

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:09,210

2

00:00:09,210 --> 00:00:10,950

Great care was
taken that we do not

3

00:00:10,950 --> 00:00:14,430

get the prisoners
into a direct contact

4

00:00:14,430 --> 00:00:16,590

with those new arrivals.

5

00:00:16,590 --> 00:00:20,370

And only when those new arrivals
were organized in such a way

6

00:00:20,370 --> 00:00:24,580

that they were in
proper columns--

7

00:00:24,580 --> 00:00:26,297

women, children, men.

8

00:00:26,297 --> 00:00:28,630

The first thing was to put
them up into a proper column.

9

00:00:28,630 --> 00:00:31,090

And this column was standing.

10

00:00:31,090 --> 00:00:35,140

Then the command
came to us prisoners

11

00:00:35,140 --> 00:00:38,530

to move towards the wagons.

12

00:00:38,530 --> 00:00:42,580

And we were of course led

on by all sorts of kapos

13

00:00:42,580 --> 00:00:46,280
and unterkapos with clubs in
their hands and behind them.

14

00:00:46,280 --> 00:00:51,280
But again, the SS with
walking sticks in their hands.

15

00:00:51,280 --> 00:00:52,930
And we were supposed,
now, to move--

16

00:00:52,930 --> 00:00:56,870
the first thing was to deal
with bodies, dead or dying.

17

00:00:56,870 --> 00:01:00,220
So our first job was
to get into the wagons,

18

00:01:00,220 --> 00:01:06,610
to get out the dead bodies
or the dying, and as we--

19

00:01:06,610 --> 00:01:07,870
You were running?

20

00:01:07,870 --> 00:01:09,310
Yes, we were running.

21

00:01:09,310 --> 00:01:13,340
Not more than two people were
supposed to carry a body.

22

00:01:13,340 --> 00:01:18,160
This means that one got the
hands, the other the legs.

23

00:01:18,160 --> 00:01:22,060
But sometimes-- and of course,
it had to be done fast.

24
00:01:22,060 --> 00:01:25,800
And in order that
we don't lose time,

25
00:01:25,800 --> 00:01:30,430
the Nazis were around with a
walking stick in their hand

26
00:01:30,430 --> 00:01:32,770
and giving us a
bit of enthusiasm

27
00:01:32,770 --> 00:01:34,550
into this sort of job.

28
00:01:34,550 --> 00:01:35,050
For you?

29
00:01:35,050 --> 00:01:37,570
Yes, I mean they
hit here and there.

30
00:01:37,570 --> 00:01:43,090
And so we came to the truck.

31
00:01:43,090 --> 00:01:46,220
And the trucks were-- they
were very peculiar trucks.

32
00:01:46,220 --> 00:01:50,290
This was trucks, like for
sand which could be lifted.

33
00:01:50,290 --> 00:01:52,330
But at that moment,
they were not lifted.

34
00:01:52,330 --> 00:01:55,390
Only the rear part of
the truck was open.

35

00:01:55,390 --> 00:01:58,960
And there was a small
platform staircase.

36
00:01:58,960 --> 00:02:03,168
And we had to run up with
the body up the staircase.

37
00:02:03,168 --> 00:02:05,710
And then already, the truck with
the other two prisoners, who

38
00:02:05,710 --> 00:02:08,500
would take over the
body and somehow

39
00:02:08,500 --> 00:02:10,820
accommodated in the truck.

40
00:02:10,820 --> 00:02:13,540
And we were immediately
supposed to turn.

41
00:02:13,540 --> 00:02:16,780
And as a rule of sport, the
rule was you [INAUDIBLE]

42
00:02:16,780 --> 00:02:18,130
back to the wagon.

43
00:02:18,130 --> 00:02:21,760
And you put the dying
people with the dead?

44
00:02:21,760 --> 00:02:22,900
Dying and the dead.

45
00:02:22,900 --> 00:02:24,070
Yes.

46
00:02:24,070 --> 00:02:25,780
The job was to get
it to the truck.

47
00:02:25,780 --> 00:02:28,600
And the job of
those on the truck

48
00:02:28,600 --> 00:02:30,790
was to place them in the truck.

49
00:02:30,790 --> 00:02:33,670
I mean, there was
only usually one truck

50
00:02:33,670 --> 00:02:35,110
available for this purpose.

51
00:02:35,110 --> 00:02:37,570
And there was not much.

52
00:02:37,570 --> 00:02:38,650
This was an old ramp.

53
00:02:38,650 --> 00:02:42,070
I mean, through that old
ramp, the first 1 and 3/4

54
00:02:42,070 --> 00:02:44,230
of million people went
through that old ramp.

55
00:02:44,230 --> 00:02:45,190
1 and 3/4.

56
00:02:45,190 --> 00:02:45,725
1 and 3/4.

57
00:02:45,725 --> 00:02:47,020
This means the majority.

58
00:02:47,020 --> 00:02:49,060
The majority through
that old ramp.

59

00:02:49,060 --> 00:02:52,250

The new ramp was only built
for the big businesses,

60

00:02:52,250 --> 00:02:53,710

the Hungarian Jews.

61

00:02:53,710 --> 00:02:55,030

That was a particular purpose.

62

00:02:55,030 --> 00:02:57,920

And the whole thing had
to be better streamlined.

63

00:02:57,920 --> 00:03:00,520

However, they are
keeping on the old ramp.

64

00:03:00,520 --> 00:03:05,250

Once this was done, and the
dead and dying were transported,

65

00:03:05,250 --> 00:03:11,100

we had to move into the wagons
and take out all the luggage.

66

00:03:11,100 --> 00:03:12,230

Absolutely everything.

67

00:03:12,230 --> 00:03:18,230

And this was all put on the
ramp in a sort of big heaps.

68

00:03:18,230 --> 00:03:20,785

Meanwhile, the Nazis--

69

00:03:20,785 --> 00:03:24,330

So you said this was, this could
be at night, and in that time?

70

00:03:24,330 --> 00:03:26,540

This could be at 4

o'clock in the morning,

71

00:03:26,540 --> 00:03:29,060
at 12:00 lunchtime,
at 1 o'clock at night.

72

00:03:29,060 --> 00:03:33,430
I mean, there was no rule to it.

73

00:03:33,430 --> 00:03:35,790
When the transport
arrived to the about

74

00:03:35,790 --> 00:03:39,400
distance of 20 kilometers from
Auschwitz, the signal came.

75

00:03:39,400 --> 00:03:41,740
And we had this
particular detachment

76

00:03:41,740 --> 00:03:45,520
was always ready there for
the transport of prisoners.

77

00:03:45,520 --> 00:03:48,790
And obviously, I was always
ready for the arrival

78

00:03:48,790 --> 00:03:52,150
of the transport, in particular,
detachment of SS for the cordon

79

00:03:52,150 --> 00:03:54,820
around, for escorting
us prisoners

80

00:03:54,820 --> 00:03:57,370
to the ramp from the camp.

81

00:03:57,370 --> 00:04:03,900
And of course, there was always
a group of the Nazi officers

82
00:04:03,900 --> 00:04:07,810
or whatever they were
for the inside work.

83
00:04:07,810 --> 00:04:09,330
Can you follow what I'm saying?

84
00:04:09,330 --> 00:04:09,913
Oh, yes, I do.

