

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

**Interview with Eva Lang
September 5, 1990
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PREFACE

The following oral history testimony is the result of a taped interview with Eva Lang, conducted on September 5, 1990 on behalf of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Rights to the interview are held by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

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EVA LANG
September 5, 1990

(All answers are through an interpreter)

Question: Would you tell me your name please?

Answer: My uh I used the name Lang, Eva, as a published author.

Question: When and where were you born?

Answer: Twenty-five April in Budapest?

Question: Tell me, tell me about your your uh parents uh and your family as a child. Where did you live? What did your father do?

Answer: I had an incredible childhood. Even nowadays when I when I go to sleep I return to my childhood. It it was such a marvelous experience. My father was an incredibly enlightened individual. My mother was a very artistic woman, and we were raised in a very beautiful household. And we were incredibly lucky that my my all our relatives, my grandparents, we all lived in a communal home. _____ we moved to _____ to my grandfather's house, and in this house I learned how generations can live together and how people can get along, the old and the young live together in harmony and rely and depend and support each other, and all my life I tried to continue this pattern in perpetuating this uh sort of life style.

Question: Tell me how you _____ school? What your friends were like? _____

Answer: In the state school, elementary school in _____...but already atrocities were already beginning. We lived in a corner house on 15th Street, Number 14. Not not on once but on many occasions they broke the windows. My father went daily to the Shanker (ph) and Company and he carried a lot of money in his medical bag and my parents decided since my brother had to go to school and I had also had to participate, we decided to move to Budapest for school purposes. I had many friends and relations in _____. Three of them live in Israel who I traced after the war, and the one friend that I sat in the same desk with, even today we get together. We love each other. These roots can never be severed.

Question: Tell me what happened _____?

TECHNICAL CONVERSATION

Question: How did your life change when the war started?

Answer: When the Jewish laws were instituted my life changed radically. Suddenly they started to pursue us. The first Jewish law...my father was exempted as a military, under military exemption and he was not influenced that much by but when other Jewish laws were instituted, I have an incredible letter in which Shanker and Company that to their greatest regret they must separate ourselves from the father even though they know they're losing an incredible talent, but due to the the times they have to let him go. Then he went to work for Strohman (ph) Company. Strohman means...oh...he was he was a straw (ph) employee. He had to work under an alias, and I as a graphic artist went to a shop and used my graphic artist talent to uh paint porcelain. In the morning I went to school, went home, prepared the food. Nobody could have any kind of uh domestic help. My mother was very sickly at this stage. Spiritually she could not handle...but since she was a bank officer and she needed some kind of a work, therefore she never really

adjusted to the domestic life and since the Jews could not have any kind of domestic help in the house, besides the work I did in the porcelain shop, I did...I went in the early morning I went to fetch wood for the from the basement to heat the house. I I pressed uh three uh pants for the for the guys, polished their shoes, prepared breakfast, coffee, and after I did everything, then I went to school where I did all my schoolwork. At noontime I went to do further shopping. My father would come home. We had lunch. And then I went to the porcelain shop to do the decorative work until eight in the evening and I was earning enough that we that we could survive quite comfortably.

Question: When things become really bad and really difficult?

Answer: The most horrifying part was when the Germans actually occupied Budapest. This happened on a Sunday morning, which was just at the time when I was fixing a run in my nylons, and this was also a side job that I had. I was uh doing knitting. I was making sweaters which we sold. I was making uh decorating porcelain. And she was earning some money fixing the nylons when a girl friend came up at eight in the morning, as I was mending the nylons, and she told me that uh that the German tanks, with tanks had occupied and my mother...I remember my mother's very strange experience. I went and told her that this is horrible, but even...but still we still have to heat the bathroom and we have to make the food and I went into the bathroom and took all my...I took all my graphic drawings to help make the fire because I didn't see any need to preserve them anymore. My mother ran in and gra...and and embraced me and grabbed a few of them and these drawings have survived from this period. From my five years of of graphic art studies, this handful that she grabbed from the fire, these are the only ones that have survived. We were so sure...an incredible interesting moment...I never agreed...we, since we didn't have much money we will go to _____ professor who's a who's a plastic surgeon to do a nose job because I was never happy with the nose and then I would become very beautiful. And we went the week before and he was going to do the surgery, and then she'll be stunning. When

we heard that the Germans arrived, next morning my mother went...this Dr. ____ was so agreeable and understanding that he returned the down payment that we gave for the nose job. I know this sounds very comical but at that time...these were very tragic times. At nineteen I was very vain and I wanted to be very beautiful and I would do anything and here was the possibility and this elemental tragedy interferes. Before one day...the next Czechoslovakian. My relatives escaped to us from Czechoslovakia. My cousins, aunts...they had to be hidden. Things were so tense and and and stressful in our lives and then and then suddenly everything collapsed around us and we didn't have any chance to escape.

