 00:32:37,330  
I can help you if you  
will give me some money.

624  
00:32:37,330 --> 00:32:42,520  
It was clearly that he was  
working with the police.

625  
00:32:42,520 --> 00:32:49,450  
And I looked at him, and I told  
very firmly, I am not Jewish,

626  
00:32:49,450 --> 00:32:54,190  
and please go away  
and leave me alone.

627  
00:32:54,190 --> 00:32:55,270  
And then the police.

628  
00:32:55,270 --> 00:32:57,520  
And he went alone, he went away.

629  
00:32:57,520 --> 00:33:02,290  
And then the police,  
the Polish policeman

630  
00:33:02,290 --> 00:33:05,935  
came and asked me  
again about documents.

631  
00:33:05,935 --> 00:33:07,060  
What I did not have enough.

632  
00:33:07,060 --> 00:33:09,140  
Because I don't  
have yet Kennkarte.

633  
00:33:09,140 --> 00:33:12,910  
Kennkarte was given  
when you were 16.

634  
00:33:12,910 --> 00:33:14,890  
But for some kind of--

635  
00:33:14,890 --> 00:33:16,570  
I had to have something.

636  
00:33:16,570 --> 00:33:19,960  
I have a small  
document, Legitymacja,

637  
00:33:19,960 --> 00:33:24,400  
small piece of paper,  
from school what I was

638  
00:33:24,400 --> 00:33:27,230  
attend one year before the war.

639  
00:33:27,230 --> 00:33:30,070  
And it was Catholic  
school because I

640  
00:33:30,070 --> 00:33:32,950  
was going to Catholic school  
one year before the war.

641  
00:33:32,950 --> 00:33:34,395  
And I show him this.

642  
00:33:34,395 --> 00:33:35,770  
And I told him,  
do you think if I

643  
00:33:35,770 --> 00:33:37,630  
will be Jewish before  
the war, I will

644  
00:33:37,630 --> 00:33:40,186  
be going to Catholic school?

645  
00:33:40,186 --> 00:33:43,486  
And he look at us,

and he lets us go.

646

00:33:43,486 --> 00:33:49,510

So it is only once that  
I was inside the ghetto.

647

00:33:49,510 --> 00:33:52,450

And he pushed us  
through the entrance.

648

00:33:52,450 --> 00:33:54,460

And we took the streetcar.

649

00:33:54,460 --> 00:33:56,560

And since then, I  
knew very well that I

650

00:33:56,560 --> 00:34:01,060

have to keep far  
away from this place.

651

00:34:01,060 --> 00:34:06,520

So going back, I was  
going, it was '42, yes.

652

00:34:06,520 --> 00:34:10,780

I was going to school and  
living with this woman.

653

00:34:10,780 --> 00:34:14,170

And I started to have  
problem at this time.

654

00:34:14,170 --> 00:34:17,260

I think the woman  
didn't know what I am.

655

00:34:17,260 --> 00:34:23,320

But I remember that few times,  
they picked me on the street.

656

00:34:23,320 --> 00:34:27,610

And these Polish informers, they



told me, oh, you are Jewish,

657

00:34:27,610 --> 00:34:28,300  
go with us.

658

00:34:28,300 --> 00:34:31,780  
And mostly, I tried to tell  
very firmly, no, I am not,

659

00:34:31,780 --> 00:34:32,920  
go away, and so on.

660

00:34:32,920 --> 00:34:38,320  
Because I knew if once  
if I will tell that yes,

661

00:34:38,320 --> 00:34:42,460  
or I will give them some  
money, or I don't know what,

662

00:34:42,460 --> 00:34:45,840  
that will be the end.

663

00:34:45,840 --> 00:34:48,550  
And some people, they  
are calling me Jewish.

664

00:34:48,550 --> 00:34:51,760  
And some people,  
even in school, they

665

00:34:51,760 --> 00:34:55,120  
ask me, some girl, they ask me,  
oh, look, you look so Jewish.

666

00:34:55,120 --> 00:34:59,590  
And I always tell this story,  
oh, well, I have black hair

667

00:34:59,590 --> 00:35:02,110  
because I am Hungarian.

668

00:35:02,110 --> 00:35:03,160  
But it was--

669  
00:35:03,160 --> 00:35:06,680  
I don't know how to tell you.

670  
00:35:06,680 --> 00:35:11,180  
It started to be as I  
am totally, completely,

671  
00:35:11,180 --> 00:35:15,290  
day and night, 24  
hours on this scene.

672  
00:35:15,290 --> 00:35:18,740  
That I am playing  
somebody who I am not.

673  
00:35:18,740 --> 00:35:22,040

674  
00:35:22,040 --> 00:35:26,780  
Even, you know,  
in this situation,

675  
00:35:26,780 --> 00:35:28,530  
somebody pick you  
up on the street,

676  
00:35:28,530 --> 00:35:31,840  
mostly the Jewish people  
became very confused,

677  
00:35:31,840 --> 00:35:34,541  
you can see on their  
face that, oh, my god.

678  
00:35:34,541 --> 00:35:38,120

679  
00:35:38,120 --> 00:35:40,710  
I learned not to  
have on my face.

680  
00:35:40,710 --> 00:35:44,340  
I learned when they pick me  
up to smile and say, hey,

681  
00:35:44,340 --> 00:35:48,300  
you know, no, how funny.

682  
00:35:48,300 --> 00:35:53,910  
But I remember, psychologically,  
I was somewhat exhausted.

683  
00:35:53,910 --> 00:35:57,990  
It was this deny and  
deny, and it was nobody

684  
00:35:57,990 --> 00:36:00,480  
with whom I can talk about it.

685  
00:36:00,480 --> 00:36:02,490  
Absolutely nobody.

686  
00:36:02,490 --> 00:36:07,860  
Because even it was some  
friends what I see sometimes.

687  
00:36:07,860 --> 00:36:11,490  
And I knew that they know.

688  
00:36:11,490 --> 00:36:14,430  
It was some taboo.

689  
00:36:14,430 --> 00:36:16,980  
Never, never talk about it.

690  
00:36:16,980 --> 00:36:20,190  
Never admit that they know.

691  
00:36:20,190 --> 00:36:22,620  
Never talk about this problem.

692

00:36:22,620 --> 00:36:26,310  
To make things even more  
funny, time to time,

693  
00:36:26,310 --> 00:36:28,960  
my mother visited to me.

694  
00:36:28,960 --> 00:36:30,480  
We never talk about it.

695  
00:36:30,480 --> 00:36:33,750  
It was denial between  
my mother and myself.

696  
00:36:33,750 --> 00:36:38,280  
It was something what we  
never, never talk about it.

697  
00:36:38,280 --> 00:36:40,410  
My mother always,  
always told me,

698  
00:36:40,410 --> 00:36:42,300  
you remember, you are Hungarian.

699  
00:36:42,300 --> 00:36:44,850

700  
00:36:44,850 --> 00:36:46,530  
And I knew why she was telling.

701  
00:36:46,530 --> 00:36:48,510  
But it was never to  
this extent that I

702  
00:36:48,510 --> 00:36:51,120  
was able to say,  
well, talk about it.

703  
00:36:51,120 --> 00:36:54,780  
Talk what's happened to the  
rest of the family, you know.

704

00:36:54,780 --> 00:36:57,900

Never, never.

705

00:36:57,900 --> 00:37:02,730

To make things more  
complicated, at this time,

706

00:37:02,730 --> 00:37:06,330

my mother had to move  
from this convent

707

00:37:06,330 --> 00:37:07,840

when she stayed with my brother.

708

00:37:07,840 --> 00:37:09,930

I think it was '42.

709

00:37:09,930 --> 00:37:13,110

And one day, they  
told her that there

710

00:37:13,110 --> 00:37:18,360

are some informers telling  
the police that she's Jewish

711

00:37:18,360 --> 00:37:20,560

and my brother is a Jew.

712

00:37:20,560 --> 00:37:25,290

And they told them that if they  
will not go away in few hours,

713

00:37:25,290 --> 00:37:27,060

they will be taken.

714

00:37:27,060 --> 00:37:29,370

And that will be the end.

715

00:37:29,370 --> 00:37:34,650

So my mother took my brother,  
leaving absolutely everything

716  
00:37:34,650 --> 00:37:35,640  
behind.

717  
00:37:35,640 --> 00:37:40,380  
I think took some clothes  
with her and as much money

718  
00:37:40,380 --> 00:37:42,360  
as they had.

719  
00:37:42,360 --> 00:37:44,100  
Not too much, of course.

720  
00:37:44,100 --> 00:37:47,610  
And went by [FRENCH]?

721  
00:37:47,610 --> 00:37:48,150  
Foot.

722  
00:37:48,150 --> 00:37:49,650  
By foot.

723  
00:37:49,650 --> 00:37:52,480  
And went by foot to Warsaw.

724  
00:37:52,480 --> 00:37:56,400  
And then I know from  
her story that she

725  
00:37:56,400 --> 00:37:58,620  
didn't have any place to go.

726  
00:37:58,620 --> 00:38:01,740  
She was walking on  
the street in Warsaw

727  
00:38:01,740 --> 00:38:06,240  
keeping by hand this small,  
very Jewish-looking boy.

728  
00:38:06,240 --> 00:38:09,000

And she didn't have  
any place to go.

729  
00:38:09,000 --> 00:38:12,420  
And at 7:00, it  
was curfew hours.

730  
00:38:12,420 --> 00:38:14,040  
And it was became evening.

731  
00:38:14,040 --> 00:38:16,800  
It was in summer, '42, I think.

732  
00:38:16,800 --> 00:38:19,050  
It was became the evening.

733  
00:38:19,050 --> 00:38:22,510  
And you cannot  
stay on the street.

734  
00:38:22,510 --> 00:38:27,225  
So in Warsaw, it was some  
small hospital also run by nun.

735  
00:38:27,225 --> 00:38:31,050  
It was some private  
hospital in downtown Boston.

736  
00:38:31,050 --> 00:38:34,590  
And my mother knocked to the  
door to the small hospital.

737  
00:38:34,590 --> 00:38:36,660  
The nun opened.