85
00:04:09,913 --> 00:04:12,150
So this was always prepared.

86
00:04:12,150 --> 00:04:16,730
And it was-- there was no
particular hour of arrival.

87
00:04:16,730 --> 00:04:21,680
Also, I must say that most of
the arrivals, but not all, most

88
00:04:21,680 --> 00:04:24,447
were when it became dark.

89
00:04:24,447 --> 00:04:25,280
When it became dark.

90
00:04:25,280 --> 00:04:26,710
Yes.

91
00:04:26,710 --> 00:04:27,840
With a light.

92
00:04:27,840 --> 00:04:30,880

93
00:04:30,880 --> 00:04:32,890
I mean with a electric light.

94
00:04:32,890 --> 00:04:34,310

Electric light, yes.

95

00:04:34,310 --> 00:04:37,150

And most of the work was
done under electric light.

96

00:04:37,150 --> 00:04:39,760

But there is one thing which
is very difficult to grasp.

97

00:04:39,760 --> 00:04:45,240

When these people arrived
with corpses inside the wagons

98

00:04:45,240 --> 00:04:48,360

and when there were
many corpses, I mean,

99

00:04:48,360 --> 00:04:52,560

how could they still have
hope to come in a place

100

00:04:52,560 --> 00:04:56,750

where they would
work, survive, live?

101

00:04:56,750 --> 00:05:01,350

I mean, this should have
been a sign, no, for them?

102

00:05:01,350 --> 00:05:06,750

It is very difficult for
me to answer this question

103

00:05:06,750 --> 00:05:12,690

because I never went
voluntarily into such a wagon.

104

00:05:12,690 --> 00:05:16,020

Those trains were guarded
minimally on the road

105

00:05:16,020 --> 00:05:16,830

to Auschwitz.

106
00:05:16,830 --> 00:05:17,370
Minimally?

107
00:05:17,370 --> 00:05:18,000
Minimally.

108
00:05:18,000 --> 00:05:19,830
But when I was
transported there,

109
00:05:19,830 --> 00:05:21,510
they had special
two guards standing

110
00:05:21,510 --> 00:05:23,220
by me who explained
to me what is going

111
00:05:23,220 --> 00:05:24,450
to happen to me if I move.

112
00:05:24,450 --> 00:05:27,700
Because I had already
two escapes behind me.

113
00:05:27,700 --> 00:05:28,200
Because--

114
00:05:28,200 --> 00:05:30,620
Yes, and you were coming from
Majdanek, from another camp.

115
00:05:30,620 --> 00:05:31,800
Oh, this is a different story.

116
00:05:31,800 --> 00:05:33,342
I don't want to
confuse it very much.

117
00:05:33,342 --> 00:05:34,300

Yes, I agree.

118
00:05:34,300 --> 00:05:36,002
But as far as the
people were, you see,

119
00:05:36,002 --> 00:05:37,710
this depends from
where they were coming.

120
00:05:37,710 --> 00:05:41,400
If the people were coming from
a relatively civilized place--

121
00:05:41,400 --> 00:05:42,330
this means civilized.

122
00:05:42,330 --> 00:05:45,360
This means from a place where
the Germans were careful not

123
00:05:45,360 --> 00:05:48,270
to show their real face.

124
00:05:48,270 --> 00:05:49,590
From the West?

125
00:05:49,590 --> 00:05:50,470
So-called West.

126
00:05:50,470 --> 00:05:54,120
Say they came from Paris,
or if they came from Vienna,

127
00:05:54,120 --> 00:05:59,870
or if they came from
Prague, or from Bratislava.

128
00:05:59,870 --> 00:06:05,030
Then those people were probably
thinking that it is thanks god,

129

00:06:05,030 --> 00:06:08,930

we are already somewhere,
or this is an error.

130

00:06:08,930 --> 00:06:12,380

Somebody organized
the transport wrongly.

131

00:06:12,380 --> 00:06:14,060

Things must now become better.

132

00:06:14,060 --> 00:06:16,610

This is intolerable.

133

00:06:16,610 --> 00:06:19,250

And now, obviously,
things will come better.

134

00:06:19,250 --> 00:06:24,140

And of course, when it
was not nice day, and not

135

00:06:24,140 --> 00:06:26,730

too much to work,
the Nazis, of course,

136

00:06:26,730 --> 00:06:29,750

had a good time by
saying, good god,

137

00:06:29,750 --> 00:06:35,030

in what state did those
horrible Slovaks transport you?

138

00:06:35,030 --> 00:06:37,010

This is inhuman.

139

00:06:37,010 --> 00:06:41,110

I mean, this sort of
humor was quite common.

140

00:06:41,110 --> 00:06:43,290

And this, of course,

quietens the people.

141
00:06:43,290 --> 00:06:45,140
Oh, this, of course,
immediately, oh, yes,

142
00:06:45,140 --> 00:06:46,040
it's very nice.

143
00:06:46,040 --> 00:06:48,830
I remember how some
people even said,

144
00:06:48,830 --> 00:06:50,690
oh, here are German officers.

145
00:06:50,690 --> 00:06:53,270
Finally, we are in--

146
00:06:53,270 --> 00:06:56,930
I mean, people had a lot
of naive imaginations

147
00:06:56,930 --> 00:07:00,740
about what an officer is,
and what a Nazi officer is,

148
00:07:00,740 --> 00:07:03,710
and what the world was about
at that time in general.

149
00:07:03,710 --> 00:07:06,830
But would you have
the possibility--

150
00:07:06,830 --> 00:07:10,780
oh, Jesus, very
far-fetched question--

151
00:07:10,780 --> 00:07:13,720
to talk to these people,
would you have talked?

152

00:07:13,720 --> 00:07:16,030

Well, there were
attempts to talk to them.

153

00:07:16,030 --> 00:07:18,340

You see, any attempt
to talk directly

154

00:07:18,340 --> 00:07:20,590

with the new arrivals-- the
new arrivals were supposed

155

00:07:20,590 --> 00:07:23,770

to be kept without panic and
orderly marching into the gas

156

00:07:23,770 --> 00:07:25,660

chambers.

157

00:07:25,660 --> 00:07:28,120

Especially the panic
was dangerous from women

158

00:07:28,120 --> 00:07:30,970

with small children,
or for whole families.

159

00:07:30,970 --> 00:07:35,470

So it was important for
the Nazis that none of us

160

00:07:35,470 --> 00:07:38,410

give some sort of a message
which could cause a panic even

161

00:07:38,410 --> 00:07:39,670

in the last moment.

162

00:07:39,670 --> 00:07:44,740

And anybody who tried to get
into touch with prisoners

163

00:07:44,740 --> 00:07:49,870
was either clubbed to death
or-- clubbed to death.

164
00:07:49,870 --> 00:07:53,220
Or taken behind
the wagon and shot.

165
00:07:53,220 --> 00:07:54,700
But this happened sometimes?

166
00:07:54,700 --> 00:07:56,485
Not infrequently.

167
00:07:56,485 --> 00:07:57,110
Not infrequent?

168
00:07:57,110 --> 00:07:58,000
Not frequently.

169
00:07:58,000 --> 00:08:01,690
But of course, all the prisoners
who were for sometimes.