Question: ____? ____

Answer: We lived in our house. I I went to the _____, even though at that time I didn't have to pay tuition, even though he was instrumental in helping me but he felt that he needed to, that he had to help me. It was his duty. And it was interesting in this school that that Jewish girls sat along with nobility, girls from the country and there was never any differentiation. It was all very natural. It was...in March 1944 when I when I wasn't going to that school anymore because I couldn't, because we couldn't, because we had to have the the the star, he gave me such a certification that I that I could...he gave me a certification that that I could go to this school anytime and I could appear as a as a non-Jewish person if I wanted to go and uh to the school. He was an incredibly humanistic individual, an extraordinary man, a very, very uh high level person who inspired me. We lived in the house till June 28th when it was uh...when we had to leave our house. It was...a new law was instituted that we had to leave our houses and all the yellow-starred people had to go into a communal house. We joined up with many of our relatives. My my father had three brothers and we moved in the same hou...in the in the same house, three rooms, three families. This is how we became...the three families became Spanish protectees. My father's cousin was married to Stan Yosha (ph) and Stan Yosha's brother, Stan Laslow (ph) in '27, 1928 went to Spain and in Spain he he became a sculptor. Uh he worked in

wood. And some...with an incredible uh stroke of luck he became a great furniture sculptor who when my when my mother found out that uh they were issuing protective passes, they were very close to _____ where the uh...she ran over and acquired the passes based on this relation and she brought them over to our house. Whosever name was on it was protected. I was a uh cleaning person. My father insisted that insisted that we should both have access to uh to the street...if we are cleaning ruins. The food rations only could be used at certain times, but since I was a ruin uh cleaner I had access to food and I saw everything. I had a certain amount of freedom because I'm not restricted. Both of us, we went to Mihi (ph) who was the owner who paid us just a couple of pennies for the work that we did but important thing was that we had access to the city and we had access to food. When I went home and I saw that the that his her Aunt Elka (ph) acquired uh the protective passes, I said you didn't bring us any, for my mother and my father and my husband and my brother. I didn't. I didn't have any photographs. I asked for my uncle's uh pass and I put my father's and mother's photograph on his pass. That's why the three of them are together. I have it with me now. When I found out that what happened to Perlaska (ph), I wrote as a as a journalist of an article, there's my Uncle Shandor (ph), whose sister was Stan Yosha, whose connection we acquired the pass and there my father's other brother. This _____ and Shandor. This was their pass. When I acquired for them a pass, protective pass, two photographs were with me. At this time...meanwhile, middle of April a rumor was circulating that young Jewish women whose husband was in forced labor, those will not be deported. Then everyone who had any kind of connection that could get married, they produced these civil uh these marriages of convenience. Even people who had no uh knowledge of each other were getting married. My father was a very uh sensitive individual. Here's uh he figured here's his very perceptive daughter who was very much in love with this young man who was a uh who went to school in _____. He was a third-year forced laborer but he didn't encourage the relationship because he wanted somebody better for her. But she found a candidate, a fifty year old individual who owned a house and he recommended that we get married right away as a marriage of convenience. But uh...and...since it was just a marriage of

convenience, why shouldn't she just marry this boy even though which wasn't the the one they wanted, but they figured this would offer her some protection. Uh I told Paul to get all the documents when I was fourteen years old and he was from _____, from where he sent fruits to Austria and Germany and he was a...was partners with her husband's father. When he saw her, when Paul saw her, he said he was going to marry her. She had no idea what what he meant. I told my mother this is some kind of a joke. A fourteen year old girl doesn't get these kind of propositions. And my father said I don't have any daughters who are of marriageable age. Then my husband brought this ring on which is written 39 Aug...39 August 17th. That's when he told me he was going to marry me, and I was fourteen year old then and that's when...that's when I was, he was graduating. He was such an idealistic childhood crush that you can't even read in books and in 1944 when he married me, he arrived in the morning from _____. We went, we went to the uh local notary. People were waiting in line to marry with these young ladies, to to do these marriages of convenience. We brought witnesses off the street. Finally at seven p.m. it was our turn to get married. Two witnesses came in from the, off the street and this man told us that we're living in extraordinary times and don't believe that these that in this terrible times there aren't any decent people and the decent people's hearts are bleeding that that they're they're seeing this this this terr...these terrible things, and this made us feel very good. My mother received us, received us with crying eyes and she prepared a nice uh meat dish for us. I had such a...I had a yellow carnation in my hand through this whole evening, and I crushed it in my hand and I always remembered this this moment when which I had in my in my hand, this yellow flower. This is what I squeezed in my hand through my marriage. My husband on the same day went and returned a year later on June 11th. He weighted 39 kilograms, from Mauthausen, and that's when we really consummated the marriage. I was I was deathly afraid that I'll never see him again. I loved him with out end. It was an incredibly fantastic that fifty years later...I know him for more than fifty years. Today I love him more than I loved him then when I met him. And and every...all meaning in my life is attached to him. Even when we are quiet we talk to each other, because all our thoughts are the same. We say the same names simultaneously and if

I go anywhere, if I want to eat something, dear mother do I like this...she asks he asks for my advice and I say yes you can. All my thoughts are the same. Our children grew up in this environment and they live also in this sort of harmonious environment in their own homes. They are...they learned how you should pick your life mate and this is how they are living and this is how they're uh they're continuing their lives, along ours. I believe a happy person is the one who if he had to start all over again if he could see everything, he could see it all over...if he knew what what was coming, he would still do the same thing and this I can thank my husband for. He taught me for everything that's beautiful in life. And today he's still teaching me.

Question: _____ go back to Budapest in 1944 and just tell us what happened after you married your young husband and he left....what happened to you?

