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2 94118

3
4 TAPE NO. 59, Part II, Side 1

5 INTERVIEW WITH: MAX & ROSE SCHINDLER

6 REPORTER-TRANSCRIBER: JOHN W. SCHRIMPER, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

7
8 (By a woman's voice)

9 A/ No, no, I can't. I mean this is hers.

10 Q Do you want to translate part of it? Where she--

11 A No, no, I don't remember, because she knows it.

12 But this was-- I think this was, they did it in a concentra-
13 tion camp.

14 THIRD WOMAN: That's about the concentration camp.

15 A This is a dream of freedom. And when they get the
16 freedom, if they live, they will live a free life. A beauti-
17 ful dream, a beautiful life.

18 ANOTHER VOICE: Say it.

19 THIRD WOMAN: This poem was said by Sonja Rosenwald
20 which lives in Los Angeles right now is visiting the
21 Holocaust meeting in Washington, D. C.

22 Q So this is written by your friend that--

23 A Yes. By me.

24 Q By you?

25 A By me. By me.

1 Q Oh, you wrote it yourself. My friend is a scholar.
2 I'm sure he'll write to you and want to get this in his book.

3 How are you feeling--

4 A Somebody knows how to translate this. This poem
5 word by word is gorgeous. This is a fight of freedom, fight
6 of life and justice.

7 Q Did you see any resistance movements while you were--

8 A What? What do you mean? This is the reason why we
9 are here. You see, I tell you, this is something, girls,
10 what bothers me very much.

11 You know, people judge. They are so fast to judge.

12 We were like trapped like animals. You know what
13 it means when you take cars of animals. We didn't have a
14 chance to go out.

15 When we went out when the Polit called, you know,
16 I never forget one incident. We were in ghetto, because
17 there were two parts.

18 First it was ghetto, and then it was concentration
19 camp. And we were in ghetto. And in ghetto you can move a
20 little. This was like few streets closed. This was a Jewish
21 ghetto.

22 And we used to wear the Star of David.

23 And one woman-- And this I saw on my own eyes.
24 You know, it is nothing make up, no poems. A woman-- The
25 child was sick. And, you know, an instinct of a woman -- it

1 is irony -- even when you know you will die, you wanted to
2 save the child. Maybe, maybe. And she went, she wanted to
3 go to drug store to buy something.

4 And it came, a very good-looking young German. He
5 came to her, and the baby was adorable. And he came, and
6 he said, "What a gorgeous baby. And where are you going?"

7 She said, "Well, the kids is sick. I wanted to
8 buy -- I look for aspirin."

9 He took a gun. I never forget it in my life. He
10 took a gun. He shot--

11 THIRD WOMAN: Kicked the baby.

12 A Kicked the baby and the mother, and the blood went
13 back, you know, in the brain.

14 He took a white handkerchief from his pocket. He
15 took the gun and he cleaned it up and himself. And two
16 blocks further was a church. He went straight to the church
17 like nothing happened.

18 This, I never forget as long as I live. With such
19 a coldness, you know. With such a-- S. S. You know, they
20 were three part: Gestapo, S. S. and Wermacht. Wermacht were
21 soldiers. You know, they were fighting.

22 But S. S. and Gestapo, they were animals. This is
23 the worst element, from jail, sadistic, everything.

24 But this, as long as I live, to the day I die, I
25 never forget the picture: How he took the white -- such a

1 white handkerchief, from his pocket. And the blood went
2 back, you know, and he clean it up, and he walked two blocks,
3 and he went to the church.

4 Q What other vivid memories come to you?

5 A Well, there are plenty.

6 Q How old were you? Were you in a camp?

7 A I was in the camp.

8 Q What camp?

9 A I was-- I run away. I was-- First I was in the
10 camp.

11 Q Which camp?

12 A At Plaszow. Then I run because I didn't look Jewish,
13 and the baby didn't look Jewish. So I run away. Then I got
14 to Czechoslovakia, and then I was in Theresienstadt.

