```
1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,290
Roll.
2
00:00:01 290 --> 00:00:02 470
```

2 00:00:01,290 --> 00:00:02,470 (film slating)

3 00:00:02,470 --> 00:00:06,570

4 00:00:06,570 --> 00:00:12,650 So this time it reached us, they transport to the East.

5 00:00:12,650 --> 00:00:15,600

6 00:00:15,600 --> 00:00:19,110 And I've known I am pregnant.

7 00:00:19,110 --> 00:00:21,870

8 00:00:21,870 --> 00:00:25,800 And can't do anything to help myself.

9 00:00:25,800 --> 00:00:28,350

10 00:00:28,350 --> 00:00:33,090 We were loaded into these wagons for cattle.

11 00:00:33,090 --> 00:00:38,390 One bucket was WC, one bucket water.

12 00:00:38,390 --> 00:00:42,390 The doors we are closed, and up here somewhere there 13 00:00:42,390 --> 00:00:45,495 was a window closed with barbed wire.

14 00:00:45,495 --> 00:00:48,430

15 00:00:48,430 --> 00:00:54,930 When the WC bucket was full, we all purged into one corner

16 00:00:54,930 --> 00:00:59,010 and somebody tried to empty this bucket

17 00:00:59,010 --> 00:01:01,590 through this little window.

18 00:01:01,590 --> 00:01:04,290

19 00:01:04,290 --> 00:01:06,520 With us were children.

20 00:01:06,520 --> 00:01:08,820 With us were elderly people.

21 00:01:08,820 --> 00:01:16,010 Children crying-a terrible odor.

22 00:01:16,010 --> 00:01:17,610 We could sleep inside--

23 00:01:17,610 --> 00:01:22,770 only one part was sleeping, and the other part was somewhere

24 00:01:22,770 --> 00:01:23,910 sitting in the corner. 00:01:23,910 --> 00:01:26,710

26 00:01:26,710 --> 00:01:32,472 Overnight, we were put into some barracks.

27 00:01:32,472 --> 00:01:33,180 We were numbered.

28 00:01:33,180 --> 00:01:37,050

29 00:01:37,050 --> 00:01:44,900 And the very next day, in the morning,

30 00:01:44,900 --> 00:01:51,830 we were purged into a huge bathroom.

31 00:01:51,830 --> 00:01:55,520 From the ceiling, there were showers.

32 00:01:55,520 --> 00:02:00,920 First of all, outside we had to get

33 00:02:00,920 --> 00:02:05,960 rid of all our clothes, men, women together.

34 00:02:05,960 --> 00:02:09,440

35 00:02:09,440 --> 00:02:13,330 And then we were purged into this bathroom.

36 00:02:13,330 --> 00:02:16,950 Today I know we had a very big luck. 37 00:02:16,950 --> 00:02:24,955 That instead of Zyklon gas, out really came water.

38 00:02:24,955 --> 00:02:27,860 But your case was a very special one.

39 00:02:27,860 --> 00:02:32,596 I mean, the case of these transport coming

40 00:02:32,596 --> 00:02:34,538 from Theresienstadt, there was no selection

41 00:02:34,538 --> 00:02:36,080 at the beginning for the gas chamber.

42 00:02:36,080 --> 00:02:38,080 There was no selection at all.

43 00:02:38,080 --> 00:02:39,740 Did you want to explain what was a--

44 00:02:39,740 --> 00:02:40,250 [INTERPOSING VOICES]

45 00:02:40,250 --> 00:02:40,750 Yes.

46 00:02:40,750 --> 00:02:46,290 I didn't know-- we didn't know until we came into the camp.

47 00:02:46,290 --> 00:02:52,760 And we had to wash ourselves in the freezing, freezing cold 00:02:52,760 --> 00:02:54,390 water in winter.

49 00:02:54,390 --> 00:03:02,870 On December 24, it was just Christmas time.

50 00:03:02,870 --> 00:03:05,640 And we were given--

51 00:03:05,640 --> 00:03:07,820 I was given-- I can only talk for myself--

52 00:03:07,820 --> 00:03:10,520

53 00:03:10,520 --> 00:03:21,530 wooden shoes and no underwear.

54 00:03:21,530 --> 00:03:24,620 I had a dress, a very thin dress,

55 00:03:24,620 --> 00:03:27,730 and over it a very thin coat.