Answer: The hardest part of our life started when we moved into the second floor of the 71 _____ Street. We we managed to take the bedroom furniture with us from our old home. We pushed every...all our furniture in. We squeezed everything into one. We took inventory. We stamped it and we stamped it as abandoned Jewish property. The stamp...the seal was broken and I don't know if you know the expression the bloodhounds come after the blood...we couldn't carry anything from that room, just the bedroom furniture. In this communal home we lived, we slept, the three of us in in this one bed. This was our furnishing. The next room lived a uncle whose name was Stan, Misha Stan Yosha (ph) with their two children and their wife. In the third room, my father's two sisters, one with their daughter and it was in the hallway was kind of a dining room. We cooked together. We could still go shopping. We still had uh some money. My father and the brothers had uh good economic means. He was...my father's brother was also an expediter and they and they were very close and they helped each other. That's why we ended up in this place together, because they they were very very close-knit and the owner of the house was somebody who was sentenced to uh to life because he was known as an informer. This _____ woman uh informed the Arrow Cross about a woman who gave her infant to a gentile home and

they went and uh they destroyed the the infant and the authorities sentenced her to uh to life and this woman who was the overseer in the house constantly harassed us and made our lives very miserable. They were trying to help us get her out of her grip and tried to get us a job in a brush factory so we could uh hide amongst the non-Jewish workers and somebody informed the authorities and we received a letter that we couldn't work in this factory anymore. Obviously somebody informed authorities that we were working there. Then a new regulation came. Whether somebody's married or not, they all have to report to...have to report to a place to uh to go into forced labor and that's when we got our Spanish uh protected passes but this woman insisted that...insisted that myself and my cousins...she insisted that everybody leave and go to this ____ place with a rucksack (ph) and all day we were out in a in a torrential rain in the ____ place up to the ____ Street. The streets were full of old invalids, infants and uh the Arrow Cross was shooting and harassing, screaming...almost semi-consciously we arrived to the, near a brick factory near...called the old Buda...everybody knows what a brick factory's like. These were places where there were kilns on which they put the bricks for to be baked and to to be dried. This is where they drove us in, into this huge place. Everybody everybody was drenched. Water was running from everybody. We were...we had to sleep on the on the cement floor. The Arrow Cross were were shooting people at random. The women were screaming. They were killing children. It was a a an inhuman environment. In my life, with my with my cousin and my aunt, we tried we tried to stick together to get some uh body warmth. We were completely drenched. And we knew we knew in the morning we will be forced to march again on the ____ Street and in the morning when we tried to get..._____, we were woken up again. They was shooting. We were being jostled again. It was an incredible uh situation again at the break of dawn. Suddenly we heard we heard...an auto appeared and he was yelling...I came to get uh the Spanish protectees and they're reading off the numbers and I heard heard my name being read off, and I reported and my cousins reported, _____, and we all reported to....Perlaska sent for us. When my mother heard that we were in the _____, that we were on our way to this uh to this _____, we told we told our cousin who ran over to the Spanish Embassy and told Perlaska our

three names. It was common knowledge that Perlaska would interfere and he would even send people to dra...to to extricate people as far as from the border to bring them back. But we were amongst the lucky ones who were at the brick factory who managed to come back uh to the same woman, _____, Mrs. _____. The next morning she acknowledged, she she realized that these three girls were there under with a Spanish pass. Next morning my father, we went to clean the ruins. As I'm walking down the street, the Hungarian uh Hungarian officer came across...was walking...and at this time it was a little more dangerous to be outdoors, but in one or two...but things were so desperate that I said to him, tell me, do you want to earn a thousand _____. He could have shot me instantly. He said yes. What do I have to do? The only kind of paper on which we could put two Jewish names...yes, I do have a a pass. On Arayna (ph) Street which...where there was a Jewish synagogue, there's a Jewish company. My brother and my husband are there, _____ and _____. Write write their names on this pass. Take me there under under under your guard. Take me to them. Tell them, tell them to bring these three Jews to me. I'm...and I'm sure and I'm sure they will uh bring them to you, these people from the Jewish detachment. He took me under the weapon to the Jewish company, _____, my uncle who was a dentist announced..._____ and _____ come immediately. They didn't even know they were they were in the same place. They didn't even know they were in the same place. Immediately a stranger came, a strange young man came, about the same age as my husband and said, I was called to the same place he said. I asked him who are you? He said I'm _____ Zwolle. I told the soldier... _____ Zwolle's name also is on this pass. I have to take him as well. He was wearing a dirty white shirt and _____ Zwolle, _____, along with me who were taken to the _____ Street uh protected house and then he took us to _____ 71 and I gave him the thousand penga (ph). And I told him, tell me...I said do you want to earn three thousand penga tonight. He said yes. He says come and I dictated to him the three family names. This should be on on the order and take...at seven p.m. the officer appeared. She gave this Mrs. _____, this dangerous woman, the order. We gathered a little food and some uh some clothes and this soldier accompanied us with his weapon and we gave him the three thousand penga and I'll never