15 Q Theresienstadt?

16 A Theresienstadt.

17 Q So you saw all the children?

18 A I saw everything. I mean, you saw it. My father
19 was killed, my two brother was killed, everything.

20 Q How did you hear about the gas chambers? When was
21 the first time you--

22 A They didn't say anything. They took us in the train.
23 And they said we are going, you know, and -- and this was
24 also, you know, that people are "keeming" from friends, from
25 all transport. Half of them died in the train because they

1 were -- how you say it -- choking. I mean, it was no air
2 at all.

3 And the other half, they said they are going to
4 take a bath. And they were staying in the line, and one by
5 one went to the gas chamber.

6 THIRD WOMAN: And this was Czestochowa in Poland
7 when the Russian were bombarding Poland, and the German
8 were still in the fields. People from our concentration
9 camp, from Czestochowa, were taken to Ravensbruck and
10 sent to the gas chambers.

11 And I was fortunate and lucky that they didn't make
12 it. They didn't have enough time to take us.

13 A Well, sometime they just let dogs. I mean, on the
14 end, they didn't even bother to shoot, you know. They took
15 dogs. You know, they gave them shot, and the dogs used to
16 cut in pieces.

17 I mean, it is something. It is-- You know, for
18 a long, long time when I came to United States, I never talk
19 about it. Because, first, I didn't feel like it. It was--
20 Now I can talk more easily. You know, you accept it. It
21 is in the closet, but you accept it.

22 But even when I -- sometime when I said something,
23 I knew nobody would believe it because it sounds so impossible.
24 When you are far away, in the worst imagination, you can't
25 believe it can happen.

1 Even now, I say something, you know, it is like a
2 bad dream. I mean, you take people, and--

3 Look what, we are here with the Warsaw ghetto.

4 How many people died there?

5 They knew they are going to die. But they said,
6 "If you are going to take our kids, we are going to die.
7 You will die too."

8 And what they did, there were few Jews which spoke
9 perfect German because they came from Germany. They didn't
10 look this. And I don't remember exactly the details. They
11 went to the orphanage, and they said, "O. K." You know,
12 they made papers, you know. They sent from the orphanage to
13 pick up the kids, to show them something.

14 And they went there, and they took the kids with
15 them to the ghetto.

16 And then they said, "You are going to kill our
17 kids, you will have to kill yours too."

18 And, you know, they were keeping all by himself,
19 how long they fight for it, the German. You know how many
20 German they kill? Natural, they had to be killed because,
21 you know, the German, the plane and everything. And they--

22 THIRD WOMAN: They thought we were bombarding.

23 A But some of them, yes, some of them save through a
24 canal, you know.

25 THIRD WOMAN: In Poland.

1 A In Poland, yes. In Warsaw. That's the reason we
2 are here. It is 40 years.

3 In Warsaw was a canal. They were rats and every-
4 thing. But some mother -- I know a mother with a child, you
5 know how she saved the child?

6 They didn't have any food, nothing. Piece of sugar.
7 And the child was licking the sugar, and this is how it stays
8 alive.

9 Very few of them because mostly they were all gone.
10 They knew they are going to die. But they said, "If we die,
11 you are dying with us."

12 But if somebody has the nerve to ask, "How come the
13 Jews didn't fight back?" - how? How can they fight?

14 You put them like a carton. You close them in.
15 How can you fight?

16 And where, where was the whole world?

17 THIRD WOMAN: That's why the Israelis have to fight
18 now. And it should never happen again, a Holocaust like
19 it happened in 1945.

20 A Now this too I never forget. They were all children.
21 This was my sister's girl. Husband was a doctor. And he
22 went to English Army, you know, he went with the Polish Army
23 to English Army.

24 She was in concentration camp. She didn't look
25 Jewish. Somehow, they smuggled her. Then her sister was

1 married not to a Jew, and she was an actress. She sent her
2 the child to the forest. She came to Czechoslovakia. From
3 Czechoslovakia she run to Hungary. From Hungary she run to
4 Romanian. In Romanian they have a big boat, and the boat was
5 supposed to go. Somebody would let them in.

6 Nobody. I don't know if you heard about it, but
7 this is very well known. Nobody let them in. They had to
8 come back. And they were mostly children.

