

Interview with ESTHER KOZLOWSKI
(Interview #2 -- Tape 1 of 2)
Holocaust Oral History Project
Date: 6/19/91
Place: San Francisco, CA
Interviewer: Ellen (Zuckal)
Transcriber: Tammy E. Hawkins

Q: TODAY IS JUNE 19, 1991, AND I AM ELLEN (ZUCKAL), AN INTERVIEWER WITH THE HOLOCAUST ORAL HISTORY PROJECT OF SAN FRANCISCO. TODAY WE ARE TALKING WITH ESTHER KOZLOWSKI FOR HER SECOND INTERVIEW AND ASSISTING IN THE INTERVIEW IS JILL (MEREMAN).

WELCOME AGAIN, ESTHER.

A: Thank you.

Q: WOULD YOU PICK UP THE STORY WHERE YOU CHOOSE.

A: Well, I don't know what you want me to say. Would you like me to tell the story about when my child was run over by a horse and wagon?

Q: THAT'S FINE.

A: My father brought him in. The child was like in shock and his leg was injured, one of his legs was scraped. It wasn't a serious injury but the child was crying and carrying him and giving him to him my father said, "I wish that the baby would have been killed. He would be maybe better off."

KOZLOWSKI--2

And that helped me to decide for some reason, I don't know what it was. A reaction or something. When I escaped from my parents' house where we all stayed together, all of us, the married and the only one that wasn't married was Adam, the youngest brother. He was very young still. I tore a very nice blouse, a very thin, fine blouse because we didn't have bandages and I put around my little son's leg, that bandage and I pretend that I'm going to a doctor to (Krakov). While my first steps
SP → took me to (Krakov) is because the same night my brother came in
→ where I was in the same room. It was in the kitchen, I guess it was in the kitchen. My parents were there and he was crying and
→ he said Adam from (Ouderkeski), the engineer, Adam, wants to take Eva with him to his house and wants to take her as a governess to their children. And my father said give her to--said but how can I give my beautiful flower, my beautiful daughter. He will make a hoar out of her. And my father said maybe at least she will be living and will tell what happened to her. Maybe she is the one that will tell our story. Give her to him. What else can you do? And so it was decided between them, we didn't speak much, that she is going with Adam to his family.

Well, I went to a friend of mine. I don't know if I told that in the story. There once was a Catholic, of course, Paul. He was married. I was married. But once he was in love with me and I thought that maybe he would be able to help me to escape to somewhere. Well, I crossed the river and took off my

KOZLOWSKI--3

→ (shanbant) and I went to him and I knelt in the doorway and I begged him to help me and please to save my child. And his wife was there with her little girl and with him. His name was Henry → (Navrot). We knew one another for a very long time and my brothers and he and his brother was very, very great friends. They used to come to our house. We used to go dancing together. I was young and I think he was very much in love with me. Now that's a separate story for it and I don't want to go very much into details. Maybe it's not significant.

So, she asked, his wife asked him to help me. She knew me. And we made around the water at the station, at the railroad station, that he will be waiting for me in the morning at that station and he will take me to a place where I might be sheltered, where I might find some help and maybe I can stay with his friend and with my baby. Anyway, so I was reassured and I went back and I went to a former teacher of mine--that is the night of my escape from the ghetto--a former teacher, Mrs. > (Cheaslow), and this was all done at night on the threat of death. And I had some clothing with her. I had a very beautiful silk from my trousseau, you know. I got married in 1938 and she gave it to me. And from her sleeping son she took off a gold medalion of the godmother, you know, with baby, the gold and with a gold chain and she gave it to me and she said that maybe that will help you. And she said may your son lead out all the Jews maybe to Palestine, to a safe place, or maybe

KOZLOWSKI--4

→ he will become the first, because I called him (Mecho) after the first Polish king who--see, I'm going into Polish--who converted Poland under his rule. Polish was converted to Catholicism, you know, Christianity. And maybe he will be another king. (Mecho Slapiershi), the first king of Poland. Anyway, I left. Yes, she had a hat. I didn't like because it was--it's not important. But I had all this arranged before my brother told us about Eva, about my niece, (Monique), the oldest brother. They were waiting for a train to leave and I just went out of the garden. There was a little garden and she was sitting there with Adam. I went out to say goodbye to my niece. We were not much different in ages, you see. I said to him, to Adam, I never spoken to him, I never seen him in my life before. I said to him, "Well you see, Mr. Engineer," you know, because I know that he's an engineer, "how about could you please maybe help me?" Even though I was assured that Henry is going to take me away in the morning I spoke to him like somebody else spoke to him, not me. Why did I speak this second time and ask for help when I was assured that Henry will help me? But I spoke up. And he said, you know, maybe. I said please come in and take a look at my child. He came in and that child was so beautiful. Blond, beautiful blond hair. He was asleep in his little crib. He said, "I am going back to the office. I will bring you a letter." Mind you. Without anything. You see. But I didn't know what to do, how to react. It wasn't far away. It was

KOZLOWSKI--5

maybe block or two, his office, from the ghetto. He went and he came back with the letter. It wasn't exactly a very fancy letter. It was a piece of office paper in an envelope and he told me you take the train and go to (Krakov) and they live there and I don't remember the exact address (Stavovadvenosh, Stavovadvel), I'm not sure. I went into the house later and I grabbed whatever I could. My husband things like a very fancy box of, I forget what, a set of shaving. You know, with lotion and with a very beautiful, real broom, that shaving broom, and I just gave him that box and I said, "Mr. Engineer, if we ever live through the war maybe I can reciprocate for what you just have done." For some reason or other, is it me? I wasn't that smart. It's hard to believe but that's what it was. And the next morning Eva and he went one way in the opposite direction because he lived not far from (Scarinska Comuna). Maybe you heard about (Scarinska Comuna). It was a concentration camp not far with his family.

Anyway, in the morning it was all, like we say, (Tishubakov), the second destruction of the Temple. In our house it was just a horrible, horrible situation. And I picked myself up and that night my husband came from the labor camp, came home for the night. I got dressed. Another lady, a former neighbor of ours, her name was Sophie but I don't remember her last name, her husband was in (Benjin). You mentioned (Benjin) yester--he was in (Benjin), captain of the Police. But they had

KOZLOWSKI--6

a nice parcel and they built right next to our property. My father let them build, you know, use the wall. It was a fire wall and let them use the wall for their buildings. He let them use the water, the well for water. Anyway, we were very good friends. Anyway, she brought me from her little boy and her boy was bigger already, grow out of it. She brought me a beautiful (pararina), mountain (pararina) from (Zakoparne). Maybe you heard the name. It's in the (Tatras), the (Tatra) Mountains. And a little cape. And that child was just gorgeous. When I was leaving my husband went with me to the gate. But before I left the child, my father was loving the child so much. He took the child for me and he said, "My little daughter where are you going with that face?" And I say, "Daddy, I'm going to pinch myself." Before I left I couldn't pry away my little son from my father. He was encircling him with his arms and with his legs. And my father asked me to kiss the (Mezusa). You know what a (Mezusa) is don't you? On the door, on the frame of each Jewish home there is a (Mezusa) with the Ten Commandments. And there are all kinds of blessings on parchment and it is rolled up and put in a little container. You buy them now in fancy stores, fancy Jewish stores, like at the bookstore on (Erie) or even the (Monsigns). They have them in the giftshops. I'm sure they have them downstairs in the giftshop. But anyway, I kissed the (Mezusa). I never stopped kissing him and I kiss him when I leave my house. I have a (Mezusa) now. And I remember that was

KOZLOWSKI--7

the last kiss my husband gave me, and I was at the gate, on my left cheek and I just stood there and he pushed me through the gate and I went down from the hill and I proceeded to the railroad station. At the railroad station I went and bought a ticket and I proceeded to the exit and there was no Henry. And there you are, see. Henry didn't show. But I didn't turn back. I had my ticket and I went out to the train. There were people that recognized me and they tipped their heads. I approached the train and I went into the train and I took with me, I had exactly I had 500 (sloti) that were equivalent to a kilogram of sugar, kilogram of butter. I had in my bag like an attache case, I had a bag and I had a thermos of tea and for the child I had some shirts, maybe a couple of shirts. I couldn't take too much. I was afraid that I lacked too much. Maybe a couple of shirts. Maybe a couple of underpants. He was already toilet trained. I boarded the train and the train started moving and I was so overjoyed and so much tension just left me. I held onto my baby and it took us one and a half hour to get to (Krakov). I got down from the train with my baby in my arms and I was already known Jewish. I don't know if I mentioned that I borrowed a (kimkarta) from a friend of (Evunia), my niece, friends that were going to grammar school together and she lent me that (kimkarta). You know, it's like a birth certificate but it was given by the Germans to the Polish population because Jews had different (kimkarta), like passports without a picture.

KOZLOWSKI--8

→ And I became Helena (Hahorska). While I was walking with my child it started screaming because there were so many soldiers at the station and they were marching and it was so new to him because the child was sheltered and loved and surrounded by my brothers and my sister and my sister-in-laws. We all lived together, packed together like herring, but we lived together. And here, that was unfamiliar to the baby, you see. But I came out and I don't know where to go. And I was a little bit like
→ crazy by all this what happening and I boarded the (fyakar). A
→ (doroshka). I gave them the address and they took me to Adam's brother-in-law and his mother. I climbed the stairs with my child, rang the bell and there was beautiful, grey-haired, tiny, little woman, beautiful and I said, "I beg your pardon. Hello. How are you? I am a friend of Adam. He is a friend of my husband and my family and he sent me to you. I have to go to see a doctor with my child. I have to go. My child was injured in a little accident and I have to see a doctor. I have to show him to a doctor. I don't trust the people there." She let me in on--you see, I'm going into German already. Anyway, different languages. She let me in. She fixed us tea. She led us to a room and said, "This is going to be your room. Any friend of Adam's is our friend." Okay. Everything was peachy. I unpacked my bread and I said I don't have much and I couldn't take much but if you'll let me treat. And she said, "I'm only living here with my son and his wife, as a matter of fact, is my

daughter. Adam's wife is my daughter. But anyway, he came home from work. The lady's going to stay with us maybe for a few days and I said I'm supposed to wait here for Adam because he's coming and he will take me to a doctor. And I'm waiting for him. Okay. We had very little to eat. I saw that there was not hunger exactly but nothing to brag about to eat. But somehow she had a little bowl of milk for the baby, she had a soup cooked and so on and so on and we slept the first night and of course I took (Dolgium) drops because my heart was just going crazy. I was with strange people. They didn't know me from Adam. They only knew through the little letter what he gave them and I was waiting for Adam. In the morning Mr. (Sangarich) was having breakfast at the kitchen table and Mrs. Sangarich's mother knocked on our door. We were just quiet and the child needed some food but I didn't dare go and impose and I didn't know how to offer her some money, you know, that I have a little left. But she knocked at the door and said please come in and whatever we have we will share. We were in the kitchen and she had a rooster and she started to kill it. She put the pot on her knees and she was cutting the head off. (Bronia) was her name, Bronia (Stankevich). And my little boy said "Mommy, (zhohit)". See? Here you are. Do you understand? It means a (shohit)? The ritual killer. Because in my patterns and my terrible struggles they wouldn't eat any other way if it's not ritually killed. A rooster or whatever it was. They wouldn't

KOZLOWSKI--10

touch meat. They were very religious people. And with that he denounced us, the little boy. And there was quiet in the kitchen. Nobody uttered a word. The child was scared probably and that man says, "Mrs., I don't owe my brother-in-law anything. You pack up your things and you leave our house and you go where you came from. I said, "No. Mr. Engineer, I am sorry. I won't go back to hell. You can call the Gestapo. Go for the Gestapo. Do whatever you want but I'm not moving from that house. Maybe it's impertinent. Since I got out of there nobody can make me go back, nobody. I said, "Do whatever you want. I am going to wait for Adam, your brother-in-law. He sent me here. I am terribly sorry if I won't obey you but I'm not moving one step. I have nowhere to go." As it happened, the same night he telegraphed or he phoned him and Adam showed up with Eva, with Evania, his wife. And Adam came and we sat and we talked and he said, "Look, my brother-in-law is very scared and you know why. His mother is a converted Jew to Christianity and it goes to the third generation. It goes back to the third generation and his children are in danger. He is in danger. Maybe the old lady, she doesn't care anymore. That what it was. She didn't care anymore. But he cares and he wants to live and he looks like a typical Jew. The little lady was so cute, you know, his mother. I don't know, he looked, big nose, Semitic eyes, very very Jewish. I don't know what a Jew looks like if I passed as a Gentile. I always thought that I

