EMANUEL ELBINGER

There was a hideaway made for us ... and that's where we stayed. We only went out at night. And somehow we lived like that. But I do remember that whenever I saw a dog or a bird I wished I could be a dog or a bird. To be able to go out, fly, do anything ... because I knew that just going out would mean death.

Born in Krakow in 1931, Emanuel was just eight and growing up in Nowe Brzesko when the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939. Soon he was watching Wehrmacht soldiers beating Jews on the street and rounding them up in ghettos. A local farmer hid him, his parents and two sisters in a barn, but soon began to starve them out and planned to murder them. Emanuel's family fled to another family, where they lived in a cold, bare loft as Emanuel suffered through frostbite and sickness. Polish partisans shot his mother and sister before liberation, and Emanuel spent the immediate aftermath of the war in a children's home in Krakow, recovering from physical maladies and psychological trauma.

Poland