

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,095

2

00:00:07,095 --> 00:00:17,210

Washington, (film slating)

3

00:00:17,210 --> 00:00:20,570

Yes, it is a most--

4

00:00:20,570 --> 00:00:25,070

you are a unique witness
because nobody was ever

5

00:00:25,070 --> 00:00:31,120

able to enter an
extermination camp like Belzec

6

00:00:31,120 --> 00:00:34,252

and to come back alive.

7

00:00:34,252 --> 00:00:35,570

I understand there's some.

8

00:00:35,570 --> 00:00:38,320

There are no
survivors of Belzec.

9

00:00:38,320 --> 00:00:40,518

There are or there are not?

10

00:00:40,518 --> 00:00:41,060

There are not

11

00:00:41,060 --> 00:00:42,680

There are a lot of them.

12

00:00:42,680 --> 00:00:43,820

No, there are not.

13

00:00:43,820 --> 00:00:44,930

Oh, there are not.

14

00:00:44,930 --> 00:00:49,100

There are no survivors of the
Belzec extermination camp.

15

00:00:49,100 --> 00:00:57,380

600,000 Jews perished in
Belzec in about eight months.

16

00:00:57,380 --> 00:01:01,610

And there are no survivors.

17

00:01:01,610 --> 00:01:03,020

It's not true what they say.

18

00:01:03,020 --> 00:01:07,070

There was one two years ago.

19

00:01:07,070 --> 00:01:09,230

He lived in Canada.

20

00:01:09,230 --> 00:01:12,800

He was 95 years old.

21

00:01:12,800 --> 00:01:16,160

And he was in Belzec
for four months.

22

00:01:16,160 --> 00:01:19,670

At the time he went
to Belzec, he was--

23

00:01:19,670 --> 00:01:22,610

he escaped in November.

24

00:01:22,610 --> 00:01:27,020

25

00:01:27,020 --> 00:01:33,940

Well, a few days
later, the contact

26
00:01:33,940 --> 00:01:41,000
was arranged with some Jews
whom I didn't know, of course.

27
00:01:41,000 --> 00:01:43,720
We took a train to Belzec.

28
00:01:43,720 --> 00:01:44,810
From Russia.

29
00:01:44,810 --> 00:01:45,420
From Russia.

30
00:01:45,420 --> 00:01:48,760
It was a long trip.

31
00:01:48,760 --> 00:01:52,700
As far as I
remember, four hours.

32
00:01:52,700 --> 00:01:59,110
Because Belzec is 150
kilometers south from Lublin.

33
00:01:59,110 --> 00:02:01,080
Yes, yes.

34
00:02:01,080 --> 00:02:04,140
Sobibor was north of Belzec.

35
00:02:04,140 --> 00:02:05,280
Yes.

36
00:02:05,280 --> 00:02:08,039
Which, by the way,
will enter the picture.

37
00:02:08,039 --> 00:02:09,190
We come to Belzec.

38

00:02:09,190 --> 00:02:11,254
Of course, I didn't
know what to expect.

39
00:02:11,254 --> 00:02:13,820

40
00:02:13,820 --> 00:02:17,300
We went out of the station.

41
00:02:17,300 --> 00:02:24,350
First of all, over there I
went disguised a little, name.

42
00:02:24,350 --> 00:02:26,000
They were using--

43
00:02:26,000 --> 00:02:29,810
Excuse me, you had no idea
of what you would see.

44
00:02:29,810 --> 00:02:30,800
No.

45
00:02:30,800 --> 00:02:33,107
Well, I knew-- I heard
about the Belzec.

46
00:02:33,107 --> 00:02:33,690
And you knew--

47
00:02:33,690 --> 00:02:34,550
Wait a second.

48
00:02:34,550 --> 00:02:38,480
What I heard, by the
way, at that time, even

49
00:02:38,480 --> 00:02:44,210
from some Jewish
people, that this

50

00:02:44,210 --> 00:02:51,470
is what was called at that
time a transitional camp.

51
00:02:51,470 --> 00:02:55,430
What I understood after
the war, at that time

52
00:02:55,430 --> 00:02:59,210
they were liquidating
the camp as such.

53
00:02:59,210 --> 00:03:05,000
By November, there
was no longer a camp.

54
00:03:05,000 --> 00:03:07,760
And now, whatever
were the reasons,

55
00:03:07,760 --> 00:03:09,350
of course I don't know.

56
00:03:09,350 --> 00:03:14,210
Apparently, their last
shipment, or the last--

57
00:03:14,210 --> 00:03:23,450
the remnants of the Jews were
taken out of Belzec and either

58
00:03:23,450 --> 00:03:30,590
shipped to Sobibor, which
became extermination camp,

59
00:03:30,590 --> 00:03:36,740
or Jews who were taken from
the Warsaw or other ghettos,

60
00:03:36,740 --> 00:03:39,350
again for some
reason, they would

61

00:03:39,350 --> 00:03:42,470
be shifted to Belzec
for a short time

62
00:03:42,470 --> 00:03:45,950
and again go somewhere else.

63
00:03:45,950 --> 00:03:47,450
Yes, but you know
at the beginning,

64
00:03:47,450 --> 00:03:51,260
Belzec was set to
destroy, to kill

65
00:03:51,260 --> 00:03:55,420
the Jews who were living
around Belzec, the Jews of--

66
00:03:55,420 --> 00:03:55,920
Yes.

