

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:01:05,170

2
00:01:05,170 --> 00:01:07,360
We'd like to welcome
you back, Halina.

3
00:01:07,360 --> 00:01:09,520
One of the things that you
had mentioned last time

4
00:01:09,520 --> 00:01:11,530
was some of the
relationships that developed

5
00:01:11,530 --> 00:01:12,970
during the course of the year.

6
00:01:12,970 --> 00:01:15,910
Could you tell us a little
about those relationships?

7
00:01:15,910 --> 00:01:16,690
Definitely.

8
00:01:16,690 --> 00:01:20,410
I think that this is a
very important part, which

9
00:01:20,410 --> 00:01:21,550
I want to talk about.

10
00:01:21,550 --> 00:01:24,160

11
00:01:24,160 --> 00:01:28,090
When I came into camp--

12
00:01:28,090 --> 00:01:33,460
to the labor camp, I met
a group of young girls

13

00:01:33,460 --> 00:01:37,150

that came there together
because they worked prior

14

00:01:37,150 --> 00:01:41,530

to being sent to this camp.

15

00:01:41,530 --> 00:01:44,830

They worked together,
so they were a group

16

00:01:44,830 --> 00:01:47,620

already of a group of friends.

17

00:01:47,620 --> 00:01:51,340

And I was alone,
and they somehow

18

00:01:51,340 --> 00:01:55,390

befriended me and for
which I was very thankful.

19

00:01:55,390 --> 00:01:58,240

And I formed a very
close relationship

20

00:01:58,240 --> 00:02:02,230

with two of the young girls.

21

00:02:02,230 --> 00:02:08,350

One survived, and the
other fortunately didn't.

22

00:02:08,350 --> 00:02:13,420

But I want to talk about
how close we became.

23

00:02:13,420 --> 00:02:15,790

What were their names?

24

00:02:15,790 --> 00:02:19,810

There was Lili [? Zilbiger ?],,
and the other one was Helenka

25
00:02:19,810 --> 00:02:21,550
[? Spiegelman ?].

26
00:02:21,550 --> 00:02:24,310
And they were lovely,
lovely girls and we were

27
00:02:24,310 --> 00:02:26,200
from the same
background and that's

28
00:02:26,200 --> 00:02:31,270
why we were able to
relate to each other

29
00:02:31,270 --> 00:02:36,145
because somehow
the family sent--

30
00:02:36,145 --> 00:02:39,290

31
00:02:39,290 --> 00:02:42,605
and religiously and
everything was very similar.

32
00:02:42,605 --> 00:02:45,230
And they served that purpose as
family since you lost so many--

33
00:02:45,230 --> 00:02:47,180
Yes, yes, very much so.

34
00:02:47,180 --> 00:02:54,200
And we became very, very close
to such a point where I--

35
00:02:54,200 --> 00:02:57,950
we shared our food
and we ate together

36
00:02:57,950 --> 00:03:06,890
and we used to save our--

37
00:03:06,890 --> 00:03:11,600
let's say if we got
a portion of bread--

38
00:03:11,600 --> 00:03:17,090
one portion of bread that had
to last us for a whole day,

39
00:03:17,090 --> 00:03:22,470
rather so that we would not
eat the whole thing at once

40
00:03:22,470 --> 00:03:25,850
that you tended to because the
portions were very, very small

41
00:03:25,850 --> 00:03:31,040
and the tendency was
to just eat whatever

42
00:03:31,040 --> 00:03:33,740
you had and then not
have anything at all,

43
00:03:33,740 --> 00:03:39,660
we used to eat one portion
and hide the other two.

44
00:03:39,660 --> 00:03:45,230
So we split the first
portion between us,

45
00:03:45,230 --> 00:03:48,260
and we shared the
other two for lunch

46
00:03:48,260 --> 00:03:49,680
and for dinner or whatever.

47

00:03:49,680 --> 00:03:52,490

So this made the physical
deprivations and everything

48

00:03:52,490 --> 00:03:54,600

easier to bear because
you were sharing--

49

00:03:54,600 --> 00:03:55,250

Sharing and--

50

00:03:55,250 --> 00:03:56,360

The responsibility.

51

00:03:56,360 --> 00:04:00,820

Yes and also you couldn't--

52

00:04:00,820 --> 00:04:04,580

if you had any honor,
which we all had,

53

00:04:04,580 --> 00:04:08,900

you couldn't take more or go
in and eat the other portion.

54

00:04:08,900 --> 00:04:12,470

So that helped us to
share in this food

55

00:04:12,470 --> 00:04:19,250

and have it so that you
didn't gorge on it while you

56

00:04:19,250 --> 00:04:20,300

were so very hungry.

57

00:04:20,300 --> 00:04:25,790

You were able to have a
little more for the whole day.

58

00:04:25,790 --> 00:04:32,240

And we-- and socially we

used to tell each other

59

00:04:32,240 --> 00:04:37,850
about our families and
about our experiences.

60

00:04:37,850 --> 00:04:40,240
We were very young girls
you must understand this.

61

00:04:40,240 --> 00:04:43,400
You were all the same age?

62

00:04:43,400 --> 00:04:46,730
Lili was a year-- is a
year older than I am,

63

00:04:46,730 --> 00:04:49,970
and Helenka was the same age.

64

00:04:49,970 --> 00:04:56,150
As it turned out, we
talked to each other

65

00:04:56,150 --> 00:05:04,880
and discovered that Helenka
and myself were related

66

00:05:04,880 --> 00:05:06,695
through some distant families.

67

00:05:06,695 --> 00:05:09,200

68

00:05:09,200 --> 00:05:11,300
Of course, we were
very young and I

69

00:05:11,300 --> 00:05:14,030
lived in a different town,
so we didn't know the people.