170
00:08:01,690 --> 00:08:03,670
You see, in this
command, in this kind

171
00:08:03,670 --> 00:08:05,380
of the command, which
was working there,

172
00:08:05,380 --> 00:08:07,210
there was a very high mortality.

173
00:08:07,210 --> 00:08:07,780
Yes.

174
00:08:07,780 --> 00:08:08,740
Very high mortality.

175
00:08:08,740 --> 00:08:12,610

Because many people of
the prisoners liked to be

176
00:08:12,610 --> 00:08:15,490
there, because there was a
possibility to steal some food.

177
00:08:15,490 --> 00:08:17,650
This means, well,
we were not hungry.

178
00:08:17,650 --> 00:08:20,450
Because those people
brought food with them.

179
00:08:20,450 --> 00:08:24,910
And we naturally tried to
steal something for us, too.

180
00:08:24,910 --> 00:08:26,170
So there was something to eat.

181
00:08:26,170 --> 00:08:28,150
And that's what was
the attraction of it

182
00:08:28,150 --> 00:08:29,840
for the many prisoners
to work there.

183
00:08:29,840 --> 00:08:33,850
But on the other hand,
the slightest deviation

184
00:08:33,850 --> 00:08:37,900
from the routine by a prisoner
was punished by death.

185
00:08:37,900 --> 00:08:38,750
Do you remember?

186
00:08:38,750 --> 00:08:40,882
Do you recall some cases

when people tried to go?

187

00:08:40,882 --> 00:08:42,299

There were so many
cases, you see,

188

00:08:42,299 --> 00:08:48,100

there was a great mortality in
this group among the newcomers

189

00:08:48,100 --> 00:08:50,030

who were new, who
didn't know yet.

190

00:08:50,030 --> 00:08:52,570

This is one of the
principles of Auschwitz

191

00:08:52,570 --> 00:08:56,710

was, like in many other
places, that nobody explained

192

00:08:56,710 --> 00:08:59,020

to you what the rules are.

193

00:08:59,020 --> 00:09:02,410

Either you got the rules
or you didn't get them.

194

00:09:02,410 --> 00:09:05,500

And if you didn't get
them, that was a bad luck.

195

00:09:05,500 --> 00:09:06,640

Yes, very bad luck.

196

00:09:06,640 --> 00:09:07,990

That was very bad luck.

197

00:09:07,990 --> 00:09:13,270

So people who thought that they
could sort of flout the order

198

00:09:13,270 --> 00:09:16,390

and just walk there and say
something to the new arrivals

199

00:09:16,390 --> 00:09:17,710

or so, I mean, they were--

200

00:09:17,710 --> 00:10:03,745

201

00:10:03,745 --> 00:10:07,090

(film slating)

202

00:10:07,090 --> 00:10:11,560

Do you recall precise cases
where people tried to warn

203

00:10:11,560 --> 00:10:13,780

the arriving [? on horse? ?]

204

00:10:13,780 --> 00:10:20,950

Yes, there were such
cases, which I can recall--

205

00:10:20,950 --> 00:10:23,900

Glasses, please.

206

00:10:23,900 --> 00:10:27,940

There were many cases
with various histories.

207

00:10:27,940 --> 00:10:31,390

Now, one case I recall
was that a transport

208

00:10:31,390 --> 00:10:35,110

came from Theresienstadt,
from Czechoslovakia.

209

00:10:35,110 --> 00:10:37,180

And those transports
usually came

210

00:10:37,180 --> 00:10:42,620
in reasonably good condition.

211

00:10:42,620 --> 00:10:46,430
And some of the people were
even reasonably well dressed.

212

00:10:46,430 --> 00:10:54,360
And once, a woman came out
with two children by the hand,

213

00:10:54,360 --> 00:10:59,440
and tried to make some
remarks to the effect

214

00:10:59,440 --> 00:11:02,610
that thanks god we are
already here, and so on.

215

00:11:02,610 --> 00:11:06,420
And a prisoner who was
running by and who was Czech

216

00:11:06,420 --> 00:11:09,150
tried to give her a
warning, saying that--

217

00:11:09,150 --> 00:11:11,010
A man of the Kanada command, OK?

218

00:11:11,010 --> 00:11:11,760
Yes, yes.

219

00:11:11,760 --> 00:11:14,700
You will be dead soon
or something like that.

220

00:11:14,700 --> 00:11:18,340
You know, what can he
say in fast, running?

221

00:11:18,340 --> 00:11:23,610
But he tried to convey a
warning and she simply went

222
00:11:23,610 --> 00:11:26,130
to the nearest SS
officer and said,

223
00:11:26,130 --> 00:11:29,052
in fluent German, that
one of those criminals--

224
00:11:29,052 --> 00:11:30,510
because they looked
like criminals,

225
00:11:30,510 --> 00:11:35,400
and those SS officers looked of
course like proper gentlemen--

226
00:11:35,400 --> 00:11:40,620
one of those criminals said
that we are going to die.

227
00:11:40,620 --> 00:11:43,470
And the German was
in a good humor

228
00:11:43,470 --> 00:11:44,630
and said to her, [GERMAN].

229
00:11:44,630 --> 00:11:48,750

230
00:11:48,750 --> 00:11:50,940
We are civilized people.

231
00:11:50,940 --> 00:11:53,490
Which gangster said it to you?

232
00:11:53,490 --> 00:11:54,790
You just point him out.

233

00:11:54,790 --> 00:11:58,350

So she pointed him out in
her stupidity, or naivete,

234

00:11:58,350 --> 00:11:59,890

or whatever it was.

235

00:11:59,890 --> 00:12:02,490

And it didn't help
her, because she

236

00:12:02,490 --> 00:12:05,160

was mollified for the
next hour or so before she

237

00:12:05,160 --> 00:12:07,740

was gassed with the children.

238

00:12:07,740 --> 00:12:12,660

And the boy was simply taken
behind the wagons and shot.

239

00:12:12,660 --> 00:12:14,490

And that was the last
we heard about him.

240

00:12:14,490 --> 00:12:15,060

[? 30? ?]

241

00:12:15,060 --> 00:12:16,395

[? 30 ?] came out.

242

00:12:16,395 --> 00:12:18,540

Not even [? 30 ?]
[? came ?] [? out. ?] Shot.

243

00:12:18,540 --> 00:12:22,465

You know, this was
already a strong case.

244

00:12:22,465 --> 00:12:23,460

A [GERMAN].

245
00:12:23,460 --> 00:12:24,240
Yes.

246
00:12:24,240 --> 00:12:24,930
But usually--

247
00:12:24,930 --> 00:12:28,470
But what was the meaning of this
warning, as a matter of fact?

248
00:12:28,470 --> 00:12:31,320
Because she was powerless.

249
00:12:31,320 --> 00:12:35,680
Even knowing, she
couldn't do nothing.

250
00:12:35,680 --> 00:12:37,580
Well, the thing
was the following--

251
00:12:37,580 --> 00:12:40,990
if a panic would have
broken out and a massacre

252
00:12:40,990 --> 00:12:45,250
would have taken place
on the spot on the ramp,

253
00:12:45,250 --> 00:12:49,720
it would already be a
hitch in the machinery.

254
00:12:49,720 --> 00:12:51,700
The next transport,
you can't bring

255
00:12:51,700 --> 00:12:53,950
in the next transport
with dead bodies around,

256

00:12:53,950 --> 00:12:55,600
blood all over the place.

