

HOLOCAUST MEDIA PROJECT

Interview with Gita and Simon Taitz

Transcribed by:

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MRS. GITA TAITE: It was in Tigenhau (phonetic) that they separated the men and the women. The women went to Stuttof. The men went to Dachau.

INTERVIEWER: What do en--

MRS. TAITE: Eslongen (phonetic) trains, cattle trains. We were pushed into the cattle trains without -- like cattle, one on top of the other, without any facilities. It was dark and gloomy, and we didn't know where they are taking us.

We thought they were taking us to death camp. They were saying they were taking us away for work, but it wasn't for work. Then the brothers took us to concentration camp Stuttof. It was -- we smelled right away the smoke and the gas chambers, like fire coming out from the --

INTERVIEWER: You saw the smoke from the --

MRS. TAIT : Yes, and they took us to the little train like -- they put us on small little trains to the center of Stuttof. This was a big concentration camp.

First we marched all together, like me and my mother, we marched together. And there were friends together with us, but then they separated the elderly women from the younger ones, and my mother, although she was not old, she was separated from me. And she -- was another old lady. And I was walking with my friend.

And meantime we were walking, Hungarian women all

dressed in white, and they were marching, and I was a very faithful daughter. I felt I was -- I didn't know what to do, and I didn't know where my mother disappeared. But I started to run like from here till a whole block, I was running, and Germans were hitting me over the shoulder, and until I saw little houses. And I walked in and looked for my mother. I looked for places. I saw a lot of places. I didn't know that people are there that -- that they keep people in these houses, but people said, "Look here. Look here."

And I found my mother in this house -- in these little houses. They used to bring more and more Jews from all other countries and make selections. They picked young ones for work, and the older ones they picked for the crematoriums.

So since I was with my mother, we got some bunks, we were laying on the bunks, every day, and every day we had an appell, you know, to be taken to work. So I was hiding with my mother on top of anyplace I could find not to go out, because I was so scared that they will separate me again. But then me and my mother decided that this is a death camp. What can we expect? We will die in this camp if -- There was a German who was a fellow -- a Polish fellow. His name was Max. He used to hit us. He was terrible. When we used to see him, it was like --

INTERVIEWER: He was a kapo

MRS. TAITZ: He was a kapo, a Polish kapo. I don't remember if they made a (inaudible), but there was a couple kapos that were hitting us terribly, so -- and they also -- I had another experience. This I will tell you. I was going to the bathroom. There was a Polish woman. She grabbed me without any reason, and she hit me so, and she tore my dress in the back, and I -- that's what happened here. And she poured water, cold water, in my body. So. But then I thought this is not a place to stay, so we went one morning, I changed my clothes --

INTERVIEWER: You were still with your mother, right?

MRS. TAITZ: I was still with my mother. I changed my clothes. I gave my mother my clothes so she could look younger. I took red paper and I painted her lips so she would look more presented, and we just stayed in a big poor (phonetic) camp. We were sent to a camp Derba (phonetic). It was in Germany.

INTERVIEWER: Derba?

MRS. TAITZ Derba, D-

INTERVIEWER: A labor camp?

MRS. TAITZ A labor camp. This camp we had -- it was like a big lawn. On this lawn they had little huts, you know, like rubber present (phonetic), present huts -- you make -- like you go camp tents, like when

you go camping. Where you go camping like --

MR. TAITZ: Canvasses.

MRS. TAITZ: Canvasses. We were laying on the floor, each tent in a little canvas place, and we got water with carrots called food, and the work was on the fields. But my mother -- it was very hot this summer, and my mother burned her feet, and she couldn't go to work.

INTERVIEWER: What was the work done? Why don't you take a deep breath.

MRS. TAITZ: Yes.

