

Yeah. We're rolling.

You want to talk about that?

You talk about this.

[INAUDIBLE].

No, but--

Your husband mentioned that you-- when you were at Auschwitz, Mengele was in--

Yes. I even took a risk. This time I wear glasses for my-- not for my glaucoma, only glasses because I have-- some-- astigmatism.

Astigmatism, yes. And I wear the glasses. And all my friends who stood with me, Gitla, take out the glasses. You see, he kill everyone with the glasses. And I said, no. Without glasses I am nothing. I must be alive to see. And I went through in the glasses and he don't took me.

When you say he, this was Mengele?

Yes, I know. I know because before me was a girl and her mother, a young girl and her mother. Also young but it was [? skin. ?] He put her on the side for the death and the daughter-- and the daughter started to cry. This was terrible, a terrible picture. A terrible thing. And I said, I must go. I won't see this more. And he let me through. He let me through.

Did you say anything to him?

No. Said nothing. Go through. This is--

OK, let's come then to the time when you came to Bergen-Belsen.

I came to Bergen-Belsen. We was-- we were unloaded in a vault, in a forest. No houses, nothing. But the provide us to-- it was from plandex made. How called--

He's not here.

From plandex made such camps. Like a vacation somebody took trunks, such trunks. In Polish, this is namiot.

I'm sorry, what is it again? Can you describe-- you were making, you said thongs?

What?

You were describing what you were making.

What I am making?

I'm sorry. I didn't understand.

When I come out in Bergen-Belsen--

When you came out of Bergen-Belsen.

From the landing, from the train.

From the train to the camp.

There was a forest.

Right.

In the forest, there's no houses.

Right.

No people living. They provide us in a place for such camps from plandex made. From stone material.

Yes.

And they put us there in. And everyone has a little amount of straw. And this we have to take and to lie down, this was. But after a few days, they took us and provide us further. And there was barracks. And they come-- I come in a barracks with a woman, the supervisor. And they located us also on the places three times.

And I were there. No work. Food they brought us, of the type I tell you. From the grass what they cooked, well, water, and a piece of bread. Six ounces bread daily, not more. And this was everything.

But a least we have the quiet, No SS men, no soldiers, no such beating, only yelling. The girls who provided the camp was yelling to us-- this, this, this, but this is, for us, nothing.

And after-- and after this, we started-- they took us in the forest to took from the trains, were thrown down. And they completed this, I don't know for what. I don't know for what.

And so we went through-- I went through in the barrack in November. November come a transport from all Hungary women-- Hungary, from Hungary. They were so terrible. They were so terrible to us. I don't know why.

They bite us without reason. Because they're very, very nervous, I don't know. Because they have a beautiful country and they took them right away here. And they told that we are the reason.

So there was a transport of Hungarian women.

Women.

Not Jewish.

No, Jewish.

Jewish women.

Jewish women. This was--

Yes, yes.

I have to be sorry that Jewish women, they knew that here are Jewish woman. And they're kicking them, beating them, that they can do.

Yes, I thought you said non-Jewish. Go ahead.

Jewish girls.

Yes.

Jewish girls.

Yes.

In this time, we come very crowded, very crowded, with one sitting the other, one sitting the other. And this time took maybe two weeks, three weeks. Suddenly a selection. I was called. I went.

They took out amount of girls. And after this, they told us we are going to another place. They sent us to a factory in Raguhn. In Raguhn, this is by now to [NON-ENGLISH]. And they took us there. And then I came there.

You come in, see this woman, a German. She state where she's our provider. And she provides us in the barracks, this was other barracks, you know. This was a big barrack, not such with bridges and the rooms separated, and a place for clothes, and a place where to wash, more humanely.

And she said to us, you have to live here. You have to go every day in the morning by the appell to work in the factory. You were very glad. This is some difference of this life that we have till now. And so was this going on till--

I just want to ask you one thing about the Hungarian women who came into Bergen-Belsen when you were there. These were women, had they been in other camps before they came into Bergen-Belsen.

We cannot contact with them because they were speaking only Hungary. I don't know.

But there was, as you were saying, they were beating--

They right from--

--the other women.

Right from good life they took them there. You know, the was for them a terrible-- terrible to go-- to go through.

How long did this go on, this beating between the Hungarian women and the Polish women? I mean, was it a day, a few days?

A few days, a few days.

Was anybody able to talk to them? Did they understand? I mean, I understand that they were speaking Hungarian.

But they at least quiet down when they saw they have nothing to do. Because what they give them to eat, they cannot eat. They are used to a better life, sure. But they started to be sick right away, right away. They were very not considered for harder life. They're not considered for harder life, physically.

Mm-hmm.

I don't tell, mala byÅ,am. [POLISH] I cannot with them discuss about this. When I came to Raguhn, I was also sick. I have diarrhea. And there was a doctor, a woman, a Jewish, too, And I went to her.

