your father was a relatively well-off man.
Bob: From what you told me,
Why was that the children had to go, you and your siblings ...
Grandma: Because was a wartime, was a wartime ...
Bob: Oh, it was wartime.
Grandma: Was a wartime, sure.
Bob: World War I?
Grandma: Sure, the first World War.
Bob: How old were you during World War I?
Grandma: I was a kid, I was there about 10 years, ten, twelve years.
Bob: What was that like, being in World War I?
Grandma: They was fighting, we hear all the shooting...
Bob: Was there fighting near Bialystok?
Grandma: They was fighting around there, we hear the shooting.
Bob: Were ever in danger from the shooting or from bombs?
Grandma: Many times. Many times there was shooting, we went to the basement to laying ...
Bob: You had a basement in your house?
Grandma: Sure, we had to go to the basement. Was there, you know, a little like, you saw the shtotzeiger, a big...
Bob: Shtotzeiger?
Grandma: Yeah, a shtotzeiger, a big, what you saw it...
Bob: That's a clocktower!
Grandma: A clocktower. They used to blow the horn, you know to go in the basements ... was a fight. We was going the basements.
Bob: Was there amy bombs dropping on the city during World War I?
Grandma: Oh yeah, that's why. That's why we went to the basements.
Bob: Uh-huh
Grandma: See, we couldn't go on the top because on the top they dropped the bombs, we could get killed. That's why in the basement we was alright.
Bob: Were there people that you knew who got killed from the bombs?
Grandma: Who remembers?
Bob: You don't remember.
Grandma: That's what I have to remember? Believe me, plenty people got killed. Plenty. They thought it was a church ... a barracks. They throwed some bombs on the shul.
Bob: The soldiers barracks threw some bombs on the shul? On the big shul?
Grandma: On the big shul, they thought it was barracks, that soldiers was there.
Bob: I see.
Meir: Did your mother spend time with you, listen to you, teach you things?
Grandma: I couldn't remember darling. I couldn't remember my mother. I was six years old when my mother died. I couldn't remember.
Bob: Do you know what your mother died of?
Grandma: She had cancer.
Bob: She had cancer.
Meir: Did your father spend time with you.
Grandma: Oh yeah. My father spent all the time with us.
Meir: What was your parents' major focus in life during these years... getting by...
Grandma: We had property. We had property. My father.
Bob: You said your family had property. What kind of property did they have?
Grandma: Buildings. We had buidlings. Brick buildings.
Bob: What kind of buildings?
Grandma: Brick buildings. People was living...
Bob: Residential buildings?
Grandma: Sure, regular buildings.
Bob: Were they near your house?
Grandma: We was living there too. Sure, brick buildings.
Bob: So your father was a landlord?
Grandma: Sure. My father he was building the buildings, himself.
Bob: Uh-huh.