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Summary

Zbigniew Lang, born September 16, 1931, in Lwów (now L'viv, Ukraine). He describes his family situation before and during the war and relations between the Jewish and Polish communities in Lwów; His family lived in Lwów long before the war. His grandfather was an officer in the Piłsudski Army and a member of Lwów City Hall. After the Russian invasion in 1939, he was arrested and murdered by the Russian army in "Brygiotka" prison, shortly before the German invasion. Zbigniew's father fought for the Polish Underground Army, and for that he was sent to Siberia and never came back. His mother never worked before the war, but in order to support the family after 1939, she took a position in a cannery. Before the war, the family lived in an apartment on Zborowskich street. The apartment was confiscated and re-purposed for the ghetto and they moved to a residence on Żółkowska street. He suspects that the place belonged to a Jewish family before they were forced to move in.

Zbigniew remembers the Russian and later the German invasion. The school was turned into a military base, and he would go with some other friends to perform small tasks for German soldiers and get paid with candies and chocolate. He saw some Italian and Hungarian soldiers at the base as well.

Shortly after the German invasion, he saw members of the Jewish community forced to clean Zborowskich street with toothbrushes. He also mentioned some family executed on Strzelecki square. He is not sure if this was a Polish or a Jewish family. However, he remembers seeing parents and two children.

He also remembers transports of Jewish families to the ghetto by trams on Żółkowska street and German patrols conducting circumcision inspections in Lwów. A military patrol was inspecting random pedestrians if they looked like they could belong to the Jewish community. During the liquidation of the ghetto, Jewish families were transported to the railroad station. He remembers that everybody was very quiet and nobody was trying to fight or escape. He heard that Jewish parents were offering Polish families gold for hiding their children. During the war, Zbigniew was selling cigarettes on "Kradkiety." He was arrested on suspicion of selling guns. After a couple of hours of questioning at the military base, he was dismissed. Zbigniew describes relations as good between the Jewish and Polish communities before the war. He used to visit a little grocery store owned by a Jewish family with his mother.