KOZLOWSKI--11

→ don't look maybe Jewish but all Jews look like I. We talked and
→ he said he could give me an address to (Oitzoff) and its 30
kilometers from here and I get a (Fyako) for you in the morning.
But my dear lady, as much as I would like to help you, I can't
do anything. The whole family is against us and that's it. You
have to leave. And early in the morning I bundled up my child
and Eva was so blue in the face. Poor Eva was so scared. More
than I. I was scared. I cannot say I wasn't scared. And we
went and the horses were clapping on the road and it was like a
little promenade to somebody else but to us it was like death or
life, or life or death, whatever you prefer how to put it. On
→ the way to (Oitzoff) we met Jews going with wooden blocks on
strings and it was like little boards and they were carrying
shovels and all kinds of digging equipment under the watch of
German soldiers with weapons stretched out ready to shoot. And
we were traveling and besides that we met a big carload of
→ crates and we were nearing (Oitzoff) and Adam gave us an address
and I said, "Look Evania." I don't think I called her Evania
anymore because she has had her name also changed to Marisha
→ (Yetkoska) and I said, "If you want to hold the child I go to
that house that was on the address on that piece of paper. If
you don't want to, you must go and ask the people if they have a
free room or free quarters. We want to stay for a couple of
weeks. The child had scarlet fever and I want him to be in the
→ fresh air. I told her to say my aunt is from (Katovitz) and I'm

traveling with her. It was a whole story, just whatever came to my mind. She went in and she came out and she said they don't have any rooms for rent. So we proceed and all of a sudden there showed up a woman walking with little bundles, little packages, a nice, good looking girl and I said in Polish of course, I said maybe that lady knows of a place where we could stay for a couple of days and she said maybe I do. Would you ladies wait for me and I am going to the post office and when I come back maybe I can show you some places. And we waited and she came back from the post office and she crawled into the carriage and she took us to her villa and she said you can rent from me a room if you want to and My God. That was like Godsend. Well, maybe someone doesn't believe but that was a bunch of miracles. And I started to complain that I like your room but I don't like your straw sacks and could she please change the straw at least. We need some bedding because I am from (Katovitz) and we couldn't take too much. And she loved the baby. She couldn't get over him. So we had a roof over our head and I asked if she could do a little of shopping for us. I had a couple thousand (Sloti) and we were out of the woods because my money could hardly last and I had just that suit on. And it was terrible. Maybe I had a nightgown to change into. I don't remember. I remember she had some plum soup and some potatoes and that was heaven. I washed up the baby and we washed up ourselves and we went upstairs. I forgot to say what

the young woman's name was. Lillian. We called her Lilly and
→ there were two orphans from an old family called (Zavesha) and
they had an aunt with them, an older spinster, and an aunt in
→ Warsaw, an author. And (Kajeck), the brother, just fell in love
with Eva, with my niece. We paid her for two weeks and one
night I was in bed with my little boy and Eva spilled everything
→ to (Kajeck). Everything. Who we are. From where we are.
Everything. And he told her that before the war he was
→ attending the university in (Krakov) and he was a terrible anti-
Semite and he was killing--beating up Jews with the weights from
→ the scales at the university. Well, (Kajeck) became our tool,
so to speak. He went back to the ghetto. He got in touch with
my husband, got in touch with Evania's parents and got money for
us, got clothes for us. The liquidation didn't take place yet.
They were all still alive. Some women went to work in the labor
camps as protection, you know, the younger women. And it came
the day that the liquidation took place. And my mother went
into hiding and my sister and sister-in-law were taken away to
(Helmla). The men were left in the five labor camps. There
→ were five of them in (San Jisha). It was a very important cross-
station. They expanded it and built lots and lots and lots of
buildings. Anyway, they needed manpower to work so they kept
the men to work and the director of the camp was promised that
he would have the Jews until July 1943. This is a separate
story and I want to continue with my own story. Is that right,

that I'm not straying away?

Q: THAT'S FINE. WHY DID THIS FELLOW MAKE SUCH A TURNAROUND AFTER BEING SUCH AN ANTI-SEMITES?

A: That he didn't approve of the methods and he was very, very much against the Germans and he didn't think that the Jews deserved such treatment. Change. People change. Don't we change, all of us? Well, he witnessed plenty. Because every week or twice a week he was in (Krakov) and he saw it. (Plashov) you know, the establishing of (Plashov). Anyway, this was a big concentration camp in (Krakov) and the ghetto in (Krakov), there was so much. It was terrible and willingly or not willingly he witnessed it. And it turned his insides out, upside down. Because any human being who has a little intelligence and a little feelings, how can he digest that?. You have to be sadists not to have feelings for innocent people. For children. I'll tell you the story of what happened to the little children in (Krakov), the little babies. You see, the people that were inside the ghettos and inside the concentration camps and inside the labor camps don't know that much what I do. It was handed to me maybe first or second hand but nevertheless it registered and I remember it.

So anyway, why the change? I don't know. Call it a miracle. Regretfully, Eva didn't survive. But there came a time when I sent (Kajeck) and he brought bad news. That no one is there, that my mother is hiding away with some peasant

KOZLOWSKI--15

family, that the women were all loaded and taken away and many people are maybe unable to work. From labor camps they became concentration camps. I knew that my sister was taken away and that my sister-in-law was taken away. They even sent somebody and that was impossible because they were probably killed right away in a concentration camp in a gas chamber. They sent a railroad worker for clothes. My oldest brother and brother-in-law for some reason gave them money, maybe clothes. I remember the liquidation of (Vyelichka). Have you heard about (Vyelichka) yet? No? (Vyelichka) was very close to (Oitzoff), the salt mines. Have you heard of the salt mines in Poland.

Q: FROM YOUR TAPE.

A: Pardon?

Q: FROM YOUR TAPE.

A: It was liquidated and the police came to (Kajack's) house and I bundled up my little boy and I put him to sleep and he wanted us to go down to entertain those policemen. We went down and my baby was quiet and peaceful and we played cards with them. God if they didn't kill us at that time I don't know what happened, or arrest us at least or whatever. But I apologized and said I would like to go to bed and I went up and the first time that my little boy wet his bed. He was so scared, the poor thing, but he didn't utter a word or cry or anything. I left him all alone. I said it was all right and he was so happy and he hugged me. (Kajack) was really an angel to us. When he went

→ to (Krakov) he brought us something. We didn't like eggs and potatoes. We didn't like it. We had it. We had it. Or potato soup. And I didn't know how to kill a chicken. I wouldn't do it. She bought it for us and she killed it and she cleaned it and she cooked it for us. I didn't know how, the Catholic way or the Gentile way. Because Jews do Kosher their meats. Are you Jewish?

Q: YES.

A: Then you know it. Maybe you don't practice it but you know it. Are you? No? Yeah?

Q: WHY DOES THAT SURPRISE YOU?

A: Huh?

Q: DOES THAT SURPRISE YOU?

A: Yeah, because you are blond and fair. In Israel--

Q: EVERYBODY'S BLOND.

A: Yeah. Would you believe that? In my immediate family were many blond people. My son is blond and my grandson is blond, blue eyed and light hair, sandy hair and my younger one is also blue-eyed, beautiful blue eyes and a little bit of reddish in his hair. Next time if I come I bring you some pictures. I would love to so you know a little bit of my family. I meant to and I don't know why I didn't. But anyway, where was I? In Oitzoff, right? It was already shortly before Christmas, maybe four weeks before Christmas. (Kajeck) went to the concentration camps and somehow he got in. I don't know

→

how. To (San Jisha) again I think for the third or fourth time
 and he came back with my boots. Where the boots he got out I
 don't know and some warm clothing for the baby. I gave him a
 few thousand sloti for I and for Evania, for Marisha. And he
 said we can expect any day somebody who will make false papers
 for us and we were waiting patiently and one day another
 engineer showed up. He recognized my husband in the camp. He
 was a customer of ours, Engineer (Mazurick) was the name, and he
 showed up and he had a priest brother in (Valichka) and
 apparently he supplied them with birth certificates. And on
 that ground I don't know how it was produced but apparently my
 husband paid him money because it cost money to do anything like
 that. We prepared pictures and (Kajeck) brought a photographer
 and he took pictures of Eva and I and my child, (Metcho) had a
 birth certificate. I had a birth certificate. I still remember
 the credentials, all of it. I was Helena (Krafjeck). I was the
 daughter of Adam Adamski and (Metcho) was (Metcho Slafkratch),
 my son and Evania was Maria (Fetkoska). While we were there, I
 forgot to mention we were still upstairs in the original rooms,
 there showed up a young lady from Warsaw. She started to teach
 my little son how to pray in Polish. I knew all the prayers
 from before because I went to a Catholic grammar school. I had
 a Catholic background. I had something to identify with. I
 knew all the prayers and all the Catholic carols. I even sang
 in the Catholic chorus. Anyway, she started to teach my son how

to pray in Polish and who to pray to. Yeah, I am going back and forth now. Well, we had (kencarts), real (kencarts) as non-Jews. If they were good or bad. I tell you a story later that they must have been good. I don't know. But anyway, it was getting very cold upstairs. There were no heating facilities. It was coming close to December. Or was it December already? Then Engineer (Mazurik) showed up and he wanted to take Eva to a city, I forgot the name. That he has work for her in a bakery. He wanted to take her back. He didn't take her the first time when he was there. He wanted (Kajeck) to bring Eva to (Krakov) and we were already in a room downstairs where (Kajeck) was storing the eggs that he delivered to (Krakov). But in front of the room where we all three were he put on potatoes to cover the entrance, like a mountain of potatoes. You couldn't walk out. There was a separate entrance to the storage room, like a cellar with little windows and the road was much, much higher, like on the first floor and there was just a little light coming in like from a ravine into those rooms. And there we were. How we managed, but we managed. And all of a sudden I received news through a very good friend of ours, a Mr. (Yanik), I received a letter that someone is coming for me and the baby. It was the (meister). Do you know what a (meister) is? It is the foreman of my husband in that concentration camp. Eva left first and she cried and cried and said "(Mecho) I love you so much but I have to go." She was terrified to be with us because my child

was circumcised. He was born so short before the war but he was religiously circumcised. So she was very, very frightened. You probably know that in Europe they don't circumcise the Catholic children or any other religion. I think only England circumcise their boys. But other Europeans don't. So she left with
 → (Kajeck) and for some reason or other she disappeared from my life. It was very hard to get in touch with anybody and if you got in touch with anybody you were mortally scared to risk the other's life and your own life. A few days before Christmas a beautiful lady showed up with my fur coat and my hats and with clothes for the baby and we got dressed up like nobody's
 → business and she took us to her home to (Krakov). But it wasn't
 → directly in (Krakov). It was near (Plashov) on the outskirts of
 → (Krakov). She was the wife of my husband's foreman. He became very friendly with my husband and my husband became very friendly with him and he told him how things are. That he has a wife that lives with a child. I don't know. I wasn't there to know how this was arranged. But she came and she took us and we found heaven. In all the war and the starvation and persecution from the Poles too, but I never find such a wonderful woman. But she was all for it that I poison myself and the child. And she taught me how to knit. I never knew. I knew how to crochet. But she taught me how to knit and that came in very handy in Warsaw. She did many things. She was a very good sewer. I have a very beautiful tweed suit that my husband send

me and she made a coat for my little boy and a cape and the time came to travel to Warsaw. Well, I go back to it. We're there. It was after Easter and I went to church and she registered us and we were getting provisions and she arranged when her family came to visit she said that I am a cousin of her husband. When the husband's family came she used to say I am her cousin. My little boy called her Auntie. Her name was Wanda. They were childless. They had a little home and I helped her out in the house keeping clean and unfortunately one of the days my little boy caught bronchial pneumonia and there wasn't a way not to call in a doctor. We had to because he didn't stop coughing and it was excruciating. She called in a doctor and I just told my little boy, "Please (Mecho) when the doctor came you listen but listen good to mommy. Don't let them by any chance take off your pajama pants. He was in bed and he examined him and he didn't wrestle. He wanted to pull his pants and he said, "No. I don't have a belly ache." I told him not to let them pull down the pants and the child by himself said, "I am not having a belly ache." I don't know how to make you understand what it was all about. Apparently the doctor knew what's cooking. He took Wanda with him. He gave her medication. He gave her not only medication but vitamins and we cured the baby. But in April I wrote to my husband. I was so heartbroken that I cannot go on any longer. That I want to come back. That we die all three together no matter what. And he wrote me in his last

letter, "please, you have to live and my child has to live." Like a command, we both have to live. I received that letter and couldn't keep letter so I burned it. I remember Wanda's brother. He was also an engineer, a chemical engineer. He came once to visit and we were speaking and I still have had a diamond ring on my finger and we started talking and so on and so on. Very nice man but I knew that he had something against me. I felt it that he has something against me. One of Wanda's sisters I am on very good terms with this one. One was a teacher, (Yasha). You see, I still remember. She didn't live close. She lived very far away in a small town. But we went there once to visit, mind you. Well I couldn't comprehend it. She wanted me to poison the baby and poison myself. She even said that her brother would supply us with the poison, the chemical engineer. In other ways she was so good, so wonderful. Whatever she could spare, first I came. She even took me to a shop to have my head refreshed a little bit and maybe done a little bit different. I don't know. I cannot begin to explain. But who knows what is governing people? How they feel one minute and the other minute they feel different. She always used to say, "I couldn't go on like that. I just couldn't go on like that." And the next minute, "Eat Helen. Please do eat Helen." And I was choking on something and couldn't swallow. Sometimes we heard the shots and the screams from (Plashov). One day one of his cousins, so to speak, came and she said in an

abusive way, "You know, your child looks like a Jewish child."