(Discussion about relaxing)

MRS. TAITZ: I didn't tell you that in Stuttof, where they took us first, they gave us a bath, and after they took away all our clothes, that happened in the beginning. And I got clothes that didn't fit me, and my mother got clothes that didn't fit her. Hers were big, and mine were a little nicer than hers, and so that's why I changed my clothes, and I gave my mother, she should look younger. But they -- nothing fitted us. I mean, this was just thrown in, and --

INTERVIEWER: I need to ask you some questions.

MRS. TAITZ: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Try and slow down.

MRS. TAITZ: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: And take a deep breath. Does my

cigarette bother you?

MRS. TAITZ: No, it's all right.

INTERVIEWER: How old were you now; this was 1942?

MRS. TAITZ: 1944.

INTERVIEWER: This is 1944?

MRS. TAITZ: '44. I was 24 years, I think. I became -- in April I was 24. I was 23.

INTERVIEWER: This was a labor camp?

MRS. TAITZ: This was a labor camp. We stayed only for six weeks in this place.

INTERVIEWER: What was the work that you did here?

MRS. TAITZ: We worked on the fields. First I picked the -- I don't remember exactly what kind of field work. On the field.

MR. TAITZ: Farm work.

MRS. TAITZ: Farm work. Also building -- shoveling some -- I don't remember exactly what kind of thing.

INTERVIEWER: Was it hard work?

MRS. TAITZ: Yes, it was hard.

INTERVIEWER: And it was hot?

MRS. TAITZ: It was very hot, and after six weeks --

MR. TAAITZ: (Inaudible)

MRS. TAITZ: After this I was sent to Gutava (phonetic). This was Poland.

INTERVIEWER: So you were deported from Germany?

MRS. TAITZ: I was deported. From Derba we were deported to Gutava, a working camp. In this Gutava they build wooden -- round wooden houses. In each one were hundred women. So were thousand women, mostly Hungarian, because as I told you before, I ran away from the Lithuanian group. So I was -- this camp had only mostly Hungarian women.

INTERVIEWER: Only women were here.

MRS. TAITZ: Only women. We were all working. And every day, every morning we had an appell. They gave us coffee that we washed our faces in it. I mean, there was no water, no -- no toilets, no facilities.

INTERVIEWER: Every morning you had a roll -- an appell?

MRS. TAITZ: An appell. Appell. It's a -- they called us and they counted us.

INTERVIEWER: What time did it --

MRS. TAITZ: It used to be five -- very early in the morning. I didn't have a watch.

INTERVIEWER: For a couple of hours?

MRS. TAITZ: For an hour, let's say, and they counted us. And then the able-bodied women went to work, and whoever was sick was left in the place. So I -- it became very cold. Gutava is Poland, and the climate is very cold, and we had only blankets. I wore a blanket. I

had actually not much of clothes, and wooden shoes, without stockings, without anything. Just a blanket on my shoulders. My mother got again very -- she froze her feet from this cold.

INTERVIEWER: She got (inaudible).

MRS. TAITZ: Yes, she couldn't walk, and she stayed most of -- quite a long time inside. She went to -- they gave her some work to peel potatoes or -- this was her -- and I went every morning to work. It was -- the wind was blowing. It was big area. We build ponsagrams (phonetic). You know what it means? It was big -- how do you --

MR. TAITZ: It was to stop the Russian tanks. They dug deep foxholes, like, which the tanks could not go over, to dig this deep -- uh --

INTERVIEWER: Deep pits.

MR. TAITZ: Pits. Was done by the women.

MRS. TAITZ: And my mother, when she worked, she was planning the sand -- I was throwing -- we were standing on a piece of -- made a platform low, it's as tall as I went down, you know. And beneath me there was another girl, and they used to throw the sand uphill, and upstairs was somebody taking away the sand.

INTERVIEWER: Did you have shovels?

MRS. TAITZ: We had shovels, yes. We had -- I was working with a pick, you know, such a pick. It was

a pick, you know. From both sides it like this from each side. It was a pick, and I was --

INTERVIEWER: Breaking the soil.