738  
00:38:36,660 --> 00:38:40,210  
And she told the nun,  
this boy is very sick.

739  
00:38:40,210 --> 00:38:42,750  
He has to be in the  
hospital right now.

740

00:38:42,750 --> 00:38:45,000

So the nun, of course,  
didn't want to take him.

741

00:38:45,000 --> 00:38:48,010

My mother almost  
forced herself into.

742

00:38:48,010 --> 00:38:53,160

And as I told you, my mother  
looked always very elegant.

743

00:38:53,160 --> 00:38:58,050

And told, well, I'm  
terribly sorry, dear nun,

744

00:38:58,050 --> 00:39:00,600

but he has appendicitis.

745

00:39:00,600 --> 00:39:01,980

He has to be operated.

746

00:39:01,980 --> 00:39:02,800

Oh, god.

747

00:39:02,800 --> 00:39:03,300

Yeah.

748

00:39:03,300 --> 00:39:06,420

And he has to go  
to bed right now.

749

00:39:06,420 --> 00:39:08,670

So the nun did know what  
to do, opened the door,

750

00:39:08,670 --> 00:39:12,880

and put my brother to  
the hospital to the bed.

751

00:39:12,880 --> 00:39:14,880

And the next day,



I don't remember.

752

00:39:14,880 --> 00:39:17,950

Of course, I don't if the  
doctor was seeing him or not.

753

00:39:17,950 --> 00:39:19,770

But my mother left  
him with the nuns

754

00:39:19,770 --> 00:39:22,380

as a very sick child in bed.

755

00:39:22,380 --> 00:39:26,340

And ran through Warsaw  
to find the place what

756

00:39:26,340 --> 00:39:28,350

they can took him.

757

00:39:28,350 --> 00:39:31,380

And after some effort, I  
think some friends took him

758

00:39:31,380 --> 00:39:34,020

for a few days.

759

00:39:34,020 --> 00:39:39,030

And then he was placed  
for the children

760

00:39:39,030 --> 00:39:44,370

of Polish officers, what  
they perished during the war

761

00:39:44,370 --> 00:39:45,340

or something.

762

00:39:45,340 --> 00:39:50,250

It was special organization  
helping these kind of children,

763

00:39:50,250 --> 00:39:56,520  
named RGO, RGO, Rada  
Glowna Opiekuncza.

764  
00:39:56,520 --> 00:40:00,570  
And they had some small houses,  
what they're taking abandoned

765  
00:40:00,570 --> 00:40:02,820  
or children what they  
didn't have father.

766  
00:40:02,820 --> 00:40:07,680  
And my brother went to  
this kind of orphanage.

767  
00:40:07,680 --> 00:40:10,180

768  
00:40:10,180 --> 00:40:10,680  
OK.

769  
00:40:10,680 --> 00:40:13,200

770  
00:40:13,200 --> 00:40:14,100  
Yeah, it's fine.

771  
00:40:14,100 --> 00:40:17,820  
So at this time, my mother--

772  
00:40:17,820 --> 00:40:19,270  
what was going with our family?

773  
00:40:19,270 --> 00:40:22,380  
My brother was in  
this orphanage.

774  
00:40:22,380 --> 00:40:27,930  
My mother took a job as a  
helper of some sick woman

775

00:40:27,930 --> 00:40:32,720  
with children, something  
as a tutor for children,

776  
00:40:32,720 --> 00:40:35,520  
or a little bit  
maid, or something,

777  
00:40:35,520 --> 00:40:37,600  
and living with these people.

778  
00:40:37,600 --> 00:40:39,870  
And I was going to  
school and living

779  
00:40:39,870 --> 00:40:42,120  
with this old woman,  
who would quickly,

780  
00:40:42,120 --> 00:40:46,620  
after this started,  
also to be impossible.

781  
00:40:46,620 --> 00:40:48,060  
I think somebody informed.

782  
00:40:48,060 --> 00:40:51,580  
She told me that I cannot  
stay with her any longer.

783  
00:40:51,580 --> 00:40:56,070  
Not giving me a clear  
reason for this.

784  
00:40:56,070 --> 00:40:59,950  
Or if you want to have some  
small story before I will

785  
00:40:59,950 --> 00:41:01,710  
tell what I was doing before.

786  
00:41:01,710 --> 00:41:02,670  
Sure.

787

00:41:02,670 --> 00:41:08,310

During this time, I think it was '42, some children from ghetto

788

00:41:08,310 --> 00:41:15,430

was going through streets of Warsaw and begging for bread.

789

00:41:15,430 --> 00:41:18,010

You can see them on the street running

790

00:41:18,010 --> 00:41:22,800

and completely in schmattas, very hungry, mostly

791

00:41:22,800 --> 00:41:26,273

was completely without hair.

792

00:41:26,273 --> 00:41:26,940

How do you call?

793

00:41:26,940 --> 00:41:28,410

Bald.

794

00:41:28,410 --> 00:41:30,010

Yeah, but they cut the hair.

795

00:41:30,010 --> 00:41:31,150

Oh, right, shaven.

796

00:41:31,150 --> 00:41:31,750

Oh, my.

797

00:41:31,750 --> 00:41:32,250

Yeah.

798

00:41:32,250 --> 00:41:39,180

And they had some kind of cans.

799

00:41:39,180 --> 00:41:45,030  
And they bang on these cans,  
metal cans, making noise.

800  
00:41:45,030 --> 00:41:47,640  
And some people,  
not all the people,

801  
00:41:47,640 --> 00:41:50,160  
are throwing food to these cans.

802  
00:41:50,160 --> 00:41:51,960  
They are mostly  
sitting on the people.

803  
00:41:51,960 --> 00:41:55,110  
They are half-naked,  
even in winter.

804  
00:41:55,110 --> 00:41:59,280  
Completely, you know, what  
they call, dying from hunger.

805  
00:41:59,280 --> 00:42:02,010  
Looking as a people, you  
know, dying from hunger.

806  
00:42:02,010 --> 00:42:04,270  
Children from  
Kenya, you see how.

807  
00:42:04,270 --> 00:42:05,820  
You know how does it look.

808  
00:42:05,820 --> 00:42:08,790  
And some people there are  
putting some piece of bread

809  
00:42:08,790 --> 00:42:10,800  
or a piece of potato.

810  
00:42:10,800 --> 00:42:12,420  
And the Germans

when they see them,

811

00:42:12,420 --> 00:42:16,690

they shoot them,  
simply, on the street.

812

00:42:16,690 --> 00:42:19,020

So in this apartment  
building what I was living

813

00:42:19,020 --> 00:42:20,940

was this woman, she  
was going to work,

814

00:42:20,940 --> 00:42:25,260

and I was back from school,  
about 3:00 in the afternoon.

815

00:42:25,260 --> 00:42:27,450

It was a child,  
probably, sleeping

816

00:42:27,450 --> 00:42:33,540

on the stairs or someplace  
with this big, noisy can.

817

00:42:33,540 --> 00:42:36,690

And he was banging this  
can, asking the people

818

00:42:36,690 --> 00:42:40,150

to throw him some food.

819

00:42:40,150 --> 00:42:45,870

And I throw some food, some  
dry bread, to this can.

820

00:42:45,870 --> 00:42:50,280

And he remember what I did.

821

00:42:50,280 --> 00:42:54,010

And next day, he showed again.

822

00:42:54,010 --> 00:42:57,480

And what it was worse, it  
was on the first floor.

823

00:42:57,480 --> 00:42:59,970

He showed on my door.

824

00:42:59,970 --> 00:43:03,180

And banging on this can.

825

00:43:03,180 --> 00:43:06,100

And you know, it  
was very dangerous.

826

00:43:06,100 --> 00:43:08,880

I don't know if you can  
understand, in my situation,

827

00:43:08,880 --> 00:43:10,920

how terribly dangerous  
it was to have

828

00:43:10,920 --> 00:43:13,260

a Jewish child on the door.

829

00:43:13,260 --> 00:43:16,380

So I opened the door and  
I throw again some bread

830

00:43:16,380 --> 00:43:19,300

because I really  
didn't know what to do.

831

00:43:19,300 --> 00:43:23,670

And I was dying that  
the neighbors will look.

832

00:43:23,670 --> 00:43:27,540

And then it will be all  
situation completely, you know.

833

00:43:27,540 --> 00:43:30,330

I was going on the edge of the--

834

00:43:30,330 --> 00:43:33,030

835

00:43:33,030 --> 00:43:34,630

and then he came again.

836

00:43:34,630 --> 00:43:36,750

And then I think he came again.

837

00:43:36,750 --> 00:43:39,570

But what I wanted to say--

838

00:43:39,570 --> 00:43:45,330

the fear of the poor child, I  
never had this kind of fear.

839

00:43:45,330 --> 00:43:50,400

I was sitting, and how, at home  
and almost praying God, please,

840

00:43:50,400 --> 00:43:53,580

don't send this child  
anymore because I

841

00:43:53,580 --> 00:43:54,930

don't know what to do.

842

00:43:54,930 --> 00:43:58,950

Open the door or  
not open the door.

843

00:43:58,950 --> 00:44:02,090

So this was the situation.

844

00:44:02,090 --> 00:44:02,855

Yes or not?

845

00:44:02,855 --> 00:44:03,890

Yeah, I'm gonna  
flip it over now.



846  
00:44:03,890 --> 00:44:04,390  
OK.

847  
00:44:04,390 --> 00:44:11,210

848  
00:44:11,210 --> 00:44:11,750  
OK.

849  
00:44:11,750 --> 00:44:12,710  
It's on.

850  
00:44:12,710 --> 00:44:14,880  
It's on.

851  
00:44:14,880 --> 00:44:18,200  
So I at this time,  
really, I think

852  
00:44:18,200 --> 00:44:20,810  
they didn't know  
what to do with me.

853  
00:44:20,810 --> 00:44:25,850  
Summer started and my  
mother and her friends,

854  
00:44:25,850 --> 00:44:32,940  
they find some  
friends near Lowicz.

855  
00:44:32,940 --> 00:44:40,320  
It was a school for agriculture  
from the peasant girls.

