

Ann Birulin

Video Transcripts

Video 1 Getting Torah to the Ghetto

The station and then the ghetto was there. It wasn't too far you know, at that time I don't know maybe it was like five blocks from our house. By then we gave everything away to the neighbors. And we had to take whatever possessions we could take in our bags when we went to the ghetto.

The problem was how are we, the Torah was in our house and the books were in our house. So, we took a few books, books you can carry easily to the ghetto. And the rest of it my mother buried. In the stables there that we had. She dug out I think and she, because you cannot burn holy books, so we buried them.

But the Torah was something impossible. First of all we all wore the star of David so wherever I turned around they would know that I am Jewish. So what I did is that I took a big shawl like in European women have. I took the big shawl, I turned the star of David inside.

So, and then I carried the Torah like a child. I took it like this, I carried it like a child. Everybody said I mean no one wanted to take it because if you are caught you're dead.

Video 2 Mom's Advice

Well, in the ghetto everybody in the morning, we could have, if we had something to eat we could eat. And then at 8 o'clock in the morning we went to work in the fields, and then this one fellow, he told where who was going.

And we worked. We did not come home for lunch. We worked til about 5 or 6 o'clock and then we would come home. There was, what it was, there was no place where to move around. If you have 10 people in a room you can only sit down on your bed and you have two to a bed. So there really wasn't anything else

And we knew that something is going to happen. We had this feeling. And my mother always, what she did is she sewed in some Polish money into my slip. And then I always wore two dresses. And she put on some very good boots on me. So this we were always prepared.

And she told me one thing my mother said to me this, [Hanchu] if something happens to me, you and [Chaimek], [Chaim] was his name but we called him [Chaimek]. [Chaimek] must go on, you save your life. If you will live through you, I will live.

Video 3 Going Outside the Ghetto

It was November 28 on a Friday night. After we ate my mother said to me, you go and see if this [grisco] will give you the birth certificate. And that was the last time I remember my mother sending outside the ghetto. She waved to me and she says don't forget what I told you because any time they will take us to the [Lvov] Ghetto

If I am shot and I fall. You and [Chaimek] go on, don't look back and save your life. But when I went to this lady, she said to me why don't you stay overnight because it was Friday night and usually the [Aktions] the Germans had a way of coming and taking people on Friday nights.

So she says why don't you stay over night and in the morning when my [Chanka] and [sorschkas] gonna go to milk the cows, they will, I'll wake you up and you will go with them back to the ghetto.

During that night they did not, she did not, she was a very uneducated woman but a very kind person. She did not wake me up. She send her two daughters to the ghetto to see how things are. And when they left, actually they woke up the people in the Ghetto and they said we saw the Germans coming in here.

They are gonna go to the other building there and they probably will come after you. And this is how this [Clara], actually she got dressed her mother gave her something to eat. And when the Germans came in, it was around 4 o'clock in the morning when the Germans came in they were already dressed and expecting what will happen.

But she did not, she promised her parents that she will not run away until the very last minute. And when they saw the Germans coming in she ran out. She just didn't take anything, whatever she had prepared to take with her.

She didn't take anything. And she ran in a zig zag because somebody said if you run in a zig zag and they shoot after you. The bullet may hit you and it may not. So the Germans did shoot after her but she ran away. (*interviewer*) Now Clar-