→ And I said, "The funniest thing is that he isn't a (Rejick). Maybe he looks like it a little bit. But who doesn't have a little bit of Jewish in ourselves a little bit? Maybe if I go back, back, back many generation maybe I have some. Maybe you are having some Jewishness. The same lady took some pleasure in persecuting me to make me feel bad.

Q: IS THIS WANDA?

→ A: No, no, no. His cousin. (Stashik). (Stashik) was Wanda's husband cousin. He was, as I said, the foreman of my late husband. Raphael was his name. My grandson carries his name. Raphael Meldelmen is his name, my grandson's. She came once and she said you know what's going on in the ghetto in (Krakov)? They're dragging out all the Jews. They're liquidating all the ghetto. They're smashing the heads of all the little babies. They're tearing them apart by their legs. There is such a bloodbath. They're loading up all the children. The little ones. The big ones. Whoever is yelling or crying they were beating them and they took them to a greenery place and they covered them with, I don't know how you call this in English, but some kind of a calk, you know, that is burning if you pour water on it that's boiling. We used it in Poland for painting kitchens. Very primitive painting. You dissolve it with water and you paint the kitchens with brooms. The poor people. The peasants. So they took all those children and they

sprinkled all the children with it and they poured it on the living children, they poured water and she told me it was bubbling. The children were alive and it was boiling the children alive in (Krakov). Maybe even the people there didn't know about it. But I knew about it and that's when I fainted the first time in my life. A few weeks later, it was in April, I had a dream that many Jews are sitting in Wanda's bedroom where I slept and my child slept, on benches around the wall. My husband was very affectionate but not ostentatious like today. He thought that a woman should be a cook in the kitchen, a lady in the salon and a lover in the bedroom. He got up. His hair was all wet with perspiration and he came over to me at the cot where I slept with my little boy and kissed me with cold lips on my mouth. I was lying there and I didn't know what happened. I just couldn't give it a meaning because I had a letter from him not long before and that last letter was the last letter that I burned. Instead of keeping the Jewish workers until July, the SS came. Later I was told what happened. I haven't received any more letters or any news but I'll tell you right away. This is later on I found out what really happened. They circled all five concentration camps. There was (Marinoska) and (Oderski) and I don't know the names even. They were taking the Jews in March, the 18th of March it was all the Jews to real concentration camps like (Scarischa), (Auschwitz), I don't know what else. It came to that

concentration camp that my husband worked and my brother-in-law, my only sister's husband and another Jew. That foreman with the inspector of that particular concentration camp, they sent out those three because they were lumber people, to a lumber mill, (Tarnia) that was about one and a half kilometers from where they were. To load up, and it was early morning. To load up some wagons with lumber. They had to measure to he sent some professional people and when it came time to count his people they were missing three Jews. He had to tell them where they are. He never expected that to happen. But I haven't been told the story for a long, long time what really happened. But what I am talking now about I found it out later. The Navy Police collaborated with the SS and they went out together for those three poor Jews. When they got there they told them to run. One was shot like a dog. They had to jump fences. One was shot right away in front of the fence. My brother-in-law was shot on the fence. My husband ran the furthest and they sent dogs after him and the dogs brought him back and they shot him. The story goes when I came back to (San Jisha) and I contacted a friend of ours, Mr. (Yanik). He told me they were all buried by the watchman of the lumber mill, (Tarnia), in a hole. He showed me where. He couldn't understand. He later on complained to my brothers. They couldn't understand that I didn't shed one single tear. But going back to Wanda's. That was the end of the three innocent Jews that tried to work their way back to

live.

Q: WHO WITNESSED THIS?

A: Mr. (Yanik). Mr. (Yanik) and the laborers from the lumber mill. They saw it all and Mrs. (Yanik). They told the night watchman of the lumber mill that he can strip all the Jews of their clothes. Mr. (Yanik) told me that there was a tree and he found some pictures and he nailed them to the tree. My husband apparently carried some pictures with him. He nailed them to the tree and that where he showed me. He measured exactly where they were buried later. He was the witness and he wanted to tell us if ever anyone survived. One day at Wanda's I didn't know that they are not alive. It was at the end of April. He came home in the middle of the night. Apparently he could. He knocked on the window and Wanda let him in, (Stashik). She let him in and it was in the morning that he told me, "Mrs. Helena you have to go away. Something happened when we were at work. Your husband had a letter." She lied. "Your husband had a letter prepared to send through me." He brought me those letters when he came for weekends sometimes. Or Wanda went and saw him and whatever he could he gave her for me and for the baby. If it was cheese or something, anything that he could spare or exchange or some clothing or some money. I don't know how much he paid him or if he paid him I have no idea. But he came and he said, "When we were at work they went through the things what the prisoners said and they found your

husband's letter to you and you have to escape. You have to go because we're all going to die. Later on I found out how it actually happened. They found the letter on my husband's clothes and it was addressed, of all people, to his wife. Maybe he tried to send me a letter behind his back. I don't know because I never got the letter. That watchman denounced his brother, Paul, to the Navy police. They arrested (Stashik) but he took off his boot. He had a leather jacket. He gave them all that and whatever else he had and they let him go. He came rushing home on the first train the minute they let him go to get rid of us. At that same time my brother who was in that same camp escaped and went to Warsaw to (Calina's) grandmother. (Rina) was already there, my sister-in-law, his wife.

Q: WHAT IS THE NAME OF THIS BROTHER?

A: Pardon? My brother? Carl.

Q: TELL THAT STORY.

A: Pardon?

Q: TELL THAT STORY.

A: Shall I tell you about that?

Q: YEAH.

A: My sister-in-law and the two boys escaped through (Calina), my girlfriend from grammar school. We sat together and we were very close friends. She was Catholic. But I went to her holidays to her house and she came to my holidays. We were just like sisters. We were so close. Through her

grandmother, I guess we can thank her, but she is not alive. She passed away a long time ago. She took in my sister-in-law and the two children and later on my brother. But my brother couldn't stay with them so he was in Warsaw. I'll tell you when we get to it. He stayed later with two women that later I stayed with. It's so complicated that you can hardly follow it. It's very, very difficult. Right away the next morning I telegraphed my brother that Helena is very, very ill. Mortally ill. The same day I had a man from Warsaw, not direct from Warsaw. Warsaw was much more patriotic and independent than (Krakov). (Krakov) was always more anti-Semitic. Has any one of you read (Shingles) Ark? Please do read it. It's about a German that saved many thousands of Jews in his particular way and it's written by an Australian. Anyway, I packed up and we went to the station to (Krakov). Then it was April '43. What I want to mention that I went on Easter. I went to a nearby little church. I still remember it very vividly. Not far away from Wanda. I'm going back but it's important to me. We went to pray on Easter. I knelt down and I knew how to cross myself and I prayed. I maybe didn't know how to say the right words but I prayed my own way and I was thinking no matter to who I am praying but I'm praying. Later on the priest had a sermon and I will never forgive him in my heart. Never will I forget that. How he spoke about those poor burning Jews right there in Plaszow next to that (Progerchu). I remember they were

throwing wild oats at the population and I said I'm in God's hands and whatever will happen will happen, but what a pity. What a tragedy to speak about the poor people that have no way of helping themselves. I mentioned many things I know about the people that were concentrated in concentration camps or labor camps or ghettos could not know what I experienced while I was traveling from (Krakov) to Warsaw. But a nun said -- a nun. Religious people should be full of compassion and good will. Sometimes I don't want to judge anyone because I don't know being in their shoes, acting the wrong way, how I would respond. Under the circumstances it's very hard to be a judge and I don't want to be a judge of theirs, whoever did bad things to my people. But I'm going back to the traveling. We were so alert that I asked the man to sit in a different compartment and take my luggage. I left very little with myself. In the compartment there were different people traveling. One lady that I knew because I had to cross, of all places, (San Jisha). There was a nun in that compartment and she said, "At least we got rid of all those stinking Jews and their goats." The lady that I knew was a sister of an engineer in (San Jisha) and he built for himself and for her a beautiful villa. It was a masterpiece and all the neighbors and all the whole population could see it. I remember a remark I made about how you could keep it so clean and so orderly. He said it's an art. In that particular town the first villa that had a roof not slanted. Flat and a garden

on top and it was very new.

Q: HOW DID YOU HAPPEN TO BE TRAVELING WITH HER IN THE SAME COMPARTMENT?

A: I don't know. We just went into the same compartment. She was there. She didn't recognize me. She started talking and there was another Jewish lady that I knew and I didn't pretend that I don't know her. I didn't pretend that I know her. I know her and I know she was from (Keltsa). She said to me, a Jewish lady mind you. I'm not going to spare anyone. She said to me and I was dealing with her sometimes too. They had a (haberdasheri). She said, "You know, you look so much like a Jew. You shouldn't travel." That lady that sat next to me and played with my baby said, "Oh you shouldn't say that. Ms. (Pavelska) was arrested and in jail because she looks exactly like a Jewish lady. That lady doesn't look Jewish. Why are you saying that?" I didn't answer. What am I going to answer? What am I going to say? You look more Jewish than I. So I kept quiet. I didn't comment on it. Well, after we went further and further I prayed to God to please let us get to Warsaw. Then there comes in SS and some spoke Polish. They said in Polish, "All the people up. Get up." I took my beautiful little boy and wrapped in a blanket and I put him in front of the window. There is like a board. I was so direct. I put him on that board in front of the window and they asked me, "What do you have there?" I said, "Some food and some clothing." They

didn't open it. They left. How do you explain that? That lady had the gull to say I looked Jewish. Anyway, we got to Warsaw from tension and exhaustion and from everything else. While we were walking out from the railroad station I fell on the stairs. I hurt my knees but it was very, very pleasant. It was pleasant. I was breathing. I got out of that compartment on that train. We took a (fiaka) again together with that gentleman and he said he would take me where I have a place to stay. He knew that I'm Jewish. He was a Communist. A good Communist. Apparently my brother paid him and I came up and there was a lady with two beautiful teenagers. A girl and a boy. The husband was living together with my (Calina's) grandmother. I'm coming to a very tragic turn in my life and I'll try to be brief. I just can't go into details. He worked in a tank factory in (Orsos) and he was a (sabotar). That's why he lived with (Calina's) grandmother and my brother and their two children. That lady worked in a vegetable place and she was stealing and she had, I don't know, pockets maybe in her aprons, and she used to bring a carrot or a couple potatoes and we ate together and I paid her. I had some money at that time. My husband. I had money and I paid for the room and board together. A thousand two hundred (sloti). I didn't have much but I had some money and my diamond ring. Everything went. Maybe it had to be that way. I don't have any sentiment for any jewelry. You see, I have rings and I don't wear them. I have

arthritic hands and I can't wear rings. Two years ago they fit on those hands but not now and I am not wearing them. But one Sunday I was there for maybe two, three weeks and one Sunday
→ there was a knock at the door and Mr. (Purinski), he was a captain in the army or was he a colonel in the Polish army, I don't know. He was a very high official in the army and also a sabature. Very great patriot and very nice man. He came in and his feet were so torn because he walked miles and miles and miles turning around because he was afraid because he might be caught and his wife gave him a bucket of water to soak his feet and he was sitting and soaking his feet and I was in the kitchen dressed and I was brushing my little boy's hair and there was no
→ knock in the door and police comes in. Captain (Purinski) thought they were coming for him but they came for me. My child runs around the policemen and says, "I want that rubber stick. I want that rubber stick." I don't know how fate puts words in the mouths of babes. One of the policemen said, "You get dressed." A navy policeman. I still had my fur coat and I put on my fur coat and my hat and I said, "Shall I dress my child too?" He says, "No. The child you may leave." And I said, "You can take me I don't know where, if the child can remain." I was arrested and I went through a great deal.