856  
00:44:40,320 --> 00:44:43,260  
And they sent me over  
there for vacation,

857  
00:44:43,260 --> 00:44:46,290  
that I can help

but work in fields,

858  
00:44:46,290 --> 00:44:49,560  
and work between these girls.

859  
00:44:49,560 --> 00:44:51,780  
And they agreed to take me.

860  
00:44:51,780 --> 00:44:55,090  
This means I will  
have a bed and food.

861  
00:44:55,090 --> 00:44:57,450  
And then I can work.

862  
00:44:57,450 --> 00:45:02,940  
And I went there, knowing that  
I don't have any place to go.

863  
00:45:02,940 --> 00:45:06,250  
And nobody does not  
want to take me.

864  
00:45:06,250 --> 00:45:07,930  
And I started to work.

865  
00:45:07,930 --> 00:45:09,720  
And I was terribly unhappy.

866  
00:45:09,720 --> 00:45:11,630  
But I was very  
unhappy all times,

867  
00:45:11,630 --> 00:45:15,210  
that it nothing,  
nothing that was new.

868  
00:45:15,210 --> 00:45:21,390  
And I was only one  
girl with dark hair

869  
00:45:21,390 --> 00:45:26,340

between these Polish  
peasants, very simple girls.

870  
00:45:26,340 --> 00:45:31,830  
Sleeping in the big room  
for more than 20 beds.

871  
00:45:31,830 --> 00:45:36,120  
I had one bed between them  
and working in the field,

872  
00:45:36,120 --> 00:45:42,840  
and taking care about cows,  
and garden, and weeds,

873  
00:45:42,840 --> 00:45:43,860  
taking out weeds.

874  
00:45:43,860 --> 00:45:45,880  
And oh, I learned a lot.

875  
00:45:45,880 --> 00:45:47,350  
I have to tell.

876  
00:45:47,350 --> 00:45:50,910  
And the girls never  
crossed their mind

877  
00:45:50,910 --> 00:45:52,170  
that I can be Jewish.

878  
00:45:52,170 --> 00:45:54,840  
It was so, they were so simple.

879  
00:45:54,840 --> 00:45:58,200  
And it was so far about  
their imagination,

880  
00:45:58,200 --> 00:46:02,100  
even, that I was going  
with them to the church.

881

00:46:02,100 --> 00:46:03,460  
And they were surprised.

882  
00:46:03,460 --> 00:46:05,580  
They were surprised that  
I have different hobbies

883  
00:46:05,580 --> 00:46:06,780  
and different clothes.

884  
00:46:06,780 --> 00:46:09,960  
And they asked me thousands  
of naive question.

885  
00:46:09,960 --> 00:46:13,330  
And of course, I was  
reading books constantly.

886  
00:46:13,330 --> 00:46:17,730  
And they asked me what  
for I am reading books?

887  
00:46:17,730 --> 00:46:19,380  
Where did you get  
books at this time?

888  
00:46:19,380 --> 00:46:20,900  
They have some small library.

889  
00:46:20,900 --> 00:46:23,550  
It was very boring, and  
I knew almost everything.

890  
00:46:23,550 --> 00:46:28,020  
But you know, I still was  
reading in the evenings.

891  
00:46:28,020 --> 00:46:29,940  
I think the director  
of the school,

892  
00:46:29,940 --> 00:46:33,660  
he probably knew

very well who am I.

893

00:46:33,660 --> 00:46:35,610

But they place everybody around.

894

00:46:35,610 --> 00:46:37,320

They played that  
they don't know.

895

00:46:37,320 --> 00:46:40,620

It was some kind of  
general agreement.

896

00:46:40,620 --> 00:46:42,330

And I had my documents.

897

00:46:42,330 --> 00:46:46,130

And at this time, I had  
Kennkarte, what you can see,

898

00:46:46,130 --> 00:46:50,280

and it was general agreement  
that I am not Jewish.

899

00:46:50,280 --> 00:46:54,090

And I stayed there  
quite a long time.

900

00:46:54,090 --> 00:46:55,800

I didn't go back to Warsaw.

901

00:46:55,800 --> 00:46:58,830

I didn't go back to school.

902

00:46:58,830 --> 00:47:01,510

It was not possible.

903

00:47:01,510 --> 00:47:02,700

And I was working.

904

00:47:02,700 --> 00:47:05,460

I was very exhausted,

very lonely.

905

00:47:05,460 --> 00:47:08,520

It was absolutely  
nobody to talk.

906

00:47:08,520 --> 00:47:10,140

I was still only 16.

907

00:47:10,140 --> 00:47:12,660

908

00:47:12,660 --> 00:47:17,490

And I got hepatitis.

909

00:47:17,490 --> 00:47:18,390

Oh, god.

910

00:47:18,390 --> 00:47:19,950

I was very sick.

911

00:47:19,950 --> 00:47:22,530

Of course, I was not  
seen by any physician.

912

00:47:22,530 --> 00:47:25,290

I was lying in bed, I  
remember, with was high fever.

913

00:47:25,290 --> 00:47:28,530

And I was as yellow as lemon.

914

00:47:28,530 --> 00:47:31,600

And after hepatitis,  
what I understand now,

915

00:47:31,600 --> 00:47:36,340

but at this time, I had  
very deep depression.

916

00:47:36,340 --> 00:47:39,540

I was unable to do anything

physically and mentally.

917

00:47:39,540 --> 00:47:42,420

I was sitting in the  
corner in the room.

918

00:47:42,420 --> 00:47:45,150

And even I was unable to read.

919

00:47:45,150 --> 00:47:47,340

I was staring by window.

920

00:47:47,340 --> 00:47:49,440

And I didn't want  
anybody to talk to me.

921

00:47:49,440 --> 00:47:51,750

And I didn't want to answer.

922

00:47:51,750 --> 00:47:54,450

And it was for about  
three or four weeks.

923

00:47:54,450 --> 00:47:56,930

And everybody was  
surprised, what is going on?

924

00:47:56,930 --> 00:48:00,360

They think that I am  
going crazy, simply.

925

00:48:00,360 --> 00:48:03,360

So after this time,  
I went back to work.

926

00:48:03,360 --> 00:48:04,590

I was very weak.

927

00:48:04,590 --> 00:48:07,740

And everybody was laughing  
that I cannot work too much.

928

00:48:07,740 --> 00:48:10,050  
They told me that I am lazy.

929  
00:48:10,050 --> 00:48:11,610  
Believe me, I was not lazy.

930  
00:48:11,610 --> 00:48:12,790  
I was sick.

931  
00:48:12,790 --> 00:48:13,290  
I was sick.

932  
00:48:13,290 --> 00:48:16,680  
But I was dragging my foot.

933  
00:48:16,680 --> 00:48:21,840  
One of the girl in  
school got typhoid fever.

934  
00:48:21,840 --> 00:48:24,480  
And they decided  
that I was the best

935  
00:48:24,480 --> 00:48:26,610  
person to take care of her.

936  
00:48:26,610 --> 00:48:29,580  
So they put us together  
in the small room.

937  
00:48:29,580 --> 00:48:31,860  
And I was taking care of her.

938  
00:48:31,860 --> 00:48:35,910  
I had always some kind  
of nurse's possibility.

939  
00:48:35,910 --> 00:48:39,090  
I was interested in medicine.

940  
00:48:39,090 --> 00:48:43,770  
And I was taking care of her



until she was so sick that they

941  
00:48:43,770 --> 00:48:45,550  
took her in the hospital.

942  
00:48:45,550 --> 00:48:48,240  
And she died, as I know.

943  
00:48:48,240 --> 00:48:52,590  
At this time, it  
was December '42.

944  
00:48:52,590 --> 00:48:53,805  
Yeah, it was December.

945  
00:48:53,805 --> 00:48:55,980  
You didn't get typhoid?

946  
00:48:55,980 --> 00:48:57,600  
You didn't catch?

947  
00:48:57,600 --> 00:48:58,465  
Typhoid?

948  
00:48:58,465 --> 00:48:59,190  
No, no.

949  
00:48:59,190 --> 00:49:03,960  
I was very-- hepatitis  
was enough for me.

950  
00:49:03,960 --> 00:49:09,120  
And I remember, in December,  
I was still not very healthy.

951  
00:49:09,120 --> 00:49:14,700  
And I went to bring  
water from the well.

952  
00:49:14,700 --> 00:49:16,680  
And it was very windy day.

953

00:49:16,680 --> 00:49:20,340

I had long hair, what mostly  
I combed very nicely back,

954

00:49:20,340 --> 00:49:22,890

and put them together.

955

00:49:22,890 --> 00:49:24,510

But it was early in the morning.

956

00:49:24,510 --> 00:49:25,530

I went for water.

957

00:49:25,530 --> 00:49:28,380

And my hair, I think, were  
down, and it was windy.

958

00:49:28,380 --> 00:49:32,190

And my hair was, I don't  
know, waving or whatever.

959

00:49:32,190 --> 00:49:32,730

You tell.

960

00:49:32,730 --> 00:49:35,370

And I was taking water.

961

00:49:35,370 --> 00:49:39,450

And the Germans came to  
the school for something.

962

00:49:39,450 --> 00:49:40,840

They were coming frequently.

963

00:49:40,840 --> 00:49:41,340

I avoid.

964

00:49:41,340 --> 00:49:44,220

You know, I was always  
hiding in some place

965

00:49:44,220 --> 00:49:46,650  
when I saw that  
the car was coming.

966  
00:49:46,650 --> 00:49:50,370  
And just when I was taking  
this water, the car with German

967  
00:49:50,370 --> 00:49:51,510  
came.

968  
00:49:51,510 --> 00:49:53,220  
And they look at me.

969  
00:49:53,220 --> 00:49:56,850  
And they immediately went to  
the director of the school.

970  
00:49:56,850 --> 00:50:00,900  
And they asked him what this  
Jewish girl is doing here.

971  
00:50:00,900 --> 00:50:04,140  
I didn't look too  
well, probably.

972  
00:50:04,140 --> 00:50:07,590  
And so he asked me.