9 But this is something, a person which I knew per-
10 sonally.

11 Q What happened after the war? 1945 it ended. What
12 happened to you?

13 A Well, after the war, then the Russian came. You
14 know, we went very much through. I mean, from one to the
15 other. Then the Communists came.

16 And after the war, natural, I think I weighed 70
17 pounds, maybe not even. Beginning--

18 Q How old were you?

19 A I was 23, 24.

20 I had nightmares, and the nightmares was horrible.
21 It went on. Even now, sometime in the night. And the funny
22 part in the night--I don't know if you have this same--I see
23 my baby. You know, my son is already a man. But I never
24 see a grow-up person, but I see a baby, and I see the S. S.
25 and I run. And I don't know where to run. And I always wake

1 up in sweat, you know, and I'm so happy I'm safe. I'm in
2 bed. You know, I'm here.

3 But after a while-- Like I said, we didn't have
4 anything. We lost everything. We are looking for a long
5 time for somebody alive. Because nobody knew where the
6 other survive one was.

7 And then we had to-- Then we came-- We were in
8 Czechoslovakia, then the Russian came. And it start from
9 beginning. Then we run away from the Communists. So we came
10 to United States.

11 Here it start from beginning. No language, no
12 money. And one thing I tell you, we never had money for a
13 psychiatrist. We never use a psychiatrist.

14 And what I am proud of, they were different ele-
15 ments from -- even from the people that survived. They were--
16 Mostly, the very intellectual people, they died. They
17 couldn't take it.

18 The poorer people, they were more survivors, you
19 know, because they were used to a tough life.

20 But what I am proud of it, if we come to a club
21 like Thirty-Nine Club which we started, you know, after the
22 war, to support Israel and this, you know, each one of them
23 raised their kids so beautiful. Each one give them educa-
24 tion. Each one tried to show them a better life. And I'm
25 so proud of them.

1 You know, here were young kids. They didn't have
2 money. They didn't have anything. And mostly, 80 percent
3 from the kids are educated.

(Overlapping)

THIRD WOMAN: Sadie _____, President
4 of the 1939 Club, was just here today. In Washington
5 also, Gerdie Getz. And she is a very nice lady, and we
6 are really proud to have a President like her. She
7 really supports all the orphanages in Israel, all the
8 charities in Los Angeles.

9
10 A Well, we started orphanage. You know how we started.
11 And actually, I start a club. But we start the orphanage
12 because we are looking for some purpose.

13 And they-- This was right away. The reason we
14 call it the Thirty-Nine Club, because they were orphans
15 from -- because some parents, you know, they were running,
16 and they put the kids in a cloister, they put between nuns,
17 to save the kids if they die.

18 So there were plenty of orphans without parents.

19 So they all went to Israel.

20 Now, natural, they are grow-ups, so now we have
21 other orphans from the wars.

22 And we build the orphanage for these kids.

23 THIRD WOMAN: That's right.

24 A Yes, and they have become beautiful. They were
25 educated and everything. And now, now the orphanage still

1 is there.

2 Whoever died from other generation, we left the
3 bond, left 30,000. This was 30 years ago. You know, so we
4 built other library, we built the other.

5 Now we have the latest, the newcomer, the people
6 what died in the last war, their parents. And it is going
7 on and on, and we work very hard for it.

8 Because Israel is-- O. K. America is-- I love
9 America. But Israel is very close to me. It is part of me
10 which I never can give up.

11 Q Where do you live?

12 A In Los Angeles.

13 Q All right.

14 INTERVIEWER: Where do you live?

15 THIRD WOMAN: In Los Angeles.

16 INTERVIEWER: Let me get a consent form so I can
17 get your address on it.

18 THIRD WOMAN: O. K.

19 INTERVIEWER: O. K.? I'll be right back.

20 Q What was this again?

21 A You know, in the "lar-Ger" (hard "G" sound), I mean,
22 natural, the women were separated, the men were separated.
23 It wasn't too much choice. But in the "lar-Ger" before con-
24 centration camp, everybody was living with everybody, because
25 it was no use. I mean, we knew we won't live. We won't live.