70

00:05:14,030 --> 00:05:19,190
But talking long enough,
we realized that we

71
00:05:19,190 --> 00:05:21,200
have a certain relationship--

72
00:05:21,200 --> 00:05:24,470
a physical relationship also.

73
00:05:24,470 --> 00:05:27,380
Did that cement the bond even
more strongly between you.

74
00:05:27,380 --> 00:05:27,980
More so.

75
00:05:27,980 --> 00:05:29,862
Also I--

76
00:05:29,862 --> 00:05:31,070
Would have been there anyway.

77
00:05:31,070 --> 00:05:31,570
Yes.

78
00:05:31,570 --> 00:05:33,350
It really wouldn't
have mattered.

79
00:05:33,350 --> 00:05:38,300
Just that we had some more
connection and some people

80
00:05:38,300 --> 00:05:41,095
to talk about that--

81
00:05:41,095 --> 00:05:41,720
More in common.

82
00:05:41,720 --> 00:05:42,220
Yes.

83
00:05:42,220 --> 00:05:47,960
But we formed-- this was
a very close relationship,

84
00:05:47,960 --> 00:05:51,500
but there was like
an extended family.

85
00:05:51,500 --> 00:05:56,930
The other people were also very
close to us, and they formed--

86
00:05:56,930 --> 00:06:01,460
the other girls formed
also close little groups.

87
00:06:01,460 --> 00:06:04,130
But all of us really
supported each other,

88
00:06:04,130 --> 00:06:07,340
and I just want to
talk about it because I

89
00:06:07,340 --> 00:06:10,130
want you to realize
how important it

90
00:06:10,130 --> 00:06:12,830
is that the Germans
tried to strip us

91
00:06:12,830 --> 00:06:18,380
of this humanity,
of this ability

92
00:06:18,380 --> 00:06:22,880
to think about other
people not only yourself.

93
00:06:22,880 --> 00:06:27,450
And they weren't able

to do that we were--

94

00:06:27,450 --> 00:06:30,140

we looked out for
each other, and we

95

00:06:30,140 --> 00:06:32,840

would have risked our
lives for each other, which

96

00:06:32,840 --> 00:06:42,110

in many cases people did
and helped each other.

97

00:06:42,110 --> 00:06:46,070

And this was a factor
and being able to survive

98

00:06:46,070 --> 00:06:50,750

because you were not
an animal, and that's

99

00:06:50,750 --> 00:06:51,950

what they tried to create.

100

00:06:51,950 --> 00:06:57,260

They tried to create this
animal instinct in one but--

101

00:06:57,260 --> 00:06:59,960

It sounds like these
two women really served

102

00:06:59,960 --> 00:07:03,932

as your nuclear family,
that groups formed,

103

00:07:03,932 --> 00:07:05,390

and that you cared
for these people

104

00:07:05,390 --> 00:07:07,430

like you would have

your nuclear family.

105
00:07:07,430 --> 00:07:07,940
Right.

106
00:07:07,940 --> 00:07:11,020
Were you together in both
Bolkenhain and Landeshut?

107
00:07:11,020 --> 00:07:15,170
At Landeshut, and
then from Landeshut--

108
00:07:15,170 --> 00:07:16,670
we were in Landeshut.

109
00:07:16,670 --> 00:07:19,070
Let me continue with the story.

110
00:07:19,070 --> 00:07:24,830
We were sent after nine months
that we were sent to a third

111
00:07:24,830 --> 00:07:26,780
camp GrÃ¼nberg.

112
00:07:26,780 --> 00:07:29,150
This was already
an existing camp.

113
00:07:29,150 --> 00:07:31,130
It was a larger--

114
00:07:31,130 --> 00:07:37,040
it was still a labor camp, but
it was a much larger facility.

115
00:07:37,040 --> 00:07:44,190
They sent us out of Landeshut I
think because they did not need

116
00:07:44,190 --> 00:07:46,260

or they didn't--

117

00:07:46,260 --> 00:07:48,240

they weren't working
this factory anymore.

118

00:07:48,240 --> 00:07:49,740

I think they were
closing it or they

119

00:07:49,740 --> 00:07:54,510

were refurbishing it for
ammunition or something

120

00:07:54,510 --> 00:07:55,080

like that.

121

00:07:55,080 --> 00:07:56,860

Was GrÃ¼nberg a weaving factory?

122

00:07:56,860 --> 00:07:59,010

Was also basically
a weaving-- weave--

123

00:07:59,010 --> 00:08:06,570

very large weaving and spinning
and making their raw fiber

124

00:08:06,570 --> 00:08:08,430

before the spinning.

125

00:08:08,430 --> 00:08:11,880

It was-- the whole
spectrum of weaving

126

00:08:11,880 --> 00:08:17,160

was contained in this factory,
and when we arrived there,

127

00:08:17,160 --> 00:08:21,510

the small group from
Landeshut, and a couple

128

00:08:21,510 --> 00:08:25,200

of other small camps,
this was already

129

00:08:25,200 --> 00:08:26,640

as I said an existing camp.

130

00:08:26,640 --> 00:08:29,558

There was about
1,000 women there--

131

00:08:29,558 --> 00:08:31,225

The three of you were
together at that--

132

00:08:31,225 --> 00:08:31,725

Working.

133

00:08:31,725 --> 00:08:33,419

Yes, we were together.

134

00:08:33,419 --> 00:08:41,700

And the people that--
the new people that came

135

00:08:41,700 --> 00:08:46,330

were given a separate hall.

136

00:08:46,330 --> 00:08:50,010

And if you want me to describe
the facilities in this camp,

137

00:08:50,010 --> 00:08:51,332

I can briefly--

138

00:08:51,332 --> 00:08:53,290

if it's important to you,
it's important to us.