67
00:03:55,920 --> 00:03:56,420
Yes.

68
00:03:56,420 --> 00:03:58,340
--of all this area.

69
00:03:58,340 --> 00:03:59,630
Only, my point--

70
00:03:59,630 --> 00:04:01,640
Not from the Warsaw ghetto.

71
00:04:01,640 --> 00:04:04,160
The Warsaw ghetto, that
people were sent in Treblinka.

72
00:04:04,160 --> 00:04:07,790
Belzec was meant for
the people of Kraków.

73

00:04:07,790 --> 00:04:11,990

The people of Kraków
were sent to Belzec.

74

00:04:11,990 --> 00:04:15,650

I was not even aware of
those details at that time.

75

00:04:15,650 --> 00:04:18,019

But do you know too
that they called

76

00:04:18,019 --> 00:04:22,860

all these camps transitional
camps, Sobibor too,

77

00:04:22,860 --> 00:04:23,690

Treblinka too.

78

00:04:23,690 --> 00:04:25,970

It was the name they gave.

79

00:04:25,970 --> 00:04:33,660

And even-- this is not
specific, as a matter of fact.

80

00:04:33,660 --> 00:04:36,730

81

00:04:36,730 --> 00:04:38,800

Well, over there I went--

82

00:04:38,800 --> 00:04:42,820

And Belzec started to be
operational as a death

83

00:04:42,820 --> 00:04:46,060

camp in March 1942.

84

00:04:46,060 --> 00:04:48,520

Yes, yes, yes.

85

00:04:48,520 --> 00:04:54,970
Only at the moment I visited
it, it became apparently

86
00:04:54,970 --> 00:04:58,420
truly transitional,
which means the Jews were

87
00:04:58,420 --> 00:05:00,640
shifted somewhere.

88
00:05:00,640 --> 00:05:05,710
Now, the Germans announced that
they are going to forced labor,

89
00:05:05,710 --> 00:05:08,335
that they are going to
have good conditions.

90
00:05:08,335 --> 00:05:09,460
They said this to the Jews.

91
00:05:09,460 --> 00:05:11,530
To the Jews, yes, to the Jews.

92
00:05:11,530 --> 00:05:14,110
They wanted-- the
Germans always--

93
00:05:14,110 --> 00:05:17,560
if they could
avoid open trouble,

94
00:05:17,560 --> 00:05:19,110
they wanted to avoid it.

95
00:05:19,110 --> 00:05:19,610
[INAUDIBLE]

96
00:05:19,610 --> 00:05:22,690
So they wanted everything
in as much order as,

97

00:05:22,690 --> 00:05:26,080
of course, humanly possible.

98

00:05:26,080 --> 00:05:33,970
Well, so then from the
station we walked to the camp.

99

00:05:33,970 --> 00:05:37,750
No difficulty whatsoever.

100

00:05:37,750 --> 00:05:39,190
I had documentation.

101

00:05:39,190 --> 00:05:40,900
My guide had documentation.

102

00:05:40,900 --> 00:05:42,880
Tell me now, can you
explain this precisely?

103

00:05:42,880 --> 00:05:44,020
You were disguised?

104

00:05:44,020 --> 00:05:45,160
Yes.

105

00:05:45,160 --> 00:05:51,520
I was an Estonian militiaman.

106

00:05:51,520 --> 00:05:55,690
Because the guns camps
were guarded by Ukrainian--

107

00:05:55,690 --> 00:06:00,430
Ukrainians, Latvians,
Estonians, Polish policemen,

108

00:06:00,430 --> 00:06:05,440
and the regular German,
Gestapo, SS men, et cetera.

109

00:06:05,440 --> 00:06:07,310
So those were mercenaries
of the Germans.

110
00:06:07,310 --> 00:06:08,050
Yes.

111
00:06:08,050 --> 00:06:10,990
Of course, at that
time, which is

112
00:06:10,990 --> 00:06:15,520
understandable, the Germans,
even for this kind of work,

113
00:06:15,520 --> 00:06:20,590
they wanted to spare as much
of their own men, to send them,

114
00:06:20,590 --> 00:06:24,220
I imagine, to fight or to
work, not for this business.

115
00:06:24,220 --> 00:06:26,890
So they were using the others.

116
00:06:26,890 --> 00:06:30,880
What was the color
of your uniform?

117
00:06:30,880 --> 00:06:39,330
Yellow with some sort of a
belt, with boots, black cap,

118
00:06:39,330 --> 00:06:42,100
I remember.

119
00:06:42,100 --> 00:06:45,910
Indistinguishable otherwise.

120
00:06:45,910 --> 00:06:49,570
No sign that it was
Estonian whatsoever.

121
00:06:49,570 --> 00:06:54,860
Documentation was that I
was Estonian militiaman.

122
00:06:54,860 --> 00:06:56,830
Excuse me, the trip
had been arranged

123
00:06:56,830 --> 00:06:59,740
by the Jewish underground?

124
00:06:59,740 --> 00:07:00,940
Yes, apparently.

125
00:07:00,940 --> 00:07:02,850
Or by the Polish underground?

126
00:07:02,850 --> 00:07:05,110
No, by the Jewish underground.

127
00:07:05,110 --> 00:07:08,280
All this part-- all this part--

128
00:07:08,280 --> 00:07:11,860
as a matter of fact,
I didn't talk too much

129
00:07:11,860 --> 00:07:15,370
to the Poles who
are still in Poland.