Q: HAD YOU BEEN DENOUNCED?

A: Yes. No time. You see my brother came and my sister-in-law came and there was too much traffic. When I came back, and

I came back, I don't know, it was the second miracle. I don't know how many miracles there are in my life. The (Purinskis) they felt a little more secure and they said nothing but how do you say when you are killed and you wake up again? Reserected. My child was not with them but with another family and Captain (Purinski) found me a place and we went out and he carried the baby and I followed. We had to take the next train to (Orsos) where the town factory was. I was in terrible shape. Terrible. But I was young. I saw the Warsaw Jews marching to workboard together. A thousand two hundred (sloti). I didn't have much but I had some money and my diamond ring. Everything went. Maybe it had to be that way. I don't have any sentiment for any jewelry. You see, I have rings and I don't wear them. I have arthritic hands and I can't wear rings. Two years ago they fit on those hands but not now and I am not wearing them. But one Sunday I was there for maybe two, three weeks and one Sunday there was a knock at the door and Mr. (Purinski), he was a captain in the army or was he a colonel in the Polish army, I don't know. He was a very high official in the army and also a sabature. Very great patriot and very nice man. He came in and his feet were so torn because he walked miles and miles and miles turning around because he was afraid because he might be caught and his wife gave him a bucket of water to soak his feet and he was sitting and soaking his feet and I was in the kitchen dressed and I was brushing my little boy's hair and there was no

→ knock in the door and police comes in. Captain (Purinski) thought they were coming for him but they came for me. My child runs around the policemen and says, "I want that rubber stick. I want that rubber stick." I don't know how fate puts words in the mouths of babes. One of the policemen said, "You get dressed." A navy policeman. I still had my fur coat and I put on my fur coat and my hat and I said, "Shall I dress my child too?" He says, "No. The child you may leave." And I said, "You can take me I don't know where, if the child can remain." I was arrested and I went through a great deal.

Q: Had you been denounced?

A: Yes. No time. You see my brother came and my sister-in-law came and there was too much traffic. When I came back, and I came back, I don't know, it was the second miracle. I don't know how many miracles there are in my life. The (Purinskis) they felt a little more secure and they said nothing but how do you say when you are killed and you wake up again? Resurrected. My child was not with them but with another family and Captain (Purinski) found me a place and we went out and he carried the baby and I followed. We had to take the next train to (Orsos) where the town factory was. I was in terrible shape. Terrible. But I was young. I saw the Warsaw Jews marching to work. It was just before the uprising of the Warsaw ghetto in 1943. It was very, very bad in Warsaw at that time. All over, you know. It was the year of the final decision of the Jewish solution.

We took the train and we went there and I was so scared. I was so scared to get out. After that very, very scared but nevertheless, I was still living. Maybe after a month, maybe May or so, it was nine months that we were there my brother brought Freddie, my older nephew, his older son. They lost their hiding place. They put their child with some other family where I stayed later with Mrs. (Opalinska). He was under the roof in the attic on the straw, my brother. She was so courageous, (Rina). She could do, believe me, I couldn't do. She had real (hootspa). You understand? Real (hootspa). There were two sisters in (San Jishov) and my sister-in-law knew them and they were in Warsaw and they had connections with the Gestapo. They had lovers Gestapo. She went there and she became their maid. Yeah. (Harina), my sister-in-law from Tel Aviv. Through them I sold my diamond ring. I had to pay for my roof over my head and for my food. I didn't go out shopping. I sold my fur coat through them. They bought it. My gold powder compact. Things that were valuable. Whatever valuables I had I sold. Because I paid for every soup 50 (sloti). A pound of bread was 18 (sloti) on the black market and I used to divide a pound of bread for three people for three meals. How do do that? I don't know anymore how I did that. They had also a goat. We were under a veranda. Did I mention? For months and months and months. I was allowed at night to carry out extremeties after the children...I had a big iron pot and I was

crawling out and well, my brothers escaped. My two brothers, Joseph and Aaron escaped from the labor camps. They helped me a little bit later. They sent me like a bread and inside was a little piece of butter. They dig a little hole in the bread but it came all moldy and smelly and I used to cook that and I asked the lady for a piece of onion to get the smell away from the butter and the taste and I cooked it and that we ate. It was very precious. Sometimes my brother came. It was winter. No, it was summer that I'm talking about. I am skipping something very important. They were not very happy to have us, you see.

→ I didn't have where to go. I contacted Lilly in (Olsof). I
→ don't quite remember what happened that I went to (Krakov) and
→ the fur coat was in (Krakov) and I'm not supposed to sell it and
I went with her walking, mind you, and they didn't allow me to
stay one single day with them. Walking the 30 kilometers to
→ (Olsof). On the way she fixed me sandwiches and a thermos of
coffee, or tea. Who drinks coffee in Poland? It was a miracle.
We grinded some wheat kernels and from that we used to make
coffee. Finally half way she said, "Oh, Helena. How can you
stand it?" That was after the arrest. It was August again.
August '43. How I picked myself up and went to Wanda to sell
that fur coat is beyond my comprehension. But I recall it that
I lived through it. I couldn't stay with her. Under no
circumstances could I stay with her. So she took me there and
she walked me half way, about 15 kilometers. And we were

walking and there was a little river like in the mountains. We were in the mountains. That was a mountainous country. A brook. Clean water and I was washing myself every few kilometers and I remember that I met not a priest but in a brown habit. A man and he crossed himself and said in Polish a greeting about God and I answered and I also crossed myself. And I marched and I came to Lilly's house and Lilly's house was empty. I sat down in the kitchen and I was so relieved and it was so cool like today and they just practically jumped out of their skin when they saw me. But they put me up in an attic place and he promised, (Kajec) said he doesn't know what happened with Evania. He doesn't know where (Marisha) went. He said he will go and get me my child. They will keep me and they will find me a place. They promised. But nothing came out of that promise.

During the harvest, August is harvest season in most of the places in Poland, they forgot about me for three days. They didn't give me a drop of water. I was on the cot dried out, practically dehydrated. I had a rusty container where I went with my urine. I tried to drink it. Yes. At night I crawled out of the straw mattress and there was a small window but I was not allowed to go to the window so I put my tongue to the glass panel to cool off. Later on they apologized and apologized but I saw that I don't have on who to count anymore. The tragedy was great and I said, "Lilly, please. I gave whatever clothes I

could spare. Please take that. I have not much money to spare.
 → I have just 500 (sloti) to go back. I want to rest up. Please
 give me some food everyday because I want to feel a little
 better to leave your house. I'm grateful." It took a month.
 My dress was navy blue with white and flat heeled shoes that I
 wore for my pregnancy I still had. One day I picked myself up
 with whatever clothes I had and I started walking back. I don't
 know how they didn't arrest me because I walked not with the
 valley. I walked with the road. I just thought whatever will
 happen will happen. It wasn't bearable anymore. Maybe some
 people had it tougher in the concentration camps but that
 personal tragedy was so great for me. For me. Maybe for others
 they would look at it from a different perspective. The pain
 was so excruciating. The emotional pain. The heartache. The
 degradation. I cannot show my face. I have to remember all the
 time when I see a cross to cross myself. Maybe if somebody sees
 me that I don't cross myself they will denounce me. I came
 → finally to (Krakov) and I didn't know where I am. It's a very
 big, old, beautiful city. They have in those building some big,
 huge gates. At night they close up those gates. But during the
 day those gates are open and I went into one of those gates and
 I dust myself off because I'm at least that conscious that I'm
 dusty and smeared probably with perspiration. I wiped my face
 and I remember I was under the famous marketplace. I saw the
 famous cathedral. I didn't know where I am. I didn't know

which bus or which streetcar I have to take to go back to Wanda. If she sold my fur coat. I didn't know where I am and I knew the city well. At that time I was so scared and felt so trapped. I saw a lady walking by with a little baby the age of my little boy. Three, four years and I still remember what the little boy was wearing. She led him by his hand and I didn't know if she's German or Polish and I stepped to her and I apologized and I begged her to tell me which streetcar to take
→ to (Prokochium). To that part of town you see. She said she doesn't understand Polish. I was thinking at that time, my God, what right does that child have to live and mine doesn't? Why can God be so cruel? There is my baby, my child that I gave life to, in Warsaw. I don't know in the attic or on the veranda. Why doesn't that have right to live like that baby. That flashed through my mind. Will I be able, if I have a knife, to plunge into that baby? I said no way. That I wouldn't. Absolutely not. I have never been and I won't be a killer. What it give me? A spot on my whole life, on my whole human being. Hatred cannot go on forever. So what did I do
→ again? I took a (doroshka) with my last five hundred dollars. I said at least it would take me to Wanda. I was that concious and I saw again Jews walking with shovels and wooden boards with the yellow stars on the back and on the guard and somehow I came and I asked the driver of the carriage to stop at the little church because I didn't want him to know where I'm going in case

he's suspecting me of being Jewish. I went into that little church and I sat down and I cooled off and I said, "I will proceed by foot later. I am so tired. Please let me rest." I said to whoever is there, whoever is God, please pity me. Later on I proceed to Wanda and Wanda wasn't there. They planted a big garden with sunflowers and the sunflowers were almost ripe. Beautiful, big flowers. I sat there on the ground waiting for Wanda to return home. When she returned she was jumping out of her skin and her husband wasn't there. It was a good thing he wasn't there. I said, "Wanda, no matter what I have no where to go. But you have my fur coat and maybe a few other things of mine. I would appreciate"-- "No. I took the pillows to sell it and they stole it from me." "Okay. Can you please bed me down for the night. You have to go to the post office for me and send a telegram." I didn't want to risk myself to sell the fur coat. I was thinking of the baby. If I should be arrested or sent away that maybe the baby can stay for awhile from that fur coat. It was a beautiful black seal skin with gray mink. She said okay she'll bed me down and go to the post office right away. She had pity. She had a heart. You cannot deny it. She said, "It's a good thing that (Stashik) isn't here. You know, when he starts drinking he's not good." He drink a lot. She sent a telegram to those people to tell their son-in-law that Helena is expecting your son-in-law at this address. He came that night. In the afternoon he took my coat and my things and

Wanda gave me some money for a ticket because I didn't have money for a ticket. There was so much SS on that station and I told him to stay away. His name was also (Kajeck). He was dark, tall and he worked in the factory too. In the tank factory. I didn't say anything about the ghetto uprising. I have to go back but maybe I just come to the finish of that journey, okay. It's important. To me anyway. Anyway, I asked him to take a separate compartment with the suitcase. I didn't have a place in the compartment. I sat in the hall. Wanda gave me some dark bread with scrambled egg sandwiches and a thermos of tea. It was maybe midnight. I don't remember. I remember it was dark. The trains were dark traveling. As I said, there was so much Gestapo and so many dogs and no one came by to sniff me. You see. Here you are. Miracles. He sat in a different compartment and I sat in the hallway and there was a little seat that you could take it out from the train and I sat there and SS comes on the train and the lit with their flashlight into my face and they asked so I gave them my ticket. I take out the (kimkarta) not open but closed. So he through it away. Didn't open. What I did before, I saw them when they were asking for the (kimkarts) and I saw them first so I took out my sandwich calm and cool and poured tea into a cup and I was eating. That was it. I don't know how I was not jumping but I was eating. They left.

Q: YOU JUST SEEMED CASUAL?

A: Yeah. I don't know how I did it. I probably wouldn't do it again ever. Ever. It's not me. I was so casual. Like nothing. Like nothing. We came to Warsaw. He didn't want to travel with the streetcar because I was a mess. So we went with Polish roads. Very, very difficult spaces to walk. I had my shoes on and we came finally to their house in (Orsos) and I came to the little hallway underneath on the first floor and there were stairs to the attic and there were two children standing up there on the landing naked, both of them naked. It was hot, so excruciatingly hot. I don't remember if it was noon or morning. I took off the shoes and my feet were all bloody and full of blisters and I couldn't walk up. And that baby said, "Mommy did you really come back? Did you really come back?" I talked to him on my knees. The child was all this month he was sick.

