

From the Testimony of Emil Reed about Moving into the Cracow Ghetto

Q: So we'll get back to the beginning of the war. The Germans in Cracow. In which area did you live? Before the ghetto where did you live?

A: I lived in the city, Stradom Street 16, in the same apartment that we are living all the time.

Q: Together with your aunt? The aunt, where did she live?

A: With the aunt, when the war started, at the beginning, we were in our apartment until they said we have to move...wherever somebody lives and go in these few streets. In fact, it wasn't far away from where I lived, in there, so we moved in these apartments. In the end she got into a different apartment.

Q: So with whom did you live there? Just you, or your brother, too?

A: My brother, he was married at that time, with his wife. He was in another apartment, not together. After he got married he didn't live anymore together with this aunt, and I was also until I got married.

Q: So then you moved, too?

A: Yes. Like anybody else I moved. We had to get out from this apartment.

Q: What other restrictions do you remember?

A: After what?

Q: After the war broke out. You had to move to a different apartment.

A: I don't remember when we had to get out from the apartments and they took us on these few streets. I don't know. Maybe you have somebody interviewed from Cracow, maybe they remembered when it was. I don't remember when we moved out from there. Of course, I know that many times I had to go to work and on the way they kept catching out, shoveling snow, or to some work for the Germans. Sometimes we couldn't reach the business there where we were working because they caught us on the way there, so this happened too. But I don't remember when we left our apartment and we had to move to these streets, where they concentrated all the Jews. When they concentrated all the Jews, they came in the middle of the night. The whole district there they came in. First they looked for weapons, but what they

took is gold, silver, money, merchandise, whoever had, because when we moved there, whoever had a store or something, they brought the merchandise from the apartment, whatever they could save. They took everything away. They robbed everybody. The pretenses were “weapons looking”.

Q: Did you manage to hide away something?

A: We did, we did away in the ceiling, built in, but I never got back there to get it, anything. Couldn't save anything after the war. The Polish people took everything and the apartment away, you know, they took whatever we had - furniture, apartment, everything.

Q: You said you continued to go to work, for the time being?

A: Yes, for the time being. That's as long as they needed me. They didn't have enough people to understand.

Q: Were there restrictions on the way, not to go on the pathway? You had to go on the street or you could go on the curb? Where could you walk?

A: On the street. The streetcar was divided, half for Polish and half for others, but if they saw you, if there happened to be a German on the streetcar and he saw “Jude”, threw him off.

Q: This happened to you?

A: It didn't happen to me because...I don't remember. It didn't happen to me. I got beaten up many times on the way downtown, you know, because the business was downtown. Then we were wearing already the armbands so they....Even in the business we had to wear the armbands.

Q: How was the food situation? Was there enough food to be obtained? Could you buy enough food or there was a shortage?

A: No. It was a shortage. We had to buy only wherever we could. We could help ourselves because they later gave ration cards. They gave to Polish people, but not to the Jews. The Jews had to do whatever they had to buy, wherever they could, and pay high prices, in order to survive. That's the way it was.

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