139

00:08:53,290 --> 00:08:53,790

Yes.

140

00:08:53,790 --> 00:08:59,250

Well, it was like a big,
big hall with bunk beds

141

00:08:59,250 --> 00:09:01,230

in very close proximity.

142

00:09:01,230 --> 00:09:06,670

If you ever saw pictures
of the Auschwitz camps

143

00:09:06,670 --> 00:09:11,770

with the bunk beds, it
was the same situation

144

00:09:11,770 --> 00:09:17,400

except that we were still
able to keep ourselves clean.

145

00:09:17,400 --> 00:09:21,000

We had some of our
personal clothes

146

00:09:21,000 --> 00:09:22,960

which they did not
take away from us.

147

00:09:22,960 --> 00:09:24,810

We had our hair.

148

00:09:24,810 --> 00:09:26,980

They didn't shave
our heads there.

149

00:09:26,980 --> 00:09:31,800

And we were able to
keep clean, to wash

150

00:09:31,800 --> 00:09:37,620

our ourselves and our clothes,
and we had some bedding.

151

00:09:37,620 --> 00:09:40,140

They gave us
blankets and pillows,

152

00:09:40,140 --> 00:09:47,780

and we had straw sacks that
we slept on those beds.

153

00:09:47,780 --> 00:09:53,150

And we shared a bunk.

154

00:09:53,150 --> 00:09:56,360

There were two women to a bunk.

155

00:09:56,360 --> 00:09:58,940

I slept with Lili.

156

00:09:58,940 --> 00:10:04,250

And Helenka, I don't remember,
but she slept right next

157

00:10:04,250 --> 00:10:08,730

but with another of our friends.

158

00:10:08,730 --> 00:10:14,040

And that camp was a
much different situation

159

00:10:14,040 --> 00:10:17,490

already than the other
ones because there

160

00:10:17,490 --> 00:10:20,250

were so many more women.

161

00:10:20,250 --> 00:10:25,710

The Germans that-- it
was still very much

162

00:10:25,710 --> 00:10:29,230

that oversee this facility.

163

00:10:29,230 --> 00:10:30,240
As opposed to SS?

164
00:10:30,240 --> 00:10:33,030
As opposed to SS.

165
00:10:33,030 --> 00:10:34,830
But there was an appel.

166
00:10:34,830 --> 00:10:39,060
We had to get up in the
morning and be ready and stand.

167
00:10:39,060 --> 00:10:40,900
An appel, you know
what that means--

168
00:10:40,900 --> 00:10:41,520
A roll call.

169
00:10:41,520 --> 00:10:43,260
To be counted.

170
00:10:43,260 --> 00:10:45,810
We had to stand in rows of five.

171
00:10:45,810 --> 00:10:52,560
And because there were so many
more, it took that much longer,

172
00:10:52,560 --> 00:10:56,970
and there was a big
hassle because of it,

173
00:10:56,970 --> 00:11:01,770
stand in fives and
straight and be counted.

174
00:11:01,770 --> 00:11:04,630
And the count wasn't
right, it was already

175

00:11:04,630 --> 00:11:12,540
a much different situation
and a much tougher situation.

176
00:11:12,540 --> 00:11:17,280
The food was much
inferior-- more inferior

177
00:11:17,280 --> 00:11:20,910
than in the last facility.

178
00:11:20,910 --> 00:11:26,130
What we used to get
was some coffee.

179
00:11:26,130 --> 00:11:31,350
Ersatz, of course, black without
sugar, which I became addicted.

180
00:11:31,350 --> 00:11:34,230
I still drink black
without sugar.

181
00:11:34,230 --> 00:11:42,780
And some piece of bread, a
very small piece of bread.

182
00:11:42,780 --> 00:11:45,840
And we used to be
marched to work.

183
00:11:45,840 --> 00:11:51,820
The camp, the sleeping part was
pretty close to the factory,

184
00:11:51,820 --> 00:11:53,770
so we didn't have
to walk very far,

185
00:11:53,770 --> 00:11:55,440
I would say across the road.

186
00:11:55,440 --> 00:11:58,125

But we were marched under guard.

187

00:11:58,125 --> 00:12:01,160

188

00:12:01,160 --> 00:12:02,250

And everybody went--

189

00:12:02,250 --> 00:12:04,130

How old were you at
this time approximately?

190

00:12:04,130 --> 00:12:08,060

I was 15?

191

00:12:08,060 --> 00:12:11,210

14, 15.

192

00:12:11,210 --> 00:12:12,950

And--

193

00:12:12,950 --> 00:12:14,570

So are you saying
the conditions were

194

00:12:14,570 --> 00:12:15,737

getting progressively worse?

195

00:12:15,737 --> 00:12:18,000

The conditions were getting
progressively worse,

196

00:12:18,000 --> 00:12:20,330

but they were still--

197

00:12:20,330 --> 00:12:22,040

they were still livable.

198

00:12:22,040 --> 00:12:26,300

You could-- it wasn't--

199

00:12:26,300 --> 00:12:31,370
we weren't in such
deprived conditions

200
00:12:31,370 --> 00:12:33,320
that people were dying.

201
00:12:33,320 --> 00:12:35,570
If they would have
let us, we would

202
00:12:35,570 --> 00:12:40,260
have survived in
these conditions

203
00:12:40,260 --> 00:12:43,710
because we were
able to keep clean.

204
00:12:43,710 --> 00:12:48,750
We were clean still,
and the food was just

205
00:12:48,750 --> 00:12:51,060
barely enough to survive.

206
00:12:51,060 --> 00:12:53,525
But you were able to maintain
some personal dignity

207
00:12:53,525 --> 00:12:54,150
it sounds like.