257
00:12:55,600 --> 00:12:58,280
Because this will only
increase the panic, and so on.

258
00:12:58,280 --> 00:13:03,160
In other words, I don't think
that this would have changed

259
00:13:03,160 --> 00:13:04,400
the situation very much.

260
00:13:04,400 --> 00:13:08,260
But as the Nazis were
concentrated upon one thing,

261
00:13:08,260 --> 00:13:11,370
it should go in
an orderly fashion

262
00:13:11,370 --> 00:13:13,810
so that it goes unimpeded.

263
00:13:13,810 --> 00:13:16,430
One doesn't lose time.

264
00:13:16,430 --> 00:13:18,400
Secondly, if a
panic arises-- there

265
00:13:18,400 --> 00:13:21,040
were 200, 300
prisoners sometimes.

266
00:13:21,040 --> 00:13:23,290
There were only 100 SS.

267
00:13:23,290 --> 00:13:25,480
All sorts of things can happen.

268

00:13:25,480 --> 00:13:28,390

I mean, it would be possible
that a couple of those SS

269

00:13:28,390 --> 00:13:30,880

could be killed, overpowered,
that some escapes would

270

00:13:30,880 --> 00:13:31,747

take place.

271

00:13:31,747 --> 00:13:34,330

All sorts of unpleasant things
which disturbs the daily order.

272

00:13:34,330 --> 00:13:35,455

I mean, they were
very concentrated

273

00:13:35,455 --> 00:13:37,060

that no disturbance took place.

274

00:13:37,060 --> 00:13:43,450

But do you remember, did
exist some cases of unrest?

275

00:13:43,450 --> 00:13:46,960

Unrest-- once, I remember, a
considerable amount of unrest

276

00:13:46,960 --> 00:13:49,360

when those people were lined up.

277

00:13:49,360 --> 00:13:54,840

And there was a
habit that when the--

278

00:13:54,840 --> 00:13:57,070

from Auschwitz, in the
night, around midnight,

279

00:13:57,070 --> 00:14:00,630

they used to carry out the

bodies of prisoners who died

280

00:14:00,630 --> 00:14:02,760
during that particular day.

281

00:14:02,760 --> 00:14:05,010
And sometimes, it was
so much, you know,

282

00:14:05,010 --> 00:14:08,100
that the truck on which
they were carried, you know,

283

00:14:08,100 --> 00:14:11,170
it was sort of overloaded with
bodies, with naked bodies.

284

00:14:11,170 --> 00:14:15,450

285

00:14:15,450 --> 00:14:20,460
Whenever the truck was
passing by this ramp--

286

00:14:20,460 --> 00:14:21,330
Near the ramp?

287

00:14:21,330 --> 00:14:22,332
Or in front of the ramp.

288

00:14:22,332 --> 00:14:23,790
It had to cross
the ramp on the way

289

00:14:23,790 --> 00:14:26,760
to crematorium from
Auschwitz going to Birkenau.

290

00:14:26,760 --> 00:14:29,430
And with the people
waiting in line?

291

00:14:29,430 --> 00:14:32,160

And the people were
waiting in line.

292

00:14:32,160 --> 00:14:35,460

And it happened once.

293

00:14:35,460 --> 00:14:39,180

Whenever this truck went
by with those dead bodies

294

00:14:39,180 --> 00:14:42,330

while the people were in
line, the lights went off.

295

00:14:42,330 --> 00:14:44,820

They went off for, say,
two, three seconds,

296

00:14:44,820 --> 00:14:46,830

just to let the truck
go by, so that people

297

00:14:46,830 --> 00:14:48,420

don't see the dead bodies.

298

00:14:48,420 --> 00:14:50,190

However, once, the
lights didn't go out.

299

00:14:50,190 --> 00:14:53,280

And the truck got
stuck on the rails.

300

00:14:53,280 --> 00:14:58,200

And as the truck got stuck,
and under the reflectors--

301

00:14:58,200 --> 00:14:59,550

and it was a French transport.

302

00:14:59,550 --> 00:15:02,790

It was the transport

of French Jews.

303

00:15:02,790 --> 00:15:07,290

And the cars tried to
get off the tracks.

304

00:15:07,290 --> 00:15:11,130

And the truck was off
the railway tracks.

305

00:15:11,130 --> 00:15:16,590

And the car truck was
overloaded with the dead bodies.

306

00:15:16,590 --> 00:15:18,240

And there was a
movement, you know,

307

00:15:18,240 --> 00:15:20,310

the bodies started to shift.

308

00:15:20,310 --> 00:15:23,370

And all was a bit macabre.

309

00:15:23,370 --> 00:15:25,020

And the people suddenly saw it.

310

00:15:25,020 --> 00:15:29,080

And there was an enormous
outcry among the waiting,

311

00:15:29,080 --> 00:15:30,550

for those who were waiting.

312

00:15:30,550 --> 00:15:31,920

Suddenly a wail.

313

00:15:31,920 --> 00:15:35,310

And then suddenly, the truck
managed, and pulled off,

314

00:15:35,310 --> 00:15:37,830

and disappeared, and
everything became quiet.

315
00:15:37,830 --> 00:15:40,505
I mean, people thought perhaps
it is a mirage or something

316
00:15:40,505 --> 00:15:41,005
like that.

317
00:15:41,005 --> 00:15:41,920
A mirage.

318
00:15:41,920 --> 00:15:42,420
Yeah.

319
00:15:42,420 --> 00:15:48,500
So this was one case when
almost an unrest took place.

320
00:15:48,500 --> 00:15:50,960
Another case of
unrest, of course,

321
00:15:50,960 --> 00:15:56,450
took place when a transport of
mentally ill, heavily mentally

322
00:15:56,450 --> 00:15:58,310
ill people arrived there.

323
00:15:58,310 --> 00:15:58,830
Jews?

324
00:15:58,830 --> 00:15:59,660
Jews, yes.

325
00:15:59,660 --> 00:16:01,813
This was from a
mental institution.

326
00:16:01,813 --> 00:16:04,230

They collected them from, all
sorts of mental institution.

327
00:16:04,230 --> 00:16:06,350
And the whole transport
was full of people

328
00:16:06,350 --> 00:16:08,060
who were mentally sick.

329
00:16:08,060 --> 00:16:09,350
From which country?

330
00:16:09,350 --> 00:16:10,000
From Holland.

331
00:16:10,000 --> 00:16:10,610
From Holland.

332
00:16:10,610 --> 00:16:11,150
Yes.

333
00:16:11,150 --> 00:16:14,990
This must have been in
January or February 1943.

334
00:16:14,990 --> 00:16:19,520
And there were about 40 or
50 nurses with the transport.

335
00:16:19,520 --> 00:16:22,160
And of course, they were a
long time on the journey.

336
00:16:22,160 --> 00:16:25,520
And most of them, a good
deal of them, were naked.

337
00:16:25,520 --> 00:16:29,210
And so they behaved like heavily
mentally handicapped people.

338

00:16:29,210 --> 00:16:34,470
And the SS no way could
they move those people

339
00:16:34,470 --> 00:16:37,280
with shouting, with
beating, with nothing.

340
00:16:37,280 --> 00:16:39,920
Because they were just
simply mad people.