know who he was...who in my opinion did this incredible thing. This is how we escaped and this is how we got access to the St. Paul Street Spanish protective house. One of my uncles which which was one of my father's uh sisters...they lived in the third room. He came with us, Berga Shandor. He was a very rich man. He also worked in as a straw as a straw employee. And he said that he gave money to the resistance movement and he should give the money to whoever comes in his name. He gave the money to this individual. The whole company failed. The _____, he was sentenced to death. He says to send Steven twenty-five wearing his uniform as an Arrow Cross with all his...he says Berga Shandor, calm down. First he came to the _____ Street 71. He embraced my uncle. He says give me all the jewelry and he gave him everything. He went into the other room, to the _____, my other brother. He also gave him all the wealth. But by that time I took all the jewelry and hid them in the in the toilet and by the time he arrived in our room, he was asking for all our jewelry and she said that this crazy child flushed everything down the toilet. In the _____ 35, he wasn't there anymore but Berga Shandor came with us. He said calm down. He came down. He exited from the protected house and _____ was beating him. He took him with him and on the _____ Bridge, he died where he was beaten to death. The _____ brought him back, brought back all his documentation and Bugarski (ph) at his public trial, my brother went to as a witness and _____ was also given a life sentence, was captured, died in jail. _____ also died in jail, but Bugarski somehow with the Arrow Cross escaped somehow to South America, somewhere in Chile. But what we should have gotten justice my uh unfortunately my uncle fell into his claws. My luck was my father remained alive. If I give him all the jewelry, he would also call my father then and he would have also uh probably killed him at that bridge. And he had to make him disappear because he gave the money to the resistance. And this is how he was...this was how he was killed. And we stayed in the protected house, which was a very, very extraordinary stressful environment. About a hundred and ten meters square. It was a twelve meter hallway. Four doors to the anteroom, the bathroom and the two bedrooms. And we lived in this hallway, the twelve of us. I was in the middle. My father in the right corner, then the two aunts and the other end of the room my father's other brother and his

family...twelve of us altogether in this hallway. In this house there were all together sixty-five of us in inhumane circumstances. The house leader was a very fine woman. Perlaska was very careful...was very careful to uh that the person supervising were decent, nice people. Each house had a council and their role was make sure that people, only people with uh protective passes could live there. It was impossible for anybody else to come in. The Spanish flag was displayed on the house and the address. This was a designated area. We had Swiss and Spanish with a tremendous advantage that a Mrs. _____ was the house leader. It was a _____ Semite (ph), approximately twenty-seven, twenty-eight years old and were extraordinary decent people. Was indicative of this period that the house leaders and the and the were usually informers because they came from the...and the Arrow Cross usually recruited these people for their own purposes, so we had to be very wary of them. But in this house, the horvath (ph) and his wife were the house leaders. They were very nice, just like this _____. I never met Mrs. _____. I didn't know the Jewish Council nor the other members. They were on such a pedestal and so isolated that we were in the house. We gave the _____ and they...we gave it to them and we were assigned in the hallway and the twelve of us were assigned there, our living space, but personally we didn't know these people. There was only one person from this...among the sixty, seventy people who would go down for food. Perlaska didn't only just take care of the uh of living space...that he he would appear on a daily basis in the embassy corps on which you had the embassy insignia. It was an incredible sight. And supervised these houses which in which were along side each other. He didn't only supply housing but also food. He brought all kinds of uh of soup concentrate which you which you had to add water, reconstituted or _____. It's a sugar derivative. It's a dark brown syrup which is something like molasses. Yeah, it's molasses. This you could give taste to the tea and there was some nutritional value to it. He brought us egg powder. The Jewish Council would divide it amongst the houses. In each house one person would go down, would divide it amongst the families. You can imagine the meager portion that arrived to each person. We knew that this this food was coming from the embassy, but not everybody needed it. There were some who had...there were some who dared to go outside, even

though Perlaska told them to be careful about going outside these houses, that the Arrow Cross would not respect these passes. The the yellow star was on them and the _____. That's why they had five or six copies which were notarized because the Arrow Cross would just tear them to pieces and then you couldn't go back to the embassy and get another copy. So my family would not even dare venture out even even at a time when everybody else would...and the eight, ten year old children were playing. They did puzzles. They they had their dolls. We would draw. We would would find uh...the children did not know what was going on. We would try to find them and protect them from reality. We didn't even know what was going on in the city. We didn't have up-to-date news.

Question:

END OF TAPE 1

TECHNICAL CONVERSATION

Answer: The Jewish Council was forced to collect taxes.

TECHNICAL CONVERSATION

Question: You told us you had...there was an incident you forgot that you wanted to tell us. Would you tell me about it please?

ANSWER: When the Germans arrived in Budapest and annexed it, the Jewish Council was forced from the rich Jews to collect...to to to gather all the rich Jews. They called in about thirty or forty cadets, military cadets...till eighteen years old and they took them to forced labor until they were home. About twenty or thirty chosen, intelligent young men went to the Jewish