1 We went there, we never get out from it.

2 So their instinct, you know how a person is. It is
3 a crunchers, it is a charac-- I mean, we let ourself go.

4 Q You did?

5 A You see, it came-- The worst came out from the
6 person, let's put it this way, the worst.

7 * * * *

8
9 INTERVIEW OF ANOTHER WOMAN, FOLLOWING ON SAME TAPE, LIKELY
10 THE PERSON DESIGNATED "THIRD WOMAN" PRECEDING THIS.

11 A I like it very much, and I'm very proud to be here.
12 Sorry that I couldn't make it two years ago to Israel because
13 my husband was very sick. But I just could not miss this
14 one here in Washington in 1983.

15 Q Does it bring back worse memories? I mean, is it
16 painful to be at the conference?

17 A Well, it is painful, but there are a lot of things
18 in life that are painful, but you still can bury it. And
19 we'll try to make the best out of it and survive and see to
20 it that the world will see to it also that it will never,
21 never happen again.

22 * * * *

23
24 CONTINUING INTERVIEW OF FIRST WOMAN QUESTIONED ON SAME TAPE.

25 A I tell you, I'm here because we have no grave from

1 anybody. It is, they perish. And when I come here, I feel
2 like they are with me. You know, this is the only thing I
3 can put my hand on it, you know. They were, they exist, and
4 they are still in our mind, not just mine, but in general.
5 They were once alive.

6 An individual, we have no place to go. You know,
7 like you go to cemetery. It's nothing.

8 So this is the only place where I can give respect,
9 and I feel like I am part of them. You know, im Warszawa
10 it is ausspringen and everything. That's the reason I came.

11 ANOTHER WOMAN: Let's go Esther. I'm starving.

12 * * * *

13 (Conclusion of Tape No. 59, Part II, Side 1.)

14
15
16
17 (Note of reporter-transcriber: I feel where the lady
18 answered, "This was like few streets closed," on line 20,
19 page 2, that an American-born individual would have said,
20 "This was like a few streets closed.")
21
22
23
24
25

1 MAN: So we're taking a little bit of a vacation at the
2 same time we're participating in this event.

3 WOMAN: We've been to Israel for the Holocaust reunion.

4 Q Oh, you did?

5 WOMAN: Yes.

6 Q Lonnie Silver, whom I'm doing this for, was there
7 also, interviewing people.

8 I want to thank you for this interview.-- I think
9 the tape might be running out.--

10 MAN: O. K.

11 Q --and say that it has been a privilege.

12 WOMAN: O. K. Thank you.

13 MAN: Thank you. Do you have a business card?

14 Q I'm-- Let's see. Let's stop.

15 * * * *

16
17
18 CONTINUING INTERVIEW OF WOMAN, MIDWAY THROUGH TAPE 59, PART
19 II, Side 2.

20
21 Q You were saying that it's too hard for you to tell
22 your story?

(By a woman's voice)

23 A/ Well, I wanted to say, 'tis too hard. It hurts too
24 much to talk about it.

25 But one thing what bothers me so much, some people

1 have doubts if this is true: six million people were killed.
2 And I lost everybody: the whole family, my twin brother, my
3 father, all my friends, everything was rubbed out.

4 So where are there? If they were not killed, they
5 have to be some place.

6 So this is all what I can say.

7 Q And when you talk about it, it brings back the
8 memories too much?

9 A Well, it is always with me. I mean, this is some-
10 thing, it will never it can be erased.

11 We just learn to live with it and go on, and raise
12 our kids not in hate. You know, this is the most important
13 thing.

14 Q How do you go on with this in your life?

15 A I go on-- I always talk to myself, "Well, I was
16 born in the wrong place in the wrong time."

17 It happened to me, is too bad. I'm very happy
18 my son is here in a wonderful country, a free country, where
19 he can do with his life whatever he wants, and he's a free
20 man. And this, what keeps me going.