341
00:16:39,920 --> 00:16:43,820
And they didn't
understand anything.

342
00:16:43,820 --> 00:16:45,590
They were not
reasonable enough to?

343
00:16:45,590 --> 00:16:48,020
They were not reasonable
enough, that's right.

344
00:16:48,020 --> 00:16:52,310
They were not reasonable enough
to understand the SS orders.

345
00:16:52,310 --> 00:16:56,120
And the SS, really, I could
see that they became nervous.

346
00:16:56,120 --> 00:16:58,550
Because there was
such a disorder

347
00:16:58,550 --> 00:17:01,410
on the ramp that to shoot
them or something like that,

348
00:17:01,410 --> 00:17:03,380
this would create difficulty.

349

00:17:03,380 --> 00:17:05,900

It was a night of
several transports.

350

00:17:05,900 --> 00:17:08,250

And the SS found a way out.

351

00:17:08,250 --> 00:17:11,390

There were 40 or 50
nurses with those people.

352

00:17:11,390 --> 00:17:16,310

And they suddenly started to
be very nice to the nurses,

353

00:17:16,310 --> 00:17:21,800

and firing the nurses on
to get the transport going.

354

00:17:21,800 --> 00:17:25,940

And so it was the nurses
who somehow managed--

355

00:17:25,940 --> 00:17:28,400

who knew how to deal
with those people.

356

00:17:28,400 --> 00:17:31,320

There was certainly no shouting,
no beating of those people,

357

00:17:31,320 --> 00:17:32,000

and so on.

358

00:17:32,000 --> 00:17:34,550

As the nurses dealt with
those who could walk.

359

00:17:34,550 --> 00:17:35,930

The nurses made the work.

360

00:17:35,930 --> 00:17:38,690

Yes, they could manage that.

361
00:17:38,690 --> 00:17:41,480
But the whole
thing was so lousy.

362
00:17:41,480 --> 00:17:43,085
I mean, excuse me
the expression,

363
00:17:43,085 --> 00:17:45,980
but they were already in such
a horrible state physically,

364
00:17:45,980 --> 00:17:48,290
and certainly from
the sanitation point.

365
00:17:48,290 --> 00:17:51,320
Because the nurses spent
the whole time, several days

366
00:17:51,320 --> 00:17:53,180
in the same wagons.

367
00:17:53,180 --> 00:17:56,960
So that the nurses looked,
really, like tough girls.

368
00:17:56,960 --> 00:18:00,670
They were gassed with them,
because there was a danger,

369
00:18:00,670 --> 00:18:02,480
the SS expressed
the opinion somehow

370
00:18:02,480 --> 00:18:06,540
that the lice, things
like that, and infection,

371
00:18:06,540 --> 00:18:08,410
and so on, and they
gassed the whole thing.

372
00:18:08,410 --> 00:18:09,350
The nurses, too?

373
00:18:09,350 --> 00:18:10,310
The nurses, too.

374
00:18:10,310 --> 00:18:13,010
Obviously, they went with the
nurses until the last moment

375
00:18:13,010 --> 00:18:15,320
until the gas chamber.

376
00:18:15,320 --> 00:18:18,660
Because who could deal with
people who are unreasonable?

377
00:18:18,660 --> 00:18:21,200
Obviously it is
at least possible,

378
00:18:21,200 --> 00:18:24,800
this sort of resistance
was better than nothing.

379
00:18:24,800 --> 00:18:27,840
Even the crazy people know it.

380
00:18:27,840 --> 00:18:32,490
That's a very interesting point.

381
00:18:32,490 --> 00:18:36,480
It's true, they rounded
the mad Jews, too.

382
00:18:36,480 --> 00:18:42,060
Oh, yes, because they
had all sorts of ways

383
00:18:42,060 --> 00:18:46,562
of organizing those

transports, you see,

384

00:18:46,562 --> 00:18:48,270

which were different
in various contexts.

385

00:18:48,270 --> 00:18:51,390

Do you remember the arrival of
the Greek Jews, of transport

386

00:18:51,390 --> 00:18:52,170

from Greece?

387

00:18:52,170 --> 00:18:54,390

I remember many, because
in the time that I

388

00:18:54,390 --> 00:18:57,390

was on the ramp, at
least 30, 40,000 people

389

00:18:57,390 --> 00:18:58,860

came from Thessaloniki.

390

00:18:58,860 --> 00:19:01,200

And again, those were
very unfortunate people.

391

00:19:01,200 --> 00:19:04,230

Because more than others.

392

00:19:04,230 --> 00:19:07,800

Because they didn't speak any of
the Central European languages,

393

00:19:07,800 --> 00:19:08,890

German, for instance.

394

00:19:08,890 --> 00:19:11,940

They spoke-- they didn't
probably even speak Greek.

395

00:19:11,940 --> 00:19:13,450

Or if they spoke
it, I don't know.

396

00:19:13,450 --> 00:19:14,460

I don't speak Greek.

397

00:19:14,460 --> 00:19:16,590

But they spoke between
themselves Ladino.

398

00:19:16,590 --> 00:19:17,670

Yes.

399

00:19:17,670 --> 00:19:21,172

Which is a Jewish
dialect, which they used,

400

00:19:21,172 --> 00:19:22,380

which is a sort of a Spanish.

401

00:19:22,380 --> 00:19:25,800

402

00:19:25,800 --> 00:19:29,070

Because it's very strange, when
I was in Poland, in Treblinka,

403

00:19:29,070 --> 00:19:34,530

the Poles who witnessed this had
very vivid recollection, too,

404

00:19:34,530 --> 00:19:37,800

of the arrival of the
transports from Greece.

405

00:19:37,800 --> 00:19:40,410

And I wondered always why.

406

00:19:40,410 --> 00:19:43,680

These people were very
different in many ways.

407

00:19:43,680 --> 00:19:46,610

They were more colorful,
already by dress.

408

00:19:46,610 --> 00:19:51,540

Secondly, they had a very
sort of philosophical approach

409

00:19:51,540 --> 00:19:52,180

to life.

410

00:19:52,180 --> 00:19:55,770

A bit touch of
Orient was in them.

411

00:19:55,770 --> 00:20:00,595

Many of them were very religious
Jews with beards and so on.

412

00:20:00,595 --> 00:20:03,930

You know, they kept this
religious appearance.

413

00:20:03,930 --> 00:20:05,370

Yes.

414

00:20:05,370 --> 00:20:08,570

And on the whole, I could
see that these people

415

00:20:08,570 --> 00:20:11,880

were more mild-mannered.

416

00:20:11,880 --> 00:20:14,740

Less prepared for toughness.

417

00:20:14,740 --> 00:20:17,050

And they came from
a very long journey.

418

00:20:17,050 --> 00:20:20,200

Because from

Thessaloniki to Auschwitz

419

00:20:20,200 --> 00:20:25,750
or from Athens to Auschwitz,
it was nine days, I think,

420

00:20:25,750 --> 00:20:27,390
and nights.

421

00:20:27,390 --> 00:20:29,100
Well, they probably
attracted attention

422

00:20:29,100 --> 00:20:30,750
among the Poles and the them.

423

00:20:30,750 --> 00:20:32,892
Everybody-- they are
somebody to remembered.