Council to work. This meant around that five p.m....and each received five or six addresses which they had to take these papers to. My brother was in the ____ Street cadet and there was _____, the mathematics uh professor, Schwatzmore (ph), the chief rabbi, and they saw these papers, called them on the phone right away and says here are the papers. And they told them not to be at home and we gave them a signal to escape because the next day that they would have to report and they would be taken to uh Germany. The terrible thing was that my brother, who didn't come back. Schwatzmore and his wife, the the chief rabbi...his wife was _____, my religion teacher and Dr. _____, my brother's uh religion teacher survived because uh they escaped. When my father and my mother were being buried, Schwatzmore was still alive. At my mother's funeral he insisted that he should perform the funeral and he should do the eulogy and to that boy, that boy's mother I'm burying now to whom I owe my life. It's incredibly interesting that on one occasion there was complete darkness in the city. On these papers they had the addresses. My brother had to hand deliver it. He had a small uh flashlight. He looked for the number on the street. Accidentally he was right in front of one of the German embassy houses and there was a guard, ____ Ludwig, a shoemaker from ____ who was an SS soldier who captured my my brother, and he said to him that he was signaling to the American airplanes about the location of the German embassy and he saw that he was a well-dressed, well-dressed Jewish boy. Looked how much money he had on him and until midnight he walked with him into town and he said he was going to shoot him and throw him in the Danube. When my brother said to him, who spoke good German, take me home to my my father. He'll give you a lot of money for my life. They came home, ____ Ludwig, to wind up with someone. He brought my brother along. He was pushing him and he threw him, and he threw his uh belt on the table and he and he asked for money. My father gave him a few thousand ____ and ____ Ludwig told his life story, that that he was a _____ shoemaker, gave us his phone number, and from that day on ten penga, five penga...he was the house SS. When he saw us on the street, took us took us took our stars down, embraced us. I wish we had trusted on him. Then my brother would still be alive. He gave us his phone number where we could reach ____ Ludwig,

but we didn't trust him. But he had good intentions. He was a very simple shoemaker. He didn't have the slightest intention of killing my brother. He just wanted money. When he received a lot of money, he told my dad, give me ten penga. I'm going to get something to eat, and he came in the afternoon. He'd say what are you eating, and he would sit down and eat with us. And he liked me very much. When he rang the bell, I had to had to lay down on the sofa and pull out the uh...I had to pull out the uh....and pretend that I was pregnant so he wouldn't carry me off, because he wanted to carry me off to his superior officer and offer me to him but I acted as if I was uh sick and I had the heaves and I was expecting a child, so he let go of me and he lost interest in me. When they took my brother and my uncle and my father out of the out of the uh work unit, I said...told my mother let's call this ____ Ludwig. No, because the SS will get ahold of them. We...this was an enormous mistake. If the men stayed in the Spanish houses, none of them would have gotten deported. They would have never gotten carried across the border. In our house one woman hid her son in the in the house. Nobody looked for him, but we thought but we thought that the Hungarian soldiers will take care of the people with _____. We thought that the men were in were in better secure position because the soldiers were taking care of them. They came. They had access to our house from the work unit. They they were two streets over, in the Spanish work unit. One day they heard they were taken away. We told our uh our uh gentile brother-in-law who told Perlaska right away who immediately sent to the border uh but they already crossed the border. It was impossible to bring them back. This was extraordinary that this that this shoemaker...since then I always think of him. We couldn't...we couldn't cross the border into Romania but now things changed. I decided that we'll go to ____ and I will track track them down, this ____ Ludwig, shoemaker, who in fact could have killed by brother but but he gave him...but for money but still he gave him humane treatment, so we had a house SS. I forgot to mention this. This is also an accidental but incredible incident, but the most interesting aspect in all my...that the men were...this uncle was also under Spanish protective unit, _____, and ____ Arnold (ph), and _____ George, who was then graduated. They were very happy that the three men were in the greatest secure place. When they put them into

the _____ and they put _____ Zwolle, which I took in there, as I mentioned in the previous incident, and they also arrived in in the national ghetto. My brother, the schuler (ph), who had some kind of a protective pass, my husband and this _____ Zwolle, they decided...there were seventy of them in a wagon. They will remove the bottom of the wagon and when the train starts to move forward, they would escape through the bottom of the train and find a way back. _____ jumped out first, who was immediately shot to death. The others didn't know this. The second to jump out...one of the uh meat uh factories uh son's...he he survived. And in March sometime the the ceiling collapsed in his hiding place and he died. This _____ Zwolle was the third one to jump out. They changed their clothes into uh civil clothes, so they didn't have the they didn't have their their work unit cloth...uniforms on. They had a military cap and a yellow strap on an arm band. They took these rags down and they put on civilian clothes. _____ Zwolle used to have a raggedity white shirt and pants. He jumped out. At that instant the senior men amongst them my uncle _____...they noticed that the boys are escaping. They said children do not do this because they will they will do a head count. On the doors of the wagon says how many numbers...don't escape. The others are going to stay behind and they're going to kill us. And they nailed back the bottom of the...so everybody stayed behind. _____ Zwolle knew that the _____ lived on _____ 21. At night the doorbell rang and there stands _____ Zwolle in November in ice-cold winter in a raggedity shirt and pants. You know me. Help me. He said until you are here I will help you. But I didn't count on...that from now on there will become a _____ in my own family because I brought him into the house. He was a man who didn't have a _____. On three occasions the Arrow Cross broke in on us, even though we had our our protective pass in our hands. _____ Zwolle had to be hidden in the daytime. We threw him a cover. I talked with protectees where everybody cooked together and they worked together and they cooperated. In our house was very unfortunate. Very rich, very rich and very poor people lived there and the polarization was so big and our three room hall house..._____ lived there. Very very rich engineer. The next room thirty people lived. They had boxes and boxes of uh pineapples and all kinds of food. In the next room an infant couldn't even find milk

