-TITLE- AGNIESKA BUDNA-WIDERSCHAL

-I\_DATE- 7/5/87

-SOURCE- CHRISTIAN RESCUERS PROJECT

-RESTRICTIONS-

-SOUND\_QUALITY- FAIR

-IMAGE\_QUALITY- GOOD

-DURATION-

-LANGUAGES- ENGLISH

-KEY\_SEGMENT-

-GEOGRAPHIC\_NAME-

-PERSONAL\_NAME-

-CORPORATE\_NAME-

-KEY\_WORDS-

-NOTES-

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00:34 Q. When were you born?

A. 1900. In a town in North Poland, near a place of summer.

Q. Big town or little town?

A. Little town, a lot of Jews. She had two sisters.

Q. Was she the eldest or youngest?

A. Younger one.

Q. What year was she born again?

A. 1900.

Q. Were they wealthy?

A. They were less than middle.

Q. What were her mother and father like? Were they giving people?

Did they help others?

A. Her mother was the kind of woman who wanted to help every time

- give something to everyone.

Q. And father?

A. Same. They were very good people.

Q. Was there any anti-Semitism in her family or town?

01:55

A. In the family, never, of course in the town.

Q. When is the first time she can remember what was happening with

the Nazis and the Jews?

A. Mom died when she was seven years. After with father she left

little town and came to [Yedinya], a small town on the sea shore.

Q. She left with who? She was seven?

A. No, her mother died when she was six. She grew up a little and

left this town and came to [Yedinya].

Q. Who did she grow up with?

A. When she was 11 her father died. An old relative took her

together with herself to [Yedinya]. Before the war there were many

young Jews in [Yedinya]. All the young Jews were sent to the center

of Poland. In 1939, at the beginning of the war, Hitler threw out

all the people also Jews and Polish people-citizens who lived

there, he threw out because he wanted to make it only for German

people.

02:70

They send all of them when the German regime came. All of them they

brought to [Cschtokova]-a big town near the center of Poland-put

all in a big field and left there were to be killed-all Poles and

Jews.

Q. And she was one of them?

03:28

A. Yes. So they were there she thinks about two weeks. She doesn't

remember exactly how much and then they allowed to go where they

want. Many of them went to a town-[Chbletz]. She with some people

she knows,went also to this town.

Q. The Jews were also allowed to go where they wanted?

A. It was still at the beginning. In the beginning, there was

nothing to do. She went to work cleaning in an office.

Q. What did she do before the war?

03:90

A. She worked in an office of export. There worked also Jewish

people. This time when she came to [Chbletz], she met up with this

Jew and lived together with him. He had three brothers.

Q. She was living with this Jewish man?

A. Yes, and he had three brothers. Six people were in this place

where she lived with her husband and friends. It was in the time of

the war-she met a Jewish man and lived with him-six people under

the steps there was a little place to keep them.

05:61 Before the ghetto she lived in a little place-she was a

worker in an office with a German boss. When the ghetto closed-so

they got workers of the office better places to live. So she bought

a place on the third flight thatched roof-she took her husband

there-this apartment was little one.

06:05

So when the ghetto closed-put husband in hiding place in her new

apartment and she went to take the three others of his family out

of the ghetto-how she took out she came in inside-took the three

men-they put her under their arms and she played as a very drunk

woman. But on the street there were Gestapo walking all the time

to look for people. So they saw them going with a drunk woman they

said,"Such a Polish swine" and so she took them home.