973  
00:50:07,590 --> 00:50:10,110  
And still, not telling  
me directly, he told me,

974  
00:50:10,110 --> 00:50:12,120  
you cannot stay any longer.

975  
00:50:12,120 --> 00:50:13,380  
You have to go.

976  
00:50:13,380 --> 00:50:16,110  
You have to go now.

977

00:50:16,110 --> 00:50:20,910  
Some way, I don't remember  
how I informed my mother.

978  
00:50:20,910 --> 00:50:22,260  
I had my mother address.

979  
00:50:22,260 --> 00:50:23,460  
I don't remember.

980  
00:50:23,460 --> 00:50:27,030  
It was possible to call  
probably, I don't know.

981  
00:50:27,030 --> 00:50:31,120  
My mother came next week  
and she picked me up.

982  
00:50:31,120 --> 00:50:35,100  
And it was the end of  
my stay in this school.

983  
00:50:35,100 --> 00:50:38,100  
I went with her to Warsaw.

984  
00:50:38,100 --> 00:50:41,910  
And I stayed with my  
very good friends.

985  
00:50:41,910 --> 00:50:46,050  
They were parents of my friend  
from school, Zofia Kielan,

986  
00:50:46,050 --> 00:50:50,310  
with whom I am  
still very friendly.

987  
00:50:50,310 --> 00:50:53,220  
And I was a good  
friend from school

988  
00:50:53,220 --> 00:50:56,490  
from both sister

Zofia and Krystyna.

989

00:50:56,490 --> 00:51:01,170

And the parents agreed  
to take me to their home.

990

00:51:01,170 --> 00:51:07,080

It was just the  
beginning of 1943.

991

00:51:07,080 --> 00:51:09,540

And I started again  
to go to school.

992

00:51:09,540 --> 00:51:12,690

I cut through all this what  
I lost during the last six

993

00:51:12,690 --> 00:51:14,810

months.

994

00:51:14,810 --> 00:51:19,140

And it was-- as for  
my all war time,

995

00:51:19,140 --> 00:51:21,600

it was probably the best time.

996

00:51:21,600 --> 00:51:24,480

I was treated as  
a third daughter.

997

00:51:24,480 --> 00:51:26,070

I think they liked me very much.

998

00:51:26,070 --> 00:51:29,610

And I treat them as my parents.

999

00:51:29,610 --> 00:51:31,350

Of course, they knew.

1000

00:51:31,350 --> 00:51:33,960

And I knew that they know.

1001  
00:51:33,960 --> 00:51:34,770  
And so on.

1002  
00:51:34,770 --> 00:51:37,980  
We never, never talk about it.

1003  
00:51:37,980 --> 00:51:39,270  
It was, again.

1004  
00:51:39,270 --> 00:51:40,580  
We never talk about it.

1005  
00:51:40,580 --> 00:51:42,330  
I had all my papers.

1006  
00:51:42,330 --> 00:51:43,980  
I had documents.

1007  
00:51:43,980 --> 00:51:45,630  
I had my Kennkarte.

1008  
00:51:45,630 --> 00:51:49,800  
I have big, beautiful picture  
from my first communion.

1009  
00:51:49,800 --> 00:51:53,190  
What of course disappear,  
I can not show this.

1010  
00:51:53,190 --> 00:51:56,700  
It was very  
important to have it.

1011  
00:51:56,700 --> 00:51:59,360

1012  
00:51:59,360 --> 00:52:10,430  
And I stay with them  
until May, 1943.

1013

00:52:10,430 --> 00:52:15,100

Does it mean after  
ghetto uprising?

1014

00:52:15,100 --> 00:52:17,076

No.

1015

00:52:17,076 --> 00:52:20,480

The time at this time with  
the Jews was very difficult.

1016

00:52:20,480 --> 00:52:22,940

It was plenty of  
informer on the street.

1017

00:52:22,940 --> 00:52:27,170

It was very difficult to walk.

1018

00:52:27,170 --> 00:52:32,120

Many times, they stopped me.

1019

00:52:32,120 --> 00:52:34,970

And many times,  
I had the feeling

1020

00:52:34,970 --> 00:52:37,100

that being in the streetcar.

1021

00:52:37,100 --> 00:52:40,310

And sometimes, I  
had to go to Warsaw.

1022

00:52:40,310 --> 00:52:43,310

I had to pretend that I  
am a normal person, that I

1023

00:52:43,310 --> 00:52:45,710

am moving as everybody else.

1024

00:52:45,710 --> 00:52:47,990

Also what I didn't  
mention before,

1025  
00:52:47,990 --> 00:52:51,140  
but I cannot talk about  
everything at the same time.

1026  
00:52:51,140 --> 00:52:53,580  
I was in Polish  
underground movements.

1027  
00:52:53,580 --> 00:52:54,230  
Oh.

1028  
00:52:54,230 --> 00:52:59,840  
From age 14, 15, I was involved  
by my friend Zofia and Krystyna

1029  
00:52:59,840 --> 00:53:01,040  
Kielan.

1030  
00:53:01,040 --> 00:53:07,730  
And I was what they call in  
Polish Underground Army, AKA,

1031  
00:53:07,730 --> 00:53:11,960  
a youth organization,  
what was Szare Szeregi.

1032  
00:53:11,960 --> 00:53:14,030  
A gray rose.

1033  
00:53:14,030 --> 00:53:15,680  
And we had our meetings.

1034  
00:53:15,680 --> 00:53:20,900  
And we had some kind of  
underground activities.

1035  
00:53:20,900 --> 00:53:24,110  
What was some way  
it was a danger.

1036  
00:53:24,110 --> 00:53:29,030



But for me, it was some kind of protection.

1037  
00:53:29,030 --> 00:53:31,580  
I don't know if you understand why.

1038  
00:53:31,580 --> 00:53:36,440  
Because the fear for me, unfortunately, I

1039  
00:53:36,440 --> 00:53:37,520  
didn't fear the German.

1040  
00:53:37,520 --> 00:53:39,920  
I feared Poles.

1041  
00:53:39,920 --> 00:53:43,490  
The German was not dangerous for me directly.

1042  
00:53:43,490 --> 00:53:46,370  
Of course, indirectly, yes.

1043  
00:53:46,370 --> 00:53:49,070  
But directly, it was the Poles.

1044  
00:53:49,070 --> 00:53:52,220  
It was somebody on the street, or ex-friends,

1045  
00:53:52,220 --> 00:53:54,240  
or somebody who knew who was my father.

1046  
00:53:54,240 --> 00:53:57,080  
What also happened to me during the war,

1047  
00:53:57,080 --> 00:54:00,650  
they stopped me because they recognized me.

1048

00:54:00,650 --> 00:54:05,930

And some neighbors, some  
concierge, or whatever.

1049

00:54:05,930 --> 00:54:09,560

And being in the Polish  
underground movement,

1050

00:54:09,560 --> 00:54:11,690

it was some kind of protection.

1051

00:54:11,690 --> 00:54:13,820

That I belong to  
a different group,

1052

00:54:13,820 --> 00:54:16,520

I belong to Polish  
youth, I am with them,

1053

00:54:16,520 --> 00:54:19,970

I am in the  
underground movement.

1054

00:54:19,970 --> 00:54:24,170

So we had the meetings  
what we are going.

1055

00:54:24,170 --> 00:54:27,230

And we had a small  
different task.

1056

00:54:27,230 --> 00:54:33,680

And I remember they gave me,  
Polish underground gazette,

1057

00:54:33,680 --> 00:54:38,760

a small newspaper.

1058

00:54:38,760 --> 00:54:42,090

Small newspaper, it was  
called Biuletyn Informacyjny

1059

00:54:42,090 --> 00:54:42,950  
in this time.

1060  
00:54:42,950 --> 00:54:47,790  
And all bunch of them, I  
don't know, 20 or whatever.

1061  
00:54:47,790 --> 00:54:51,210  
And they asked me to  
bring to different houses,

1062  
00:54:51,210 --> 00:54:52,620  
to different homes.

1063  
00:54:52,620 --> 00:54:54,405  
It was what the young  
people were doing.

1064  
00:54:54,405 --> 00:54:57,120

1065  
00:54:57,120 --> 00:54:58,560  
I didn't want to take it.

1066  
00:54:58,560 --> 00:54:59,790  
I didn't want to take it.

1067  
00:54:59,790 --> 00:55:03,960  
Not because-- my  
danger was my face.

1068  
00:55:03,960 --> 00:55:04,500  
Right.

1069  
00:55:04,500 --> 00:55:08,640  
I didn't want because who  
knows-- when they picked me up

1070  
00:55:08,640 --> 00:55:12,420  
with these  
underground materials,

1071

00:55:12,420 --> 00:55:17,220  
who knows what I will tell it  
who will start to beat me up?

1072  
00:55:17,220 --> 00:55:20,460  
I had the feeling that I  
am not dangerous myself

1073  
00:55:20,460 --> 00:55:25,140  
but I didn't want to tell them  
that I don't want to take it.

1074  
00:55:25,140 --> 00:55:27,510  
Why everybody's taking, why not?

1075  
00:55:27,510 --> 00:55:30,660  
Of course, it was out  
of question to tell them

1076  
00:55:30,660 --> 00:55:32,550  
what was the most  
simple, look at me.

1077  
00:55:32,550 --> 00:55:37,020  
Do you really want this  
together with this kind of look

1078  
00:55:37,020 --> 00:55:41,010  
to walk on the street with  
some underground material?

1079  
00:55:41,010 --> 00:55:43,200  
So you know, it was  
constant struggle

1080  
00:55:43,200 --> 00:55:47,700  
how to avoid this  
kind of involvement.

1081  
00:55:47,700 --> 00:55:50,810

1082  
00:55:50,810 --> 00:56:00,040

So we're still in '43 and it  
was Warsaw ghetto uprising.

1083  
00:56:00,040 --> 00:56:02,540  
Oh, one more thing,  
what I think,

1084  
00:56:02,540 --> 00:56:04,780  
unfortunately, we have to tell.