21 Q All right.

22 Do you want me to get you an ash tray? There's one
23 right over there.

24 ANOTHER WOMAN: That's O. K.

25 A Well, I think I said O. K.; I don't know.

1 Q O. K. That's very good.

2 OTHER WOMAN: That was very good, Yashka. I'm proud
3 of you.

4 What shall I sign?

5 Q It's right here, dear.

6 A Say what comes natural. I mean, it's so hard to
7 (Inaudible)

8 Q Thank you.

9 WOMAN: They really gave you more of a chance of
10 vocation as a scientist.

11 OTHER WOMAN: You should have did it.

12 * * * *

13
14 EVIDENTLY INTERVIEW OF ANOTHER WOMAN BY SAME QUESTIONER

15 (By a woman's voice)

16 A / My name?

17 Q Yes. Would you sign your name?

18 A My name is JoAnna Marks.

19 OTHER WOMAN: From Los Angeles.

20 A From Los Angeles. And my son is a scientist, which
21 I'm very proud. He did all by himself.

22 America gave him that chance.

23 Q You know, I interviewed 150 survivors in Jerusalem,
24 and I just -- I feel like we're family. I mean I loved so
25 many of the people.

1 day we get up in the morning, with subconscious we think
2 about it.

3 But we were so busy to survive, to fight for sur-
4 viving -- we are young -- we never had time to think about
5 it; we are just keeping going and going.

6 But now as we get older, everything comes back.
7 You know, we relive everything what we went through. And
8 I can't believe it, me myself, sometime when I wake up in
9 the night, because we still have nightmares. I can't believe
10 it is true. It is like a bad dream.

11 Q I'm sure of it.

12 A I just don't believe it.

13 Q I'm sorry. Oh, God.

14 A Right.

* * * *

15

16 EVIDENTLY INTERVIEW OF ANOTHER WOMAN BY SAME QUESTIONER

17

18 Q How have you coped? How do you cope with such
19 memories?

(By woman's voice)

20 A/ Well, I was very young. I was born in Poland, and--

21 Q Wait. First tell me your name.

22 A My name is Sonja Rosenwald, born in Poland by the
23 name Siskind. And I was very young when I was taken to --
24 taken away from my parents, taken to concentration camp at
25 the age of 12 years old, and I was all by myself in

1 Scarzisco-Carmiena, and then I was taken to Czestochowa in
2 Poland, where I survived and tried to look--

3 After the war I came back to my country, to Poland,
4 to Pieotkof where I was born, and I almost was killed by the
5 Poles again, because they found out that me, Sonja Siskind,
6 born in Pieotkof, I came from a pretty well-to-do family in
7 the city, and they really wanted to kill me.

8 And then I walked into a Jewish gemeinde, which is
9 like a Jewish city hall, in Pieotkof, Tribonatzke, in Poland.
10 And a woman by the name Mrs. Rosenwald took me into her
11 house, and she took care of me. # And then I was fortunate to
12 find out that my mother and my sister are alive and very,
13 very ill in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

14 So I put myself together through the borders. I
15 risk my life, and I went to find my mother and my sister,
16 and I was really fortunate to find them.

17 And I'm really proud to have my mother now alive,
18 and my sister, which live -- live right now in Israel, which
19 I'm going to see them right after the Holocaust meeting in
20 Washington. On Friday I am leaving for Israel, and I be
21 very happy to get -- to be united with my mother and my
22 sister.

23 THIRD WOMAN: Well, I would like to add something.

24 Q Great.

25 THIRD WOMAN: Would you mind?

1 Q No. Please.

2 THIRD WOMAN: You know, I tell you one thing. Peo-
3 ple, sometime, I hear on television, you know. And I was
4 told few times, "Well, you shouldn't hate," you know. "Hate
5 twisted your life."

6 But, you know, the funny part is, I wasn't born--
7 When I was born, I didn't know what hate is. The German
8 taught me how to hate. And this is something, you can't get
9 rid of it. I mean, when it comes to German; nobody else.