130
00:07:15,370 --> 00:07:18,520
But they knew that I
established contact with them.

131
00:07:18,520 --> 00:07:21,100

132
00:07:21,100 --> 00:07:27,310
They might want to stop
me, not to endanger me.

133
00:07:27,310 --> 00:07:29,860
The Poles learned about
it I -- only from the --

134
00:07:29,860 --> 00:07:32,740
[INAUDIBLE] this specifically
on behalf of the Jews.

135
00:07:32,740 --> 00:07:33,580
Yes, yes.

136
00:07:33,580 --> 00:07:36,670
This was my Jewish
chapter for this.

137
00:07:36,670 --> 00:07:39,560
So I followed
their instructions.

138
00:07:39,560 --> 00:07:41,590
So by whom was it organized?

139
00:07:41,590 --> 00:07:44,620
I imagine by a Bund
leader, because he

140
00:07:44,620 --> 00:07:46,330
initiated this matter.

141
00:07:46,330 --> 00:07:48,790
But he was not there.

142
00:07:48,790 --> 00:07:54,470
Some unknown Jewish
fellows, whatsoever.

143
00:07:54,470 --> 00:08:02,110
So now, we walked and
then we entered the camp.

144
00:08:02,110 --> 00:08:08,290

Now this camp now, totally
different from the Warsaw

145
00:08:08,290 --> 00:08:09,670
ghetto.

146
00:08:09,670 --> 00:08:12,940
Mainly total confusion.

147
00:08:12,940 --> 00:08:16,180
Everything in movement.

148
00:08:16,180 --> 00:08:19,240
Excuse me, you say
we walked-- who?

149
00:08:19,240 --> 00:08:20,980
You and who?

150
00:08:20,980 --> 00:08:26,860
A Jewish guide, but a
guide whom I didn't know

151
00:08:26,860 --> 00:08:28,840
who established contact with me.

152
00:08:28,840 --> 00:08:32,331
Yes, but you didn't walk in
the camp with this Jew, no?

153
00:08:32,331 --> 00:08:33,039
What did you say?

154
00:08:33,039 --> 00:08:36,309
You didn't walk inside
the camp with this Jew?

155
00:08:36,309 --> 00:08:38,260
Oh, yes.

156
00:08:38,260 --> 00:08:40,059
Oh, yes.

157
00:08:40,059 --> 00:08:41,590
Oh, yes.

158
00:08:41,590 --> 00:08:43,659
You write that it
was an Estonian.

159
00:08:43,659 --> 00:08:46,990
He had some sort of
identification papers.

160
00:08:46,990 --> 00:08:48,490
And then I followed him.

161
00:08:48,490 --> 00:08:49,780
And he goes his way.

162
00:08:49,780 --> 00:08:53,410
I go his way, only
I was following him.

163
00:08:53,410 --> 00:08:56,890
And he led me to some official.

164
00:08:56,890 --> 00:08:59,490
And I just showed this.

165
00:08:59,490 --> 00:09:01,510
Of course, counting
I am an Estonian,

166
00:09:01,510 --> 00:09:07,520
I don't speak German whatsoever.

167
00:09:07,520 --> 00:09:11,050
And he went on some
identification papers,

168
00:09:11,050 --> 00:09:12,670
whatever it was.

169

00:09:12,670 --> 00:09:15,880

I don't know, Judenrat,
whatever it is.

170

00:09:15,880 --> 00:09:20,110

He entered as a civilian,
only I was disguised.

171

00:09:20,110 --> 00:09:23,920

And then I entered
the camp, both of us.

172

00:09:23,920 --> 00:09:27,120

And then I--

173

00:09:27,120 --> 00:09:34,820

[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

174

00:09:34,820 --> 00:09:35,490

[INAUDIBLE]

175

00:09:35,490 --> 00:09:39,690

(film slating)

176

00:09:39,690 --> 00:09:43,260

Professor Karski,
I must tell you

177

00:09:43,260 --> 00:09:47,610

that I understand very
well how impossible what

178

00:09:47,610 --> 00:09:49,500

I am asking from you now.

179

00:09:49,500 --> 00:09:53,520

Because I ask you to
describe the indescribable,

180

00:09:53,520 --> 00:09:57,960

and this mean to describe
what was at this camp.

181
00:09:57,960 --> 00:10:03,420
And just-- I just want
you to know that I

182
00:10:03,420 --> 00:10:05,710
know how difficult it is.

183
00:10:05,710 --> 00:10:10,690

184
00:10:10,690 --> 00:10:11,190
t

185
00:10:11,190 --> 00:10:14,850
I understand.

186
00:10:14,850 --> 00:10:18,450
We enter the camp.

187
00:10:18,450 --> 00:10:24,240
As a matter of fact, that camp,
at that point I entered it

188
00:10:24,240 --> 00:10:26,280
had no wall.

189
00:10:26,280 --> 00:10:29,430
Wire was around it.

190
00:10:29,430 --> 00:10:30,870
Barbed wires.

191
00:10:30,870 --> 00:10:33,870
Barbed wires.

192
00:10:33,870 --> 00:10:36,870
Were there walls in other
parts, of course I don't know.

193
00:10:36,870 --> 00:10:44,580

I spent in that camp probably
no more than 20, 25 minutes.

194
00:10:44,580 --> 00:10:48,150
Again, I couldn't
take it, frankly.