1085  
00:56:04,780 --> 00:56:08,530  
I was going to school  
with my friend Zofia,

1086  
00:56:08,530 --> 00:56:13,185  
and her mother gave her  
some small lunch with us,

1087  
00:56:13,185 --> 00:56:16,210  
piece of bread we  
had in the pocket.

1088  
00:56:16,210 --> 00:56:16,870  
And we walked.

1089  
00:56:16,870 --> 00:56:21,820  
It was one streetcar, it was  
not very far away from the home.

1090  
00:56:21,820 --> 00:56:24,430  
And again, it was  
this Jewish child

1091  
00:56:24,430 --> 00:56:31,390  
sitting with a can, completely  
emaciated child with this can,

1092  
00:56:31,390 --> 00:56:35,170  
and banging, and  
half-dead-looking, simply.

1093  
00:56:35,170 --> 00:56:38,980  
And we both immediately,

without talking,

1094

00:56:38,980 --> 00:56:42,100

we took this lunch  
from our pockets

1095

00:56:42,100 --> 00:56:45,730

and throw away to his can.

1096

00:56:45,730 --> 00:56:52,810

And at this moment, some Polish  
woman noticed from the street

1097

00:56:52,810 --> 00:56:59,350

and started to run after  
us, screaming, [POLISH]..

1098

00:56:59,350 --> 00:57:05,686

Jewish ants, Jewish  
helper, Jewish, you know.

1099

00:57:05,686 --> 00:57:08,080

What was very dangerous.

1100

00:57:08,080 --> 00:57:12,340

Because she was very angry that  
we gave this piece of bread

1101

00:57:12,340 --> 00:57:14,080

to this Jewish child.

1102

00:57:14,080 --> 00:57:17,320

Isn't it difficult to imagine?

1103

00:57:17,320 --> 00:57:20,530

1104

00:57:20,530 --> 00:57:25,150

Now, OK, let's talk  
about uprising.

1105

00:57:25,150 --> 00:57:28,675

Jewish uprising started  
just before Easter.

1106  
00:57:28,675 --> 00:57:31,490

1107  
00:57:31,490 --> 00:57:34,850  
I think it started first day.

1108  
00:57:34,850 --> 00:57:40,460  
And from the place what we are  
living, it was fifth floor.

1109  
00:57:40,460 --> 00:57:43,070  
The window faced to the south.

1110  
00:57:43,070 --> 00:57:46,640  
So we can start it  
to see the flame.

1111  
00:57:46,640 --> 00:57:49,320  
And even it was quiet at night.

1112  
00:57:49,320 --> 00:57:51,470  
It was no street movement.

1113  
00:57:51,470 --> 00:57:55,080  
You can hear sometimes  
people screaming.

1114  
00:57:55,080 --> 00:57:57,560  
And then of course, smoke.

1115  
00:57:57,560 --> 00:58:04,520  
And constant them guns shot.

1116  
00:58:04,520 --> 00:58:09,200  
We all try not to go  
near the ghetto walls.

1117  
00:58:09,200 --> 00:58:13,100  
It was very dangerous at this

time, what was many time--

1118  
00:58:13,100 --> 00:58:17,530  
what was many time described.

1119  
00:58:17,530 --> 00:58:23,890  
And then I remember, a few  
days after ghetto uprising

1120  
00:58:23,890 --> 00:58:31,320  
started, it was Easter dinner  
in the house of our friends.

1121  
00:58:31,320 --> 00:58:32,890  
What they say, I  
think they started

1122  
00:58:32,890 --> 00:58:34,480  
to have a hard  
time with me, too.

1123  
00:58:34,480 --> 00:58:39,760  
Because all the relative started  
to tell them, why do you feed--

1124  
00:58:39,760 --> 00:58:43,750  
why do you keep this  
strange-looking girl?

1125  
00:58:43,750 --> 00:58:45,850  
And we are sure  
that she's Jewish.

1126  
00:58:45,850 --> 00:58:47,740  
And so on, and so on.

1127  
00:58:47,740 --> 00:58:49,600  
But it was a big dinner.

1128  
00:58:49,600 --> 00:58:52,360  
The relatives of  
friends were invited.



1129

00:58:52,360 --> 00:58:54,880

And we are sitting on  
the table and eating.

1130

00:58:54,880 --> 00:58:56,350

And the windows are open.

1131

00:58:56,350 --> 00:58:59,740

And you can see the  
smoke and the guns.

1132

00:58:59,740 --> 00:59:02,470

It was something for me what--

1133

00:59:02,470 --> 00:59:04,090

it was hard for me to take it.

1134

00:59:04,090 --> 00:59:07,610

It was some feeling that I  
am not in the right place.

1135

00:59:07,610 --> 00:59:13,430

That probably, I should  
be over there, not here.

1136

00:59:13,430 --> 00:59:17,710

And again, some of these people.

1137

00:59:17,710 --> 00:59:20,420

They basically was  
not bad people.

1138

00:59:20,420 --> 00:59:23,620

I remember looking by the  
window and telling, well--

1139

00:59:23,620 --> 00:59:26,080

what I heard many  
times during the war.

1140

00:59:26,080 --> 00:59:32,014

Well, good the Germans are

doing for us the dirty work.

1141  
00:59:32,014 --> 00:59:34,605  
What I hear many, many  
times during the war.

1142  
00:59:34,605 --> 00:59:40,220

1143  
00:59:40,220 --> 00:59:46,010  
It is a poem of Milosz, what  
you know for Campo dei Fiori?

1144  
00:59:46,010 --> 00:59:48,620  
Do you know Campo dei Fiori?

1145  
00:59:48,620 --> 00:59:50,600  
It's a poem about Milosz.

1146  
00:59:50,600 --> 00:59:51,560  
Oh, no I don't know it.

1147  
00:59:51,560 --> 00:59:52,960  
I know Campo dei Fiori in Rome.

1148  
00:59:52,960 --> 00:59:54,440  
Want me to tell  
from the beginning?

1149  
00:59:54,440 --> 00:59:56,100  
Yeah, if you don't mind.

1150  
00:59:56,100 --> 00:59:56,600  
Oh, no.

1151  
00:59:56,600 --> 00:59:58,940  
Of course not.

1152  
00:59:58,940 --> 01:00:05,090  
So we all as I told avoid to go  
near the ghetto at this time.

1153

01:00:05,090 --> 01:00:07,640

But I went once or twice.

1154

01:00:07,640 --> 01:00:11,450

And I remember on  
the Plac Krasinski,

1155

01:00:11,450 --> 01:00:15,020

it was a small, some  
kind of carnival.

1156

01:00:15,020 --> 01:00:17,750

It was a carousel and music.

1157

01:00:17,750 --> 01:00:20,360

And the people are  
going on the carousel.

1158

01:00:20,360 --> 01:00:22,430

And it was beautiful weather.

1159

01:00:22,430 --> 01:00:27,830

And just pure, I  
don't know, yard.

1160

01:00:27,830 --> 01:00:31,610

It was a wall of ghetto.

1161

01:00:31,610 --> 01:00:35,330

And shooting people, and smoke,  
and screaming, and so on.

1162

01:00:35,330 --> 01:00:39,170

And the people are playing.

1163

01:00:39,170 --> 01:00:42,350

What was described  
this Milosz poem.

1164

01:00:42,350 --> 01:00:50,310

And it is not a [POLISH],, it  
was this way what he described.

1165  
01:00:50,310 --> 01:00:53,210  
Then what's happened--  
you want to know

1166  
01:00:53,210 --> 01:00:54,530  
what's happened to me later?

1167  
01:00:54,530 --> 01:00:55,050  
Yes, please.

1168  
01:00:55,050 --> 01:01:00,010

1169  
01:01:00,010 --> 01:01:02,080  
Yes, I took my--

1170  
01:01:02,080 --> 01:01:04,650  
I finished school at this time.

1171  
01:01:04,650 --> 01:01:05,620  
Gymnasium?

1172  
01:01:05,620 --> 01:01:07,210  
Yeah, I finish Gymnasium.

1173  
01:01:07,210 --> 01:01:09,700  
And we had some kind--

1174  
01:01:09,700 --> 01:01:12,580  
I didn't go into the detail  
because it does nothing

1175  
01:01:12,580 --> 01:01:16,420  
to do with my personal  
story and my Jewish story.

1176  
01:01:16,420 --> 01:01:19,330  
That of course, Gymnasium was  
not existent during the war.

1177

01:01:19,330 --> 01:01:22,600  
And we had what  
they call Kompletly,

1178  
01:01:22,600 --> 01:01:27,160  
which was underground  
school, with small group.

1179  
01:01:27,160 --> 01:01:29,440  
And we are moving from  
one house to the other.

1180  
01:01:29,440 --> 01:01:32,950  
And the tutors,  
teachers were coming.

1181  
01:01:32,950 --> 01:01:36,340  
And this way, I  
finished Gymnasium

1182  
01:01:36,340 --> 01:01:39,880  
with small groups  
or other girls.

1183  
01:01:39,880 --> 01:01:45,490  
And in May, we had to take  
Matura, diploma, high school

1184  
01:01:45,490 --> 01:01:48,310  
diploma, what was  
also underground.

1185  
01:01:48,310 --> 01:01:50,350  
But it was some  
kind of celebration.

1186  
01:01:50,350 --> 01:01:51,400  
We had to be dressed.

1187  
01:01:51,400 --> 01:01:55,130  
And I remember in  
somebody's bigger apartment,

1188

01:01:55,130 --> 01:02:00,100  
we had to take our exams,  
completely legally.

1189  
01:02:00,100 --> 01:02:03,970  
And pass my Matura,  
what I passed.

1190  
01:02:03,970 --> 01:02:07,960  
It was in May, '43.

1191  
01:02:07,960 --> 01:02:10,210  
And then I finished.

1192  
01:02:10,210 --> 01:02:15,220  
Both my friends went  
further to underground,

1193  
01:02:15,220 --> 01:02:18,690  
teaching to the university,  
what also was acting

1194  
01:02:18,690 --> 01:02:20,800  
during the war in Warsaw.

1195  
01:02:20,800 --> 01:02:26,050  
And I decided to go to  
the school for nurses.