in his mother's breast. That's how hungry they were. They didn't have heat. They didn't have windows. They didn't have toilets. Snow everywhere. Grandmother was tried to bathe her children in melted snow. And at night I would hear the child say to the grandmother...grandma. How sad to see there was this this wasn't tea. This was some kind of a green grass soaked in melted snow, and on the next room there were three people. We didn't know each other. We were twelve in one family. We didn't...we hardly knew who were in the other rooms. Everybody was...some had food. Some didn't. This was such a sensitive thing. When managed amongst his own, when he sees in humanity amongst his own, unfortunately in my house I was the only one that dared speak of this and this is how it was. There were lucky ones where everybody cooperated. They cooked and then shared. There they had a happy...even in this terrible time, they had some happiness. But in our instance we were still a family, the twelve of us...if anybody had something they would share and if it was cold we would we would bundle together. They were so angry at me because they considered ____ Zwolle a human being because he was a danger to their existence. On on the fifth floor there was a terrace, a balcony and he lived on this terrace. They gave him a blanket. From there...he would he would see...we were incredibly lucky that we were protected daily, but the Swedish and the Swiss house...then at night they would uh capture people from the Swiss and the...and they would drive these people and take them to the Danube and uh kill them. I could see this from the uh...with ____ Zwolle from the balcony. And that is illuminated courtyards on which the bathroom windows...and he had to jump on these internal courtyard balconies when they were doing inspections and when the inspections were finished by the Arrow Cross and Perlaska would come back...we were never taken down to the Danube. Perlaska always arrived. There was this ____ of us who went to the basement. And he installed a mechanism on the telephone on which they gave a Morris Code signal to the...the ____ would go in the basement, give a signal to the _____. Perlaska would know immediately that the Arrow Cross were there and the Arrow Cross couldn't believe that they didn't even finish the head count in the house and Perlaska was already there to take action, and this bothered them excessively...that this was a uh the protected house, so we survived many

Arrow Cross uh intrusions. I was an eye-witness to the shootings at the Danube but it's indescribable. My mother and father told me if they find out, this will cause such a panic...it's better to keep quiet about the Danube killings. If people find out...we would hear the shootings but we didn't know who was shooting and what was and who was being shot. We had no idea. One night a bleeding man came into the house. _____ laid him down and they bandaged him. I can't describe the panic. Everybody was..thought it was their husband, their son, their child. They knew he was there. That's when I wrote my first poem. The place was soaked with blood. Everybody was peeking into the doorway. Everybody was afraid that it was one of their own. And it was...it's horrible to live here. It's easier to have punishment. This was my first poem that I wrote...this this experience that I was an eye-witness, how the women ran and this _____ woman and the Jewish Council could not stop because everybody wanted to see this man, this bleeding man, because everybody thought it was...he belonged to them. And it was a complete stranger that nobody could possibly know. They called the ambulance from _____ Street Jewish Hospital, and they took him to the Jewish Hospital, and this man escaped. We don't know who he was. We have a tremendous debt here, that _____ did this, that what she did...when I found out, when Perlaska was alive I went back to _____ 135. See if anybody's alive from this period. I find Mrs. _____ but somebody came to me and told me because he spent the night at _____ 30...they took him from the brick factory to _____ 35 where _____. There were thirty Jews there without _____. They divided the the place in two and _____, Mrs. _____, hid these thirty people who had no passes. And she testified to Perlaska the activities in this book, the the Italian Perlaska. She has an incredible pain. I cannot verify this. Michael _____ was at my house, from the Parade magazine, who's researching a book to write about Perlaska. I told him I told him I told him about _____ and his testimony in this book and what and what are her experiences vis-a-vis Perlaska. But Perlaska came Budapest. _____ did not appear. She said I don't have two hours. Everybody forgot about me. I'm teaching. I'm giving English lessons and I need that money and don't expect me to do anything for Perlaska and these and these Jewish affairs. She's still alive. She's an incredibly fine woman. I didn't know her that

well while I lived in her house. There were about five hundred Jews in...my personal contacts with her were very, very minimal but when I found out that Perlaska's alive, I asked the tenants to...they said...that's when I spoke to her for the first time. She was very open and dear. She told me everything. She told this incredible pain, and she said I'm the first one in forty-two years who visited her. This is such an incredible feeling for me when I found out that Perlaska's alive and he's he's being shunted and the world doesn't know about him and it was such an incredible year and we were hoping, I and my husband were hoping that we will be on time, that this man should receive the honor due to him. That's what he deserves. Now, how did I find out? In 1988, May 15th, in New Life there was an article, small _____ article in _____ and it says, please come forward those who lived in the Spanish houses under Georgeo Perlaska and who know abut his his activities and un contact Dr. Schweitzer (ph), the chief rabbi of Hungary. On the 16th at 11 p.m., my cousin called me who was nine years old when she was in this Spanish house. _____, Yosha's daughter, _____, my dearest cousin, she said, Eva, for God's sake, did you read? She said they're looking. You have to do it. I said immediately, I said, I told her immediately...I grabbed my hat. In the morning my husband grabbed uh bought a paper and I wrote a letter immediately to Schweitzer, the rabbi. on which I described that Georgeo Perlaska was the Spanish representative. A couple of days later I received a letter from Professor Schweitzer, chief rabbi. He said he's going to come to me with Gabor (ph), a young man to listen to the..._____. I was in a terrible state. We found out that he's alive, and we remembered what are we made of, we human beings, that here's a man who saved so many thousands of us and we forgot about him as if one forgets that he had a uh red shoe. We were in shock. We were incred...like a...two days later _____ Gabor appeared and my first words were, is he alive. He said he is alive. Then we both started crying. Where's he live? In _____. He is very ill and he is in very dire economic cir...what could we do? We were ready to do everything. _____ wants to recognize him. We went to the notary immediately and who else could come? I said our cousin can come, and we called them. I brought two of my cousins with me to witness. My third cousin said, my third cousin said we have to forget these things. It's not...we