208
00:12:54,150 --> 00:12:54,810
Yes, because we--

209
00:12:54,810 --> 00:12:55,602
Which is important.

210
00:12:55,602 --> 00:12:56,850
Yes, definitely.

211

00:12:56,850 --> 00:13:00,000

I must tell you that we
all tried to look decent,

212

00:13:00,000 --> 00:13:03,720

and the women tried
to look pretty.

213

00:13:03,720 --> 00:13:10,650

And I remember putting
curls out of rags

214

00:13:10,650 --> 00:13:13,180

into my hair to have a hairdo.

215

00:13:13,180 --> 00:13:17,580

It was-- the pageboy
was very much in fashion

216

00:13:17,580 --> 00:13:21,730

from before the war, and
I remember wearing it.

217

00:13:21,730 --> 00:13:28,200

And we had few clothes, so
we used to lend each other so

218

00:13:28,200 --> 00:13:33,000

that we look decent.

219

00:13:33,000 --> 00:13:38,430

And I remember I had
a jumpsuit, and I

220

00:13:38,430 --> 00:13:45,360

used to sleep on it so the
crease would be straight.

221

00:13:45,360 --> 00:13:50,410

So we were still
maintained human--

222

00:13:50,410 --> 00:13:51,405

s human feeling.

223

00:13:51,405 --> 00:13:53,970

224

00:13:53,970 --> 00:13:56,820

We did not look like
some of the camps

225

00:13:56,820 --> 00:13:59,190

that you saw from
Buchenwald or--

226

00:13:59,190 --> 00:14:01,650

What were the guards like?

227

00:14:01,650 --> 00:14:04,680

We didn't have much
contact with the guards

228

00:14:04,680 --> 00:14:09,580

except for the marching
back and forth.

229

00:14:09,580 --> 00:14:15,060

And if you-- they
weren't too abusive.

230

00:14:15,060 --> 00:14:17,010

They weren't too abusive.

231

00:14:17,010 --> 00:14:20,610

We were scared because we
knew that they are German,

232

00:14:20,610 --> 00:14:30,000

but somehow we were able to
maintain a distance from them

233

00:14:30,000 --> 00:14:36,770

unless somebody did something
that they paid attention to

234

00:14:36,770 --> 00:14:39,780

or something that was
out of the ordinary.

235

00:14:39,780 --> 00:14:41,890

Were all of the inmates
Jewish or were there--

236

00:14:41,890 --> 00:14:43,980

Yes, they were all Jewish women.

237

00:14:43,980 --> 00:14:52,320

And this Gr \ddot{A} nb \ddot{e} rg before we
arrived there was a camp that

238

00:14:52,320 --> 00:14:53,310

men were there.

239

00:14:53,310 --> 00:14:58,290

I think I don't remember if
it was mixed to begin with

240

00:14:58,290 --> 00:15:02,820

or they were men and women in
the same camp but separated.

241

00:15:02,820 --> 00:15:06,810

But when we arrived there,
they shipped the men out

242

00:15:06,810 --> 00:15:11,160

and just became a
strictly a women's camp.

243

00:15:11,160 --> 00:15:15,600

And you were there in Gr \ddot{A} nb \ddot{e} rg
right through to 1945 or--

244

00:15:15,600 --> 00:15:17,450

No.

245

00:15:17,450 --> 00:15:21,660

I don't exactly remember
the day or the date,

246
00:15:21,660 --> 00:15:28,650
but after a short
period, this camp--

247
00:15:28,650 --> 00:15:32,310
this labor camp became
a concentration camp.

248
00:15:32,310 --> 00:15:34,800
And how did this--

249
00:15:34,800 --> 00:15:40,650
how did they transformed it?

250
00:15:40,650 --> 00:15:44,910
Well, one day, they did
not send us to work,

251
00:15:44,910 --> 00:15:49,470
and we were very much afraid
because if you don't go

252
00:15:49,470 --> 00:15:51,150
to work, then that's bad news.

253
00:15:51,150 --> 00:15:54,190
Because what is happening and
nobody knew what is happening.

254
00:15:54,190 --> 00:15:57,960
And if you don't know what is
happening, then you know that--

255
00:15:57,960 --> 00:15:59,920
Any change in regulations
is a bad sign.

256
00:15:59,920 --> 00:16:02,430

257

00:16:02,430 --> 00:16:04,350

But we saw a lot of--

258

00:16:04,350 --> 00:16:08,400

as the morning progressed,
we saw a lot of SS people--

259

00:16:08,400 --> 00:16:12,060

women and men in
the SS uniforms--

260

00:16:12,060 --> 00:16:15,460

roaming around the area.

261

00:16:15,460 --> 00:16:17,670

And as the hours
progressed, they

262

00:16:17,670 --> 00:16:22,920

had to stand outside an
appel that whole morning.

263

00:16:22,920 --> 00:16:28,470

And they-- finally
what happened was

264

00:16:28,470 --> 00:16:36,910

that they had an empty hall
with a table in the middle,

265

00:16:36,910 --> 00:16:44,100

and what they said were doctors
sitting behind the stable.

266

00:16:44,100 --> 00:16:55,350

And they had us strip naked and
come in front of these people,

267

00:16:55,350 --> 00:17:02,630

supposedly doctors which I
doubt if they were doctors,

268

00:17:02,630 --> 00:17:08,660
and we were given a number, not
a tattooed number but a number

269
00:17:08,660 --> 00:17:10,115
on a piece of string.

270
00:17:10,115 --> 00:17:14,819

271
00:17:14,819 --> 00:17:19,560
And we're able to go
back to get our clothes.