1196  
01:02:26,050 --> 01:02:29,830  
At this time, I knew that  
I wanted to be a physician.

1197  
01:02:29,830 --> 01:02:32,710  
But it was not possible  
for any point of view,

1198  
01:02:32,710 --> 01:02:34,510  
also financially.

1199  
01:02:34,510 --> 01:02:38,030  
You know, we did not have  
any money all the time.

1200  
01:02:38,030 --> 01:02:40,570  
And I was living, you  
know, in houses of friends,

1201  
01:02:40,570 --> 01:02:41,710  
or trying to help.

1202  
01:02:41,710 --> 01:02:45,860  
And from one house  
to the other house.

1203  
01:02:45,860 --> 01:02:49,780  
So I decided to go  
to school for nurses.

1204  
01:02:49,780 --> 01:02:52,360  
And it was a very  
good school in Warsaw.

1205  
01:02:52,360 --> 01:02:57,500  
She was run by very elegant  
woman, Mrs. Romanowska.

1206  
01:02:57,500 --> 01:02:58,930  
I remember her.

1207  
01:02:58,930 --> 01:03:01,660  
And she decided to take me.

1208  
01:03:01,660 --> 01:03:04,480  
Even I was below the age.

1209  
01:03:04,480 --> 01:03:08,260  
You had to be 17 to be admitted.

1210  
01:03:08,260 --> 01:03:09,580  
And I was below 17.

1211  
01:03:09,580 --> 01:03:11,290  
I was 16 and 1/2.

1212

01:03:11,290 --> 01:03:13,210

And she agreed to take me.

1213

01:03:13,210 --> 01:03:17,064

And also, they have, how do you call, internal board?

1214

01:03:17,064 --> 01:03:18,617

Board to stay there?

1215

01:03:18,617 --> 01:03:19,450

Yeah, to stay there.

1216

01:03:19,450 --> 01:03:20,330

Room and board

1217

01:03:20,330 --> 01:03:21,580

Room and board.

1218

01:03:21,580 --> 01:03:24,310

We are working in the hospital in the morning.

1219

01:03:24,310 --> 01:03:28,190

In the afternoon, we had lessons.

1220

01:03:28,190 --> 01:03:30,070

And it was some--

1221

01:03:30,070 --> 01:03:31,810

on the last floor.

1222

01:03:31,810 --> 01:03:36,320

It was some small rooms, every room for four girls.

1223

01:03:36,320 --> 01:03:40,450

And we were able to live there and eat very, very poor food.

1224



01:03:40,450 --> 01:03:44,080  
But still, it was  
something to eat.

1225  
01:03:44,080 --> 01:03:48,640  
So this way, I was  
all set, I can tell.

1226  
01:03:48,640 --> 01:03:53,290  
Because I was able  
to live there.

1227  
01:03:53,290 --> 01:03:57,640  
Also it was some kind of safer  
because I have this nurse

1228  
01:03:57,640 --> 01:04:03,280  
uniform, what you can see here,  
with some kind of white hat,

1229  
01:04:03,280 --> 01:04:05,080  
something.

1230  
01:04:05,080 --> 01:04:08,980  
And I feel that I didn't  
look so different in this.

1231  
01:04:08,980 --> 01:04:11,470  
My hair was fair back,  
and it was all white,

1232  
01:04:11,470 --> 01:04:16,300  
and I was always extremely  
careful to be extremely clean

1233  
01:04:16,300 --> 01:04:19,330  
and in order, no hair out.

1234  
01:04:19,330 --> 01:04:21,820  
You see, today, no  
everything completely flat,

1235  
01:04:21,820 --> 01:04:23,170

very clean hands.

1236

01:04:23,170 --> 01:04:26,560

You know, it was very important  
not to look neglected.

1237

01:04:26,560 --> 01:04:27,580

Right, right.

1238

01:04:27,580 --> 01:04:31,490

Not to look this way.

1239

01:04:31,490 --> 01:04:37,360

What was also very strange,  
funny-looking right now,

1240

01:04:37,360 --> 01:04:41,530

the directrice of  
the school, I think

1241

01:04:41,530 --> 01:04:45,940

she knew very well who am  
I. And I think some probably

1242

01:04:45,940 --> 01:04:49,390

people called her and  
asked her to take me.

1243

01:04:49,390 --> 01:04:51,220

Because first, she  
agreed to take me

1244

01:04:51,220 --> 01:04:53,560

even I was below the age.

1245

01:04:53,560 --> 01:05:01,750

And second, every new  
pupil has some kind of task

1246

01:05:01,750 --> 01:05:06,100

to do in school, for instance,  
keep the bathroom clean,

1247

01:05:06,100 --> 01:05:10,570

or keep the corridors  
clean, or clean the table

1248

01:05:10,570 --> 01:05:13,090

after breakfast, or this kind.

1249

01:05:13,090 --> 01:05:15,880

They gave me a chapel.

1250

01:05:15,880 --> 01:05:18,670

I was in charge of chapel.

1251

01:05:18,670 --> 01:05:21,820

What was not so  
very easy because I

1252

01:05:21,820 --> 01:05:25,570

had to get up very early,  
at 5:30 in the morning

1253

01:05:25,570 --> 01:05:29,800

and clean the chapel, and put  
the flowers if we had any.

1254

01:05:29,800 --> 01:05:34,420

And then to help the  
priest with mass.

1255

01:05:34,420 --> 01:05:37,720

And after a mass-- of course,  
you don't know this because it

1256

01:05:37,720 --> 01:05:39,880

is completely different now--

1257

01:05:39,880 --> 01:05:42,550

the priest was going  
to give communion

1258

01:05:42,550 --> 01:05:46,150

to the sick people, what they

wanted to have communion.

1259

01:05:46,150 --> 01:05:51,760  
And I was the one going before  
the priest with a candle

1260

01:05:51,760 --> 01:05:55,460  
and a small [POLISH]  
making noise, small--

1261

01:05:55,460 --> 01:05:55,960  
Bell.

1262

01:05:55,960 --> 01:05:57,910  
--bell, of course, sorry.

1263

01:05:57,910 --> 01:06:00,820  
And a small bell.

1264

01:06:00,820 --> 01:06:02,230  
To the hospital.

1265

01:06:02,230 --> 01:06:05,380  
And stand on there show  
him and sick people what

1266

01:06:05,380 --> 01:06:06,760  
they wanted to have communion.

1267

01:06:06,760 --> 01:06:12,070  
And it was my task during  
my stay in nurse's school.

1268

01:06:12,070 --> 01:06:14,890  
I was helping priest  
in the chapel.

1269

01:06:14,890 --> 01:06:17,260  
Where was your  
mother at this time?

1270

01:06:17,260 --> 01:06:22,330

My mother was living in had  
different jobs mostly living

1271  
01:06:22,330 --> 01:06:25,840  
with some people they  
have in troubles.

1272  
01:06:25,840 --> 01:06:29,170  
Because I remember,  
both times, I think,

1273  
01:06:29,170 --> 01:06:30,790  
the women were very sick.

1274  
01:06:30,790 --> 01:06:34,240  
One woman has a cancer,  
and it was small children,

1275  
01:06:34,240 --> 01:06:38,770  
and she was helping, and it was  
some similar situation going

1276  
01:06:38,770 --> 01:06:40,600  
from one house to the other.

1277  
01:06:40,600 --> 01:06:47,260  
She never had any specific  
problem as a Jewish woman.

1278  
01:06:47,260 --> 01:06:48,580  
We had all problem.

1279  
01:06:48,580 --> 01:06:50,630  
We didn't have money, we  
didn't know how to live,

1280  
01:06:50,630 --> 01:06:51,940  
we didn't have any apartment.

1281  
01:06:51,940 --> 01:06:55,105  
Now, you are losing this job  
and staying with one people

1282

01:06:55,105 --> 01:06:57,670

and you didn't know  
what place to go.

1283

01:06:57,670 --> 01:07:04,860

And my brother stayed  
in this orphanage.

1284

01:07:04,860 --> 01:07:10,360

He had some problem because he  
looked too dark, and too dark

1285

01:07:10,360 --> 01:07:11,300

hair, and so on.

1286

01:07:11,300 --> 01:07:15,100

But at this time, I think he  
knew that he's not circumcised,

1287

01:07:15,100 --> 01:07:18,808

and he knew that he can  
prove that he's not Jew.

1288

01:07:18,808 --> 01:07:21,640

So it was some way.

1289

01:07:21,640 --> 01:07:26,630

I think the most difficult  
was my situation.

1290

01:07:26,630 --> 01:07:30,370

And then I stay  
in nursing school

1291

01:07:30,370 --> 01:07:37,750

until 1944, when it  
started Warsaw uprising.

1292

01:07:37,750 --> 01:07:43,750

And because I still was in the  
Polish underground movement,

1293

01:07:43,750 --> 01:07:49,430  
and I still had some  
orders from them.

1294  
01:07:49,430 --> 01:07:50,650  
I also had some--

1295  
01:07:50,650 --> 01:07:53,390  
we are soldiers.

1296  
01:07:53,390 --> 01:07:56,140  
So I had to--

1297  
01:07:56,140 --> 01:07:58,000  
when the Warsaw  
uprising started,

1298  
01:07:58,000 --> 01:08:01,840  
I had to go to my unit.

1299  
01:08:01,840 --> 01:08:07,280  
And I was two months on the  
first line Warsaw uprising.

1300  
01:08:07,280 --> 01:08:09,310  
What was also was useful.

1301  
01:08:09,310 --> 01:08:13,090  
Because I was after one  
year of nurse's school.

1302  
01:08:13,090 --> 01:08:13,780  
Right.

1303  
01:08:13,780 --> 01:08:18,399  
That I knew much more  
and I was in [POLISH],,

1304  
01:08:18,399 --> 01:08:20,290  
how to tell in English?

1305  
01:08:20,290 --> 01:08:20,950

This small--

1306

01:08:20,950 --> 01:08:22,750

Like a clinic kind of?

1307

01:08:22,750 --> 01:08:29,020

No, no, no, I was with solider  
group, big soldier group.