56 00:03:27,730 --> 00:03:33,080 We were not given striped uniforms there.

57 00:03:33,080 --> 00:03:39,590 And we were separated, men from women,

58 00:03:39,590 --> 00:03:44,990 but we were led into a so-called family camp--

59 00:03:44,990 --> 00:03:46,030 familienlager [GERMAN]. 61 00:03:48,620 --> 00:03:53,720 That was the only camp in Auschwitz WHERE also men

62 00:03:53,720 --> 00:03:59,600 and also women get together, where children were.

63 00:03:59,600 --> 00:04:03,260 That means all the people from Terezin

64 00:04:03,260 --> 00:04:06,920 as we came, without any selection

65 00:04:06,920 --> 00:04:13,450 beforehand, came to this family camp.

66 00:04:13,450 --> 00:04:14,700 So-called family camp.

67 00:04:14,700 --> 00:04:16,250 Yes.

68 00:04:16,250 --> 00:04:20,870 In this camp there was already a transport

69 00:04:20,870 --> 00:04:25,490 who left Theresienstadt in September.

70 00:04:25,490 --> 00:04:29,030 That means three months before us.

71 00:04:29,030 --> 00:04:34,700 And so people started to tell us,

72 00:04:34,700 --> 00:04:37,398 our own people started to tell us--

73 00:04:37,398 --> 00:04:38,690 People that you knew of course.

74 00:04:38,690 --> 00:04:41,540 Yes, some of them, of course.

75 00:04:41,540 --> 00:04:45,620 --where we are, and what they doing here, and so on.

76 00:04:45,620 --> 00:04:48,812

77 00:04:48,812 --> 00:04:50,930 What shall I tell you?

78 00:04:50,930 --> 00:04:58,000 Morning, one black coffee without sugar.

79 00:04:58,000 --> 00:05:03,370 Dinnertime, a plate of soup.

80 00:05:03,370 --> 00:05:06,490 If you had luck, there were several pieces

81 00:05:06,490 --> 00:05:10,690 of vegetables flowing inside.

82 00:05:10,690 --> 00:05:17,800 In the evening, coffee, two or three slices of bread.

83 00:05:17,800 --> 00:05:22,000 If you had luck there was marche or jam or something.

84

00:05:22,000 --> 00:05:25,390

85

00:05:25,390 --> 00:05:29,525 In the morning we had to go to work.

86

00:05:29,525 --> 00:05:35,990 We were taking stones from one place to the other.

87

00:05:35,990 --> 00:05:41,480 The next day, we took it from the other place

88

00:05:41,480 --> 00:05:43,460 to the first place.

89

00:05:43,460 --> 00:05:46,400 That means you made to work which had no sense.

90

00:05:46,400 --> 00:05:46,900 [INAUDIBLE]

91

00:05:46,900 --> 00:05:52,190 They wanted to kill your personality, your thinking--

92

00:05:52,190 --> 00:05:54,390 they wanted to kill you.

93

00:05:54,390 --> 00:05:57,800 And it was freezing cold, no food.

94

 $00:05:57,800 \longrightarrow 00:06:01,130$ 

95

00:06:01,130 --> 00:06:12,200

The WC was a big building separated by a piece of cloth.

96

00:06:12,200 --> 00:06:20,570 On one side there were a row of wooden seats with a hole in it.

97

 $00:06:20,570 \longrightarrow 00:06:24,170$ 

98

00:06:24,170 --> 00:06:30,170 On one side men, the cloth, and on the other side women.

99

 $00:06:30,170 \longrightarrow 00:06:32,960$ 

100

00:06:32,960 --> 00:06:34,255 That was the latrines.

101

00:06:34,255 --> 00:06:37,360

102

00:06:37,360 --> 00:06:40,450 Paper was not here.

103

00:06:40,450 --> 00:06:41,500

There was none.

104

00:06:41,500 --> 00:06:42,040 No.

105

00:06:42,040 --> 00:06:44,230

Where from paper.

106

00:06:44,230 --> 00:06:48,707 But sometimes you had luck and there was weed big enough.

107

00:06:48,707 --> 00:06:49,790

There were actually weeds?

00:06:49,790 --> 00:06:50,765 Weed.