272
00:17:19,560 --> 00:17:25,300
But I must tell you that
this was the first time

273
00:17:25,300 --> 00:17:34,830
that they made us feel
so low, so degrading--

274
00:17:34,830 --> 00:17:38,610
so degraded because we
knew that this is not

275
00:17:38,610 --> 00:17:40,200
a doctor's examination.

276
00:17:40,200 --> 00:17:42,750

277
00:17:42,750 --> 00:17:46,980
And there were men, and
they were the SS in uniform

278
00:17:46,980 --> 00:17:48,370
all around the room.

279
00:17:48,370 --> 00:17:49,680
And these were young people.

280

00:17:49,680 --> 00:17:52,990
The women were young
women, and the soldier--

281
00:17:52,990 --> 00:17:54,750
with the SS soldiers
were young--

282
00:17:54,750 --> 00:17:57,090
Was there anything in
the attitude of them

283
00:17:57,090 --> 00:18:01,230
that convinced you that they
were not bona fide scientists

284
00:18:01,230 --> 00:18:02,880
or doctors or whatever.

285
00:18:02,880 --> 00:18:05,580
Because what kind
of an examination

286
00:18:05,580 --> 00:18:09,150
is it if you just walk in
front naked of somebody?

287
00:18:09,150 --> 00:18:11,160
This is not a
medical examination.

288
00:18:11,160 --> 00:18:12,534
And it wasn't done in private.

289
00:18:12,534 --> 00:18:13,826
Did they behave-- they snicker?

290
00:18:13,826 --> 00:18:15,030
Did they do?

291
00:18:15,030 --> 00:18:19,680
No, they just made us very,
very afraid because you didn't

292
00:18:19,680 --> 00:18:21,840
know what it is
all about and what

293
00:18:21,840 --> 00:18:25,230
does it mean and what are they
checking and what do they want

294
00:18:25,230 --> 00:18:31,050
and what are they looking for
and why are they doing this.

295
00:18:31,050 --> 00:18:33,170
What kind of a--
it wasn't an exam--

296
00:18:33,170 --> 00:18:36,420
a medical examination where
you went and the doctor asks

297
00:18:36,420 --> 00:18:39,660
you questions or they looked
in your throat or your eyes

298
00:18:39,660 --> 00:18:40,230
or whatever.

299
00:18:40,230 --> 00:18:42,780
No, this was just--

300
00:18:42,780 --> 00:18:47,220
it was just something
to degrade you.

301
00:18:47,220 --> 00:18:49,170
This was psychological.

302
00:18:49,170 --> 00:18:51,150
An attempt to humiliate you.

303
00:18:51,150 --> 00:18:58,260

And this was at that
point a very, very

304
00:18:58,260 --> 00:19:01,260
demeaning and
terrible experience,

305
00:19:01,260 --> 00:19:04,980
and we were all very
shaken up and very

306
00:19:04,980 --> 00:19:12,870
afraid and the fact that
you didn't know actually

307
00:19:12,870 --> 00:19:14,840
what it is all about.

308
00:19:14,840 --> 00:19:19,870
But it was over, and
this was the designation.

309
00:19:19,870 --> 00:19:23,900
Now this camp was designated
a concentration camp,

310
00:19:23,900 --> 00:19:29,120
and from that moment
on, the SS took charge.

311
00:19:29,120 --> 00:19:35,150
The wehrmacht went away,
and the SS was our--

312
00:19:35,150 --> 00:19:36,290
they were the guards.

313
00:19:36,290 --> 00:19:38,090
Did you know at
this time, Halina,

314
00:19:38,090 --> 00:19:39,980
anything about

the Final Solution

315

00:19:39,980 --> 00:19:42,590

or that there was a
Final Solution or--

316

00:19:42,590 --> 00:19:46,010

No, we didn't know
the Final Solution

317

00:19:46,010 --> 00:19:48,740

by the name Final Solution.

318

00:19:48,740 --> 00:19:52,010

We knew-- absolutely we knew
that there was an Auschwitz

319

00:19:52,010 --> 00:19:53,930

and that they are
exterminating people.

320

00:19:53,930 --> 00:19:56,240

We definitely did.

321

00:19:56,240 --> 00:19:57,350

We did.

322

00:19:57,350 --> 00:20:02,060

We didn't know who
and how and where,

323

00:20:02,060 --> 00:20:03,860

but this is what
we were afraid of.

324

00:20:03,860 --> 00:20:06,200

Did you relate what was
happening in these places

325

00:20:06,200 --> 00:20:09,500

to what was happening
now when in your camp,

326

00:20:09,500 --> 00:20:11,700

or was there any
connection made?

327

00:20:11,700 --> 00:20:15,740

Well, of course, when we--

328

00:20:15,740 --> 00:20:22,175

when any change that
transpired and we were--

329

00:20:22,175 --> 00:20:23,725

they never informed us.

330

00:20:23,725 --> 00:20:25,100

They never said,
well, now you're

331

00:20:25,100 --> 00:20:27,860

going to be stripped naked
and go in front of a doctor

332

00:20:27,860 --> 00:20:29,510

because we have to
check you and this

333

00:20:29,510 --> 00:20:31,640

is going to now be a necessity.

334

00:20:31,640 --> 00:20:34,940

No, you just-- they just--

335

00:20:34,940 --> 00:20:40,820

this was psychologically done,
and they kept you in suspense,

336

00:20:40,820 --> 00:20:43,560

worried, not knowing
what is happening.

337

00:20:43,560 --> 00:20:46,490

And this whole day

was a nightmare

338

00:20:46,490 --> 00:20:50,930

because we didn't know
what is happening to us.

339

00:20:50,930 --> 00:20:53,810

We just knew that nothing
good is going to happen.