Q. In other words, the Germans said, "That's just like the Poles."

A. And so it was a reason for her to take them home.

06:46

Q. Was she very frightened?

A. Her husband's brother was taken to Treblinka on a train. He

jumped off the train and came to the place near the house because

his brother had told him if something happened they'd go to her

apartment. At night he saw her coming out of the door-he came with

strong will to door and said,"I want to go in, they are my

brothers." So she said,"There is no brothers, what are you looking

for? But he was strong and pushed in the door and then she

understood it was true- they began to kiss one another she let him

in. There was one brother that worked in a train station and as we

know, the train station is more dangerous and most difficult place

because there were many Gestapo and many people and so many Germans

that no one had the courage to come a little nearer. She decided

she had to go to get the one brother and take him out and bring him

to her apartment. She decided when went it was very dangerous. She

saw a German with a very big gun. He asked, "Do you know it is not

allowed to go visit someone?" So she knew a little German to

explain to him "Look, there is living my aunt and she is a dress

maker and I want to know perhaps my dress is already finished. And

I have to go to ask because I haven't any other choice to know. So

please I believe you are a good man and perhaps as a good man you

will allow me to go to look for this aunt to know about my dress.

So he said,"O.K., I will allow you. Please look out for yourself

because another one cannot be a good man. There are many such

German people- but from my side go over it, but others please look

of yourself." Then he went away and she went away. She took the

work factory materials-she saw many children working hard

- she decided she had no choice - she took a pail and went to the

field and cried, "Galitski, the Germans are looking for you, you

are electrical-they need you,"she didn't know anything but she had

no choice so she cried,"Galitski, come here!" When he heard this he

came.

It was a little after daylight so she took his hand and began

to run in other position of all the lager. They ran away through

the field to her apartment.

Q. Could she manage to feed all these people?

08:75 A. Her boss was very old. He decided she has to get the same

(wages) as the Germans that worked there because the Germans work

only in the office. So he said she really worked hard cleaning

everything so nice- so therefore she got the same as the Germans.

Q. She didn't have children at the time did she?

A. No. She brought all these things-sugar, vodka, so she would sell

these things to get other things. For vodka she could get anything.

Q. How long were they in this place?

A. 1942 until the end of the war.

Q. What was it like having all these people in such a little place?

A. With her husband together they built there on the roof one more

wall. It was big enough for a person to stand in. There was a

little door the same as the wall so that no one could see it was a

door in a wall. They were not behind this door unless they felt is

coming the danger. Her husband's brother was an electrician-they

were on the third floor-in the door in the kitchen-in the hideaway

in their apartment down under the table he put a little light- so

when she heard someone coming upstairs to her she put the light on-

if and when they saw this light then they knew that there was

danger. They went under the wall and closed themselves.

Q. So it sounds like it was a good system, and they all survived?

They lived through the war?

A. All of them lived.

09:81

Q. What was it like? Was there any privacy? Was it very crowded?

Did they fight?

A. No, never quarreled. They lived very nice. They lived very

friendly.

Q. When she looks back at the time does it feel like a good time in

some way?

A. Not once is there speaking about this time. But as a matter of

fact, it seems as if it went away.

Q. Does she herself think about this time very much?

10:15

A. No. She knew herself then it was terrible and dangerous. If she

decided to help she had to do it without fear because they knew

that also they were going to be killed at the end of it. So if she

decided to help she had to do. She was living in this apartment as

one person and she bought this apartment as one person. So they had

to be careful when buying carts of food. They had to be careful of

the neighbors. She needed not for one but for seven. So when she'd

hear neighbors going to sleep she'd take a sack to buy a little

more flour or something at the black market. The neighbors were so

not good people that if they saw perhaps she's bringing something

more they'd ask,"Who is that for?" So she always came upstairs in

such a hurry with incredible fear. She had to have her head on to

stay alive. From the market to her apartment it usually took five

minutes. But one day it took her an hour because her legs were

trembling so much. When she got home she found all six crying on

the floor because they were sure it was that night they were to

die. She told them, "Please come up and be alive not dead.

There was one toilet for the whole building. They had to go to the

bathroom in a pail. She had to bring the pail down everyday.