MRS. TAITZ: Breaking the soil.

INTERVIEWER: And throwing it up?

MRS. TAITZ: Yes. And on the bottom we saw frozen pieces of water. It was freezing, you know. It was very deep, you can fall in it. So it was like a little table, like a table like this. I was standing on a table like this, from here till here, as big as this. Not bigger than this.

INTERVIEWER: So it was very scary.

MRS. TAITZ: It was scary. And hard, and very, very cold, and the wind was blowing, and we were frozen. We used to go to the bathroom, to the toilet, it was like two wooden sticks, to stay on it, to --

MR. TAITZ: How was the construction of the toilet, a deep pit covered with one stick to stay on, or a log. Higher up, another one to hold on, and that was the toilet.

MRS. TAITZ: And springtime, summertime, or when it wasn't so cold, we used the leaves from the trees to clean ourselves, and otherwise they have nothing, no paper, no -- I used to go to the -- there was a little brook not far from the camp, and I had so many lice on my body, because we were -- we have no sanitary conditions, and

I used to clean myself and wash my face with this water. But every day I washed with this coffee, with coffee water, the face.

And in the barrack there were -- women were laying on the floor all around us, and on top of us. We couldn't raise our head. We had to lay like -- to walk in like lay down, and on top of us were other women laying all around, and in the middle was a little stove like to warm us, but it doesn't warm. And whoever needed to go out at night, you just made near the stove, you know, to urinate or something. To go out, it meant death or they could kill you, or they would take you away someplace.

INTERVIEWER: I want to ask you an intimate question.

MRS. TAITZ: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Did you lost your menstruation?

MRS. TAITZ: I lost my menstruation in Stuttof.

INTERVIEWER: Did most women?

MRS. TAITZ: Most women, they lost it, because -- I don't know, maybe they put something in the food, in the soup, or maybe because we were undernourished, we have no strength.

INTERVIEWER: Do you know any women who menstruated?

MRS. TAITZ: I don't think so. Nobody in this -- this was lucky. Lucky we didn't menstruate, because what would happen to us, we would have been all blooded. No, nobody menstruated.

And in Stuttof we were there till 194-- as I told you, the army, the Americans, were coming closer to us.

INTERVIEWER: So this was winter of '44-45.

MRS. TAITZ: Winter of '44 -- '45. January of '45. And we hear a lot of bombardments going on. We knew that something is coming, but we didn't know what is coming.

So one day the Germans said, "Tomorrow you all have to march," and I knew that if I don't march it means death. To stay in camp means to die. But I told my mother she should -- I have to go to the bathroom.

INTERVIEWER: Deep breath.

MRS. TAITZ: I told my mother -- my mother was laying most of the time under the -- like in camp she couldn't walk around. She had -- I made -- I took a blanket and cut it in pieces and put it around her feet so she could move around, because her -- the wooden shoes wouldn't fit her feet. So when I (inaudible).

A lot of women died in this camp Gutava. And in the wintertime you couldn't put a dead woman in the ground. So we had to hit it so hard, to make the grave, you know, the grave, the ground.

INTERVIEWER: Because it's frozen.

MRS. TAITZ: Because it's frozen. My best girlfriend's mother died near me, laying near me, and I buried her, Mrs. Gedonsky (phonetic). And so I -- as I said, my mother

couldn't go to work, and this was one of the -- one morning they said, "We are marching," and I knew that to stay there would mean death, so I said to my mother, "We have to try and walk, and see how it will make." So I went to put on my wooden shoes. But she was -- and I took her blanket on my feet. But she walked for a minute and then she fell down, and she said, "I'm not going with you, because I know you wouldn't make it. It's no use going."

So she said, "You go, mine kinde."