Interview with Ester Kozlowski
Holocaust Oral History Project
Date: 6-19-91 Tape 2 of 2 Place: San Francisco, CA
Interviewer: Ellen Szakal, Jill Nierman
Transcriber: Herlinda Pacheco

A The bad scar, than now of course, so many years ago.

Q WHAT WAS THAT SCAR FROM?

A Not from a car accident. Oh God please forgive me.

0135 Q YOUR STORY THEN WHAT HAVE

spelling A To continue were I was back from Vandoss in worse that I walked up this on my knees to my baby, my baby had diarrhea. He was very, very ill.

I begged them I had some money. I don't remember how I got that money, How did I get money? I don't remember or did I ask them to sell something for me, and they went out and sold them, and I had begged them to get some cream of wheat,

0212 spelling and no difference what price, and they got me some vitrols I don't know from the black market.

I couldn't, but it was emotional. I guess it was once he saw me, he started eating, he didn't eat. They told me he couldn't eat.

Q WHO ACTUALLY CARED FOR HIM?

A The people and Freddy. Freddy was five years old. I had Freddy for nine months with me.

Any way I wanted to go back. I mentioned it that when I finished with that, I'll go back to the bombing of Warsaw, and the ghetto uprising.

282 spelling Her husband Mrs. Yaveedra I'll call her Auntie

284 spelling

was her name. Her husband was a terrible drunk, and he tried to pump me for money for drinks, and I was like in between her. She told me not to give him money, he wanted money and I didn't know which road to take, and one day she

330 spelling

grabbed a *poikka* and she wanted to kill him. I was standing in between, and she hit me, not in my face, not in my head, but some where, but any way that was shortly after my arrest, after I was let go. There was ghetto uprising, and they came with stories from Warsaw. The grandfather, not the

382 spelling

grandfather, but the husband of Mrs. is Mr. was coming. He was a little fellow, a terrible, terrible, person. He came home with all kinds of stories from the war of ghetto.

406

How the ghetto was and crying that she's not Jewish and she had the cross. My cross of the dead. They took her supplies because the child didn't know how to behave. They told me that the ammunition is short and how brave they are and how brave they fight, and they throwing themselves from

0440 the

and I couldn't sit this the normal chair, because the windows that was in the attic, and the windows were big, and at the same time during the ghetto uprising it's a bombing.

The Russians bombed Warsaw and I'm going to tell you the most, it's not funny how tragic life is sometimes, and how you act, you don't expect yourself to act that way.

The two children were sleeping on a cot, on a military cot right next to the window. I pulled that window, that cot from the window that the children don't get injured

6556 by falling in case the windows breaks on the bomb that they don't get injured from the fallen glass. From the window if it shatters and at the same time I pray to God to send a bomb to kill us all, and get it over with. At the same time downstairs where those Catholic Poles, the Gentiles, the Christians and from the tank factory the Germans came running, hiding in that little villa. How do you figured that out? The Jewish on top on the attic with two innocent children. I don't know-- sentence to death. Right? With a death warrant in their pocket a death warrant, yes every minute, every second, every split of a second. Downstairs the Germans hiding before the bomb, from the bombs, from the Russian bombs. The Christians and the Poles that hides behind the Jews, those Jews she's hiding those Jews actually.

I cannot begin to tell you what was going through my mind, and cannot figure it out to this day. How, I don't know, how I didn't jump out of my skin or something. Where is the love of life so great, or the instinct of self-reseveration, or was it the responsibility that I carried for that innocent child, or was I wanted-- was I that afraid that I wanted so much to live for. Sometimes I was ready to commit suicide and kill myself. What was it? I don't know to this day if I were to have-- yes, that's a very, very important remark. I'm going to make right now, and maybe it's not the right time, but since I remember I want to mention it.

0714 We had a Russian doctor in our town that use to be under a doctor, he was our doctor. My sister-in-law, my older sister brother's wife, injured her foot, and he came to the ghetto. Somehow, my brother send him a message to come to Molly, has a wound that doesn't heal. He came and I spoke to 0748 spelling him. Dr. Saungain Sassin was his name. I said doctor you always love me very much. He like me alot, an old man, and his daughter worked for the Gestapo. I said please give me some poison, I want to have poison in case something happens if we 0778 get or life becomes unbearable. I want to have some poison, please doctor give me some. He said you see if I would 0794 have I would give it to you, but I have only some cyclone and that hurts very much, and I forgot what exactly the name some--

Q CYANIDE?

A Pardon?

Q CYANIDE?

0825 Spelling A Cyanide. It hurts very much and please Panastarea

0833 Spelling don't ask me for that poison, but I'm on my way to Mrs. Garaski

0836 and maybe she has some I'll bring it to you. He never

0847 came, he never came. But after the war when I showed up in Sansichu

0854 where my parents were, he came to see me and he said Panastarea

how many times would you kill yourself and your child, if I

0862 would have given you that . I didn't want you to kill

yourself. You see, there you are. Where was I. I was-- the

ghetto uprising. Right?

Well, I said if it wouldn't be so tragic or really becoming, when all those people were there on the same roofs, and so many different ideas and ideals, and so many different ways of life, and so many, I don't know, but we were alive.

When my brother came, he thought that he would never see me again. He told me what have you done? Why did you do it? Why you in God's name did you do it? What have you done traveling

to Crackle from Crackle I said Carl we don't have any money how should-- you didn't show up for three months, and you didn't

pay for Fredgal and I didn't have any money to pay for myself

and Nigel . I was there. They took the coat to Warsaw, they

sold for seven thousand Salties and that meant almost seven months

of a roof over my head. That was the idea and in the meantime

as I said they sold something my suit. They sold different

things, clothing. I still had my wedding gown with me mind

you, you see and the sold it.

Q WHO IS THEY SOLD IT?

A The Kalinoskis and they sold it and I had a very beautiful black dress, gorgeous black dress that the last

time that I saw a great artist that she came out and she said

she was a Pole. She was a beautiful singer not more reciting,

than singing, but she was absolutely fantastic. I remember

like today, I was pregnant and we were going to see her and I

couldn't put down that dress, that beautiful dress of mine.

That beautiful night, for the night to go out, the dress with

tulle and blue applique, and gorgeous long dress, and I went

in a shabby dress, but I went. It came out later she was a spy for the Germans and she was shot by the Poles. I am going off track. After the ghetto uprising after all this extra time and through the prison and after that the came back from 1114 and finding my child, I got taken ill very, very sick, and my brother didn't show up for a long time. That was already I guess autumn, yes, deep autumn.

Q WHERE WAS HE?

A He was in Warsaw. He was on one side of Warsaw, and I was on the other side of Warsaw, and at that time I still had the two children when I was so desperately ill. I was unconscious and I suspected those people that they were poisoning me, because when I tasted the soup they cooked for us every day, the soup-- and they charged of course for a plate

1176 of soup 18 When I tasted my soup and the children's soup it had a different taste. It was burning like-- like today I remember it was burns in my throat. When finally my brother came, I couldn't recognize him. I also was hallucinating and I don't know why I had the impression that someone was taking me out in a casket from there. And they beat me up for what reason I don't know, because I had a very blue face and I don't know why.

1220 Q IN THEY BEAT YOU UP?

A Yes, but I was already sick, but later on the marks was still there when I regained consciousness. I was conscious and my brother came and he found me in that terrible, terrible

situation. I mentioned that there was-- that he recognized in
 1251 Spelling the streetcar a Mr. Vachilow if I could find them he really was
 worth to be respected, and really honored. He converted to
 Judaism, but the Germans didn't know apparently, and he saved
 his wife and many, many Jews he saved.

His office, he was director of the fruit and all
 buisness is fruit and vegetables. He helped my brother a great
 deal. Carl was the one that was in Warsaw with his family, and
 I kept Freddy. Once he gave clothes to my brother and money,
 and when my brother found me so desperately ill, he went to
 him and he said-- he asked me when I saw him. I saw three
 people the same, three of the same people. I remember I was
 already conscious might be enough or unconscious, but when I
 saw him that helped a great deal. I don't know what it was,
 but I said, he asked me, do you remember your name? What is
 your name? And you know what I said? What do you want me--
 what name do you want me to tell you. The name from before or
 the name now. He went down, he asked him what's wrong with me.
 How long I been so ill and what brought it on, and they said
 she has been ill for a long time, but the only solution-- what
 can we do with her. We have poison, we even picked the place
 where we can bury her, and my brother back off for a couple
 days longer to keep my life. He went to Warsaw and he looked
 1487 up to Mr. and he told him the tragedy that he suspect
 them that they were poisoning me little by little, because he
 cannot imagine that I got so desperately ill. If I would have

a little bit of care, what I went through and he gave him all kinds of money and all kinds of-- and he came back and brought sour milk and butter milk. He forced me to drink it, to cleanse my system. Couldn't really call a doctor, they don't call a doctor so-- for some reason he did it, he slept on the floor on the bare floor and it was already very, very cold. He slept there for two weeks, and sometimes he went to Warsaw for different kind of place.

I remember I had a visionn that I was a little school girl standing in her beautiful uniform with a white collar, and white cuffs and apron with frills and braided hair, but beautiful bows-- and she looks at a woman with tangled hair. Can you imagine that with tangle up hair, sweaty, and dying and that little girl was very, very sad.

That was me, both of us, and when my brother came back everytime he went to Warsaw and I was sick constantly ill, throwing up and having diarrhea, excuse my expression.

Finally he was washing me like a mother, and cleanse me when I got a little conscious, I said to him Carl, you know if you could give me one glass of tea, homemade tea, with a little sugar it will make me well. Can you imagine that? He went to Warsaw and bought tea, and bought sugar, and I drank it like a medicine, like a mixer, like I don't know what all the taste in the world. Were in that good taste and that tea, it just like restored my life. One day I told myself I have to get better, yes, I said to him, Carl, why don't you

help me to die. I have enough I don't want to live. When I got a little more conscious, and you will be a good father to my son, after all you're such a good father so you will have another son, and you're anyway his godfather. He said no, you have to live up to-- you have to live and you have to gain and I won't let you die, you see that Carl. One day I said I cannot let Carl clean me I cannot let Carl wash me like I was collecting that in my mind, like all those impressions, like shame. We were so poor, how can I let a man that came back to my mind that, that's not right. I said, I'm going to get up and I'm going to go and do whatever I have to do, and that little hole on the landing, and please Carl let me what I did I went down the landing and I fell down the stairs. I don't know how I didn't kill myself, but after that he didn't let me go down. He said okay we'll tear up this or we'll tear up a night gown or we'll tear up that, and you can wash yourself and I'll bring you a pan of water and you can wash, but I will be here, but cannot walk, you're too weak. I was getting better. Would you believe I was getting better? One day I said how am I getting up, how do I get up so I can stand up on my feet so I can get strong so I can manage to stay up. I figured it out that maybe if I go down from there, I remember all of that. Isn't that funny if I get up from cot with both my feet and I plant them on the ground, both of them together, I will get up and I will stand up and I did it. And from then I start to eat. He did cook on a little iron stove for me, because he

didn't trust them anymore and I tell you why they wanted to poison me. [Blowing her nose] I'm so sorry. I'm a problematic child, okay. And little by little I was getting better and he was taking care of me and one day I think I have diarrhea, we both had diarrhea, why they wanted to poison me.

We made like a contract with them, have written contract for the two children, if they returned, if the children survived and they returned those children to any relative where ever they live, abroad and give addresses of my husband of course, I didn't have a second husband yet, of Mr. Mandelton's 868 spelling
1871 relatives he had relatives in Israel and all over. If they deliver my abroad children to them they really shouldn't survive. They should be given for each child ten more from the farm of land, farm land from the farm of my parents, for me they didn't have anything they put it in bowls and buried that, that only they knew where they are, but for me the didn't have anything. You understand?

Q WHAT DID THEY PUT IN BOWLS?