195
00:10:48,150 --> 00:10:52,620
Now, the difference between
this camp and the Jewish ghetto

196
00:10:52,620 --> 00:11:00,090
in Warsaw was that here some
sort of total confusion,

197
00:11:00,090 --> 00:11:04,260
mainly that Jews,
the population of it,

198
00:11:04,260 --> 00:11:08,680
they were going somewhere.

199
00:11:08,680 --> 00:11:14,710
Now, from-- as I
saw it at that time,

200
00:11:14,710 --> 00:11:20,890
from the station railroad,
as I understood it,

201
00:11:20,890 --> 00:11:25,180
there was some rail
leading to the camp,

202
00:11:25,180 --> 00:11:27,520
rather primitively built--

203
00:11:27,520 --> 00:11:29,140
I could recognize it--

204
00:11:29,140 --> 00:11:31,980
with some sort of a platform.

205

00:11:31,980 --> 00:11:37,690

And then the train,
which consisted of 40--

206

00:11:37,690 --> 00:11:43,390

some 40 cattle trucks.

207

00:11:43,390 --> 00:11:44,290

Cattle cars.

208

00:11:44,290 --> 00:11:45,400

Yes.

209

00:11:45,400 --> 00:11:54,190

The train facing the camp
would move two or three cars

210

00:11:54,190 --> 00:11:56,420

and stop again.

211

00:11:56,420 --> 00:12:03,550

And at that time, from that gate
I was standing and observing,

212

00:12:03,550 --> 00:12:11,410

now militiamen, Gestapo,
Germans, [GERMAN],,

213

00:12:11,410 --> 00:12:15,570

directing them to the trucks.

214

00:12:15,570 --> 00:12:20,530

Excuse me, but before you had to
cross the camp, before arriving

215

00:12:20,530 --> 00:12:21,730

to this place where you--

216

00:12:21,730 --> 00:12:23,890

Yes, I saw it from the camp.

217

00:12:23,890 --> 00:12:26,950
--where you were able to see
the loading of the train.

218
00:12:26,950 --> 00:12:30,820
The loading-- the loading
of that primitive rail.

219
00:12:30,820 --> 00:12:34,810
Yes, but before this,
you crossed the camp.

220
00:12:34,810 --> 00:12:36,617
Can you describe
how you crossed it?

221
00:12:36,617 --> 00:12:38,950
What you saw at the time when
you crossed through this--

222
00:12:38,950 --> 00:12:41,400
I didn't go very
deep in the camp.

223
00:12:41,400 --> 00:12:43,030
--through this crowd.

224
00:12:43,030 --> 00:12:50,110
Because the guide
apparently, and the Estonian,

225
00:12:50,110 --> 00:12:53,500
they apparently wanted
to show me this scene.

226
00:12:53,500 --> 00:12:54,130
Yes.

227
00:12:54,130 --> 00:13:00,280
And the train was facing
at that particular gate.

228
00:13:00,280 --> 00:13:03,460

So we entered the gate.

229

00:13:03,460 --> 00:13:09,100

And then we stayed there
observing what is happening.

230

00:13:09,100 --> 00:13:10,660

How long was it before--

231

00:13:10,660 --> 00:13:13,780

between the moment
you entered the camp--

232

00:13:13,780 --> 00:13:16,870

you entered from another gate--

233

00:13:16,870 --> 00:13:19,360

and the moment you
arrived at this point?

234

00:13:19,360 --> 00:13:23,350

It was a big camp or it was a--

235

00:13:23,350 --> 00:13:26,020

I entered through the same gate.

236

00:13:26,020 --> 00:13:27,900

Oh, you entered
through the same gate.

237

00:13:27,900 --> 00:13:28,817

Through the same gate.

238

00:13:28,817 --> 00:13:31,360

I did not wander in the camp.

239

00:13:31,360 --> 00:13:34,390

I did not go deep into the camp.

240

00:13:34,390 --> 00:13:40,720

From the Belzec
camp, my recollection

241
00:13:40,720 --> 00:13:47,200
was the shipment of
the Jews from the camp

242
00:13:47,200 --> 00:13:51,040
to the trucks in the train.

243
00:13:51,040 --> 00:13:51,790
OK, describe this.

244
00:13:51,790 --> 00:14:00,303
And then the second thing,
again I couldn't take it.

245
00:14:00,303 --> 00:14:01,095
You couldn't take--

246
00:14:01,095 --> 00:14:05,020
With that, I went
physically sick.

247
00:14:05,020 --> 00:14:08,500
Why could you-- can you see why
it was impossible to take it?

248
00:14:08,500 --> 00:14:14,420

249
00:14:14,420 --> 00:14:16,280
The people were
working here since--

250
00:14:16,280 --> 00:14:24,500
In this confusion, those
shouts, [GERMAN],, pushing them

251
00:14:24,500 --> 00:14:27,170
through the platform
to the tracks.

252
00:14:27,170 --> 00:14:30,290

Then the train would
move two tracks away,

253
00:14:30,290 --> 00:14:32,490
putting them there.

254
00:14:32,490 --> 00:14:37,700
Now the room in the
one track, I know

255
00:14:37,700 --> 00:14:43,190
it was for horses,
something, 16 horses.

256
00:14:43,190 --> 00:14:44,690
And 40 men?

257
00:14:44,690 --> 00:14:49,100
Yes, yes, military truck.