So I said, "I'm not going without you." So we stayed together, and this was one of the --

INTERVIEWER: (Inaudible)

MRS. TAITZ: No, I will say. This morning all the able women walked out of the camp, and they marched. I didn't know anything about it. In this camp they -- in each block remained a couple women. Not many. I was in block number four, and in this block they were a couple of women, older ones, ones that they didn't have any shoes. Of course, there was a revere (phonetic) for sick people that remained. There were others who remained that I didn't know.

INTERVIEWER: Excuse me for just a second.

MRS. TAITZ: I thought that -- we thought both that we are doomed to death, and we were just resigned to the idea, that wait to see what happens.

As I said, in number four there were only a couple of women in each block. Suddenly, you heard when the German soldiers, the guards, are injecting injections, gave the women injections. That we heard. We started from number one, camp number one. It was all in a row. And after a while they were going into number two. And since I was number four, it was around four o'clock. It was not sun went down already, and my mother and a friend of hers, a lady from a small little town, they were talking, and said maybe you should move -- maybe you should try to go in this camp where they evacuated the people, they injected these people. So we slowly, when nobody saw us -- I don't know, it was a miracle that nobody saw us, but there remained only a couple, not many of these guards that were --

INTERVIEWER: You went into a block where people had already been injected?

MRS. TAITZ: We went in the gas -- and the women started saying "What's happening? Are you injected?"

We said, "Yes." We laid down with these women, and we were waiting for --

INTERVIEWER: Why did you lie to these women?

MRS. TAITZ: Wait. We were afraid in case somebody may tell on us, or they will say to us to go out from here, because we are injected already. I was -- we were

scared, you know. At that time you didn't think about anything. We just wanted to survive. So we didn't know what's happening, but we stayed in this place. It was overnight. We heard shootings and killings, and screamings, and like somebody came telling us that all the women from the number four, then, they took them to the cemetery. Cemetery is not so far from the place. They took these women, and they were laying one on top of the other. They didn't have enough bullets, so they hit them with their guns --

INTERVIEWER: Bayonets?

MRS. TAITZ: Bayonets, over the head. So some women remained alive underneath, you know. It was a big commotion. And all the night was terrible. We were expecting they come and kill us, but suddenly, around four o'clock in the morning, the door -- they started to hit, and they were the Russian, the Polish, the Russian came saying, "You are free."

So we were -- we didn't believe our eyes, but it was such -- we were freed by the Russians, but they think the Polish fellow or something came saying, "You are free," and I walked out of -- after a while we were scared to go out. But I walked out. Of course, we saw a lot of misery. A friend of mine, a woman that I know, she had a daughter, and she survived underneath this, all the

dead women, and her daughter tried to run away, and they killed her. She was a young girl.

INTERVIEWER: The gasoline didn't kill them.

MRS. TAITZ: No, no, no, this has nothing to do. The women that were injected with gasoline, they had, I heard later, big pieces of flesh burned out, and they had to have plastic operations done.

INTERVIEWER: But the gasoline did not kill them?

MRS. TAITZ: The gasoline did not kill the women, no. As far as I know, I don't think. I didn't hear any -- they didn't die while I was there.

And I went into the reverie where the sick women were, and I mean, I met -- I saw a lot of people -- I mean women that sick.

INTERVIEWER: Take a breath.

MRS. TAITZ: They were sick, and not much could -- the Russians liberated us, but they didn't give us much food to eat. In the beginning we were hungry and naked and thirsty. What I did, I went into the Germans, they had a house, and since nobody was there, they run away, me and a couple more able -- I was not so able, but my face was swollen. I was almost dying, too, because if you got swollen, it meant you were going to die. And this was one of the signs.

But still my mother couldn't walk. But I had to

help myself to find some food, because there was no food for us. So I went into the German house, and I found a whole pail with honey, and I brought in and I divided between everybody, and got the honey. This was a good treat. But after a couple of days, how long can you be on honey?

So, the Russians took us and gave us a bath. They took away our clothes, they took away our lice, and they shaved our heads, because the Hungarian women were shaved in concentration camp. My hair was not shaved, but they shaved -- the Russians shaved and gave me a blanket. So I walked around like a ghost in this little town.