424

00:20:32,892 --> 00:20:34,350
Because they were
so very different

425

00:20:34,350 --> 00:20:39,310
from Central and Western
Europeans in their habits.

426

00:20:39,310 --> 00:20:41,380
There are very few
survivors, even among those

427

00:20:41,380 --> 00:20:43,175
who came in this camp.

428

00:20:43,175 --> 00:20:47,490
And how did they behave
when they arrived?

429

00:20:47,490 --> 00:20:50,310
Just like any other
transport, basically.

430

00:20:50,310 --> 00:20:51,600

Just like any other transport.

431

00:20:51,600 --> 00:20:54,120

Once they were lined
up, then the commission

432

00:20:54,120 --> 00:20:57,860

came and started
to sort them out.

433

00:20:57,860 --> 00:21:01,130

The men was sorted
out separately.

434

00:21:01,130 --> 00:21:03,900

Women with children
were automatically

435

00:21:03,900 --> 00:21:05,070

for the gas chamber.

436

00:21:05,070 --> 00:21:07,980

Older people were automatically
for the gas chamber.

437

00:21:07,980 --> 00:21:11,490

And children were
for the gas chamber.

438

00:21:11,490 --> 00:21:12,877

[FRENCH]

439

00:21:12,877 --> 00:22:17,984

440

00:22:17,984 --> 00:22:19,010

(film slating)

441

00:22:19,010 --> 00:22:22,438

[FRENCH]

442

00:22:22,438 --> 00:22:23,730
Can you tell me, what was the--

443

00:22:23,730 --> 00:22:32,740
[FRENCH]

444

00:22:32,740 --> 00:22:34,555
--what the meaning
of this name, Kanada?

445

00:22:34,555 --> 00:22:37,840

446

00:22:37,840 --> 00:22:41,830
Well, official name
of that working place

447

00:22:41,830 --> 00:22:48,490
was actually [GERMAN],, which
means cleaning commando.

448

00:22:48,490 --> 00:22:50,560
But because this was a place--

449

00:22:50,560 --> 00:22:54,280
you see, this Kanada
command, who were--

450

00:22:54,280 --> 00:22:58,270
all the property of the
people who came to Auschwitz

451

00:22:58,270 --> 00:23:00,490
was collected.

452

00:23:00,490 --> 00:23:04,120
This means those parcels
they had in the trains.

453

00:23:04,120 --> 00:23:06,550
They were loaded on
the same trucks which

454

00:23:06,550 --> 00:23:08,590
took them to the crematorium.

455

00:23:08,590 --> 00:23:09,910
They came back empty.

456

00:23:09,910 --> 00:23:14,290
And they were loaded with those
parcels, with those luggages.

457

00:23:14,290 --> 00:23:20,170
And stored in a particular
place in Auschwitz One,

458

00:23:20,170 --> 00:23:22,351
in the main camp.

459

00:23:22,351 --> 00:23:25,150
At the beginning it
was in Auschwitz One?

460

00:23:25,150 --> 00:23:28,430
Yes during all the time, I have
been working in that group.

461

00:23:28,430 --> 00:23:33,220
This means-- and even until
my escape from Auschwitz.

462

00:23:33,220 --> 00:23:34,750
Afterwards, it was in Birkenau.

463

00:23:34,750 --> 00:23:37,420
Yes, but this, when it was
transferred to Birkenau,

464

00:23:37,420 --> 00:23:39,820
I don't know about that anymore.

465

00:23:39,820 --> 00:23:45,610
Now, during those years, '42,

'43, '44, it was in Auschwitz.

466

00:23:45,610 --> 00:23:49,600

And then, the parcels
were collected.

467

00:23:49,600 --> 00:23:51,580

And they knew from
such a transport,

468

00:23:51,580 --> 00:23:55,540

like 5,000 people who had at
least 5,000 piece of luggage.

469

00:23:55,540 --> 00:23:56,480

So you can imagine.

470

00:23:56,480 --> 00:23:59,980

And then their luggages
were opened, ripped up.

471

00:23:59,980 --> 00:24:02,650

And the contents were sorted.

472

00:24:02,650 --> 00:24:07,300

I mean, there was glasses
on one side, toothbrushes

473

00:24:07,300 --> 00:24:10,610

on the other side, coats on
the other side, et cetera.

474

00:24:10,610 --> 00:24:13,510

Everything was nicely
like in a big storehouse.

475

00:24:13,510 --> 00:24:18,220

So on the one side came an
enormous amount of luggage.

476

00:24:18,220 --> 00:24:23,200

And on the other side,
it was beautifully

477
00:24:23,200 --> 00:24:29,350
sorted out materials for
clothing and other utensils,

478
00:24:29,350 --> 00:24:32,890
as consumer goods, actually.

479
00:24:32,890 --> 00:24:36,340
And that was then shipped
to Germany under the title

480
00:24:36,340 --> 00:24:37,700
of [GERMAN].

481
00:24:37,700 --> 00:24:40,550
And even those clothes which
were not usable anymore,

482
00:24:40,550 --> 00:24:41,800
I mean, they had them graded--

483
00:24:41,800 --> 00:24:43,780
grade one, grade
two, grade three.

484
00:24:43,780 --> 00:24:46,870
The worst grades, this was then
shipped to paper factories.

485
00:24:46,870 --> 00:24:48,940
And there were many
trains full of those.

486
00:24:48,940 --> 00:24:50,230
And there were grades?

487
00:24:50,230 --> 00:24:51,100
Of course, yes.

488
00:24:51,100 --> 00:24:52,330
It was beautifully graded.

489
00:24:52,330 --> 00:24:53,830
I mean, it was well-run.

490
00:24:53,830 --> 00:24:56,200
Now, why was it called Kanada?

491
00:24:56,200 --> 00:24:58,870
You see, in the mind
of a Central European,

492
00:24:58,870 --> 00:25:01,960
Canada was a land of plenty.

493
00:25:01,960 --> 00:25:04,420
There was a lot of
immigration from Slovakia,

494
00:25:04,420 --> 00:25:08,020
from Poland to Canada
before the war.

495
00:25:08,020 --> 00:25:10,840
It was known that,
say, peasants who

496
00:25:10,840 --> 00:25:13,630
couldn't make a good living
in Slovakia and Poland

497
00:25:13,630 --> 00:25:16,210
because of the catastrophic
economical situation which

498
00:25:16,210 --> 00:25:19,630
sometimes prevailed
in Europe found land

499
00:25:19,630 --> 00:25:22,420
in Canada and a better
opportunity for life.

500

00:25:22,420 --> 00:25:24,310
And the rumor came,
you know, that it

501
00:25:24,310 --> 00:25:27,220
is a land of milk and honey.

502
00:25:27,220 --> 00:25:29,876
And obviously, in
that Kanada Kommando

503
00:25:29,876 --> 00:25:33,070
in that [GERMAN]
Kommando in Auschwitz,

504
00:25:33,070 --> 00:25:35,320
there was everything.

505
00:25:35,320 --> 00:25:39,940
I mean, there was
money, there was food,

506
00:25:39,940 --> 00:25:43,390
there was-- anything you
can imagine was there.

507
00:25:43,390 --> 00:25:44,470
In the middle of the war.

508
00:25:44,470 --> 00:25:46,870
There was much money?