1308

01:08:29,020 --> 01:08:30,300

It was a small group.

1309

01:08:30,300 --> 01:08:32,830

1310

01:08:32,830 --> 01:08:33,700

Some medical group.

1311

01:08:33,700 --> 01:08:34,420

Paramedics.

1312

01:08:34,420 --> 01:08:36,069

Oh, oh, OK.

1313

01:08:36,069 --> 01:08:37,990

Paramedics group.

1314

01:08:37,990 --> 01:08:39,100

It was four of us.

1315

01:08:39,100 --> 01:08:42,592

And I was a chief of  
paramedics for this group.

1316

01:08:42,592 --> 01:08:43,444

Great.

1317

01:08:43,444 --> 01:08:45,760

Yeah, great.

1318

01:08:45,760 --> 01:08:50,920



And I stayed two months, being almost killed many, many times.

1319  
01:08:50,920 --> 01:08:55,450  
But at this time,  
I was no different

1320  
01:08:55,450 --> 01:09:00,250  
from the other people, you know,  
practically my being a Jew,

1321  
01:09:00,250 --> 01:09:01,819  
it was not so important.

1322  
01:09:01,819 --> 01:09:05,290  
We are all fighting with German.

1323  
01:09:05,290 --> 01:09:07,479  
But it was not also so easy.

1324  
01:09:07,479 --> 01:09:15,640  
I remember, when the  
soldiers from uprising

1325  
01:09:15,640 --> 01:09:19,930  
was leaving Stare Miasto  
and going through canal--

1326  
01:09:19,930 --> 01:09:21,406  
you know, they  
are going through?

1327  
01:09:21,406 --> 01:09:21,906  
Canal?

1328  
01:09:21,906 --> 01:09:25,990  
Canals to the other  
part of the town.

1329  
01:09:25,990 --> 01:09:27,640  
Oh, tunnels.

1330

01:09:27,640 --> 01:09:28,990  
Underground?

1331  
01:09:28,990 --> 01:09:32,169  
No, no, no, no, it was this  
what [INAUDIBLE] is going.

1332  
01:09:32,169 --> 01:09:36,260

1333  
01:09:36,260 --> 01:09:38,870  
So they, the  
soldiers were going--

1334  
01:09:38,870 --> 01:09:41,180  
Polish soldiers, uprising,  
Polish soldiers--

1335  
01:09:41,180 --> 01:09:46,010  
were going from Stare Miasto to  
Zoliborz through this tunnel.

1336  
01:09:46,010 --> 01:09:46,580  
Sewers.

1337  
01:09:46,580 --> 01:09:48,410  
And they were  
taking them at night

1338  
01:09:48,410 --> 01:09:52,790  
from the opening on the street.

1339  
01:09:52,790 --> 01:10:00,920  
One of these girl told me  
later that when they came out,

1340  
01:10:00,920 --> 01:10:02,440  
she had very black hair.

1341  
01:10:02,440 --> 01:10:05,180  
Said, I haven't-- I don't  
think that she was Jewish.

1342

01:10:05,180 --> 01:10:10,490

And one of the uprising people  
helping her told her, oh,

1343

01:10:10,490 --> 01:10:11,570

why we should help you?

1344

01:10:11,570 --> 01:10:15,950

You are a Jew, you are Jewish,  
and push her some kind away.

1345

01:10:15,950 --> 01:10:18,340

And of course, the other  
people tell, no, no, no

1346

01:10:18,340 --> 01:10:19,800

she's, you know, with us.

1347

01:10:19,800 --> 01:10:23,540

But it was, my goodness,  
even at this time.

1348

01:10:23,540 --> 01:10:27,470

But mostly, at this  
time, it was this part.

1349

01:10:27,470 --> 01:10:29,430

For me, it was not important.

1350

01:10:29,430 --> 01:10:32,570

We are all on the every  
day can be killed.

1351

01:10:32,570 --> 01:10:34,730

Many times, not once.

1352

01:10:34,730 --> 01:10:35,810

It was really bad.

1353

01:10:35,810 --> 01:10:38,900

And then Warsaw uprising,  
what is no reason

1354  
01:10:38,900 --> 01:10:42,200  
to go into details  
right now, finished

1355  
01:10:42,200 --> 01:10:45,920  
in end of September, '44.

1356  
01:10:45,920 --> 01:10:52,020  
And we are taken to  
the camp to Pruszkow.

1357  
01:10:52,020 --> 01:10:54,230  
And it was a big, big camp.

1358  
01:10:54,230 --> 01:10:58,100  
And mostly, the people are going  
to work, and to the German.

1359  
01:10:58,100 --> 01:10:59,420  
The younger people were sent.

1360  
01:10:59,420 --> 01:11:04,400  
Some people, they were sent  
to the camp for soldiers.

1361  
01:11:04,400 --> 01:11:05,620  
It was different ways.

1362  
01:11:05,620 --> 01:11:07,640  
Some people ran away, simply.

1363  
01:11:07,640 --> 01:11:12,380  
And we went with my friend  
Zofia and her mother,

1364  
01:11:12,380 --> 01:11:16,440  
find her on the way  
from Warsaw to Pruszkow,

1365  
01:11:16,440 --> 01:11:19,400  
we jumped from the

train in Skierniewice.

1366  
01:11:19,400 --> 01:11:23,240  
The train was going very  
slowly through the station.

1367  
01:11:23,240 --> 01:11:25,430  
And we jumped from train.

1368  
01:11:25,430 --> 01:11:27,680  
The train was open.

1369  
01:11:27,680 --> 01:11:30,200  
They didn't have roofs.

1370  
01:11:30,200 --> 01:11:32,800  
The wagons, they  
didn't have roofs.

1371  
01:11:32,800 --> 01:11:37,520  
If somebody help you,  
you can jump all over.

1372  
01:11:37,520 --> 01:11:40,640  
And we jump all over.

1373  
01:11:40,640 --> 01:11:45,890  
And then I stay with them  
in their friend's house.

1374  
01:11:45,890 --> 01:11:47,160  
I was very sick.

1375  
01:11:47,160 --> 01:11:49,130  
I had pneumonia.

1376  
01:11:49,130 --> 01:11:53,420  
We all had places, lices?

1377  
01:11:53,420 --> 01:11:54,350  
Lice.

1378

01:11:54,350 --> 01:11:55,430

Lice.

1379

01:11:55,430 --> 01:12:00,840

We all had lice, were  
very dirty, hungry,

1380

01:12:00,840 --> 01:12:04,040

not eating for many  
days at this time.

1381

01:12:04,040 --> 01:12:06,230

And I had very bad pneumonia.

1382

01:12:06,230 --> 01:12:08,330

And even I don't remember.

1383

01:12:08,330 --> 01:12:11,150

I think I was not completely  
conscious lying in this.

1384

01:12:11,150 --> 01:12:15,440

People were very nice, they  
gave us baths and clean clothes.

1385

01:12:15,440 --> 01:12:19,430

Our clothes was only to be  
burned, it was so dirty.

1386

01:12:19,430 --> 01:12:23,700

And these animals all over.

1387

01:12:23,700 --> 01:12:30,530

And I have some kind of foggy  
remembering of this place.

1388

01:12:30,530 --> 01:12:34,910

And I stayed through October,  
quite sick over there.

1389

01:12:34,910 --> 01:12:39,740

And some strange possibility

in November, my mother

1390

01:12:39,740 --> 01:12:41,690  
find that I survived.

1391

01:12:41,690 --> 01:12:43,640  
And she survived and  
my brother survived

1392

01:12:43,640 --> 01:12:47,760  
on the completely other part of  
the town, completely different.

1393

01:12:47,760 --> 01:12:50,850  
We didn't know about  
us for three months,

1394

01:12:50,850 --> 01:12:53,630  
more than three months.

1395

01:12:53,630 --> 01:12:55,250  
And she went.

1396

01:12:55,250 --> 01:12:57,140  
And she picked me up  
from these people,

1397

01:12:57,140 --> 01:13:01,070  
what I think is they were quite  
happy that she took me away.

1398

01:13:01,070 --> 01:13:07,430  
And she took me away to some  
big house for displaced person

1399

01:13:07,430 --> 01:13:11,480  
from Warsaw, near Krakow.

1400

01:13:11,480 --> 01:13:14,840  
And I stay over there,  
what was terribly dirty.

1401

01:13:14,840 --> 01:13:16,830  
And we were happy.

1402  
01:13:16,830 --> 01:13:20,480  
We had one small  
bed for two people.

1403  
01:13:20,480 --> 01:13:22,970  
I remember a long time  
that it was very strange

1404  
01:13:22,970 --> 01:13:25,480  
for me to sleep alone.

1405  
01:13:25,480 --> 01:13:28,340  
Everybody sleep two  
people on this small bed.

1406  
01:13:28,340 --> 01:13:32,390  
Or if it was worse,  
three people on the bed.

1407  
01:13:32,390 --> 01:13:33,620  
And we were very hungry.

1408  
01:13:33,620 --> 01:13:36,290  
And they give us a very  
small amount of food.

1409  
01:13:36,290 --> 01:13:38,330  
And the people were  
very unpleasant for us.

1410  
01:13:38,330 --> 01:13:41,240  
Not for it.

1411  
01:13:41,240 --> 01:13:46,940  
And then on the end of November,  
I went to Krakow myself.

1412  
01:13:46,940 --> 01:13:54,200  
And I found myself  
a job in a small,



1413  
01:13:54,200 --> 01:14:00,320  
some kind of a chronic hospital  
for old and displaced people.

1414  
01:14:00,320 --> 01:14:03,380  
And they were very  
short with any help.

1415  
01:14:03,380 --> 01:14:05,030  
And they took me  
immediately when

1416  
01:14:05,030 --> 01:14:08,630  
I told that I finished  
one year of nursing school

1417  
01:14:08,630 --> 01:14:10,280  
and I can be a nurse.

1418  
01:14:10,280 --> 01:14:14,185  
It was the most dirty  
and terrible place

1419  
01:14:14,185 --> 01:14:15,440  
what I ever worked.