A Those contracts, like the signed papers that if they delivered the children to any of our relatives a life 1927abroad Israel or America they were no in America. If 1937 they delivered those children to give them ten for farm land for each child and for me they didn't have anything like that so maybe, I don't know the greed of--I don't know were they afraid if I, you know, they saw me so sick, but I

was getting better already. I was taking even today a ^{Sounds like kitchen} downstairs to put in a decent bed. There were feeding me their soups and good nourishing soups, but I couldn't eat it, I couldn't eat it. Do you know they put in like a little tiny pieces of fat with all the publicity of the people's fat making soaps, you know of Jewish fat. It's from skins, you know they make soap from the fat, Jewish fat, they make soap and from the skins they made lamp shades. We knew that because

2007 Captain, Mr. was sending me under ground papers while I
204 was or through his son. I got better and better and better and the children were upstairs and my brother said we'll leave the children here, but you, one day, any day, when you feel good enough to walk a little bit, I'm taking you to

2045, 2046 Warsaw. I'm taking you to my place were I am. The

2052 is the younger child and he's younger than my nine months. Reuben

2059 he's already nine months, only younger than the Polish name.

And one day the day came, it was snowy and I said you get dress and we're going. It was before Christmas. It was already Christmas mind you, before Christmas I remember it was before Christmas, because Christmas, I was already some place else, and I said the only thing is that you have to follow my steps. You have to follow me, I'll go ahead and you go after me, you'll follow me. I remember that I still had blue marks on my face. Why? I don't know, but maybe it was my scar, something, I don't know and we got to Warsaw. We got the

electric train. We traveled and my sister-in-law was so touched with the way I looked. She kissed my hands, I didn't speak. It's amazing I didn't speak a word that I could sit for hours and not speak. I was colored-blind after that sickness. I couldn't write and couldn't add up two plus two. Don't write I was just sitting there.

The time came that we had to go to an out-house, and they were also-- and our rooms was sealed off, but we had to go out. When I went to that out-house I was breathing the fresh cold cool air, like I would be drinking it. I remember that every time I was longing to go out, I was for so long coupe up, and so long sick and that air was just like, I don't know the most marvelous drink in the world. I'm not drinking, I don't drink sometimes just a little wine, but very seldom that I drink, and that was an intoxication, really that cool air, in the winter air with the snow around. I was with them and the lady loved me, but the man again was a drunk. They were hiding out on the race tracks, and he was like a watchman for the race track. He was employed there and I was there with them.

They were just not giving their child the food, not sparing it only for me, and eat and eat. They were taking away from the child the food and giving it to me. I remember for some reason he dugged up, I don't know from Mr. Michilow a couple of oranges, and he was cutting every day a little piece of orange and giving it to my mouth, my brother. I

265 spelling

cannot forget that ever, ever, ever, or he would bring a few apples, but that was always a little slice for me. Mostly what we ate is beets, red beets, and potatoes, and it was delicious, believe me. They always asked me if I wanted some more and sometimes I wanted to, but I didn't say that I wanted it, because I was sorry for them to say that I realized that they are not eating.

Finally my son was taken by a sister from that lady from the race track to her and she kept him there with her.

2326 Spelling Her sister Frances Apolinska, this other the first sister, I don't remember what, I did know that was later. I was with them a few weeks. I think until Christmas, and Christmas I joined my baby and they took Fred to them. Freddy, that I kept my brother, took my sister took with them, but I was so much better already.

2358 Spelling When I came to the Polinskis there was really Christmas a real Christmas. He worked and I paid, because I still had I guess some money, and as I said I was selling everything. I even sold my wedding band, whatever I could. I was selling, and finally there came a time that I asked for

2380 Spelling yarn, and the went out and bought some yarn, and I made her a sweater, and she didn't want any money, but there were two ladies sleeping together. The owner of the house and her husband was inland with the Polish military, with the Polish army, with Polish government, in London. She was with a

2404 little boy. I think his name was Teddy or something and

she slept in the kitchen with that little boy. He was already

2413 going to school and Mrs. slept in the other room in a

419, spelling bed and I had a cot with Nigel . We were together and she said to me I don't know how you raised your child, what kind

2427 spelling of child is this Mrs. Apolinski she just was a very plain woman, but had a heart. Maybe that was another reason, I don't know, but I stayed with them. She use to tell me that when I

447 spelling told Nigel to run around the table, he ran around the table. When I told him to sit down, he sat down. He didn't allow himself a step. He was so good in all those hiding places. He

462 spelling was just like he would feel like he has to be good. Fragel for an example when I was in the attic we couldn't stand up

470 spelling and he was already, how old was he at that time? Nigel was about three and a half or four years old when was I in 1943 he was already four so Christmas he was already four, yes

487 spelling four. That was 1943 Christmas when I got to the Apolinski's Maybe I shouldn't talk about it, it's not nice. It's nothing nice. I suspect I have a suspicious that they were something going on between the two woman. I didn't know much about it at that time or wanted even to think about it.

517 Spelling Mrs. Apolinski was living in the house he was leaving the house early in the morning, because she use to take my child to her bed, and she loved him so much, and later on when I got better she went out and brought me some yarn,

537 2537 spelling and I made her a sweater and a Susha a sweater. Mrs. Apolinski first name was Frances and the other, oh, I remember now it's

2540, 2549

her name was and they were living not far from Makotuf in Warsaw. It was only the outskirts, they were farms and fruit farms and strawberry farms in that place. It was winter at that time and I couldn't see very much from it. Now, we had a Christmas and we were there, and at the same time I use to go and see my brother, and once I remember he came running

2579 spelling

after me that Frigel had a very terrible tooth ache and they

2582 spelling

had Luminal of all things, and they gave him one pill of luminal

2585

He is not stopping he cannot stop sleeping. They cannot keep him awake and to come and he maybe-- I can keep him awake and he loves me and he will listen to me. He was such a precious

spelling 2606

boy, but never listens to me, never when I said please Frigel

don't get up someone will spot you from the windows or

spelling 2616

something. Oh God, he was something you know. Nigel had a little poddy. Can you say that? To go, you know, he put it on his head, I couldn't take it off, I couldn't pry it off his head. God, some situations were just absolutely incredible. How it came, came by at what did that to people how panicking I got, but I don't know we pried it off.

spelling 2660

There was also many, many things like that, I can't recall right now. I also ready told polinskis I said we had Christmas, it was winter, and there was a great deal, oh yes, it was after New Years there were some houses blown up, because they had ammunition and people as I said there was a very great spirit, freedom spirit in Warsaw. When I traveled all you know the young boys were walking and when I traveled

by train those couple of times and they were singing

independent and freedom songs, not in Polish of course. As I

2700 Spelling 2707 said Mr. Shosinski send me underground papers and about 2707

cutting and about how far the Russians are and where to begin

2712, 2717 and about standing 2712 and about 2713 all of this how--

what's going on. I was informed what's going on, to build me

2733 up, to give me some courage to continue. There is some 2733

I remember use to bring it to me and I said, I asked him

aren't you afraid to carry it and where are you carrying it,

2745 spelling you're carrying-- they call it the bruha tissue. He carried

it in his sleeve and he said, when I here something I will

2756 spelling 57 throw it, or I will eat it up. Bruha tissue it was 2757

Now, where was I. The houses were blown up,

because they found lots of ammunition and many, many people

2784, 2785 were arrested. It was already 1944. 1944 I was still with 2784, 2785

I was knitting day and night. Knitting, knitting, I think, I

don't know my two thumbs crooked, completely. They were

selling my sweaters on the market, the black market. I was

knitting shawls, and gloves you know mittens, and whatever I

could help myself with. It wasn't a bad time, but when I use

2817 to say, oh my God, what am I going to have today for dinner 2817

2818 what shall I cook for dinner, and he use to say

2823 you know what was oatmeal soup. Oatmeal soup, the

2832 oatmeal why the spitting soup to cook the spitting soup,

because we were spitting out those kernel, you know from the

oats. You can't swallow that. If I-- if we had potatoes we cut

into those, you say it was a big celebration, but it wasn't
 2853 that bad in other places like the . It was very,
 very bad any where.

There came a time after all of those-- and the
 panels, the glass panels fell out from the windows, and we had
 to board them with boards. We had to board the windows with
 lumber boards. It was still cold, only the window in the
 kitchen remain. I remember that military, the Germans many,
 many soldiers were out exercising in those fields, and the
 snow was still, but it wasn't too snowy, but it was still
 there, and all of a sudden there were raising a couple of pigs
 2901 and all of a sudden like a came in or something. Looking
 for the pigs and it was dark in the room.

2912 spelling My Nigel was sitting in the kitchen and my sister
 2915 son's bed, a little bed to keep warm. My sister 2920
 was in the kitchen and I was in that room where I was
 knitting. It was pitch black and I went to the wardrobe, you
 know in Poland you know the wardrobe to storage dresses and
 linen, and I went and he showed up and while he was opening
 the door I saw him, who he was. He couldn't see me, because he
 came in, it was pitch black in the room, because of the
 boarded windows. I came slowly, slowly out from there and I

2960 spelling put my two fingers to my mouth to tell my Nigel not to talk
 and not to say anything. I sneaked out into the outhouse, then

(2969 maybe a couple of kilometers from that house
 of hers. I had a peasant apron, a very characteristic that

2982 spelling comes from Lovevich it is hand woven. I took it off and put it over my head. I was in slippers and it was wet and I didn't have an excuse to remain in that outhouse, so I went out and slowly, slowly I went up to her sister. On the way I was

3015, 3016, 3017 praying all the time in Hebrew and the early birds were already chirping and the sky-- and I said that's a good omen, those birds they pray for me too.

I came to them and I didn't have any discuss, what to tell them, because they didn't know that I was Jewish, so I 3046, 3049 said, and he is looking for the pigs. He wants that maybe you should go there and help her, because they probably take away her pigs.

I waited up and I said, may I rest a minute? May I warm my feet, because I am all cold. She said yes, but there wasn't very-- frankly that made me very suspicious if she 3073 Spelling doesn't know something, that maybe Mrs. Tomasha told her that she had children, and I realized I had no way to stay here. I have to go back, and I went back, and at that time my brother

3086 Spelling came for me. That Fred took that kummal for his tooth ache, and while I am there, and I am, and I stayed the night, because it go very late. I stayed the night and I told Carl what happened in the arena. He said, don't worry just be calm, don't worry just don't worry everything will turn out all right.

7 0 The next day Mrs. Polinska comes, you know the snow was already melting. It was early spring and she says that she

had a letter she got a letter, an anonymous letter that the German authorities are informed about my background. It was written in Polish, I remember the contents in Polish, you know what was written there. She said, I don't know what to do so my brother spoke to the lady, to their land lady and she allowed me to stay and she said, she allowed me to stay to knit her a sweater. They bought yarn and I stayed there, and

3186 3189 spelling I said Mrs. Palmski had somebody in Warsaw that she went to visit many times, and sometimes she took the child too. She was with her several-- she stayed down in that place with the child and she went to interrupt all that and turned it different ways.

3193, 3196 I stayed with the-- I forgot her name I can't remember Mr. and Mrs. and with my brother. I was knitting and in the meantime she said, that she cannot stay any longer and I remember that the fields were already green for some reason or another.

3219 spelling She said, that she's going to go to the country, and that she has a friend in the country. This is the across the Buks across the Buks. She will take the child with her so long I have her to stay. It was I don't know-- I know that my son was still wearing that grown out little coat, a very heavy navy little coat, and gold buttons. It was once Fred's and it

3242 spelling was given to Nigel We didn't have anything else and I made, I remember an outfit like the dwarf from white guess mask. You know those flannel heavy, and I made him from that. I remember

that she went away. I came to say goodbye and I was in that hat, was still showing. I was saying I never see my child again in the middle of the field, and I went back to my

3274 brother and Trina to that Mrs. Polonski I stayed there

3282 until just before the uprising of Warsaw the real

uprising I didn't know there's going to be an uprising,

because we lost contact somehow with Mr. Shoniski One day I

3296 finish that sweater and Mrs. Stoyick said, that she didn't want me any more, that I have to go where ever I want to. May

3300 I go to the Vistula she didn't care. You have to get out of here and that's it. I didn't know where to go and you say miracles that the right time, the right circumstances, I don't know what it is.

Her younger sister, that I never laid eyes on shows

3319 spelling up with a letter from Mrs. Polonski that took my baby away to

3326 the country. She writes and says that Nigel has pink cheeks and he drinks alot of milk. He runs around with the kids. He was wonderful he feels fine and their having a wonderful time, he's only missing me. I read that letter and I didn't cry. Her

3340.3402 name was Stasha Her third sister Opolonski and Mrs. Stoyick spelling sister started the youngest. She was like that I don't know where she had the food to eat that much. She was so fat and she's nice, and I told her that I had just lost my place. I don't have any where to go, and maybe she knows someplace. She says what are you talking about just go with me.