509
00:25:46,870 --> 00:25:49,930
The money is difficult
to describe how much.

510
00:25:49,930 --> 00:25:52,750
But there was an
enormous amount of money.

511
00:25:52,750 --> 00:25:54,850
Because those
people-- and that's

512
00:25:54,850 --> 00:25:56,590
why it was called
Kanada, actually,

513
00:25:56,590 --> 00:25:58,620
because land of plenty.

514
00:25:58,620 --> 00:26:02,680
That was a sort
of a camp jargon.

515
00:26:02,680 --> 00:26:03,970
Money.

516
00:26:03,970 --> 00:26:06,850
You see, the people
were often mostly robbed

517
00:26:06,850 --> 00:26:08,800
before they enter
those transports.

518
00:26:08,800 --> 00:26:11,680
But those people
who knew they are

519
00:26:11,680 --> 00:26:15,130
going to be transported
to somewhere,

520
00:26:15,130 --> 00:26:21,170
they tried to exchange or to
sell as long as it was possible

521
00:26:21,170 --> 00:26:28,400
their property for a currency
which would have always value.

522
00:26:28,400 --> 00:26:32,020
This means especially
hard currency-- dollars,

523

00:26:32,020 --> 00:26:34,990

English pounds, yes.

524

00:26:34,990 --> 00:26:37,820

This was before the inflation
of the dollar, you see.

525

00:26:37,820 --> 00:26:40,150

English pounds.

526

00:26:40,150 --> 00:26:42,480

German marks were not good
at that time, you see.

527

00:26:42,480 --> 00:26:45,180

Nobody would care for those.

528

00:26:45,180 --> 00:26:49,120

A lot of gold coins.

529

00:26:49,120 --> 00:26:54,790

These were dollar coins,
Napoleons, so-called Napoleons,

530

00:26:54,790 --> 00:26:58,900

because they carried a
picture of Napoleon, you know.

531

00:26:58,900 --> 00:27:01,210

And then there were
the Russian coins

532

00:27:01,210 --> 00:27:03,100

with a picture of the Tsar.

533

00:27:03,100 --> 00:27:05,230

And they were called
the swines, because

534

00:27:05,230 --> 00:27:07,960

of the swine on the coin.

535

00:27:07,960 --> 00:27:12,910

And these were abandoned in
great surplus in the Kanada

536

00:27:12,910 --> 00:27:16,750

command, because as the
clothes were sorted out,

537

00:27:16,750 --> 00:27:20,020

before it was sorted out, there
was a special group of people

538

00:27:20,020 --> 00:27:21,730

looking through the clothes.

539

00:27:21,730 --> 00:27:22,450

Inside?

540

00:27:22,450 --> 00:27:23,260

Inside.

541

00:27:23,260 --> 00:27:26,440

And it was palpated, of course.

542

00:27:26,440 --> 00:27:29,470

And the money was
collected in a luggage.

543

00:27:29,470 --> 00:27:31,770

And the luggage was
carried away every evening

544

00:27:31,770 --> 00:27:33,840

after the working
hours were finished.

545

00:27:33,840 --> 00:27:37,950

And I several times remember, it
was everything possible there,

546

00:27:37,950 --> 00:27:40,440

in this so-called

valuable luggage

547

00:27:40,440 --> 00:27:42,880
in which it was collected.

548

00:27:42,880 --> 00:27:46,800
So there were weights
of dollar notes,

549

00:27:46,800 --> 00:27:49,680
pound notes of
various denomination,

550

00:27:49,680 --> 00:27:52,555
diamonds, gold
rings, gold watches.

551

00:27:52,555 --> 00:27:54,180
In other words, it
was called valuable.

552

00:27:54,180 --> 00:27:56,430
And sometimes, SS
was carrying it away

553

00:27:56,430 --> 00:27:58,020
because he couldn't
close the luggage.

554

00:27:58,020 --> 00:28:00,000
It was a rich day, so to say.

555

00:28:00,000 --> 00:28:02,400
He stamped it in with
his foot in order

556

00:28:02,400 --> 00:28:03,990
to be able to close luggage.

557

00:28:03,990 --> 00:28:06,660
I mean, millions were involved.

558

00:28:06,660 --> 00:28:07,410
Millions of money.

559
00:28:07,410 --> 00:28:10,260
I mean, not everything
went into that luggage.

560
00:28:10,260 --> 00:28:14,250
I remember once,
during the work,

561
00:28:14,250 --> 00:28:20,700
we were sorting out
transport from Grodno which

562
00:28:20,700 --> 00:28:22,080
was rather of poor quality.

563
00:28:22,080 --> 00:28:23,640
And I picked up a bread.

564
00:28:23,640 --> 00:28:25,880
And the bread was--

565
00:28:25,880 --> 00:28:29,160
it sounded to me sort of
that the bread is not having

566
00:28:29,160 --> 00:28:30,690
this consistency as it has.

567
00:28:30,690 --> 00:28:32,790
And broke up the bread.

568
00:28:32,790 --> 00:28:35,670
And there were perhaps \$20,000
in it, hundred dollar notes.

569
00:28:35,670 --> 00:28:36,430
Inside the bread?

570
00:28:36,430 --> 00:28:37,770

Yeah.

571

00:28:37,770 --> 00:28:43,020

So the whole risk was to
take this package of notes

572

00:28:43,020 --> 00:28:46,710

and to risk the trip
to the lavatory.

573

00:28:46,710 --> 00:28:50,670

Once, nobody stopped me on
the way to the lavatory.

574

00:28:50,670 --> 00:28:51,300

It was done.

575

00:28:51,300 --> 00:28:54,780

Because all I had to do
was to throw it down there.

576

00:28:54,780 --> 00:28:58,710

So this was sort of the
right place for that money,

577

00:28:58,710 --> 00:28:59,790

I suppose.

578

00:28:59,790 --> 00:29:01,260

This means you threw it?

579

00:29:01,260 --> 00:29:02,470

Yes, yes I--

580

00:29:02,470 --> 00:29:03,900

But to keep it?

581

00:29:03,900 --> 00:29:05,850

No, I threw it into
the lavatory, you see.

582

00:29:05,850 --> 00:29:10,200

To carry it out from there, A, I
didn't need money there, and B,

583
00:29:10,200 --> 00:29:11,640
there were some who tried it.

584
00:29:11,640 --> 00:29:14,220
But this was connected
with a grave risk.

585
00:29:14,220 --> 00:29:16,620
Because whenever we went
back into the barracks

586
00:29:16,620 --> 00:29:18,130
or so on, or even
during the work,

587
00:29:18,130 --> 00:29:22,530
we have been subject to
inspection by the SS.

588
00:29:22,530 --> 00:29:25,060
And if any valuables were
found on any prisoner,

589
00:29:25,060 --> 00:29:27,630
the death was for
sure, and the smallest

590
00:29:27,630 --> 00:29:31,170
thing to happen, actually.

591
00:29:31,170 --> 00:29:34,890
So the risk was involved only
to get it to the lavatory

592
00:29:34,890 --> 00:29:36,970
and to throw it in.

593
00:29:36,970 --> 00:29:41,760
And the part of the values
obviously ended that way.

594
00:29:41,760 --> 00:29:43,440
Is that we try to destroy it.

595
00:29:43,440 --> 00:29:44,340
I mean.