have to forget all this stuff, this past. We begged her come and witness. Something incredible happened. We went and gathered everybody in our car, the two cousins. My husband had to go to the to the bank to sign a paper that we don't have any kind of claims against the Hungarian government and the bank gave us permission that we make this testimony in front of a of an authorized notary. We also went and we gave written testimony. Dr. _____ and _____ who was _____ and myself.

Question: We want to bring you back to Budapest, if we can, at the end of the war. This is important...we need to go back to Budapest at the end of the war....and describe _____

Answer: On three occasions they took head counts in the house. There was a young man in the house. His name was _____. He was a reserve officer. He had a white arm band. Uh probably he was completely Jewish. He must have acquired a uniform and a bicycle somewhere and when we were in danger on his bicycle and his uniform as a like a gentile soldier, he he would run to the embassy and get Perlaska. On on on this one occasion, even though we begged him not to go, that he was captured and they took him on _____ Street and they shot him. Perlaska went...tried to get him back but couldn't, so so on two occasions _____ got Perlaska. On the third occasion he he sacrificed his life. His mother, his mother made a memorial tablet. If he hadn't done this, Perlaska still would have come out. We we didn't know that _____ had a signaling system in the basement. He thought he was the only one that that could go get Perlaska. He was really a heroic, selfless debt. He gave his life for us. Perlaska came out, and on the third occasion, on January 13th, we were registered to be taken down to the Danube. We were outside in front of the house, the the Arrow Cross ready to take us away. And _____ was standing out there and Perlaska. From there I saw...then I saw for the second time Perlaska in person. The first time I only saw half his profile but now I saw him. This _____, the family that lived in this corner apartment, when they when they head counted us, they they divided...they took inventory of all the food as well, and next to our name they put down...I

dropped one of the cans of food and it fell on the first floor and I ran down for it. Then I saw this man. He...that's where I saw this incredibly handsome blonde haired man who was pushing the Arrow Cross away and there was Perlaska's translator telling the Arrow Cross to immediately leave this house, that everybody here are under the Spanish Embassy's protection. We heard this and the whole house could hear the translator's uh words in Hungarian and for the Arrow Cross, we heard it in Hungarian. We heard it loud and clear and there they joined Franco's (ph) protection. This was the...this was the..._____uh this uh these Arrow Cross came from very...Franco, the largest fascist states had...he would give recognition to the Arrow Cross government. Perlaska was an Italian but he was he was impersonating _____ who was already in Switzerland, and he was at the Embassy. He sent such a telegram when he knew that there were no...there was it wasn't a line to Spain. He sent a fake telegram which the contents said that the Spanish people are in solidarity with the Hungarian people. The papers were selling the story that the Spains Spanish are recognizing the _____ government. That's how the Spanish protective houses became a golden opportunity. That's why we were exceptions. That's why I believe uh Wallenberg _____ that that that's how Perlaska became the supervisor of the national ghetto, because he was the only one who could who had access to the Arrow Cross and some authority over them. And when somebody had to go in somewhere and do something, take action, Perlaska was the only one that could, because he was the only one...he was the Spanish person. And he wrote a mem...a memo to the governor uh Georgeo Perlaska on the stationary, charge---the legal charge d'affair. This was such a limit...incredible bluff. I found this out in retrospect. At that time I didn't know it. We were convinced that he was the Spanish charge d'affairs. And we never questioned it or doubted this. We found this out that this was a bluff. When we came out from notary...this is last year...and this _____ Gabor. There was a society amongst them. There was a Hungarian doctor, _____, in '44 with the national Red Cross and such a...had had the same connection as any other Red Cross employee. When Perlaska brought these thirty people into the house and _____, Mrs. _____ hid them so that the Jewish Council will not be aware of it, so in the morning he was going to bring them the _____,

Everybody improvised pictures and photographs and he opened another house for these thirty people and this was one night. This Mrs. _____ helped these, these thirty people that this night they could uh spend because at that time if the Jewish Council would have known that these thirty people were endangering the five hundred, the Horvah and wife and Mrs. _____ do not accept that in case of an air raid or or the Arrow Cross raid, everybody would be in danger. This didn't happen. Next morning Perlaska...here comes the interesting moment...amongst this thirty, one woman went to Perlaska, gave him two small pictures. Here are my two children's photographs. This is in one of the Swiss Red Cross houses and begged them to please find them. Next morning when they went to the new house, safe house, the _____, the Swiss Red Cross, Perlaska found the two children for this for this mother and they also survived this whole terrible ordeal. Perlaska, _____ worked together. She ended up in Berlin but she married a professor of uh university. As a Christian woman she became a member of this group and the people there who got lung disease in the the concentration camp couldn't go to America, ended up in Germany. Went from Auschwitz, married a German woman and also is a member. These Hungarians who who sent their children have this society.