Water was also not upstairs. They were allowed to bring two pails

of water upstairs everyday. Everyday after work she took two pails

and in the evening before the night she took two more for seven

people. She told the people she was a poor girl alone and wants to

stay alive-she came from other places-she does the wash for other

people. She bought two big, nice, fat rabbits. She had to buy more

than one loaf of bread. If she knew the person in the bakery they

would ask why she needed so many. Sometimes she would have to look

everywhere for a bakery where she didn't know anyone. Her husband

made her a basket, a big one so she put the bread on the inside and

grass for the rabbits or wood for the ovens on the outside. As you

know in Europe there are cold winters. During the winters there was

nothing to eat, only vegetables-potatoes. Had to prepare more than

was necessary-more than usual before the winter came. She got a big

bag of potatoes-how to bring them because everyone thought she was

alone. A man helped her bring the potatoes home. The neighbor saw

and asked why she needed so many potatoes. She answered that her

friend in the office asked to store her potatoes at her apartment

because she did not have enough room in her own apartment.

Q. What happened to her husband after the war?

A. He wants to say later. The neighbor from downstairs came to

her with a proposition. She said there was a little place in

the roof in which Jews used to live. She was convinced where

the Jews had hid were hidden treasures like jewels. She wanted

to look for the treasures. She was so scared, she said,"I'm

too tired after work to do that."

She said," You can't say Germans won't stay here, can't say

the Germans won't win the war. When the Germans will stay in

town then we'll make it 50/50.

Once in one night, it can be perhaps at two or three o'clock,

suddenly there was a knock outside. All the people took things

and went to hide behind the wall. The person asked, "Who's

living here?" She opened the door and said "I'm living here,

I am a girl from Yedinya living alone." He asked,"Where are

working in the German office?" She showed him where she was

working. She told all the stories that she was a poor girl and

everything. He believed she was just a poor girl and went

away.

Q. Was she religious at this time? Was her family?

A. She and her parents were very religious. She believes in

one god.

Q. Are they Catholic?

A. Yes, of course.

Q. What did this time teach her?

A. She had many Jewish friends. In the war time she was poor.

She did for people what she could. If she could do more she

would do more..

Q. What happened after the war?

A. She was pregnant after the war and her husband ran a sugar

business. Her child was born in September of 1945. She left

town and went back to [Yedinya].

Q. Are there still brothers?

A. The brothers of her husband were born in [Czensk] so they

stayed there. One of them came here and then went to Canada.

One of the brothers went to the army and then came here. Two

sisters and one brother ran away to Russia. They stayed alive

and came back to Poland. When they came back to Poland they

were told about her. They found her alone because the brother

had already died. It was a time when all Jews were looking for

ways to leave Poland.

Q. How did she decide to come here?

A. Her child was ill and she couldn't find any doctors so she

came here in search of good medicine.

Q. What happened to her family?

A. While she worked her family went to another place. She went

to find medicine for the baby. She worked at the same

supermarket as her husband. He didn't want any other girl

besides her. She was a very nice girl. The child was already

a nine year old girl.

Q. When did they come here?

A. 1958

Q. Did they have other children?

A. No

Q. Where is the girl her daughter?

A. In 1954 she was just nine years old and she went to Polish

school. There began a wealth of anti-semitism. Everyone knew

she was a Jewish girl. One day some children took her to the

train station. They hid against the wall and pushed her to the

side of the train when it came by. She was killed. The mother

of the 13 year old who pushed her was at the funeral and said,

"You know it's a good thing that our children are alive."

Q. What happened to the 13 year old girl's family?

A. One of them stayed in the same town. One went to France.

The third one came here. The sisters are living here. The

children are living in Jerusalem.

Q. Are they glad they came to Israel?

A. She's very happy in a little place. Her one wish is for her

husband to be healthy. The best thing for her is to make him

healthy. It is time that no one will feel that feeling again.

Q. How would she like children to know about it?

A. Children will every time remember this time. In every

holiday-joyous or sad. They will remember all the time what

happened.Today she says it happened so many terrible things.

She can't be so strong today to save all those lives-she

doesn't have as much strength as before.

Q. Is there anything else she'd like to add?

A. Every time when she can she will help. Every night after

the war people were afraid to go out she was always the first

to go look what happened. She was the bravest.

.END.