She was smuggling, she bought things from the black

market, like soap, tobacco, saccharin. and sugar. You couldn't get sugar for the love of God. She was bring back a bottle

3380 Do you know what is it's lard from the pig, the fat from the country. She said a mother's place is with her child, you go back with me, you stay here one more day,

3400 Spelling I'll talk to Stoyick and I talk to them and I talk to my sister and you stay here a couple of days until I make the purchases that I have to take back. I will sell whatever I brought and you meet me on that station. I don't remember what

3414, 3415 the east or west, I don't remember, but she told me and I'll arrange with Mr.-- you see we had another guardian

3424 Spelling angel and a Mrs. Landick but I don't remember her last name, and I don't remember where she was watching an underground.

3433 Spelling Friends of Shinkski and she said, on my way from here I'm

3436 Spelling going to Landshe and I'm going to tell her about the

circumstances. I cannot take you from here, because I'm going

3446 Spelling to Landvick and I'll meet you at that railroad station. I'll

3445 Spelling arrange with Losha that she picks you up from here and brings you to the railroad. You buy a ticket and I'll be waiting for

3460 Spelling you there. We'll travel together to the Polinskis . There still quiet there and peaceful, of course there are many people on the concentration camps, and labor camps or private homes that require help, private farm. There are many in Germany and you stay where she's stays. God, I felt so awful. I thought I'm taking away from my child it's a possiblity that the opportunity to stay alive, and do I do the right thing. She

insisted so much that I would go with her. She said throw
 3502 yourselves in the face to you always have time, let's
 3508 try. I come with a little or something. She picked me
 3515 spelling up and we come to the station and we were looking for Stasha
 3517 spelling and there is no Stasha I bought already a ticket and it was
 horrible at that station, there were so much military men.

3529 spelling There were so many with dogs and so many ases and something
 was cooking. It wasn't the air it was I guess just before the
 uprising, I think it was July or something, I don't remember
 the date when the uprising took place in Warsaw. I said, what
 can I do? I'll board the train and all they can do to me is
 kill me, nothing else.

When the killing is going on and I lived with it for
 so many years and it was all right and if not it's all right
 too. Of course, I was dressed differently and I just had a
 sweater. I didn't even take my coat, but a little basket, and
 a sweater. It was a pregnancy dress, but it was made of a
 dress that one little cotton dress, that's all I had and maybe
 a couple of nighties and a couple of panties that's all, and
 my faithful pregnancy shorts that's what I had. I had a
 bandana like a turban, and of course no lipstick available,

3545 spelling nothing. People were troubling no Stasha and I had still a
 sitting place, next to me was sitting a young lady and she
 said, where are you staying over night? Are you going across

3547 the or are you staying over night someplace. I said, I'm
 35603 spelling going to cross the Booke and I hope I can make it, but I'm going

3604 to on the Booke to visit some friends having the harvest, and maybe I can eat a little bit, and maybe I can help out. No
 3609 spelling Hasha and she said if we don't make the curfew I have a place, a very nice people, they will let us sleep in the barns or in the haystacks. I said, I'm all for it. Only a guardian angel, I don't know.

3637 Finally, we pass 3637 and we pass 3646 and that was the station. You could travel by train and we had to go through forest and to reach those people that would have us for night.

Q YOU WALKED?

A We walked. We walked, and we come and we walked the train station, because trains were not moving there at all. We had to go this way and I come a little bit behind the train, 3638 spelling the end of the train. Here is Sthasha standing on the railroad tracks, and she hurried up, hurried up and I ran and I said, where were you, I couldn't find you. She said, probably didn't want to travel with me together. She was afraid I don't blame 3639 spelling her. She said, we have to reach the Booke take off. We came into the forest and in the meantime take off your shoes, because you won't be able to run that fast in your shoes. My God I have feet to run, you know from hiding for so many months, and for not walking, and all of this how am I going to run? But I will run as much as I can, and we come-- I forget to say and all those little stations that we stopped that this train stopped. There was so many militaries, and even heavier

3715 weapons. It's quite away from Warsaw to

where the train

3720-3723 loads. They were unloaded

so

much weaponry and little artillery, and machine guns, that was

3735 so scary. You have no idea and under station so many,

but somehow we got through and some way we came through the

forest and all of a sudden halt! I never utter a German word

3740 during the ^e occupation. I speak a very good German, I studied a

3749 spelling long time German and I worked in ^{deepi} camps. The ^{deepi} camps

for a lawyer as a secretary and I know very well German, in

3752 spelling the ^{deepi} camp. We stand still and they came and they started

looking at her thing. I didn't have anything, but she had

tobacco and she had saccharin and she had all kinds of

goodies. I don't remember what, all kinds of tobacco and

cigarettes and matches that you couldn't get a match during

3781 spelling the war. That was just the Poles, not the Gestapo, and not ASES

people, but patrols-- and they stuff themselves with her

tobacco in their pockets, and stuff whatever they could grab.

The grabbed whatever came useful to them and she stopped

3793 spelling speaking ^{Idish} because when they found out that she was-- it's

a little bit hillarious. If it wasn't so tragic, because she

3808 spelling was a maid at the ^{Idish} hotel and she knew some ^{Idish} and she

started begging them not to take it. I said, be quiet in

Polish, and I started speaking German to them. They asked me

where I know from German, and I said I studied and I'm from

3814 spelling Craekle everybody speaks German from there. What else could I

do? I said, I wanted to help the girl, I wanted to shut

everything to take her away and I told her to leave her, because we take into the people there as gifts and we get food and lodging for it. We were hungry and we didn't have much to eat in the citys, and could they please leave us. Let them take some whatever she choose and please leave the rest, because we have to bring this presents. I don't know where I got all these ideas for our food and lodging, because we have to do some harvesting there. They let us go, and she fell over me and kissed me. Oh my God, they would have taken everything away from me and I worked for, that's where I live from, and

353, 3859 spelling we're only they came from the river Booke and she starting yelling and calling for the boat and the boats were 3868 spelling still on it. I came aboard and we were crossing the Booke 3869 spelling because that Glnic was on the other side of the Booke

370 spelling Once upon a time it was a natural boarder between Poland and Russia, and she brought me to that house that Frances was. My child was already asleep and the house was emptied and nobody there. My feet bleeding and I'm so tired. I knelt down at the bed where my child was and he was so pink and so beautiful and so gorgeous, like no child of a Ghetto, no Jewish child no martyr, just a normal beautiful little boy.

3908 spelling While I was kneeling down Mr. Polinski he said, what did you do for crying out loud? Why did you come here? When she saw my feet, she ran to the kitchen and brought a bucket of water for my feet. She didn't say and I didn't answer and I told her later on she brought me something to eat and I told

her later on I just didn't have any where to go.

3926 spelling

Stachewicz talked me into it to come here and if you feel that it's dangerous, I'll buy a ticket and I'll go. She said, oh no, you'll sleep tonight with your child. I said, where will you sleep? I'll sleep on the floor and I'll bring some hay or straw in. It was a peasants town in a little

3944 spelling

industry, Barimbe was a little better town, in the forest, just magnificent forest, that was how do you say it-- a jungle,

3958 spelling

like a jungle. The Yellabiska it was a hundred kilometers from

463 spelling

Belostock maybe you heard about I stayed there till the end of the war. What we went through there you have no idea.

3978 spelling

There are those famous like Lapaki around up and Sundays they were coming with motorcycles and horses, and taking out the youngest, the most beautiful boys, taking them away to Germany.

After that, you know what I did? I got potatoes for the people and also they were very, very good to me. I don't know someone got around that I do speak German. Maybe said something that I saved her all our you know all her bargain and she got around that I do write and speak German. Practically every house of theirs there was a relative or a son or a daughter in Germany or in I remember or in the concentration camps or in the farms or just plain labor camps. They brought packages with food, and I address for them, and short letters I wrote in German, because they were not allowed to write in Polish, so I wrote short letters in German. What

was allowed that they wanted me to say and they brought me bread and eggs, and sometimes a little butter too. The people I didn't have to pay there, because the people were very nice. That lady that she was suspicious or not or she said, that she needs the room so, we moved in with another couple an old lady

1071 Spelling that the house was hers. The old lady Mrs. Michinski you see I still remember all those names and it was a relative of hers.

That young man that they had children and maybe to that extent

1034 spelling it was freedom for Vigel that, that lady had the young couple had a boy and they had a little tiny girl. Maybe a month or even not that, and he was bothering me all the time. I want a little sister, and I want a little sister, you know children how they can change according to a situation. He wanted a little sister and someone told me that I would have to go out to the river bank and when I see a stork, I have to yell three times or four times please bring me a little girl for him, I had to do that.

Later on they took the German you know what it is 1117 of the German military clothes, took all those through 4124 spelling our village where I was. One day they came the Comooks you know what Comooks are no?

Q THE PEOPLE?

A The people Comooks yes, so many, my God, and all they have heavy artillery, and horses, and all this equipment and they were taking along people to dig ditches for them.

Q AND NOW, WHO ARE THEIR ALLIES WITH THE

?

A The Germans.

Q BUT, THEY WERE IN FACT RUSSIANS?

A The Russians, I don't know, but were they not them?

I have no idea, but they willingly joined the German army. He spoke German and he put an eye on me. He said, tonight, and they threw out the young couple. Mrs. Shskinks Mrs. polinski
He said, one , but I didn't speak German to him, absolutely not. He said, where are you coming from and I said what do you want from me? Why do you ask me it's none of your business. He asked me in Polish and he said, you speak German, I know you speak German, you don't belong here. I say to him —
Epecially, I made that language very terrible, that I don't understand what he's saying and he brought an almanac to me. He asked me, don't you know how to read it father and mother, and I said, I don't know, in Polish, I don't understand you. He said to me in German that I have to sleep with him tonight. Tonight he's going to sleep in that bed and the baby will be in the middle and I will be on the other side. I said, my God, the only thing at the end of the war, it's so close, I have to have a common baby. That came to my mind, isn't that stupid, I was knitting there too. I was knitting their sweaters too for the ladies for the peasant ladies, but they had wool you know self-made wools. They were spinning wool because they had sheep. I was knitting for them too.

I was sitting in the little hole and Rata and I still go to Rata and my son, my michel was sleeping and taking

a nap and he had-- I always see to it that he doesn't look to out-landish, so I put on his pants. I put some patches, and he had the patch little. We call it a shoemakers apron with the pocket. When he woke up and started talking to me that man comes out, he put in that room military men. I was picturing that their all going to rape me. I said to that young man what am I going to do? He wants to sleep with me, but in the

1279 spelling meantime Nigel woke up and they took him in, into that hotter
4283 I said, oh my God their going go let down his pants, oh my God. I'm sure he's going to be examined and he is suspicious, I almost die at the end of the war, and at the end of everything I had to have those thoughts and those things go through, but it's not the end either.

He said, to me that young man, the couple the Polish couple that lived with Mrs. it was one room hotter
1366 4307 spelling
4308 One room but it was huge. He said, well, think about it please don't worry, please don't worry. I don't know that everybody, you see I was with eveybody fine and good as I said. I wasn't too big-- didn't make myself-- who knows what and they knew I don't belong there, but they respected me for some reason. They had great respect for me and I was digging potatoes and carrying the hay together, and racking the hay with them together whatever I could. He said, don't worry we will think about something. What they did when they weren't watching or they were eating or I don't know what it was. He took a ladder, a step ladder and put it into an opening to--

4359 they kept hay on top of the house. How the houses are slanted and he said, go ^{up} fetch up with their with the child and we'll come after you. All of us are going to sleep up in the hay, because they took the room away from them. I crawled up there and all of us was sleeping there, and they took this step ladder upstairs to hide it before anybody can come down, and we slept there. In the morning he let the step ladder down and we started to climb down. It was warm, I don't know, it was Augusto or it was September, no, it wasn't September that was going on for about a couple of weeks that the-- until the Russians came in September. I was liberated on September the fourth, but liberated from one thing to the other. We come 4412 down and he had his rifle, and he says to me, you're ⁷ poor you know in German. He said, to me I'm a spy and he could shoot me if he pleases. I just-- I didn't say anything and he said, but tonight you will not escape me, you have to stay here and you're going to sleep in that bed with me with the child.

4434 Spelling Yes, did I tell you when Nigel walked out the first day, did I tell you that he came out after all, from that room with a full little apron of goodies with candies and with cookies. I don't know where they had it, they probably robbed every little town, and every city and had plenty to eat.