258
00:14:49,100 --> 00:14:53,540
Well, at least 100-130.

259
00:14:53,540 --> 00:14:58,040
Excuse me, the people who were
loaded in the freight cars,

260
00:14:58,040 --> 00:15:01,130
according to you they were
waiting inside that camp

261
00:15:01,130 --> 00:15:01,940
since a long time?

262
00:15:01,940 --> 00:15:02,660
No, in the camp.

263
00:15:02,660 --> 00:15:03,770
From the camp--

264
00:15:03,770 --> 00:15:05,180
No, no, no.

265
00:15:05,180 --> 00:15:08,060
Please, I ask you
one precise question.

266
00:15:08,060 --> 00:15:10,940
These people, these
Jews, they were

267
00:15:10,940 --> 00:15:15,090
waiting inside the
camp since a long time?

268
00:15:15,090 --> 00:15:15,990
How many days?

269
00:15:15,990 --> 00:15:18,230
How many hours?

270
00:15:18,230 --> 00:15:23,810
What only I saw, total
confusion, which means they

271
00:15:23,810 --> 00:15:26,750
did not look like inhabitants.

272
00:15:26,750 --> 00:15:31,190
They looked, and I
interpret it as some sort

273
00:15:31,190 --> 00:15:33,660
of transitional camp.

274
00:15:33,660 --> 00:15:36,200
They brought the
Jews from somewhere

275
00:15:36,200 --> 00:15:39,350
and they are taking
them somewhere.

276
00:15:39,350 --> 00:15:44,570

It did not look to me as
inhabitable, regular--

277
00:15:44,570 --> 00:15:47,060
at this point I was standing--

278
00:15:47,060 --> 00:15:47,960
camp.

279
00:15:47,960 --> 00:15:50,390
It was total confusion.

280
00:15:50,390 --> 00:15:54,740
Shipment of the
Jews to the trains.

281
00:15:54,740 --> 00:16:00,650
And now, what I
understood at that time--

282
00:16:00,650 --> 00:16:04,070
well, what are they taking them?

283
00:16:04,070 --> 00:16:08,810
Again, they were apparently
telling the Jews they take them

284
00:16:08,810 --> 00:16:11,150
for forced labor.

285
00:16:11,150 --> 00:16:14,990
And now, this horrible,
horrible scene.

286
00:16:14,990 --> 00:16:21,500
Those shouts, despair, mother
dragging their children.

287
00:16:21,500 --> 00:16:23,540
They enter the truck.

288
00:16:23,540 --> 00:16:25,040

They cannot reach them.

289

00:16:25,040 --> 00:16:26,660

They are too weak.

290

00:16:26,660 --> 00:16:27,860

They were pushed?

291

00:16:27,860 --> 00:16:29,210

Gestapo, militia.

292

00:16:29,210 --> 00:16:30,600

They were forced.

293

00:16:30,600 --> 00:16:35,330

They were beating them, pushing
them like pigs, like they're

294

00:16:35,330 --> 00:16:37,940

not human, into this--

295

00:16:37,940 --> 00:16:39,685

more and more through the camp.

296

00:16:39,685 --> 00:16:41,660

And they were
shooting with guns?

297

00:16:41,660 --> 00:16:44,280

298

00:16:44,280 --> 00:16:45,180

Yeah.

299

00:16:45,180 --> 00:16:50,010

Yes, to terrorize them,
but in the air mostly.

300

00:16:50,010 --> 00:16:54,150

The total hell, total hell.

301

00:16:54,150 --> 00:16:55,505
And now comes the story.

302
00:16:55,505 --> 00:16:58,550

303
00:16:58,550 --> 00:17:03,510
The train moved a little,
by two trucks, three trucks.

304
00:17:03,510 --> 00:17:11,099
On the floor there
is a whitish powder.

305
00:17:11,099 --> 00:17:21,030
And now, I asked the Estonian
militiamen, what is it?

306
00:17:21,030 --> 00:17:23,099
He says that's all
right, that's all right,

307
00:17:23,099 --> 00:17:24,385
this is for their hygiene.

308
00:17:24,385 --> 00:17:27,089

309
00:17:27,089 --> 00:17:28,568
This is quicklime.

310
00:17:28,568 --> 00:17:32,240

311
00:17:32,240 --> 00:17:36,398
So when they die,
there is no problem.

312
00:17:36,398 --> 00:17:38,190
They will not contaminate
the [INAUDIBLE],,

313

00:17:38,190 --> 00:17:42,870
that's the [INAUDIBLE],,
whatsoever.

314
00:17:42,870 --> 00:17:49,630
Then, well, they are getting
what they are getting.

315
00:17:49,630 --> 00:17:50,950
They are getting what?

316
00:17:50,950 --> 00:17:55,462
They are getting what they are--

317
00:17:55,462 --> 00:18:01,870
they are receiving, so to say--
they are getting their share.

318
00:18:01,870 --> 00:18:08,440
And then, well, Himmler
delivers his goods.

319
00:18:08,440 --> 00:18:20,380
He said publicly the Jews will
die and they will die in agony.

320
00:18:20,380 --> 00:18:22,450
They will die.

321
00:18:22,450 --> 00:18:25,465
So where are they taking them?

322
00:18:25,465 --> 00:18:32,410
He says don't you
worry, they will die.

323
00:18:32,410 --> 00:18:38,110
What I understood, then
the train went somewhere.