596
00:29:44,340 --> 00:29:45,850
As an act of resistance?

597
00:29:45,850 --> 00:29:48,968
Well, as an act
of spite, perhaps.

598
00:29:48,968 --> 00:29:49,510
I don't know.

599
00:29:49,510 --> 00:29:51,030
I couldn't see any
good reason if I

600
00:29:51,030 --> 00:29:54,210
found that money, why I
should give it to the Germans

601
00:29:54,210 --> 00:29:57,780
if it could be destroyed?

602
00:29:57,780 --> 00:29:59,700
The owners of the
money were destroyed.

603
00:29:59,700 --> 00:30:03,540
So you know, it was right
to destroy that money,

604
00:30:03,540 --> 00:30:04,800
in my opinion.

605
00:30:04,800 --> 00:30:08,700
But of course, only a
fraction was destroyed.

606
00:30:08,700 --> 00:30:11,670
Most of it went
into that luggage.

607
00:30:11,670 --> 00:30:13,800
But then, the people
of the Kanada Kommando

608
00:30:13,800 --> 00:30:18,210
were divided in several
parties, in several shifts.

609
00:30:18,210 --> 00:30:24,690
And they were the same people
who were discharging the trains

610
00:30:24,690 --> 00:30:29,070
and counting the money?

611
00:30:29,070 --> 00:30:33,810
Well, there was a sort of a
rotation within the working

612
00:30:33,810 --> 00:30:35,730
group, you know.

613
00:30:35,730 --> 00:30:37,950
Well, those who were
taken to the train,

614
00:30:37,950 --> 00:30:39,420
it was considered
very hard work.

615
00:30:39,420 --> 00:30:41,290
It was pretty dangerous.

616
00:30:41,290 --> 00:30:44,130
There was a considerable
amount of mortality

617

00:30:44,130 --> 00:30:47,330
among those because of the SS
losing their patience and so

618
00:30:47,330 --> 00:30:47,830
on.

619
00:30:47,830 --> 00:30:51,240
And wanted everything done fast.

620
00:30:51,240 --> 00:30:54,090
So when the transport
were not arriving,

621
00:30:54,090 --> 00:30:57,450
the commanders, the
arbeit working group

622
00:30:57,450 --> 00:30:59,340
was working on sorting
out those goods.

623
00:30:59,340 --> 00:31:01,720
This means breaking up
luggages and sorting it out.

624
00:31:01,720 --> 00:31:04,386
I mean, this was
several hundred people.

625
00:31:04,386 --> 00:31:06,303
There was a detachment
of women, for instance,

626
00:31:06,303 --> 00:31:10,230
there were about 20 women
who did nothing else

627
00:31:10,230 --> 00:31:13,800
but press out all toothpaste
which was brought in.

628
00:31:13,800 --> 00:31:14,680

To press out?

629

00:31:14,680 --> 00:31:16,050

Press out the toothpaste.

630

00:31:16,050 --> 00:31:16,850

Ah, the toothpaste?

631

00:31:16,850 --> 00:31:19,058

Oh, yes, they were sitting
on such benches, you know,

632

00:31:19,058 --> 00:31:21,270

and they're taking one
toothpaste after the other

633

00:31:21,270 --> 00:31:24,230

and pressing it out
on the bench, you see.

634

00:31:24,230 --> 00:31:25,260

It was a full-time job?

635

00:31:25,260 --> 00:31:28,740

A full-time job, yes, for
about 20 women, you see.

636

00:31:28,740 --> 00:31:33,540

And in one out of 10,000
tubes, there was a big diamond.

637

00:31:33,540 --> 00:31:38,170

Or a roll of
banknotes in a condom.

638

00:31:38,170 --> 00:31:39,800

This was the reason
for the pressing?

639

00:31:39,800 --> 00:31:41,400

Right, right.

640

00:31:41,400 --> 00:31:44,220
Because why should they
destroy the toothpaste?

641
00:31:44,220 --> 00:31:47,100
They have found out
that part of the money

642
00:31:47,100 --> 00:31:50,040
is hidden in the
toothpaste, or valuables,

643
00:31:50,040 --> 00:31:55,290
so they put 20 prisoners to
it who didn't have anything

644
00:31:55,290 --> 00:32:00,030
else to do but to empty
the toothpaste of all those

645
00:32:00,030 --> 00:32:02,330
who got gassed.

646
00:32:02,330 --> 00:32:03,170
Right.

647
00:32:03,170 --> 00:32:07,070
And once upon a time,
more often than you

648
00:32:07,070 --> 00:32:13,520
would think, brilliant diamonds
or weights of all coins,

649
00:32:13,520 --> 00:32:20,090
of weights of hard currency,
which was usually in a condom

650
00:32:20,090 --> 00:32:25,640
and put into the toothpaste,
you know, and in the hopes

651
00:32:25,640 --> 00:32:27,500

that they can carry
the toothpaste

652
00:32:27,500 --> 00:32:31,310
through the various
controls, and so on.

653
00:32:31,310 --> 00:32:33,020
Because the valuables,
the Jews were

654
00:32:33,020 --> 00:32:36,140
supposed to deliver a long
time before they were deported.

655
00:32:36,140 --> 00:32:38,630
This was a slow policy, you
know, first the valuables,

656
00:32:38,630 --> 00:32:40,080
et cetera, et cetera.

657
00:32:40,080 --> 00:32:42,793
But this was the last station.

658
00:32:42,793 --> 00:32:43,460
Yes, at the end.

659
00:32:43,460 --> 00:32:45,002
And there was the
end of the process.

660
00:32:45,002 --> 00:32:47,390
And there was a suspicion,
which was quite justified

661
00:32:47,390 --> 00:32:52,700
from the sides of the Nazis,
that those Jews might have been

662
00:32:52,700 --> 00:32:55,670
clever enough to hide the
money somewhere instead

663
00:32:55,670 --> 00:32:57,030
of delivering it.

664
00:32:57,030 --> 00:33:00,050
In that time they could
wait till the end.

665
00:33:00,050 --> 00:33:01,040
Yes, yes.

666
00:33:01,040 --> 00:33:03,950
And they brought that money
with themselves, with them

667
00:33:03,950 --> 00:33:05,450
to Auschwitz.

668
00:33:05,450 --> 00:33:07,310
No, I mean the Nazis had time.

669
00:33:07,310 --> 00:33:09,380
They knew that at the
end of the station,

670
00:33:09,380 --> 00:33:11,090
they would find
the rest of the--

671
00:33:11,090 --> 00:33:13,560
The rest they will find
at the end of the station.

672
00:33:13,560 --> 00:33:15,920
I mean, the sums involved
were just horrendous.

673
00:33:15,920 --> 00:33:17,190
Horrendous.

674
00:33:17,190 --> 00:33:17,690
I mean.

675

00:33:17,690 --> 00:33:21,470

676

00:33:21,470 --> 00:33:23,790

You know, there were
various silly people who

677

00:33:23,790 --> 00:33:26,330

saw that, among the Jews who--

678

00:33:26,330 --> 00:33:28,530

Stop.

679

00:33:28,530 --> 00:33:29,030

Yes?

680

00:33:29,030 --> 00:33:30,900

What did you want?

681

00:33:30,900 --> 00:33:35,000