109

00:06:50,765 --> 00:06:51,740 Yes.

110

00:06:51,740 --> 00:06:52,780 Yes, outside.

111

00:06:52,780 --> 00:06:55,810 But in winter there was no weed.

112

00:06:55,810 --> 00:06:57,610 We had no underwear, underclothes.

113

00:06:57,610 --> 00:07:01,930

114

00:07:01,930 --> 00:07:04,930 About food I talked, about the WC--

115

00:07:04,930 --> 00:07:10,060 washing, a big barrack.

116

00:07:10,060 --> 00:07:18,650 There was a row of taps with cold water running out.

117

00:07:18,650 --> 00:07:20,810 Underneath the taps there was how

118

00:07:20,810 --> 00:07:23,480 cattle are going to drink of.

119

00:07:23,480 --> 00:07:31,070 There was one big bowl on both side of the taps.

120

00:07:31,070 --> 00:07:32,780 You can wash yourself.

121

00:07:32,780 --> 00:07:34,570 Opposite you, a man.

122

00:07:34,570 --> 00:07:36,620 You were just unclothed--

123

00:07:36,620 --> 00:07:37,910 no shame.

124

00:07:37,910 --> 00:07:41,120 You were unclothed because you wanted to be clean.

125

00:07:41,120 --> 00:07:44,910 And again, as I told you before, it was the instinct.

126

00:07:44,910 --> 00:07:47,740 Soap-- there was no soap.

127

00:07:47,740 --> 00:07:50,251 You just took some sand--

128

00:07:50,251 --> 00:07:52,430 some pieces of sand--

129

00:07:52,430 --> 00:07:55,420 because-- and you scrubbed yourself.

130

00:07:55,420 --> 00:07:59,020 And you had the feeling when the water washed it down

131

00:07:59,020 --> 00:08:00,910 that you're clean.

132

00:08:00,910 --> 00:08:06,250

That's because you

dirted your skin,

133 00:08:06,250 --> 00:08:09,800 and afterwards it came down, and you were clean.

134 00:08:09,800 --> 00:08:12,120 So it was only the imagination you had.

135 00:08:12,120 --> 00:08:14,800

136 00:08:14,800 --> 00:08:20,350 Because I was pregnant and my tummy started to grow,

137 00:08:20,350 --> 00:08:24,100 I was ashamed of my body.

138 00:08:24,100 --> 00:08:28,380 And I got up very, very early in the morning

139 00:08:28,380 --> 00:08:31,450 and I only prayed to God that no man shall

140 00:08:31,450 --> 00:08:35,100 be in this washing room, because I wanted to wash,

141 00:08:35,100 --> 00:08:39,210 but I didn't want a man to see my body.

142 00:08:39,210 --> 00:08:43,330 That was a terrible time for me.

143 00:08:43,330 --> 00:08:45,480 My belly grew.

144

00:08:45,480 --> 00:08:49,060 I didn't know what will be, and I wanted to live somehow.

145 00:08:49,060 --> 00:08:53,590 I started to be desperate, and somehow I

146 00:08:53,590 --> 00:08:58,990 started to think about death and to think about it

147 00:08:58,990 --> 00:09:04,000 if I will be able to live.

148 00:09:04,000 --> 00:09:07,123 I never had this--

149 00:09:07,123 --> 00:09:08,045 [INAUDIBLE]

150 00:09:08,045 --> 00:09:10,820

151 00:09:10,820 --> 00:09:11,940 Roll.

152 00:09:11,940 --> 00:09:13,770 (film slating)

153 00:09:13,770 --> 00:09:16,710

154 00:09:16,710 --> 00:09:27,600 So we arrived and we were told that in Auschwitz they're

155 00:09:27,600 --> 00:09:34,740 burning people and that it is a vernichtungslager.

156 00:09:34,740 --> 00:09:36,240 You were told this specifically.

157

00:09:36,240 --> 00:09:45,120

By people-- into the camp came people with striped uniforms.

158

00:09:45,120 --> 00:09:53,105

And these where people, men, from the [GERMAN] who started--

159

00:09:53,105 --> 00:09:55,360

they were services.

160

00:09:55,360 --> 00:09:58,860

They brought in food and several things.

161

 $00:09:58,860 \longrightarrow 00:10:01,020$ 

I don't-- I'm not sure

what they brought in.