And she said to me, I give you some medicine, but you have to be careful. Only take once, not more. This was some sharp thing. I don't know what. And she gave me this. And I took this and this helped me.

And so, after this, I right away went on to my work, and I worked, and I worked. And after-- in Raguhn, we were from

maybe six months, till April, till April.

You had no idea where your husband was at this time?

No, we were till April. They made an appeal. And give us a half of a bread, a piece of butter. And back in the wagons again. And they sent us in unknown direction. I cannot eat more. I stopped to eat. I had no hunger.

And I didn't know about this, but a friend of mine that was going with me together and won't separate from me, told me after the war, when she come out from the war too, you were swollen like a bell. I cannot eat nothing. I was white, like not human.

And they come to Theresienstadt. and they threw out the people. The sick ones separate and the healthy ones-- but my friend, she still was looking for me. If she saw that they threw to me to the unliving--

So in other words, you went from Bergen-Belsen to Theresienstadt.

Theresienstadt.

OK.

No, from Bergen-Belsen I went to-- from Bergen-Belsen to Raguhn. From Raguhn I went--

Yes, I'm sorry. I meant from Raguhn you went to Theresienstadt.

I went from Raguhn to Theresienstadt.

OK. And when you came to Theresienstadt.

When I came to Theresienstadt, my friend, she desperately tried, and she convinced them to take me to the hospital. And they took me to the hospital. Because there was people sitting-- people too-- in doctors, not more the military. And they took me to the hospital.

They cut off everything, my clothes, my dress, my shoes. Nothing can be take down. So swollen I was. The doctor come in. And she was from Czechoslovakia, a woman doctor. And she said, I must say try with this human being. I must try.

She started to give me a piece of sugar, a small piece, and a little water with a spoon. But the first time, I give this back. And sure, she tried day by day. She didn't abandon me, no.

And after a few days, I can take a little black coffee with sugar and have a drink. And so it was going on better. And this time, I was more aware of what was going on around me. And I thanked the doctor. And she said, don't thank me. I go through this ordeal a day before you arrived with my husband taken to Auschwitz, also a doctor. And I know positively he's dead. This what she told me.

And she-- prior to this-- and after this, after six weeks, the hospital liquidated. And I was not able to transfer. She went, the doctor, before she left me, to the-- because they occupied, the Russians, to the Russian embassy. She said there is such a patient. She is not transport, maybe not transportfähig, able. And you must take care of her.

And they said, yes. They took me to the kitchen, the Russians. But the master from the kitchen told me you must do something, like laugh. By us, there's no saving without giving. You must do something.

What month was this?

What?

What month?

This was in--

May? No.

No, this was before May. This was-- I know that the 21st of April I came to Theresienstadt.

Right.

And this was-- oh, this was later.

Sure.

This was later. This was in late June.

19--

'45.

In '45, correct?

Yes. In June. July 7th was the last transport from there to Poland. And I was left. And my friend stood with me. But I said, what can I do for you? You have not to eat. They took her to the kitchen.

And she receive-- and I receive a full diet, dinner, perfect. Meat, vegetable, soup, everything, but I cannot eat. And I make everything with the cook. They have to cook for me a little grease, kasha. And this fine portion I give to my friend, and so she stood with me.

At last we came home in July 12th or 18th. I go by train with her to Krakow. But this was not so simple train, like today.

What were your feelings like at the time? The war was over.

I was better. I was better. Sure, I can walk And I can eat something. But not that they give to me. What they give to me, I would die right away. And I-- they took everything what belonged to me. And I went with her out in Krakow off the Bonarka. This was a station which was under the main station.

And there, it was very close to my factory. And I went out there. And I said to my friend, you sit here and I go see what is going on. I went. The factory was closed. I went in my burned apartment, before I lived. There was other people.

And I went across, because across lived a Polish woman and she is with a man, a Jew. He were a nice man. And he has-- tartak. I don't know. This was the-- he was cutting the wood on desks.

A carpenter.

Yes. A big factory. He was living with her in this safety. He was very hard trying for me. And during this was the hard time. She took him to her mother in another city. And so she defend him. And I went there in the morning. This was maybe 7 o'clock. And I knocked on the door.

A question, who is it. I answer, Ms. Grynwald. Oh, he opened. He said, you know, you know your husband is here. I almost fainted. He come back before me. And he was looking for me. He come to Krakow. And one time he met a girl who met me in hospital. And she told him that I'm alive.

This girl is-- I know and he know because our neighbors from before in Krakow. And so he came. I went looking for my

friend. And right away, I start to ask about the family. So bitter news, bitter news. Till this time, I [NON-ENGLISH]. His family, all, besides him. And my family saved two brothers. And my sister didn't, my mother didn't-- and that's all.

You want to stop for a few minutes?

No more questions?

We can do whatever you're comfortable with. If you want to stop for a few minutes, if it's a little bit too hard.

Yeah.

Charlie--

I know the committee know about everything. That I--