324
00:18:38,110 --> 00:18:42,430
And they actually
died in those trucks.

325
00:18:42,430 --> 00:18:49,090
Some of them were taken
later, I learned, to Sobibor.

326
00:18:49,090 --> 00:18:52,390
And in Sobibor,
they were finished.

327
00:18:52,390 --> 00:18:53,230
They were gassed?

328
00:18:53,230 --> 00:18:53,850
Yes.

329
00:18:53,850 --> 00:19:00,580
Why they didn't do it at that
time in Belzec I don't know.

330
00:19:00,580 --> 00:19:04,420
Because they were doing this
before in Belzec for months.

331
00:19:04,420 --> 00:19:07,570
They actually were
gassing the Jews before.

332
00:19:07,570 --> 00:19:09,470
There were six gas
chambers in Belzec.

333
00:19:09,470 --> 00:19:09,970
Yes.

334
00:19:09,970 --> 00:19:14,500
At that moment, and this is--
the date now is important.

335
00:19:14,500 --> 00:19:20,380
When later on, trying to
investigate how it was, yes,

336

00:19:20,380 --> 00:19:28,900
apparently the end of
October or November,

337
00:19:28,900 --> 00:19:36,940
the camp liquidated completely,
with the last remnants

338
00:19:36,940 --> 00:19:41,560
of the Jews shifted to Sobibor.

339
00:19:41,560 --> 00:19:48,370
And secondly, at that last
stage, Jews from other ghettos

340
00:19:48,370 --> 00:19:54,400
passed through Belzec being
shifted somewhere else.

341
00:19:54,400 --> 00:20:00,490
Yes, but the quicklime in the
wagons, it was to kill them?

342
00:20:00,490 --> 00:20:04,990

343
00:20:04,990 --> 00:20:08,150
Yes, apparently.

344
00:20:08,150 --> 00:20:12,920
Hygienic purposes-- they were
dirty, they were smelling.

345
00:20:12,920 --> 00:20:18,050
If they died, decomposition.

346
00:20:18,050 --> 00:20:23,660
And secondly, what I
understand, to die in agony.

347
00:20:23,660 --> 00:20:25,280
They had to urinate.

348

00:20:25,280 --> 00:20:29,270

Then it would burn
their feet, of course,

349

00:20:29,270 --> 00:20:31,670

if they were barefoot.

350

00:20:31,670 --> 00:20:39,530

But at the same time, yes,
from the Nazi standpoint,

351

00:20:39,530 --> 00:20:41,870

it was to purify.

352

00:20:41,870 --> 00:20:44,210

Yes, but it was
to kill them too.

353

00:20:44,210 --> 00:20:45,620

And to kill them.

354

00:20:45,620 --> 00:20:50,336

And make them die in
agony, some sort of--

355

00:20:50,336 --> 00:20:51,614

well, indescribable.

356

00:20:51,614 --> 00:20:58,210

357

00:20:58,210 --> 00:21:01,820

Washington, (film slating)

358

00:21:01,820 --> 00:21:09,680

Well, Professor Karski, I know
that the Jewish underground

359

00:21:09,680 --> 00:21:17,060

organized for you, and it is
a rather unbelievable visit

360

00:21:17,060 --> 00:21:22,680
inside the extermination camp
of Belzec in November '42.

361

00:21:22,680 --> 00:21:25,310

362

00:21:25,310 --> 00:21:31,490
I would like you to try to
recall and to describe what

363

00:21:31,490 --> 00:21:34,550
you saw in this death camp.

364

00:21:34,550 --> 00:21:37,580
And as a matter of fact,
this never happened.

365

00:21:37,580 --> 00:21:43,010
We have no testimonies
whatsoever and no evidence

366

00:21:43,010 --> 00:21:49,970
of anybody being able to
enter the extermination

367

00:21:49,970 --> 00:21:54,110
camp of Belzec, and
the other camps too,

368

00:21:54,110 --> 00:21:58,790
Sobibor or Treblinka,
and coming out alive.

369

00:21:58,790 --> 00:22:04,910
And this-- so this is something
absolutely extraordinary

370

00:22:04,910 --> 00:22:06,650
and probably very
difficult for you

371

00:22:06,650 --> 00:22:12,020
to remember and to
describe, but please try.

372
00:22:12,020 --> 00:22:16,310

373
00:22:16,310 --> 00:22:21,860
Well, evidently, the
whole visit to Belzec

374
00:22:21,860 --> 00:22:26,030
was organized by the
Jewish underground.

375
00:22:26,030 --> 00:22:29,540
Evidently they
had the many means

376
00:22:29,540 --> 00:22:33,230
to organize this
kind of a trip--

377
00:22:33,230 --> 00:22:34,250
evidently.

378
00:22:34,250 --> 00:22:38,920
I didn't know the
details, how they did it.

379
00:22:38,920 --> 00:22:47,440
I entered the camp in company
of an Estonian militiaman

380
00:22:47,440 --> 00:22:54,460
wearing a uniform of
an Estonian militiaman

381
00:22:54,460 --> 00:23:01,270
and having some sort of
ausweis that I was allowed

382
00:23:01,270 --> 00:23:12,800

to enter the camp and leave the
camp, having shown the ausweis.

383
00:23:12,800 --> 00:23:19,720
Now, I approached
the camp from Belzec

384
00:23:19,720 --> 00:23:32,210
where I got the uniform, guided
by another genuine militiaman,

385
00:23:32,210 --> 00:23:39,170
who evidently was a scoundrel.