4445 Spelling Q THE Comooks GAVE THAT TO HIM?

4447 A Yes, the Comooks later on what I did is I had a sweater that I was knitting for one lady here, and Mrs. was left behind and she said go up to that man and he went

down the ground. He had one arm I don't know Vincent, I think was his name, he has a big house go up there and they are real German's boarding with them, real German military go up to them and he knows already we told him that you were coming up with the child and stay with them. I went and I said, every minute I could expect a bullet, you know behind in my back

1482 spelling from that Carmook, but for some reason or another nobody bother. She told him when he inquired of me, she told him that I went to measure that, he saw that I'm knitting and I'm knitting a sweater for a lady, and that I went to try it on her.

He thought I will be coming back in the meantime
 4586 spelling they moved him out, all of them that all those Carmooks I don't
 4512 spelling know how you call that, I don't know a whole army of Carmooks and he was the leader and when they moved out I had returned, but the Germans.

There was one German, a very fine man and for some
 4524 spelling reason a nutrition or something or whatever it was that medical
 4527 spelling my son, developed on his legs. Some boils, and my Nigel he took him to the doctor and he put him on his horse and he took
 4534 him to the doctor and he put him on his knees and him who could suspect such a beautiful child to-- you know of something when I'm probably of the way I looked also like a peasant. I tried to looked like a peasant, oh, it was going on for quite a while, because I think I came there in July, and until September the fourth, all the different kinds of

experience and I understood what he wanted, he wanted that man that took my child to the doctor as I said, I was dying if maybe the elastic will break, and his panties will fall off God that was-- sometimes it was worse even their free to be free between them, then to be in hiding. It felt good to be out too. He asked me in German if I can get him some clothing, civil clothing that he wanted to run.

Q THE GERMAN?

A Yes, the German, he was of a higher rank, but I don't know what he was.

Q WAS HE IN THE ARMY?

A Yes, but he was in horse you know in some artillery. I don't know what he was, medals and all kinds of things, and crosses. They didn't let me even step to the fire if I wanted

591 spelling a book when they were cooking. They didn't even let me put the log on the fire, you know nothing, no such thing to come close, but this one trusts me for some reason that took my

604 spelling child. Later on when the Carmooks left the house, so I went back and that's when the bombing started. They were-- they bombed out the whole village. They burn the grain in the fields standing up already in bundles, they burn it. They took the-- they took the young people along and they marched forward and that continued. The Russian's bombs not the German's their village the Russians already bombed and our house was burned down to the ground where we stayed, just the chimney was left, and I think a couple of walls on the that side. We crawled

1644 into a hole after in a cellar, after potatoes you know when they were bombing and all the shops, mills, and all those pieces of-- were flying over our heads. We were holding up the roof, it was so silly. We were holding up the pillows and one day there was a bunker that the Germans built a bunker

There came a German and he said, to me I don't know ^{1668 spelling} that, he is from an art school, he's an artist, he's a Vianeeze but I didn't even say that I understand. I never spoke German,

4673, 4675 I accept at that time. When helped I can't, and he was bringing the food for my baby, nobody but my baby. He was bringing that aluminum can or on a plate or he brought food for my child. He said this is not good to sit here, why don't I come to their bunker and I didn't go. I said I cannot leave. He said bunker good, come sit with us. I answered no, and came to one night, the Russians came. The bridges were torn apart

4708 spelling and they came swimming through the Booke Wet cold with the rifles here and they knocked on that cellar of ours.

In the meantime all the Germans left and they fortified themselves in the forest, and in that big forest the Russians told us, they asked for water or bread, is a bread. They asked for bread and we didn't have any bread.

4733 During the disease Can I say that? During all the bombing and so in the mornings some of us use to crawl out and

4739 spelling make festive fire and mix up some flour that we had with a little water and bake it on the open fire. That's what we ate, or if somebody had a cow or a goat, that they drank water. but

my son had food.

When they came, when the Russians came they told us in the morning, it's better if you go out and go with us. Some people they spoke Russian, I didn't. I spoke Russian, but at the time I didn't speak it. I learned it in a year, but I understand whatever, some things are similar to Polish, and I understood. They said to the older people that spoke Russian it's better to get out of here and go to their arms, because there will be a big, big fight. As it happened it was a miraculously again.

4734 spelling Mrs. Polinski crawled out of hers, from that hole, from that hole of potatoes and she got shot through her thigh. I didn't know about it. If I would have put out my child, it you never know.
4799-430 was

Later on I found out it was started to crawl in the battle field and you have no idea what it was like, you just can't imagine falls, hundreds of stories high of fire, and standing ground, and I was crawling with-- I put my child in front of me and he was hanging up with his arms around my neck, and with his little feet around my waist. I was crawling around the ground kilometers, and people were falling right next to me dead.

4732 spelling When we came to the Book the Russian girls were already putting out temporary bridges. It was Russian, but at least I was free, but in the child was all dark with mud, and he was all-- it was a mess. The bundle with the clothes that I

took with me and I left in that hole after the potatoes, what silly thing to do, I did sell everything, but my father's

856 spelling wedding band. It was like a *Sigaret* I didn't sell and instead of wearing it on my neck, I had in a bundle and when we cross

865 spelling the river *Booke* temporary things, things the child was so terribly thirsty and I just had a light. It was beginning of

fourth of September. I had a very light pink little robe, I remember like today, with five finishes. He was thirsty and

the people were already drinking water from the well. I said, how can I give him water to drink when it's so cold from the

well, down. He is so fat and hot and so I took a corner of my robe and dunk it in the water. I put it through his mouth to

suck on it slowly. Later on I didn't have what to wash his-- off his face, so I did it with my little robe and we started

going to about the Russians. They had many, many prisoners of war, but then the Polish girls were spitting on them and —

4910 biting them, the women and the men, I couldn't do that, I just couldn't. I just didn't want to come near any one of them.

What use for it? What purpose would it serve, if I spit on

4924 spelling someone. What purpose, so I started to look for Mrs. *Polinska*

I didn't know where she was, people told me that she was injured, so I looked.

I saw a *COOL* and he looked like a Jew, and I knew as a Jew in Russia a so I walked to him with the little

4934
494 boy practically naked, both of us and I said, *toray* you are a Jew and da da. I said, me too, me too, me too, me

1964 too. (crying) First time he said, I can only give you food. He right away, he took I don't know aluminum pots or something, and he shelled up some soup for us. He said, I cannot help you much in Russia. If I understood the note, but I understood what he means and later on I found out that Mrs.

1980 spelling Polinska injured I use to look out and asked and I said, maybe she had the sense maybe there is some doctors have to be. He said, oh, yes doctors there. So the Cook so I went to the doctors. She wasn't there. Finally I found her, I found her and I knew already that doctors, so I took her there and they removed the bullet, and they put a decent bandage on. I asked a man, I wanted to acknowledge myself to those doctors and maybe there's a Jewish doctor, that maybe will understand that or something.

I spoke to and old man that spoke Russian, and I said, I don't speak any Russian, I have such heart palpitations, I'm so frighten in Polish. Could you find out about a doctor here which can examine me and which one can give me maybe some drops or something, because I feel very, very bad.

5030 He brought me from elsbaskinstan a doctor and he took me into a room and he said, your heart suppose to be like that (He shows her one fist), but your heart is like that (He shows her two fist). He gave me some drops to take and in the

5050. 5052 spelling meantime, I said, youvain Polish, youvain if he was a Jew from espakstan when he found out, he said, it's

impossible, it's impossible. He called another one, another
 5060 spelling doctor from ~~Sammi~~ ^{Opolduski} and that doctor spoke Idish . He
 bundled up my child in his coat and kept him and hugged him.
 You're the first Jewish woman that we meet, you're the first
 Jewish soul. How I survive, what I survive, I say this is not
 5081 a story for you and in the meantime I was afraid of
 5088 being Jewish even those-- I was afraid. We were all
 5089 spelling of us from a different domination, but ~~Sinnear~~ ^{Sinnear}

The whole house was brought up, all kinds and my
 5095, 5096 mother has pushed this and pushed this do
 5097 you know what are?

Q NO.

A Boxes, to give charity that you put every child we
 were raised that way. Friday, before dinner, before the
 5105 candles were lited, mother gave every child a few —
 5107 spelling go put on the turnkit go and put for charity for hungry
 5112 children, or that's what we were taught as children.

Now were was I? From then on they looked after Mrs.
 5119 spelling Palinski and the doctor looked after us. She gave me a pair
 5123 of shoes, yes, crawled on the battle field, back to
 that hole, where we stayed and my shoes were gone. My ring was
 gone the good things, every clothes that I possess were gone.
 We did without, but I was only sorry that I didn't wear my
 ring from my father, that was lost in the war, like everything
 else, but just for sentimental reasons, I hunged on to it. I
 didn't sell it, I sold everything else whatever it was, I was

able to sell, I sold, but that ring I just-- and so we stayed with them and they were bringing liver for me, from where they got it I have no idea.

Q THE RUSSIANS?

A The Russians, the doctors, we didn't dare eat with anybody else, but be with anybody else, but with those three Russian doctors one was not a Jew, but those two were Jews,

5173 spelling that I remember his name ALLO and Rafin I asked him why ALLO He said, hello, hello, hello. (putting her hands to her ear)

That's his father I found out was a physicist, also a doctor of physics, and he was a medical doctor. He wanted to

5178 spelling ship me back to Pakistan with the baby. They left us food

5198(ling when they left. All they wanted to make us uniforms for my Mechal and I. They wanted to take us to Berlin. He said, you will have everything, just come with us. I said, maybe someone of

5206 spelling my familiy is alive. I spoke to that from Koespodorki I don't remember his name that I told him maybe someone of my family is alive and I cried, that's when I cried. The whole war for some reason, I didn't cry, but I cried. He said in Idish don't cry you have to forget, don't cry and I said I'm glad I'm crying. How can I not cry? I spent with them quite a lot of time and they were very decent, but I was so afraid that maybe I'm eating up, and I don't do anything. So you know what I did. I helped them in the first-aid room. It's a take off the clothes. I was cutting off the clothes of the wound.

People of the wounded, soldiers cutting off sand taking it and

taking it and dump it, or buried it.

One day, they brought me a couple-- they brought soap, and shirts, if I can wash them and I washed them, and at the same time I had something to wash, my undies, and my son's 5256 spelling my clothes. They took very good care of Mrs. Palinski and before they left they gave us ten loaves of bread, and sugar. For some reason they found sugar. They put tablespoons of sugar in a cup of tea, in the real tea. My God, and they build us up a little bit, and they left, and I went back to that burn down house. There was only the chimney standing, but we gather together and something, and we were sleeping in barns, and haystacks. They gave me a pair of military shoes, that I couldn't wear, but later on I wore them in the winter, I wore them.

Where I was after that you have no imagination. Winter was approaching so fast and it was my feet, already were freezing to the ground when I was runing from-- the grain how do you call it when you collect grain?

Q GRAINERY.

A I was strong and my feet was freezing to the ground 5309 spelling and to that hotter and my child had a torn and a torn, what's the name bundle up and a torn blanket, and sitting there in 5314 spelling that hotter and we built a little stove to cook on. What we did, we cooked potatoes, yes, and beets were also available. We cooked the beets without anything. There were no eggs. They robbed us blind, they robbed the

whole village blind.

Q THE RUSSIANS?

5338 A Yes, the Russians, they took the house, they took the-- we want them. They took chickens, and they murdered the chickens, and took it. there was nothing to eat and the grain they burned on the fields. It's about potatoes were available and beets, white beets, yellow beets, and red beets so we ate that. That was very good, better than hunger. Believe me, and I was plenty hungry, and the chill too.

5371 Finally there was no way out, so I made an acquaintance with the secretary in the municipal court, and I asked them what shall I do? Maybe you can advise me. He didn't know I was Jewish. Mind you that the little boys were playing with my son at the time. They told me your mother is a ____ you know a Jewish, you see. He came and told me about it and I said, in a malicious way, the Jews, you know and he came and he told me that, and I said, what did you do? I smack him in his face. That little boy, yes, well I went to that secretary and I said, did you hear, do you have any news of our-- why we're so isolated. We don't know what's going on in the world, maybe you have some news, maybe you can tell me which cities are liberated, which city can I go? How is Warsaw? And asked you 5399 was taken by the Russians and they didn't liberate. Warsaw was completely bombed out. After I came to Warsaw after that War, but anyway.