10 A (Sonja Rosenwald) And also the Poles.

11 THIRD WOMAN: But hate brings hate.

12 A (Sonja Rosenwald) And also the Poles.

13 THIRD WOMAN: Also, the Poles hates us all our
14 lives in Poland. They were the one that when the Gestapo
15 came into our town--

16 A The pointed out us.

17 ^{Rosenwald?} ~~THIRD~~ WOMAN: --they pointed out who is Jewish and
18 who is not; who should live and who should be killed.

19 Q When you were 12 and you went to a camp -- I mean,
20 you were just a child--

21 ^{Rosenwald?} ~~THIRD~~ WOMAN: Right.

22 Q --what did you make of it all? Did you know-- Did
23 you feel like you were going to be, you know, killed also?

24 ^{Rosenwald?} ~~THIRD~~ WOMAN: I was sure that I'm going to be
25 killed. In matter of fact, I was in our town, in Piotkof,

1 Stribonatzke, illegal, and I was taken to the big synagogue
2 with 500 people, which we knew that next day the horses and
3 the wagons are standing outside, and the graves were digged
4 for us to be killed.

5 And I was fortunate that my mother was alive at
6 that time, which came from camp, and she saved me. They
7 took me out.

8 And next day, almost 500 people were sent to Rackof
9 in Poland, and they were killed.

10 THIRD WOMAN: And, you know, I wanted to tell you
11 something. You see, I had a little boy. I was young, and
12 I had the little boy, and the boy was two years old. And
13 you wouldn't believe how the kids. They were never the
14 kids. They were born right away in running, and they said,
15 "This way, you're dead; and this way, you're dead." This,
16 what they have.

17 A That's right.

18 THIRD WOMAN: And they caught us. We were hiding,
19 and they caught 50 people. And they took in one line, you
20 know.

21 And on the end of the line, I was with my boy.
22 And he was two and a half years old. And he said, "Mommy,
23 do I have to die?"

24 And it is funny thing. When you face death, all
25 of a sudden, a peace comes over you. You come-- You know,

1 you accept death. You are happy and relieved it is over.
2 You know, you come in peace with yourself.

3 So I said to him, "You know, Peter, don't worry
4 about it. It just take one minute and everything would be
5 over."

6 And one of the Sudeten Deutsches came by. And he
7 said, "What are you--" And I never looked Jewish, you know.
8 So this was when I was younger. He said, "What are you doing
9 here? You are not Jewish."

10 And the funny part is -- still now I can't find out
11 why -- I never wanted to be shot in the back, which is ridic-
12 ulous. What the difference if you are shot in the front or
13 in the back?

14 And I was looking, you know, as he said, "Go away."
15 I mean, "You are not Jewish." And the boy didn't look Jewish.

16 So first I walk in the front. I couldn't believe
17 it. Then I start to run.

18 All 85 people had to dig their grave, and they got
19 killed.

20 Q Did you see that?

21 THIRD WOMAN: And my brother, my twin brother, was
22 there. I had a twin brother. The whole family was wiped
23 up.

24 Q You saw them--

25 THIRD WOMAN: I saw--

1 Q --saw them digging the grave?

2 THIRD WOMAN: I saw them digging grave. Because,
3 well, it was a big line, and right away they put them there.
4 And I was on the end, so he let me go. But they already
5 started/dig the grave.

6 Oh, crimes. Oh, crimes. They were horrible from
7 Ooklina.

8 Q That's what I've heard.

9 THIRD WOMAN: They were even worse in some German.

10 Q That's what I've heard.

11 A (Sonja Rosenwald) When I was in concentration camp
12 Scarzisco-Carmiena, the Gestapo every morning took us out
13 from the barracks. They put the young to the young, the
14 older to the older. And they said, "You, you, you, you, you,
15 you are going." And they took out many, many of us, and
16 they killed them in front of our eyes.

17 Q You saw that?

18 A Yes.

19 Q You saw people killed--

20 A Yes.

21 Q --in front of your eyes?

22 A Yes, yes, yes.

23 THIRD WOMAN: Sure. Every day.

24 Q What were you doing when that was happening?

25 A You know, it is a funny thing. You turns to-- You

1 are numb. And you have no idea-- You know, when the conscience
2 is gone--We knew we go one by one. You know, I mean it is
3 a question of time.