Question:

Answer: His continuous presence is what saved our lives. As every day's activities and interferences, not only his bluff that uh...he visited the houses everyday, brought food. Others came from the embassy as well but I knew...and saved our lives. Kept our bodies together this these these egg powders, these soups, these these breads, these these flour. On January 13th...I can still hear it in my ear...the translators were, even though Perlaska could speak Hungarian...but he kept this as a secret. I heard him speak Hungarian once then. When I went for my own protection pass and took my uncle, my uncle's pass to show my connection to _____ Laslow, because that time I didn't know that anybody who got in line would receive a pass. Mine was 198 or 201. My luck was that _____'s son and daughter and my aunt lived in

the same house and she went and got passes for the whole family. When I ran to the embassy to take my my photograph to to the embassy, then I took took a picture of me and my husband. When I went home my mother said...and and your brother...you didn't bring one. I didn't have a photograph. Here. Go back. The problem was it was the end of the of the access but I ran. I went to the head of the line. There were there were officers on the streets, policemen. Everybody was getting excited. I got to the Spanish Embassy and the secretary who was filling out...and she remembered that only an hour ago she gave me one. I told her put another one. She said I can't put another photograph that is not in sequence and in the book I can't squeeze another number. I said please, write it in somehow. She opened the door next to her and by by the desk a tall man was...saw half a profile...who who said in Hungarian...he said, write it in. The secretary came out. I didn't know that that was Perlaska at that time. The second time I saw him is when I dropped that can of of liver pate and I realized that that half-man that I saw is the same person, that this woman who was very strict, who was responsible for what she wrote in this registry, put my husband...put my brother's picture on there and and in German and in Hungarian wrote, _____, born 1926, November 9th. That's how my brother also was extended the protection. These protective passes immediately uh tre...tremendous expense was we made sure that the boys got them. My brother was in _____. My my uncle was...and there was an official order that whoever has passes, that those should go to the Arena Street Synagogue. But but some got in there, like this _____ Zwolle didn't have a pass, who came to me and ended up in the in the wagon train...survived, but my brother didn't. He died in Mauthausen. Died of hunger. The Americans gave us food, but my brother died. He gave up his life. My uncle, my my my father's brother and my husband did, did everything to make sure he was with them together. He couldn't get...couldn't get up from his bed and they made like a make-shift stretcher and they dragged him across the border on this stretcher. Everything was...he lost all. The Americans liberated them in _____. They gave them chocolate and food and he got typhus and my husband and uncle as well. We were looking for my brother. We couldn't find him. There was...they sent a letter. They were in quarantine at that time because

the two two...they had typhus twice. They were down to twenty-six kilos but they could send a letter about their whereabouts and I had this letter. They write all three of us are alive and coming home. And everyday we're waiting for them. On July 11th, midnight, my husband arrived and my uncle and _____ where his family lived, but my brother didn't come. My uncle did not dare say that that that uh...and my husband didn't dare tell me that he died and he will not arrive. For a year, a year and a half we kept waiting for him. Uh before they left when the Germans came in...until my father was alive, every year he sent a letter...he died in '56...looked for his only son. The letters came from Interlocken (ph), Borgermeister (ph) and _____ and nobody has reported it. Uh my mother went through a...an operation but I was young enough...if I had known that your brother was dead, I would tried to have another child, and my husband...and they looked for him everywhere and they they don't even know where he's buried. Maybe we could have found him and they assume we would have recognized him because he had a scar from his fencing days.

Question: We are almost out of time. I need to know if there's anything you want to add, that you want to tell us...._____ five minutes.

Answer: There's something very interesting. When they did the last head count on on January 13th and Perlaska came, I can still hear the translation. He said you you don't need me anymore, that the that the Russians are under the roof already. The Russians were coming from the side of the synagogue and we were liberated sooner than the other neighborhoods, that we never looked them up. The reason was we were convinced that this fantastic energetic diplomat is probably somewhere...he got reassigned by the Foreign Service to Brazil or or some other embassy. When I did the testimony, this _____ Gabor gave me those papers that _____ already had in their possession, and I read them and then the journalist who _____ for me and I wrote down an article what what this uh Spanish diplomat did for us and this article appeared in the July 22 uh edition,

this article. This Eric Glasglow (ph) of the Hungarian radio heard about it. If this all is true, he said, he asked are you happy that they know about his exploits. I said I will never be satisfied. What we went through there cannot be described. One thing is possible. If I have a home, if I have a real country, then they should be brought over here, this Perlaska and given the highest honors because another...there isn't another person like him anywhere in the world. This the world has to know and this is how his testimonies were were sent to _____ and this is how it started, the whole...and later my me and my husband, we went to _____. We looked him up. We were trembling for a whole half a year. We could have found him in very bad shape. We sent a letter to the Italian government signed by a historian. We sent it all the all the necessary authorities. We described fifty-two hundred...and who knows how many thousands...ready for really Hungarians who belong in this country, we feel that for our lives he deserves that in this country he should be honored and decorated. This same expression and _____ used the same expression. It was in the paper that in the...that the Hungarians, that they were going to put a statue up for him. And I'm very happy that that statue and that name plate, but the world knows that there are people that even one man can stand up, every man has the capability to stand up. The expression _____ who saves one life saves the whole world. How many worlds has this man saved? How many worlds? In a world lacking in values we should take notice of him.

Question:

Conclusion of Interview.