1420  
01:14:15,440 --> 01:14:18,090  
But at least I was  
able to survive.

1421  
01:14:18,090 --> 01:14:21,500  
I was living small  
room with other woman.

1422  
01:14:21,500 --> 01:14:25,040  
And they gave her  
some soup twice a day.

1423  
01:14:25,040 --> 01:14:27,860  
And we knew that the  
war would finish soon.

1424

01:14:27,860 --> 01:14:32,876

And war would finish, as you  
know, for us in January '45.

1425

01:14:32,876 --> 01:14:36,090

So it was soon after I  
was working over there

1426

01:14:36,090 --> 01:14:37,470

for two months.

1427

01:14:37,470 --> 01:14:38,790

Who liberated you?

1428

01:14:38,790 --> 01:14:42,308

Soviets, of course, Soviets.

1429

01:14:42,308 --> 01:14:45,060

That's what I thought.

1430

01:14:45,060 --> 01:14:46,840

Whatever you feel like telling.

1431

01:14:46,840 --> 01:14:52,080

Oh, I'm telling you everything.

1432

01:14:52,080 --> 01:14:55,490

I was not, never--

1433

01:14:55,490 --> 01:14:56,610

that the war finished.

1434

01:14:56,610 --> 01:15:01,710

And immediately, when the  
university opened in Krakow,

1435

01:15:01,710 --> 01:15:04,290

I wanted to go to  
medical school in Krakow.

1436

01:15:04,290 --> 01:15:06,000

I was not admitted.

1437

01:15:06,000 --> 01:15:09,010

They told me that I  
didn't finish high school.

1438

01:15:09,010 --> 01:15:11,640

And it was very difficult  
for me to prove.

1439

01:15:11,640 --> 01:15:14,340

I had some small proof, they  
told me that it is not enough.

1440

01:15:14,340 --> 01:15:15,330

Whatever.

1441

01:15:15,330 --> 01:15:19,210

Happened I moved from Krakow  
with my mother and my brother.

1442

01:15:19,210 --> 01:15:23,890

We moved to Wroclaw, what is  
Breslau, what is in Silesia.

1443

01:15:23,890 --> 01:15:28,120

And it was easy town at  
this time for some reason.

1444

01:15:28,120 --> 01:15:30,060

Because it was very  
easy to have apartments.

1445

01:15:30,060 --> 01:15:32,070

They sent all German.

1446

01:15:32,070 --> 01:15:36,300

The town was destroyed, but  
still it was some good houses.

1447

01:15:36,300 --> 01:15:38,760

And the Germans were  
sent back to Germany

1448  
01:15:38,760 --> 01:15:41,130  
and displaced persons.

1449  
01:15:41,130 --> 01:15:44,040  
And we got some nice apartment.

1450  
01:15:44,040 --> 01:15:46,770  
And I was admitted  
to medical school.

1451  
01:15:46,770 --> 01:15:49,200  
And my brother went  
to the Gymnasium.

1452  
01:15:49,200 --> 01:15:55,410  
And my mother got a  
job as a librarian

1453  
01:15:55,410 --> 01:16:00,540  
in the polytechnical  
school in Breslau.

1454  
01:16:00,540 --> 01:16:04,690  
So we started some kind in  
quotation life, normal life.

1455  
01:16:04,690 --> 01:16:06,520  
We were very poor, of course.

1456  
01:16:06,520 --> 01:16:09,000  
My mother's salary was very low.

1457  
01:16:09,000 --> 01:16:10,950  
And it was difficult  
for us to live.

1458  
01:16:10,950 --> 01:16:16,350  
And I had some strange jobs  
during my medical school,

1459  
01:16:16,350 --> 01:16:18,192

trying to make a little money.

1460  
01:16:18,192 --> 01:16:19,650  
My father was  
helping a little bit.

1461  
01:16:19,650 --> 01:16:23,970  
My father was in England,  
sending some parcels.

1462  
01:16:23,970 --> 01:16:26,520  
Sometimes with food,  
sometimes with something

1463  
01:16:26,520 --> 01:16:28,450  
what we can sell.

1464  
01:16:28,450 --> 01:16:30,520  
And this way, we survived.

1465  
01:16:30,520 --> 01:16:31,980  
And I finished medical school.

1466  
01:16:31,980 --> 01:16:33,240  
And I stayed in Poland.

1467  
01:16:33,240 --> 01:16:36,060  
I was married, I had children.

1468  
01:16:36,060 --> 01:16:39,360  
And I left Poland in 1971.

1469  
01:16:39,360 --> 01:16:42,750  
Yes, forever, with children.

1470  
01:16:42,750 --> 01:16:46,260  
Well, I want to thank you very  
much for your very candid.

1471  
01:16:46,260 --> 01:16:48,900  
What I think I should add--

1472

01:16:48,900 --> 01:16:52,830

what I should add, I feel  
almost obligated to add.

1473

01:16:52,830 --> 01:16:55,320

What's happened to  
other my family.

1474

01:16:55,320 --> 01:16:56,940

I think it is interesting.

1475

01:16:56,940 --> 01:17:03,750

The family on my father's  
side, they were more no,

1476

01:17:03,750 --> 01:17:06,570

not accommodated.

1477

01:17:06,570 --> 01:17:13,530

OK, they mostly  
converted before war.

1478

01:17:13,530 --> 01:17:21,720

And nobody, or almost nobody,  
as I know, didn't go to ghetto.

1479

01:17:21,720 --> 01:17:23,910

They stay on Polish side.

1480

01:17:23,910 --> 01:17:26,940

And they had very,  
very difficult time.

1481

01:17:26,940 --> 01:17:32,400

Partially because they  
were quite wealthy.

1482

01:17:32,400 --> 01:17:37,620

And if you had money, of course,  
it was easier to survive.

1483

01:17:37,620 --> 01:17:41,550

But also, you were  
under constant attention

1484  
01:17:41,550 --> 01:17:44,490  
on the informers that  
are coming to the house

1485  
01:17:44,490 --> 01:17:46,890  
and telling, well,  
give us some money.

1486  
01:17:46,890 --> 01:17:49,860  
If not, you Jew,  
give us some money.

1487  
01:17:49,860 --> 01:17:52,530  
If not, we will go to  
Gestapo and to police.

1488  
01:17:52,530 --> 01:17:55,736

1489  
01:17:55,736 --> 01:17:58,950  
We were so poor,  
and it was obvious

1490  
01:17:58,950 --> 01:18:03,150  
that we don't have any money,  
that the informer, I think,

1491  
01:18:03,150 --> 01:18:05,220  
didn't pay too much  
attention to us.

1492  
01:18:05,220 --> 01:18:09,030  
Because we are not  
attractive for them.

1493  
01:18:09,030 --> 01:18:12,210  
So my aunt always was  
telling us that you survived,

1494  
01:18:12,210 --> 01:18:15,060

your family, direct family,  
you survived the war

1495  
01:18:15,060 --> 01:18:20,820  
because you were too poor to  
be interesting for anybody.

1496  
01:18:20,820 --> 01:18:22,980  
And some of them, they survived.

1497  
01:18:22,980 --> 01:18:25,590  
Some of them they  
were given by informer

1498  
01:18:25,590 --> 01:18:28,920  
to the police and Gestapo,  
and they were killed.

1499  
01:18:28,920 --> 01:18:33,660  
My mother's family, practically  
everybody was killed.

1500  
01:18:33,660 --> 01:18:35,790  
They were not converted.

1501  
01:18:35,790 --> 01:18:36,840  
They were Jewish.

1502  
01:18:36,840 --> 01:18:38,520  
And everybody knew the truth.

1503  
01:18:38,520 --> 01:18:39,970  
They never changed the name.

1504  
01:18:39,970 --> 01:18:42,780  
The name was Dajches,  
my mother's brother.

1505  
01:18:42,780 --> 01:18:45,540  
And nobody survived.

1506  
01:18:45,540 --> 01:18:51,810



They all perished in Auschwitz  
with my cousin, who was younger

1507  
01:18:51,810 --> 01:18:53,700  
that I am, with children.

1508  
01:18:53,700 --> 01:18:56,670  
Practically,  
practically everybody.

1509  
01:18:56,670 --> 01:19:00,270  
I gather all this  
name for Yad Vashem.

1510  
01:19:00,270 --> 01:19:02,760  
And it was more than 20 people.

1511  
01:19:02,760 --> 01:19:06,220  
Everybody was killed.

1512  
01:19:06,220 --> 01:19:08,990  
Sorry to hear that.

1513  
01:19:08,990 --> 01:19:10,560  
Is there anything  
else that you would

1514  
01:19:10,560 --> 01:19:12,210  
like to add to this interview?

1515  
01:19:12,210 --> 01:19:14,220  
Any episodes that  
you didn't recount

1516  
01:19:14,220 --> 01:19:15,630  
to me that you would like to?

1517  
01:19:15,630 --> 01:19:18,450  
Or anything else that you would  
like to say at this point?

1518  
01:19:18,450 --> 01:19:23,550

I think only that it can be  
said much better that I did.

1519  
01:19:23,550 --> 01:19:24,633  
No, I don't think so.

1520  
01:19:24,633 --> 01:19:25,800  
It was some kind of chaotic.

1521  
01:19:25,800 --> 01:19:28,230  
This was very eloquent.

1522  
01:19:28,230 --> 01:19:30,480  
Basically, that's all.

1523  
01:19:30,480 --> 01:19:33,390  
I tried to keep facts.

1524  
01:19:33,390 --> 01:19:36,470  
I tried not to give  
too much of my opinion.

1525  
01:19:36,470 --> 01:19:37,980  
Oh, that's OK, too, though.

1526  
01:19:37,980 --> 01:19:40,950  
Well, It's different, I think.

1527  
01:19:40,950 --> 01:19:42,885  
I think, basically, that's all.

1528  
01:19:42,885 --> 01:19:43,385  
OK.

1529  
01:19:43,385 --> 01:19:44,500  
Well, thank you.

1530  
01:19:44,500 --> 01:19:46,340  
Thank you.

1531  
01:19:46,340 --> 01:19:47,000

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