4 But we change to animals. I mean, it isn't animal.
5 The feeling is gone, the conscience is gone. Everything is
6 gone, you know. It is just left, a little surviving.

7 But nobody expect to get out of it. I mean, you
8 know, some give it up right away. And they mostly got typhus.
9 They give it up. They just didn't want it.

10 And some day I'm going to--

11 You see, the older, they killed right away. The
12 children, right away, not just they killed them. But before
13 they killed them, they play lullaby, which was so ironical,
14 you know. Here they killed the kids.

15 And the parents had the choice. If they went with
16 the kids, they got killed. Or they let the kids go.

17 You know, some of them are -- were so scared that--

18 The instinct of surviving is so strong.

19 I had a girl friend. She was a young girl, maybe
20 22. She had a baby. And she let that baby go, you know.
21 She didn't realize. And after the war, she commit suicide.

22 Because the instinct of life is so strong by a
23 person, you know. Your brain doesn't work. It is just,
24 "Hold it on to it. Hold it on to it." You don't know what
25 you are doing. Just to live, just to survive.

1 Q Did your son survive?

2 A Yes. I said, "Whatever happen to me, happen to my
3 son." I mean, I wouldn't -- I wouldn't let him behind, or
4 I wouldn't go without him. I couldn't do that.

5 Q Let me ask you how you survived. Would you say
6 something similar, that you just had a will to live?

7 THIRD WOMAN: Yes. We had a great will to live.

8 A Well, I didn't.

9 THIRD WOMAN: And also, was pure luck.

10 A Yes. It was a question. I tell you, I didn't.

11 We were hiding too. We were hiding in Czechoslovakia,
12 we run to Czechoslovakia. And they caught everybody.

13 So I said, "Peter--" He was a little boy. I mean,
14 three years old. He saved my life. So I said to him, "Peter,
15 what the use. I'm going to give up myself. I mean, look.
16 Everybody's go."

17 He said, "Mother, what about me? I wanted to live."

18 You know, and it striked me. I never forget it.
19 And till today, I said, "You know, Peter, you -- not you, I
20 would go." Because it was no use. It comes a point where
21 you give up.

22 But, you know, it shocked me when he said, "Mother,
23 what about me? I don't want to die. I wanted to live."

24 And this, what kept me going.

25 Q What kept you going?

1 THIRD WOMAN: It kept me going, knowing that my
2 mother and my sister are alive. That really kept me going.
3 And really, what I have to thank is that Mrs. Rosenwald,
4 which she died six months ago in Israel, she really saved my
5 life in Poland.

6 Q How?

7 THIRD WOMAN: By taking me into her house and keep-
8 ing me there. Because I had nobody. I was very young, and
9 I had nobody. It was me.

10 Q And the children were the first to be killed?

11 THIRD WOMAN: Right.

12 Q So that you just missed it?

13 THIRD WOMAN: Right. That's right. I missed it.

14 Q And you were in a camp?

15 THIRD WOMAN: Yes.

16 Q Scarzisco--

17 THIRD WOMAN: Scarzisco-Carmiena in Poland, and
18 then I was--

19 Q What was that like?

20 THIRD WOMAN: That was a labor camp. It was ammuni-
21 tion factory for the Germans. We were beaten to death every
22 day before we went to work.

23 A (Rosenwald) Naked. They put us in the morning to
24 report all naked and shaved.

25 Q Your hair? Say that again.

1 THIRD WOMAN: Right. My hair was shaved, and
2 beaten to death every day, and somehow we survived. We tried
3 to make the best out of it.

4 A (Rosenwald) You know what, I make myself three years
5 older. You know why? In Krakow -- I mean, everybody was
6 in other place -- they took-- I wasn't bad looking. I mean,
7 let's put it this way. When you are young, you don't have
8 to be a beauty. But, you know, when you are 18, 19-- So they
9 used to take the young girls and send to the whorehouse.
10 This was where the Russian, where the German, to relieve
11 themselves sexually.