386
00:23:39,170 --> 00:23:43,170
In our conversation,
as a matter of fact,

387
00:23:43,170 --> 00:23:47,930
he took me for a man
who, as it was called

388
00:23:47,930 --> 00:23:52,700
at that time in Poland, that
dealt with the Jews, which

389
00:23:52,700 --> 00:23:59,960
means through bribery,
money, trying to save some--

390
00:23:59,960 --> 00:24:02,100
This was a usual
traffic in Poland,

391
00:24:02,100 --> 00:24:05,300
this dealing with the Jews?

392
00:24:05,300 --> 00:24:06,530
Very well known.

393
00:24:06,530 --> 00:24:09,920
Of course, I had no dealings
with this kind of people.

394
00:24:09,920 --> 00:24:13,490
So I don't know was
it in many cases?

395
00:24:13,490 --> 00:24:15,380
Was it occasional?

396
00:24:15,380 --> 00:24:18,650
But the term dealing
with the Jews

397
00:24:18,650 --> 00:24:22,790
meant, yes, they were
trying to make some money.

398
00:24:22,790 --> 00:24:25,630
Blackmail in some cases,
blackmailing the Jew

399
00:24:25,630 --> 00:24:26,540
in some cases.

400
00:24:26,540 --> 00:24:28,890
Denouncing the
Jew in some cases.

401
00:24:28,890 --> 00:24:33,320
Helping a Jew to escape
wherever he want in some cases.

402
00:24:33,320 --> 00:24:38,525
Selling him false passports,
Arbeits, cards, whatever it is.

403
00:24:38,525 --> 00:24:43,400
It generally was called
dealing with the Jews.

404
00:24:43,400 --> 00:24:53,220
Now, approaching the camp,
half a mile, 1 kilometer,

405

00:24:53,220 --> 00:25:09,000

whatsoever, already I heard
wild shouts, tumultuousness.

406

00:25:09,000 --> 00:25:12,660

407

00:25:12,660 --> 00:25:16,470

I already realized
I was approaching

408

00:25:16,470 --> 00:25:21,090

some unusual situation.

409

00:25:21,090 --> 00:25:22,590

Of course, I had experience.

410

00:25:22,590 --> 00:25:25,950

I was twice in
the Warsaw ghetto.

411

00:25:25,950 --> 00:25:28,380

But excuse me, did you
know when you went there

412

00:25:28,380 --> 00:25:31,810

that Belzec was a death camp?

413

00:25:31,810 --> 00:25:34,660

Yes, Bund leader
told me that I will

414

00:25:34,660 --> 00:25:37,900

see something which I never saw,
that I will never forget it.

415

00:25:37,900 --> 00:25:41,300

I'm going to see a death
camp, actually a death camp.

416

00:25:41,300 --> 00:25:44,560

A Jewish ghetto was

not a death camp.

417

00:25:44,560 --> 00:25:46,820

It was only degradation.

418

00:25:46,820 --> 00:25:49,270

It was the way to death.

419

00:25:49,270 --> 00:25:52,080

I am going to see
a death camp now.

420

00:25:52,080 --> 00:25:55,420

And they say, I
want you to see it

421

00:25:55,420 --> 00:25:57,640

and you will tell them later on.

422

00:25:57,640 --> 00:25:58,750

They will believe you.

423

00:25:58,750 --> 00:26:01,270

You saw it.

424

00:26:01,270 --> 00:26:04,930

Assuring me we would
do everything possible,

425

00:26:04,930 --> 00:26:06,190

you will be safe.

426

00:26:06,190 --> 00:26:07,630

You will be safe.

427

00:26:07,630 --> 00:26:09,040

You will get over it.

428

00:26:09,040 --> 00:26:12,220

And we will get you out.

429

00:26:12,220 --> 00:26:22,810
Now, approaching that camp now,
hearing those inhuman groans,

430
00:26:22,810 --> 00:26:31,930
shouts, shots, I
approached a railroad,

431
00:26:31,930 --> 00:26:36,790
which seemed to me
rather primitively built.

432
00:26:36,790 --> 00:26:41,310
It was not one of
the main railroads.

433
00:26:41,310 --> 00:26:43,630
It was on my left.

434
00:26:43,630 --> 00:26:48,520
Now, the camp was on my right.

435
00:26:48,520 --> 00:26:59,110
The camp, there was no
wall like in Warsaw,

436
00:26:59,110 --> 00:27:03,080
essentially barbed wire.

437
00:27:03,080 --> 00:27:05,740
I don't think it was
electrified, but generally

438
00:27:05,740 --> 00:27:08,010
barbed wire.

439
00:27:08,010 --> 00:27:12,440
Now, the Estonian
militiaman leads me.

440
00:27:12,440 --> 00:27:17,080
So on my right, I have the camp.

441

00:27:17,080 --> 00:27:21,970

On my left side I see the truck.

442

00:27:21,970 --> 00:27:27,910

Now, there were several
so to say exits.

443

00:27:27,910 --> 00:27:30,190

Some of them primitive.

444

00:27:30,190 --> 00:27:35,200

Mainly barbed wire
between two poles,

445

00:27:35,200 --> 00:27:38,170

it was it could
be open, outside.