INTERVIEWER: No clothes, but a blanket.

MRS. TAITZ: Just blanket. And it didn't take not for a day, for a couple. So I used to walk with a little -- I had a little, a bucket, a little tin container, and I walked to the Polish houses every morning, or whenever I had, when I did -- like begging, and they used to fill it up, and I brought and I gave to my mother. I don't know if I helped any other. I mean, mostly I was worried about my mother's health.

So my mother couldn't walk. She was very sick. So because of her the Russians sent her away to a hospital. Her heart was a little bit --

INTERVIEWER: Where was she sent?

MRS. TAITZ: I was sent with her, to Deutsch-a-lau (phonetic). It was -- I think it was in Russia. I don't know exactly where it is. Deutsch-a-law is a little town, and they had a big hospital, and there were a lot of other nationalities in this hospital. I was working in the kitchen, and my mother was treated with medical -- with medical help.

INTERVIEWER: This was Germany?

MRS. TAITZ: This was -- I think it was Germany-Poland.

INTERVIEWER: Why were the Polish --

MRS. TAITZ: The Russians liberated us, and they took us to this place.

INTERVIEWER: But you were liberated from Germany.

MRS. TAITZ: By the Russians.

INTERVIEWER: Were you in Poland?

MRS. TAITZ: In Poland. This was Poland. Gutava was Poland. In Poland I also went to the little towns in Poland.

INTERVIEWER: You think the hospital was somewhere in Germany?

MRS. TAITZ: Deutsch-a-law is in Germany. I think it's in Germany. But in this little town I went, as I said, asking for --

INTERVIEWER: Begging?

MRS. TAITZ: Begging, and the Polish used to give --

they had -- they mostly were farmers, and they had land. They were not bad to us. I mean, they gave us as much as they could. I didn't ask for much. There was one woman, she gave me a piece of butter. She was making her own butter, so she was very old, maybe a hundred years old. That's how -- and then I was sent to Deutsch-a-lau. And from there I was -- my mother got more stronger and stronger, and then I came to Lodz, and that's how --

INTERVIEWER: Did you meet in Lodz?

MRS. TAITZ: No, I met my husband here in United States. In 1949 we met.

INTERVIEWER: When did you come to the States?

MRS. TAITZ: In 1949, in March 9, I came to United -- I came together with my mother. My mother was liberated -- rescued, and she survived. We lived in Germany, in Lanzberg-am-laich (phonetic) four years, 1945 till 1949. And my mother recuperated. She came with me to New York. Although I had no papers, I went to music conservatory as a child, and I had papers to come as a student to the United States, but I waited for my mother. I didn't want to leave her in Germany, and we came together here to the United States.

INTERVIEWER: Were you -- take a deep breath.

MRS. TAITZ: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Were you reunited with other family between this time that --

MRS. TAITZ: No. My father died in concentration camp in 1945 in March the 2nd. I got the paper that he died. And my brothers, as I told you, died. They were killed by the Lithuanians, 530 or 35. I don't know exactly. They were killed in Shantz (phonetic). It was an army place for the Lithuanian people. They were taken to forts, I don't know. They were all young, educated. My brothers were younger than me, a year and a half each one. So they were young boys, willing to work. They went to work and bring some bread for the house, so --

INTERVIEWER: So as far as you know, only you and your mother --

MRS. TAITZ: Only me and my mother survived this whole, this gehenem (phonetic).

INTERVIEWER: And you went to Munich?

MRS. TAITZ: I went to Lanzberg-am-laich where we stayed for four years, to '49, and in Lanzberg I worked as a recorder. I wrote the articles for -- I went to survivors, and they told me what they went through, and I wrote it, and I gave it in to historical commission. I got my payment was cigarettes, you know. You got for this, you got paid for it. I gave in every week two articles, and I think it's in the archives in Israel or someplace. I don't know exactly. Weizmann was my boss. And --

INTERVIEWER: Why weren't you afraid? You said before you were afraid to come back, when you got out

of the idea of going back to Lithuania, where people had turned on the Jews?