162

00:10:01,020 --> 00:10:03,330

Because this is

Czech familienlager

163

00:10:03,330 --> 00:10:05,390

was in the middle

of the [INAUDIBLE]..

164

00:10:05,390 --> 00:10:06,090

Yes.

165

00:10:06,090 --> 00:10:06,600

Yes.

166

00:10:06,600 --> 00:10:09,470

It was not far away.

167

00:10:09,470 --> 00:10:15,150

So they came in and were telling

us it's a vernichtungslager

00:10:15,150 --> 00:10:18,540 and that there are crematoriums and so on.

169 00:10:18,540 --> 00:10:21,460 And we didn't believe.

170 00:10:21,460 --> 00:10:24,450 And the Czech who came before three months--

171 00:10:24,450 --> 00:10:27,800 They also told us, but they didn't believe too.

172 00:10:27,800 --> 00:10:31,200 Because until you don't see anything--

173 00:10:31,200 --> 00:10:35,102 Yes, but you were at 400 meters of the crematorium [INAUDIBLE]..

174 00:10:35,102 --> 00:10:35,602 You cannot--

175 00:10:35,602 --> 00:10:38,100 You don't-- you don't believe.

176 00:10:38,100 --> 00:10:41,370 Because we were all together.

177 00:10:41,370 --> 00:10:43,755 The families-- the people who came--

178 00:10:43,755 --> 00:10:47,230 are only people who died every day, yes.

179 00:10:47,230 --> 00:10:50,070 But we were together and nobody was taken away, 180 00:10:50,070 --> 00:10:51,390 nobody was burned.

181 00:10:51,390 --> 00:10:53,850 We didn't believe it.

182 00:10:53,850 --> 00:11:04,690 Until you didn't feel the smell and until it was March the 7th.

183 00:11:04,690 --> 00:11:06,430 1944.

184 00:11:06,430 --> 00:11:09,650 1944.

185 00:11:09,650 --> 00:11:11,730 Yes.

186 00:11:11,730 --> 00:11:13,350 Yes.

187 00:11:13,350 --> 00:11:18,190 When all the September transport--

188 00:11:18,190 --> 00:11:21,090 that means the transport was three months

189 00:11:21,090 --> 00:11:26,400 before us in the family came--

190 00:11:26,400 --> 00:11:33,810 the whole transport was loaded on wagons, on trailers,

191 00:11:33,810 --> 00:11:39,180 and were taken away from the familienlager.

00:11:39,180 --> 00:11:46,690 We who remained were closed up into the barracks,

193

00:11:46,690 --> 00:11:51,840 and it was strictly forbidden for us to go outside.

194

00:11:51,840 --> 00:11:59,640 We didn't know what was going on until we heard the Hatikvah

195

00:11:59,640 --> 00:12:02,370 and the [CZECH] singing.

196

00:12:02,370 --> 00:12:03,070 And the?

197

00:12:03,070 --> 00:12:08,370 [CZECH]---- that's a Czech hymn, and the Hatikvah.

198

00:12:08,370 --> 00:12:09,600 You heard it?

199

00:12:09,600 --> 00:12:11,660 Of course, because the people were

200

00:12:11,660 --> 00:12:16,710 brought to the camp near us.

201

00:12:16,710 --> 00:12:20,490 And from there it was pitch dark.

202

00:12:20,490 --> 00:12:23,040 I don't know which time it was, perhaps midnight.

203

00:12:23,040 --> 00:12:27,940

They were taken

away out from there.

204

00:12:27,940 --> 00:12:32,070 And the moment we heard the Hatikvah singing,

205

00:12:32,070 --> 00:12:36,100 we have known these people are going to die.

206

00:12:36,100 --> 00:12:40,000 This is they sung the Hatikvah inside the gas chamber.

207

00:12:40,000 --> 00:12:45,480 It was something-- it is hard to tell.

208

00:12:45,480 --> 00:12:47,960 And we are inside the barracks, and we

209

00:12:47,960 --> 00:12:49,950 have known something is going on,

210

00:12:49,950 --> 00:12:51,660 something is happened to our people,

211

00:12:51,660 --> 00:12:54,350 and we couldn't help them.

212

00:12:54,350 --> 00:12:57,240 That was a terrible night.