12 Q The Jewish women?

13 A The Jewish girl, young girl. They pick up good-
14 looking, young girl. They sent them to the border of Russian
15 where the German soldier, to make them quiet and to relieve
16 themselves from -- from sexual acts, and then they used to
17 kill them right away. They used them and they killed them.

18 So natural, we try-- Somehow -- I don't know it --
19 but it is a funny thing. You can be shy. But when it comes
20 to surviving, the biggest idiot, you know, it is something
21 what push you to it, to stay alive, and you do miracle, what
22 you never could do in normal life.

23 Q So how did you-- When did you add three years to--

24 A Well, right away, the papers, you know, somebody
25 made false papers. So when you were more than 18, they didn't

1 need you any more, you know. They took the young, the very
2 young. They sent them to the border. The German released
3 themselves and they lived with them, and then they killed them
4 right away, because they were afraid maybe some German will
5 like her; maybe they will come and tell about it.

6 So they were going from that.

7 THIRD WOMAN: I was going to say that right after
8 the war, I wrote a Polish poem. But I would be ridiculous
9 to say it in Polish. I think I will remember it.

10 Q Actually, why don't you, if you do say it, because
11 one of my friends is a scholar on poetry.

12 THIRD WOMAN: [Reciting at length a poem in the
13 Polish language.]

14
15 Q Was the last part, "Up the chimney"?

16 THIRD WOMAN: No.

17 Q Do you want to say what you-- Can you say any of
18 that in English?

19 A (Rosenwald) It is hard to say.

20 THIRD WOMAN: It is hard to say.

21 A (Rosenwald) It is, you know-- She has somebody
22 what she likes, and on the end she thinks he's next to her,
23 you know, even when she disappear or something.

24 THIRD WOMAN: After the war, you know.

25 A After the war. You know, she still live with it.

1 But one thing I can tell you, regardless what it is, when
2 you wanted to know what reaction a person which went through
3 holocaust and all the hell, one thing is left by a person,
4 at least with me: the fight for justice.

5 We went so much. We were treat like animals, not
6 even people. And we saw what power can do, and we saw the
7 injustice.

8 Nobody said a word.

9 You know, here, a dog is dying. Everybody's fight-
10 ing for the dogs.

11 But here, my girl friend, she saved the child, she
12 saved the husband. They grabbed a boat from Romanian. They
13 wanted to save their life. Nobody let the boat in. Not
14 United States, nobody. And they had to die.

15 THIRD WOMAN: [Reciting at length a poem in the
16 Polish language.]

17
18 A (Rosenwald) Do me a favor. Say it to me.

19
20 (Conclusion of Tape No. 59, Part II, Side 2.)
21
22
23
24
25

1 THE REPORTER-TRANSCRIBER HAS THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

2 Many times I found it difficult properly to identify
3 the person answering the question. This was due to the fact
4 that there were two women answering and making remarks inter-
5 mittently.

6 It appears that the remarks commencing on page 1, line
7 9 (Tape No. 59, Part II, Side 1), actually should immediately
8 follow the remarks on page 44, line 18 (Tape No. 59, Part II,
9 Side 2).

10 Again, speaker designations as to the two responding
11 women are difficult.

12 In fairness to those interviewed, I would suggest that
13 the interviewer listen to this and other tapes while perusing
14 the transcripts and any notes contemporaneously made and
15 attempt to resolve any discrepancies.

16 I feel that the cassette tapes could have been labeled
17 more precisely; possibly incorrect labeling as to those inter-
18 viewed exists. Since we were sent duplicate tapes, possibly
19 the original tapes have more precise labeling.

20 In a few places I found it necessary to designate
21 "inaudible." Since we were sent duplicate tapes, I would
22 suggest one of the editors listen to the original tapes,
23 which may be of better fidelity, and attempt to resolve any
24 parts not properly heard.

25 Please note that at Page 43, line 12, and at Page 44,

1 line 15, the interviewee quotes at length poems in the
2 Polish language.

3 I was glad to be of assistance to this project.

4
5 July 1, 1985

John W. Schrimper

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Cedar Rapids, Iowa

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