340

00:20:53,810 --> 00:20:57,410

When it became a concentration
camp, what changes occurred?

341

00:20:57,410 --> 00:21:02,660

The changes that occurred
were just more stringent,

342

00:21:02,660 --> 00:21:05,960

the appels were done and they--

343

00:21:05,960 --> 00:21:07,460

in a rougher manner.

344

00:21:07,460 --> 00:21:10,100

And the people
themselves, the SS,

345

00:21:10,100 --> 00:21:12,990

were just a rougher
crowd and a meaner--

346

00:21:12,990 --> 00:21:15,620

347

00:21:15,620 --> 00:21:21,770

and they were hitting
without any cause.

348

00:21:21,770 --> 00:21:25,550

Whatever they didn't
like, they slapped around,

349

00:21:25,550 --> 00:21:31,040

and they abused us
more than otherwise.

350

00:21:31,040 --> 00:21:33,311

And the fact that they--

351

00:21:33,311 --> 00:21:37,610

that we knew that this is the
SS and they walked around,

352

00:21:37,610 --> 00:21:43,910

their demeanor was
enough to frighten you,

353

00:21:43,910 --> 00:21:47,590

and the uniform was
enough to frighten you.

354

00:21:47,590 --> 00:21:54,650

And you just were so glad to get
inside and then be out of sight

355

00:21:54,650 --> 00:22:00,560

because just being around
them was frightening.

356

00:22:00,560 --> 00:22:04,518

But work was the same and--

357

00:22:04,518 --> 00:22:05,810

They still allowed you to work?

358

00:22:05,810 --> 00:22:07,040

Yes, we were still--

359

00:22:07,040 --> 00:22:09,590

we were still useful to them.

360

00:22:09,590 --> 00:22:14,360

And we ran this Jewish
contingent-- ran

361
00:22:14,360 --> 00:22:19,220
this big, big factory because
the heavy work, what they

362
00:22:19,220 --> 00:22:23,600
called [GERMAN],, they
found the girls that

363
00:22:23,600 --> 00:22:28,760
were bigger and stronger,
and they did the heavy work

364
00:22:28,760 --> 00:22:36,110
that mostly big German
men used to perform.

365
00:22:36,110 --> 00:22:41,180
And the whole
factory was run by--

366
00:22:41,180 --> 00:22:42,450
with our help.

367
00:22:42,450 --> 00:22:51,820
They were just a few
Aufseher that were in charge.

368
00:22:51,820 --> 00:22:55,630
And that happened-- that--

369
00:22:55,630 --> 00:23:03,170
we were working there until
I would say December of '44.

370
00:23:03,170 --> 00:23:06,250

371
00:23:06,250 --> 00:23:13,990
Now GrÅ¼nberg was close to the
Polish border because I think

372

00:23:13,990 --> 00:23:18,560
that now GrÅ¼nberg is Poland.

373
00:23:18,560 --> 00:23:21,270

374
00:23:21,270 --> 00:23:25,782
This part reverted to Poland.

375
00:23:25,782 --> 00:23:31,200
So at that point in
time, the Russian front

376
00:23:31,200 --> 00:23:38,140
started to move
closer to that area.

377
00:23:38,140 --> 00:23:47,880
And one day, all of a sudden,
we did not go to work,

378
00:23:47,880 --> 00:23:53,910
and, again, we were frightened,
didn't know what is happening.

379
00:23:53,910 --> 00:24:00,330
And they herded us into
one hole out of the hole

380
00:24:00,330 --> 00:24:05,550
that we slept in into the
other part, the older part,

381
00:24:05,550 --> 00:24:09,180
where the other women were.

382
00:24:09,180 --> 00:24:12,270
And all of a sudden, we
heard that they brought

383
00:24:12,270 --> 00:24:16,230
a transport of other women.

384

00:24:16,230 --> 00:24:20,880

They were Hungarian women
that they must have just heard

385

00:24:20,880 --> 00:24:25,320

that them from Hungary and
they must've gone already

386

00:24:25,320 --> 00:24:30,040

through one of the
big holding camps.

387

00:24:30,040 --> 00:24:33,210

I don't remember which
one they came through,

388

00:24:33,210 --> 00:24:36,600

but they were already shaven
and they were stripped

389

00:24:36,600 --> 00:24:40,950

of their clothes and they
were in a very, very bad shape

390

00:24:40,950 --> 00:24:44,458

morally to see what happened--

391

00:24:44,458 --> 00:24:45,750

You mean they were demoralized.

392

00:24:45,750 --> 00:24:48,240

Demoralized terribly.

393

00:24:48,240 --> 00:24:52,326

Because I'm sure
that in your studies,

394

00:24:52,326 --> 00:24:58,275

you read and heard that they
came into Hungary, and they--

395

00:24:58,275 --> 00:25:04,170

what they did to the Polish
Jews over a span of time,

396
00:25:04,170 --> 00:25:06,630
they did to them immediately.

397
00:25:06,630 --> 00:25:07,930
Concentrated fashion.

398
00:25:07,930 --> 00:25:08,430
Right.

399
00:25:08,430 --> 00:25:10,200
They just took them
out of their homes,

400
00:25:10,200 --> 00:25:13,440
out of their families,
herded them into trains,

401
00:25:13,440 --> 00:25:19,440
separated the families, and they
were absolutely demoralized.

402
00:25:19,440 --> 00:25:21,730
They-- it was terrible.

403
00:25:21,730 --> 00:25:22,950
It was a terrible scene.

404
00:25:22,950 --> 00:25:26,950

405
00:25:26,950 --> 00:25:30,280
And the [GERMAN],,
but they were maybe

406
00:25:30,280 --> 00:25:34,060
I would say maybe 500
women or 1,000 women

407
00:25:34,060 --> 00:25:34,960

that they brought in.