MRS. TAITZ: I was afraid to go to Lithuania, but Lithuanian people were terrible to us, the Jewish people. In the beginning, right away in 1941, they started to murder the Jewish people. They killed a lot of Jews.

INTERVIEWER: The neighbors.

MRS. TAITZ: I lived in a Gentile neighborhood, and they came and took -- they came to take my father, and my mother went along, and my two brothers were in the house hiding. And my father said, "Please hide two of the brothers," but I was always attached to my mother, and I said "My mother is going to go, I'm going, too, with her." So they took us to Saugumas (phonetic). It was a big, big place, like a big, long -- a yard, a big yard.

And they had a big house with Germans playing loud music. You couldn't talk, it was so loud, and on this yard they had a large garbage -- it was like for collecting garbage, like a little slated roof, and on this roof, on this garbage, people were sitting all the -- and to go in the bathroom you had to walk till the knees in water. It was filled with water.

So we were laying on the -- they brought a lot of Jewish people to this place, and they took away whatever you had with you, gold and silver, and anything. And

a lot of people were taking -- were killed. The first group didn't come, they took men for work one morning. We were there one day, we didn't get any food. So my father said one group came, happy, they had some bread. So my father said, "I'll go also. I'll work," and when he came back he was not the same. He was fainting. They took him to a garage, to a place where the horses are fed, you know, the horses drink in pails, in big pails. They put his head in this pail, and with his feet in, and he was fainting. So they revived him and again --

INTERVIEWER: They revived him only to put him in again.

MRS. TAITZ: Revived him, and they said -- he looked like a christian, my father. He had blondish hair, not -- he didn't have much, but his whiskers were blond. He looked like a real Aryan, Germans felt you never could -- they said, "You are" -- and the name was very basic. They said, "You are not a Jewish fellow. You say you are not Jewish, we won't do it to you."

He said, "I'm Jewish." So they did it to him. He fainted in -- he came, he was a broken man. And I usually -- when the war broke out I was very care -- I had some bandages with me, so when he came I just bandage his head and ask for help. But there was no help for anybody. You could scream till doomsday, nobody would

hear you, the music was so loud. So my father sitting, he was not the same man. And this night I will never forget. I was laying on this garbage, and there were women that said, "I was here, I was here." I was a young girl. I was never -- I was no place. The woman was crying for me. She said, "Look what you -- I saw life already, but you are such a young girl, look what's happening to you."

So in this night they came looking, the Germans or the Poles, the Lithuanians -- I don't -- with little lights, you know, flashlights. They look for girls. And my mother hid me with her scarf, with her --

INTERVIEWER: (Inaudible)

MRS. TAITZ: I don't know till now. There was a woman I know, she was taken with her sister, a couple of girls were taken. They were big girls, and I was lucky they didn't pick me. I don't know, they took them to the noise and to the singing, and to the drunkards, and all this.

INTERVIEWER: Probably raped them, also.

MRS. TAITZ: I guess so. And this morning, the next day in the morning, my father -- they said all the people that are sick can go home. So my father said -- oh, he went to the -- to sign a release. They gave him a release.

He said, "My wife is here." So suddenly he saw

So my father said, "Please help me. You used to come to my store. And I will pay you. I will give you something."

He said, "Where is your wife?"

So he says, "Bring your wife, and bring --"

He said, "My daughter."

He said, "A young girl I cannot take her out. I can take out your wife."

So he start -- then he thought about it, and he told me I should make myself like I'm limping, and my mother should faint, or I don't remember exactly. And that's how we walked out from this hell and came home.