213

00:12:57,240 --> 00:13:01,290 The next day, again, people from the [GERMAN],

214

00:13:01,290 --> 00:13:04,620 with the striped uniforms, they told us

00:13:04,620 --> 00:13:09,240 the first Czechs were burned.

216

00:13:09,240 --> 00:13:15,840 And we started to believe that there are crematoriums,

217

00:13:15,840 --> 00:13:19,740 but crematoriums-- we couldn't imagine, of course, gas.

218

00:13:19,740 --> 00:13:22,520

219

00:13:22,520 --> 00:13:24,370 And you could feel the smell.

220

00:13:24,370 --> 00:13:26,610 It was hanging over--

221

00:13:26,610 --> 00:13:29,030 It is unbelievable what you say.

222

00:13:29,030 --> 00:13:31,890 Because when one sees Auschwitz today,

223

00:13:31,890 --> 00:13:35,580 it's really 400 meters between the place where you were

224

00:13:35,580 --> 00:13:36,425 and the crematorium.

225

00:13:36,425 --> 00:13:37,890 That is terrible.

226

00:13:37,890 --> 00:13:44,590 That was-- and now, today, I know they were burned.

00:13:44,590 --> 00:13:46,150 But when it happened--

228

00:13:46,150 --> 00:13:50,800 again, nobody told you, but you felt something is going on.

229

00:13:50,800 --> 00:13:53,050 And you were not sure.

230

00:13:53,050 --> 00:13:56,300 And the struggle in believing--

231

00:13:56,300 --> 00:13:58,650 the struggle in believing--

232

00:13:58,650 --> 00:14:01,910 yes, it was something terrible.

233

00:14:01,910 --> 00:14:04,570 What do you mean the struggle in believing?

234

00:14:04,570 --> 00:14:08,960 Is it true-- can it be true?

235

00:14:08,960 --> 00:14:11,030 You know, you struggled.

236

00:14:11,030 --> 00:14:16,610 In yourself you're telling, this can't be true.

237

00:14:16,610 --> 00:14:17,750 This can't be true.

238

00:14:17,750 --> 00:14:18,670 Even in Auschwitz.

239

00:14:18,670 --> 00:14:21,740 Even in Auschwitz.

240 00:14:21,740 --> 00:14:24,160 Until you haven't been sure of something,

241

00:14:24,160 --> 00:14:25,050 you couldn't believe.

242

00:14:25,050 --> 00:14:27,800

243

00:14:27,800 --> 00:14:31,850 And we were in the camp.

244

00:14:31,850 --> 00:14:32,930 We stayed.

245

00:14:32,930 --> 00:14:35,540 We worked [INAUDIBLE].

246

00:14:35,540 --> 00:14:40,400 I must tell you, I was in block number 6.

247

00:14:40,400 --> 00:14:46,490 In block number 6 was the orchestra of the camp--

248

00:14:46,490 --> 00:14:49,670 men's orchestra.

249

00:14:49,670 --> 00:14:53,990 And every time when SS came, the men had to play.

250

00:14:53,990 --> 00:14:57,240

251

00:14:57,240 --> 00:15:00,570

And there were several instruments.

00:15:00,570 --> 00:15:02,930 And when they were making rehearsals--

253

00:15:02,930 --> 00:15:05,970

254

00:15:05,970 --> 00:15:09,750 it happens-- it happened several times.

255

00:15:09,750 --> 00:15:12,960 When SS were drunk--

256

00:15:12,960 --> 00:15:15,480

257

00:15:15,480 --> 00:15:19,110 I must tell you beforehand I forgot something.

258

00:15:19,110 --> 00:15:24,360 In block number 6 were mostly young women,

259

00:15:24,360 --> 00:15:25,800 mostly young women.

260

00:15:25,800 --> 00:15:30,600 And I came to block number 6 because when

261

00:15:30,600 --> 00:15:34,080 I came to Auschwitz my tummy was not growing.

262

00:15:34,080 --> 00:15:38,100 It was-- I was still slim.

263

00:15:38,100 --> 00:15:40,980

And they just took the young people--

264 00:15:40,980 --> 00:15:43,605 the young women-- and put them into block number 6.