408

00:25:34,960 --> 00:25:35,920

We didn't see them.

409

00:25:35,920 --> 00:25:41,050

They separated us, but we
just heard through the walls

410

00:25:41,050 --> 00:25:42,100

that they are there.

411

00:25:42,100 --> 00:25:49,960

And they ransacked
that hall because they

412

00:25:49,960 --> 00:25:55,520

were looking for extra
food or some extra closing.

413

00:25:55,520 --> 00:25:58,450

It was very bad.

414

00:25:58,450 --> 00:26:01,180

In the morning, the
following morning, they

415

00:26:01,180 --> 00:26:05,770

told us to get dressed and
to take our belongings,

416

00:26:05,770 --> 00:26:09,280

and they marched us outdoors.

417

00:26:09,280 --> 00:26:11,050

It was in the middle
of the winter.

418

00:26:11,050 --> 00:26:15,700

This was December,
and the winter was--

419

00:26:15,700 --> 00:26:18,700
if you remember or you don't
remember but you've heard--

420
00:26:18,700 --> 00:26:20,825
that it was December '45--

421
00:26:20,825 --> 00:26:23,320
It was a terrible winter.

422
00:26:23,320 --> 00:26:26,200
Or rather '44, it was a
very, very hard winter

423
00:26:26,200 --> 00:26:28,510
with lots of snow outside.

424
00:26:28,510 --> 00:26:35,960
And we realized that they are
marching us out of this camp

425
00:26:35,960 --> 00:26:39,710
and we realize that
they are marching us out

426
00:26:39,710 --> 00:26:42,200
because the Russians
were getting closer

427
00:26:42,200 --> 00:26:47,150
and they didn't want to leave
us behind to be liberated

428
00:26:47,150 --> 00:26:50,240
by the Russians.

429
00:26:50,240 --> 00:26:54,740
So they took this--

430
00:26:54,740 --> 00:26:57,620
we were together with
the Hungarian women.

431

00:26:57,620 --> 00:26:59,960

We were about 2,000.

432

00:26:59,960 --> 00:27:08,850

They split us in half,
and they marched us out--

433

00:27:08,850 --> 00:27:10,452

out of this place--

434

00:27:10,452 --> 00:27:12,410

When they split you in
half, did they march you

435

00:27:12,410 --> 00:27:13,493

all in the same direction?

436

00:27:13,493 --> 00:27:15,740

No, they marched us in
two different directions.

437

00:27:15,740 --> 00:27:19,230

438

00:27:19,230 --> 00:27:25,550

One group ended up
in Bergen-Belsen

439

00:27:25,550 --> 00:27:29,010

finally after whatever
they went through,

440

00:27:29,010 --> 00:27:32,960

but the group that
I was in was marched

441

00:27:32,960 --> 00:27:39,260

and we were probably
1,000 or over 1,000 women.

442

00:27:39,260 --> 00:27:42,728

Now this became the Death March.

443
00:27:42,728 --> 00:27:45,800

444
00:27:45,800 --> 00:27:50,600
What happened was, they
marched us a whole day.

445
00:27:50,600 --> 00:27:56,330
We were walking perhaps
30 kilometers a day

446
00:27:56,330 --> 00:28:02,060
away from the
Russians in the snow.

447
00:28:02,060 --> 00:28:06,260
None of us was really equipped
for this kind of weather,

448
00:28:06,260 --> 00:28:13,190
but we tried to protect
ourselves as best as we could.

449
00:28:13,190 --> 00:28:17,990
And the SS were the ones
that-- they were guarding us,

450
00:28:17,990 --> 00:28:26,280
and we were guarded with
rifles and the ready.

451
00:28:26,280 --> 00:28:32,690
So there was no way of just
disappearing or running away,

452
00:28:32,690 --> 00:28:35,750
and there were some cases in
the beginning in the first day

453
00:28:35,750 --> 00:28:38,210
that the girls--

454

00:28:38,210 --> 00:28:44,450

as we stopped for a break
that didn't get up right away

455

00:28:44,450 --> 00:28:51,560

or thought maybe they will just
walk away and maybe disappear.

456

00:28:51,560 --> 00:28:57,290

And they were shot on the spot,
so they did this to frighten

457

00:28:57,290 --> 00:29:00,470

everybody else not to try--

458

00:29:00,470 --> 00:29:02,990

To your knowledge, no
one managed to escape.

459

00:29:02,990 --> 00:29:03,950

Or no one successfully.

460

00:29:03,950 --> 00:29:04,550

Yes.

461

00:29:04,550 --> 00:29:09,770

Yes, there were women that
did escape that stayed behind

462

00:29:09,770 --> 00:29:12,650

because at night,
they used to find

463

00:29:12,650 --> 00:29:18,560

the shelter in some stables
or wherever they were

464

00:29:18,560 --> 00:29:22,400

able to find shelter for us.

465

00:29:22,400 --> 00:29:27,960

So they used to herd

us into a big stable,

466

00:29:27,960 --> 00:29:32,030

and we were just
squeezed and then shoved

467

00:29:32,030 --> 00:29:35,600

but it was better
than being outdoors.

468

00:29:35,600 --> 00:29:38,090

What kind of clothing did
you have at this time?

469

00:29:38,090 --> 00:29:39,920

Did you have coats or--

470

00:29:39,920 --> 00:29:43,550

We had very bare
clothing, but we

471

00:29:43,550 --> 00:29:47,510

used to-- but we put on layers.

472

00:29:47,510 --> 00:29:53,090

Whatever we possessed, we wore
because it was much easier

473

00:29:53,090 --> 00:29:54,530

than to carry anyway.