Of course, we found my brothers in the house. We were hiding. We were afraid to go out for weeks from the house without food. He came later, this partisan, and he came for his payment. We were scared for him to death, he shouldn't do anything to us.

And from this place, from this old gumma (phonetic) they took people to the forts and they killed them. A lot of maybe people survived, too. I don't know if all of it, but a lot of people died from these places because -- this was just the beginning. And after a while they told us to go to the ghettos.

I mean, the ghetto was in Slobatka Villanpole (phonetic). It was a suburb of Koona (phonetic), and we had to hire

a wagon. We exchanged apartment with a Lithuanian woman. We left our piano there. But most of these things you left. You just took a couple of things. So when it came -- So she had a lot of things, you know, in the house. So this is my --

INTERVIEWER: But this is the story of how you were deported.

MRS. TAITZ: This is the story. That's how I was deported. And then I was liberated, as I told you, and I lived in Lanzberg-am-laich, and in 1949 I came to United States. I married my husband in 1950.

INTERVIEWER: Why did you come to the United States?

MRS. TAITZ: My mother had a sister here. I wanted to go to Israel, but my mother had a sister here, and I have a little money here. I had a small inheritance from my mother's brother, and we felt like we wanted to be his family, so we were just happened here, and my cousin was living here in New York, too, so --

INTERVIEWER: Did you have family in Israel?

MRS. TAITZ: Yes, I had cousins. I had a cousin in Israel. His father lived with us in the ghetto. He was killed in a bunker. The bunker was destroyed, and he was burned to death, alive. I saw him burning, I mean we saw before that -- this happened.

INTERVIEWER: Do you remember any acts of resistance

in the ghetto? What did you see people doing, to --

MRS. TAITZ: Acts of resistance?

INTERVIEWER: You can talk now, too, if you want.

MRS. TAITZ: He can say. He was in the ghetto, too.

INTERVIEWER: I don't think I'm going to have time, right now, to get your chronology during the camps, so why don't you tell me what --

MRS. TAITZ: I can tell a small -- (inaudible) that mean they took away the children one day, and able people went to work.

INTERVIEWER: This is in the ghetto.

MRS. TAITZ: In the ghetto. All the women and the men used to go to work, and they came in in this day, the Germans, and they came to take the children away. So I was working. And my mother was going to work, but they also took old women, so while she was walking it was then, just come to the (inaudible), to the place where you work.

So she heard a family saying, "Come in fast, hide in the bunker," so she forced herself they should take her in and hide in this place. So my mother was hiding a whole day in this bunker, you know. It was a hiding place. And the Germans were looking for children and old people. So I was working in the wackstadt (phonetic) --

INTERVIEWER: Outside of the ghetto.

MRS. TAITZ: In the ghetto. I was working like sewing. And in this place there was one woman, and she brought in her baby with her in this place, and the baby was very nice and quiet. So when the Germans came in, the baby was quiet, didn't hear a thing. We were so happy when the Germans left. But suddenly the baby started to give a -- she said (crying sound), and they heard, and they came back, and they took the baby away. Like she was -- started to cry, a little cry, and they came and they took the baby away.

And this I will never forget in my whole life, this action. I mean, the way we felt after this, how the woman screamed and how -- it was a terrible torture to us.

INTERVIEWER: When this woman was screaming, did (inaudible)

MRS. TAITZ: She almost went out of her mind.

INTERVIEWER: What did she do?

MRS. TAITZ: She was tearing her hair and she was screaming. She was wild, I mean, we couldn't control her.

And when I came home we were looking for my mother. I thought she was also taken away, because I couldn't find her at work. But suddenly she appeared from this, and she told us the story of how she got rescued from this, but they would have taken her away. Anybody that was not working that day. She was late, and that's what

happened.

Now he'll answer.

(Conversation and moving around)

MR. TAITZ: Let me start with the children (inaudible), then we'll go back, and we'll move around, if that would be the right point.

(At this point most of the recording is inaudible, or undiscernible. Sorry)