446

00:27:38,170 --> 00:27:40,990

447

00:27:40,990 --> 00:27:47,620

But there was some main,
apparently, entrance.

448

00:27:47,620 --> 00:27:56,320

The gate was solid gate, of
course, posts solidly built.

449

00:27:56,320 --> 00:27:58,780

And then, of course,
the continuation

450

00:27:58,780 --> 00:28:02,070

of the barbed wire.

451

00:28:02,070 --> 00:28:04,320

I enter the ghetto--

452

00:28:04,320 --> 00:28:08,730

the camp, not through
the main gate,

453
00:28:08,730 --> 00:28:15,810
through one of those
primitive entrances.

454
00:28:15,810 --> 00:28:19,380
And now, the militiaman,
apparently he

455
00:28:19,380 --> 00:28:24,090
had instructions that I-
for one reason or another,

456
00:28:24,090 --> 00:28:26,410
I want to see as
much as possible

457
00:28:26,410 --> 00:28:28,780
what is going to happen.

458
00:28:28,780 --> 00:28:35,220
So then already within the
camp, he directs me what he

459
00:28:35,220 --> 00:28:39,900
called good spot, which was--

460
00:28:39,900 --> 00:28:43,980
Did you ask him what was the
meaning of these screamings,

461
00:28:43,980 --> 00:28:47,620
of these shoutings that
you heard on the way?

462
00:28:47,620 --> 00:28:49,560
Oh, yes, on my way.

463
00:28:49,560 --> 00:28:53,370
Well, his answer was
the Jews are hot.

464

00:28:53,370 --> 00:28:55,470
You will see it.

465
00:28:55,470 --> 00:28:57,100
Today, the Jews are hot.

466
00:28:57,100 --> 00:29:01,620
As a matter of fact, I
remember he said something.

467
00:29:01,620 --> 00:29:10,200
There is a new batch which is
going to be processed today.

468
00:29:10,200 --> 00:29:17,110
So now, he leads me to
the area of the main gate.

469
00:29:17,110 --> 00:29:21,510
As a matter of fact, now
he whispered to me, listen,

470
00:29:21,510 --> 00:29:23,340
I am going a little that away.

471
00:29:23,340 --> 00:29:26,700
If something happens,
remember you don't know me,

472
00:29:26,700 --> 00:29:28,020
I don't know you.

473
00:29:28,020 --> 00:29:31,480
So at this point, I am alone.

474
00:29:31,480 --> 00:29:36,600
Now, from the main
gate there was--

475
00:29:36,600 --> 00:29:41,670
the main gate at this point
was open, again outside.

476

00:29:41,670 --> 00:29:47,730

I remember the gate consisted
of two parts, open, outside.

477

00:29:47,730 --> 00:29:55,620

From the gate-- in front of
that gate there was a train,

478

00:29:55,620 --> 00:29:58,650

cattle train.

479

00:29:58,650 --> 00:29:59,460

Now, I counted.

480

00:29:59,460 --> 00:30:01,980

481

00:30:01,980 --> 00:30:05,970

46 trucks were there.

482

00:30:05,970 --> 00:30:07,320

46 wagons.

483

00:30:07,320 --> 00:30:08,790

Wagons, yes.

484

00:30:08,790 --> 00:30:10,950

I had no difficulty
counting them

485

00:30:10,950 --> 00:30:15,480

because the train was moving.

486

00:30:15,480 --> 00:30:20,100

Now, there was this
ramp, a platform

487

00:30:20,100 --> 00:30:26,820

from the gate
leading to the train,

488

00:30:26,820 --> 00:30:29,100
almost directly to the train.

489
00:30:29,100 --> 00:30:31,740
Now, as you know,
cattle train does not

490
00:30:31,740 --> 00:30:35,190
have steps, only
on the high level.

491
00:30:35,190 --> 00:30:38,970
So it is not easy
to enter the train.

492
00:30:38,970 --> 00:30:43,200
If you want to leave it, you
have to jump, of course, down.

493
00:30:43,200 --> 00:30:49,608
And now, in that
part of the camp,

494
00:30:49,608 --> 00:30:53,880
and I don't know how many, it
must have been 5,000, 4,000,

495
00:30:53,880 --> 00:31:02,722
6,000, but this
cannot be described.

496
00:31:02,722 --> 00:31:08,390

497
00:31:08,390 --> 00:31:09,650
Not humanity.

498
00:31:09,650 --> 00:31:12,200

499
00:31:12,200 --> 00:31:20,240
Crowd moving, some
collective moving body.

500
00:31:20,240 --> 00:31:24,350
The Jews-- women,
children, men, shouting,

501
00:31:24,350 --> 00:31:30,030
quarreling with each other,
fighting against each other.

502
00:31:30,030 --> 00:31:34,950
Evidently hungry, evidently
not knowing probably

503
00:31:34,950 --> 00:31:38,530
what is happening here.

504
00:31:38,530 --> 00:31:46,290
I specifically remember some
Jew totally, completely naked.

505
00:31:46,290 --> 00:31:49,530
And somehow, again, standing.

506
00:31:49,530 --> 00:31:51,460
Why he was naked, I don't know.

507
00:31:51,460 --> 00:31:52,990
Perhaps, he threw his clothes.

508
00:31:52,990 --> 00:31:58,020
Perhaps the people
took his clothes.

509
00:31:58,020 --> 00:32:01,040
Now, in this agony--

510
00:32:01,040 --> 00:33:17,263