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Summary

Maria (née Warren?) Malina grew up in Biała Podlaska until 1935 when she moved to Warsaw to stay with her sister and husband, Idessa and Yannick Golthiersch. Her family lived in a traditional household, speaking mostly Polish at home, Yiddish less so. She had a large extended family, but with no wartime survivors from her mother's side and only a few first cousins from her father's. Her father was a store merchant. Maria had one older sister and a younger brother.

After the Germans conquered the city, Maria helped nurse a wounded friend. She met her first husband, whom she'd known before the war. In 1940, they married, partly in hopes that it would keep them off the deportation list, but moved to the ghetto. As she prepared to move in with a local woman of Russian royalty, she was robbed by undercover policeman, while also surviving a deportation selection. She was an unpaid companion for the baroness, while her husband remained in the ghetto with her brother and his wife. Her attempts to create false papers were unsuccessful. She eventually moved among various houses for hiding and successfully avoided discovery.

Her husband was unable to escape from the ghetto during the uprising. Her brother was able to escape from a deportation train and joined her; through a friend, he was able to masquerade as a Pole and found work in a local sports stadium. The baroness was shot by the Polish Home Army for cooperation with the Germans, though Maria doubts that accusation. A pianist, Władysław Szpilman, and Maria's brother tried to protect a Wehrmacht officer, Hosenfeld, who had been arrested by the Russians. Hosenfeld had helped hide both of them after the uprising, but he died in the prison.

After the war, she returned to Warsaw from a nearby where she found her brother, while also finding her second husband. They moved to Łódź. Much later, a son of Mr. Hosenfeld was able to locate Maria who, since Maria's brother had already died, provided testimony of Mr. Hosenfeld's deeds in hopes of gaining recognition from Yad Vashem. (NB. The decision had not been made by the time of this tape, but Wikipedia cites that Wilhelm Adelbart Hosenfeld was recognized in 2009.)

She moved to Australia to join her cousin in 1951. She moved to Tel Aviv for nine years and then back to Australia.

[Note that the tape appears to be missing a short segment at the beginning.]