265 00:15:43,605 --> 00:15:47,040

266 00:15:47,040 --> 00:15:55,020 And it did very often happen that the drunk SS

267 00:15:55,020 --> 00:16:00,510 in the evenings came into block number 6.

268 00:16:00,510 --> 00:16:04,990 First of all, they woke up to music orchestra--

269 00:16:04,990 --> 00:16:07,410 the music had to play.

270 00:16:07,410 --> 00:16:12,810 In came to SS with the bicycles.

271 00:16:12,810 --> 00:16:16,260 And then they started to climb up and to look for women--

272 00:16:16,260 --> 00:16:20,810 for nice women-- and to take them out,

273 00:16:20,810 --> 00:16:23,430 and the girls had to sleep with them.

274 00:16:23,430 --> 00:16:26,940

275 00:16:26,940 --> 00:16:29,745 I was living in the third floor.

276

00:16:29,745 --> 00:16:32,420

277

00:16:32,420 --> 00:16:39,170 And when we saw the SS coming, we just went to the wall,

278

00:16:39,170 --> 00:16:42,920 because we didn't want them to see us.

279

00:16:42,920 --> 00:16:46,100 We were all afraid of it.

280

00:16:46,100 --> 00:16:48,590 That was-- the girls were screaming.

281

00:16:48,590 --> 00:16:51,040 And that was terrible-- that was terrible.

282

00:16:51,040 --> 00:16:55,650

283

00:16:55,650 --> 00:16:56,790 So we lived.

284

00:16:56,790 --> 00:16:59,010 I told you I was living--

285

00:16:59,010 --> 00:17:03,660 my bed was on the third floor.

286

00:17:03,660 --> 00:17:12,410 My friend Ruth [Personal name] Ruth [Personal name]

287

00:17:12,410 --> 00:17:17,900 she had a cover,

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

and I got a cover.

288

00:17:17,900 --> 00:17:21,010 So we made, in the evenings, our bed--

289

00:17:21,010 --> 00:17:25,750 a cover without any mattresses on the wood.

290

00:17:25,750 --> 00:17:31,010 With the second cover, we both of us covered ourselves up.

291

00:17:31,010 --> 00:17:35,960 And with our very thin coat, we put on the cover.

292

00:17:35,960 --> 00:17:39,620 And on we went with our bodies, one to the other,

293

00:17:39,620 --> 00:17:42,350 because it was a winter.

294

00:17:42,350 --> 00:17:48,530 It was January, and February, and March in Auschwitz,

295

00:17:48,530 --> 00:17:52,400 and it was not heated.

296

00:17:52,400 --> 00:17:56,210 It was awfully cold.

297

00:17:56,210 --> 00:18:01,370 Without stockings without underwear in these very

298

00:18:01,370 --> 00:18:05,830 thin clothes, without food.

299

00:18:05,830 --> 00:18:09,050 And where was your husband?

300

00:18:09,050 --> 00:18:12,620 Now, in the family, familienlager,

301

00:18:12,620 --> 00:18:16,310 it was like this-- on one side were women,

302

00:18:16,310 --> 00:18:22,250 on the other side were men.

303

00:18:22,250 --> 00:18:23,660 And we saw each other.

304

00:18:23,660 --> 00:18:25,820 We talked together.

305

00:18:25,820 --> 00:18:29,330 In the evening, it was allowed for one hour.

306

00:18:29,330 --> 00:18:31,370 The bell was ringing--

307

00:18:31,370 --> 00:18:37,310 for one hour it was allowed, or half an hour I'm not sure now,

308

00:18:37,310 --> 00:18:44,160 to meet your husband on the lagerstrasse

309

00:18:44,160 --> 00:18:48,090 or husband, or father, or--

310

00:18:48,090 --> 00:18:51,120 and the bell was ringing, and you had to separate.

00:18:53,850 --> 00:18:56,450 As a meeting place, it's as I told you before,

313

00:18:56,450 --> 00:19:00,750 either WC or the washing room.

314

00:19:00,750 --> 00:19:02,670 These were the meeting places.

315

00:19:02,670 --> 00:19:05,710

316

00:19:05,710 --> 00:19:06,350 One day--

317

00:19:06,350 --> 00:19:10,870

318

00:19:10,870 --> 00:19:12,690 One day.

319

00:19:12,690 --> 00:19:19,000