

He kept several thousand dollars for himself-- thousand zloty for himself. But eventually, he gave it back to us. And we had to pay his sister for the rent and for food. And sometimes, she killed-- anyway, I'm running off. That was September 1942, still 1942.

Well, in the meantime, while we were there, and what he did, [? Kazik, ?] he-- in that storage room where he kept the eggs, the crates of eggs-- I don't know, he didn't want to show the people that he is having somewhere still. As the weather advanced and the months advanced into winter, into autumn, real autumn and winter, he didn't want to show people that he had somebody, some vacationers. Because this wasn't the vacation anymore, not vacation time.

But before that, we were still on the first floor, the second floor, in a room, there was the liquidation of Wieliczka, the city of the famous salt mines in Poland. Wieliczka i Bochnia, they were the most famous cities in Poland for the salt mines and petroleum. They had petroleum, you know, NAFTA. Anyway, so there was the liquidation.

And during the liquidation, some of the police came in to the [INAUDIBLE], to the kitchen. And they played cards. And he said to me, [? Kazik-- ?] but he already knew-- he said-- but this was already later, I think-- he said, we were still in the upstairs room. I don't know why. I bundled my baby and I left him alone. And he said, would you please Pani Helena, come down with me to the kitchen to entertain them.

I said, oh, play cards with them. It was after the liquidation. They were a little drunk. And we tried to laugh, and try to make jokes, and so on. And I even sat down on one policeman's knees. And I kissed him. But nothing further than that. And they picked themselves up. And they left. But he said that he is so very afraid of one policeman there. Because there were a couple of Jewish ladies killed.

During that time, at [? Kazik's ?] and Lillian's, there came a girl, a very beautiful girl from Warsaw. And while [? Kazik ?] put us in the downstairs, like in a cellar-- it had windows, but small tiny windows. In that storage room from the eggs, she joined us. And she didn't know that we are Jewish. And we didn't know that she is Jewish. But she was Jewish. They didn't know. [? Kazik ?] didn't know. Lillian didn't know.

But we cooked together. There was a little lime stove that I cooked, started to cook potatoes. Behind us was a storage room for potatoes. In front of us was a storage room for the eggs, you see? And it was-- we could go in from, or go out from it. Because we had to go out to the outhouse, you see? But it was so funny. I was still in my summer shoes. And it was starting to rain. And it was probably an advanced stage of the game during 1942. We were stepping forward into 1943. I don't remember the month.

But all of a sudden, I received news that someone is coming to us to see us, an engineer Mazurek, to see us, and not to be frightened because everything will be taken care of. And a lady came from Krakow with a fiacre to bring us that. And it was so connected. My husband in the labor camp, someone recognized, one of the engineers that worked with him before the war.

And he said, ask him, what happened to you? How come you are here? Where is your wife? Where is your baby? My husband had a very good relationship with the maestro of that-- at that time, it was already a concentration camp because the town was already liquidated. And they were converted into concentration camps. Because the people slept there. And the people ate there.

And she brought me that letter. And she said, trust me, we are friends. We are friends of your husband's. What do you know, in a few days that engineer Mazurek showed up. And he took with false Kennkartes and a birth certificate for my baby. He had a brother, later on I found out, a priest. And he gave us authentic birth certificates. So that I was born in Olkusz. That was under the Reich, and [? Mieczo ?] was born in Katowice, under the Reich. You understand what that means?

Under the Reich.

Under the Reich, the Third Reich.

Oh, the German, you mean.

The German Reich, yes. And he brought Kennkarte, passports, like passports. And we told him that we're together with, that [? Kazik, ?] with Mr. [? Zawisha, ?] friends. And he knows about us. So he arranged for a-- that we took the-- he had a stamp. He took our fingerprints, you see? And he wanted to see us. And he said that he will arrange for work for-- her name was supposed to be Maria-- Ivonia's name was Maria Fiat-- not Fiatkoska-- [? MaryÅ>a. ?] Maybe it will come back to me.

[? Fiatkoska, ?] was it [? Fiaskoska? ?] No, the other girls was Maria [? Fiatkoska. ?] My name was Helena, Helena Kravchek. My name is supposed to be Helena Kravchek. And Ivonia's name-- and [? Rafa-- ?] [? Mieczo ?] was [? Mieczislaw, ?] [? Mieczislaw ?] Kravchek. My father's name is supposed to be Adam Adamski. See, I remember all those names, yeah. And I was born in Olkusz, Ilkenau, Olkusz, Ilkenau. And [? Mieczo ?] was born, [? Mieczislaw ?] Kravchek, was born in Katowice.

And Ivonia-- I know only [? MaryÅ>a. ?] Because we called her [? MaryÅ>a. ?] KwiecieÅ,, the month of-- the fourth month of the year, April. Maria April, but it was KwiecieÅ,, The dates of the births were different. Because he thought that I look older than I really was. That's why the confusion of all the, about my age in the beginning, yes.

You see, I don't know if any one of you know that parents, usually when a child was born, wrote that down in the [INAUDIBLE], our holy book, when the child was born. And my father went properly wholesale to register all those children, maybe three, four together. So I don't know what my real age is. But I kept that age that he gave me, Mr Mazurek, the engineer Mazurek. Because I really don't know, to this day, when I was born, and if it's the real birth. But I don't think so.

But you don't have a birth certificate.

No, I couldn't get it, I wanted. I wrote to the-- because everything was destroyed. But my baby, my child's birth certificate, I have. Because this Katowice, that wasn't-- the records were not destroyed in Katowice. And my brother sent that to me. Because my brother left Poland. Erin came with me to Germany after the war.

But he left, went to Poland. And he left Poland in 1969 and went to-- yeah-- and went to Israel. And from Israel, he went to Vienna because his heart is very bad. It was a very bad heart. And he survived as a Gentile in the open. In the open, he worked together and lived together with my beautiful brother, Joseph. This one is beautiful too, and good hearted, and smart, and very nice.

That was incredible. Shall we cut it off?

OK yeah, I think--

That seems to be a good point now, that you got your identification papers.

Yeah, I got my identifi-- not that fast. He had to bring a photographer.

Yes, you bring those.

I don't have it from my papers. Because they were stolen from me. Yeah, I don't. I wish I would. Because I have so much paper, so many papers in the house. I tell you, I'm getting--

Can you make a notation in your mind that next time when we pick up the story, can you, will you--

I will remember, yeah.

OK.

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