474

00:29:54,530 --> 00:29:59,060

You couldn't-- we-- some girls
had a little more than others,

475

00:29:59,060 --> 00:30:02,570

and they started out
carrying some bundles.

476

00:30:02,570 --> 00:30:08,300

They also gave us whatever
they had in supplies.

477

00:30:08,300 --> 00:30:14,300
Like whatever bread they baked,
they gave us a loaf of bread.

478

00:30:14,300 --> 00:30:17,870
And I remember that we-- they
gave us some sugar that they

479

00:30:17,870 --> 00:30:19,790
still had in the supply place.

480

00:30:19,790 --> 00:30:24,020
They did give us a little bit.

481

00:30:24,020 --> 00:30:28,780
I think this was
about all that we had.

482

00:30:28,780 --> 00:30:33,850
But you couldn't carry
anything, so it was much easier

483

00:30:33,850 --> 00:30:36,850
to wear what you had.

484

00:30:36,850 --> 00:30:42,430
So this is what happened, and
the blankets that they told

485

00:30:42,430 --> 00:30:46,210
us to take, we used as a cover.

486

00:30:46,210 --> 00:30:49,630
And there are some women
that had better shoes.

487

00:30:49,630 --> 00:30:53,410
Some women right
away had no shoes

488

00:30:53,410 --> 00:30:58,710
to walk in in snow that

was reaching your ankles.

489

00:30:58,710 --> 00:31:04,660

It right away became a very,
very crucial situation.

490

00:31:04,660 --> 00:31:08,230

And the beating that
was going on right

491

00:31:08,230 --> 00:31:17,980

away if you just stepped off to
take some snow to use as water,

492

00:31:17,980 --> 00:31:18,980

do you--

493

00:31:18,980 --> 00:31:21,460

they clobbered you right
away because they thought

494

00:31:21,460 --> 00:31:24,970

that maybe you want to run
away or whatever they thought,

495

00:31:24,970 --> 00:31:31,670

they had an opportunity to
clobber your or hit you,

496

00:31:31,670 --> 00:31:32,360

they did.

497

00:31:32,360 --> 00:31:36,320

498

00:31:36,320 --> 00:31:39,950

And this went on for weeks.

499

00:31:39,950 --> 00:31:44,300

We were marched every single
day out of the facility--

500

00:31:44,300 --> 00:31:53,120
out of the shelter that they
found for us and march us a few

501
00:31:53,120 --> 00:31:55,310
more miles if you--

502
00:31:55,310 --> 00:31:56,750
Were going further east or--

503
00:31:56,750 --> 00:31:58,500
did you know the
direction you were going?

504
00:31:58,500 --> 00:32:00,083
No, we didn't know
where we are going.

505
00:32:00,083 --> 00:32:03,350
We had no idea where we are
going because they never told

506
00:32:03,350 --> 00:32:05,450
us, and we just didn't know.

507
00:32:05,450 --> 00:32:08,090
We just went through
towns and through villages

508
00:32:08,090 --> 00:32:10,970
and on the highway
or through the woods.

509
00:32:10,970 --> 00:32:13,220
People in those towns
and villages saw you.

510
00:32:13,220 --> 00:32:16,665
They saw us, but they--

511
00:32:16,665 --> 00:32:17,165
nobody--

512

00:32:17,165 --> 00:32:20,330

513

00:32:20,330 --> 00:32:21,020

Lifted a finger.

514

00:32:21,020 --> 00:32:24,200

Lifted a finger, no.

515

00:32:24,200 --> 00:32:30,665

But there were some women
that stayed behind or ran away

516

00:32:30,665 --> 00:32:37,340

in those shelters at night that
we were at, and some of them

517

00:32:37,340 --> 00:32:38,720

survived.

518

00:32:38,720 --> 00:32:45,320

Some of them the Germans
turned in and brought back,

519

00:32:45,320 --> 00:32:47,690

and then they were
made an example of

520

00:32:47,690 --> 00:32:52,530

and shot in front of our eyes.

521

00:32:52,530 --> 00:32:56,930

And so it was very
scary to run away.

522

00:32:56,930 --> 00:33:01,460

We knew that if we would only
be able to run away and stay

523

00:33:01,460 --> 00:33:06,500

behind, we felt that the
Russians were right behind us.

524
00:33:06,500 --> 00:33:13,130
They are almost in our
tracks, but it was so scary--

525
00:33:13,130 --> 00:33:21,270
you see, I think the
fear of the death

526
00:33:21,270 --> 00:33:30,480
is so great that unless you are
very gutsy or very desperate,

527
00:33:30,480 --> 00:33:31,350
you were--

528
00:33:31,350 --> 00:33:34,650
you always had the hope
that maybe tomorrow you

529
00:33:34,650 --> 00:33:36,390
will survive.

530
00:33:36,390 --> 00:33:42,300
But what happens if you run
away and they will shoot you.

531
00:33:42,300 --> 00:33:44,790
And that's what-- you think--

532
00:33:44,790 --> 00:33:47,520
now I'm thinking back
how could I-- how could

533
00:33:47,520 --> 00:33:49,930
we just continue doing it.

534
00:33:49,930 --> 00:33:51,240
How could we just go on?

535
00:33:51,240 --> 00:33:53,880
Why didn't we stay behind?

536
00:33:53,880 --> 00:34:01,620
And we planned every night
when they brought us to some

537
00:34:01,620 --> 00:34:03,630
wherever it was that we--

538
00:34:03,630 --> 00:34:06,180
that they made us stop.

539
00:34:06,180 --> 00:34:07,440
We were looking.

540
00:34:07,440 --> 00:34:08,790
Can we run away from here?

541
00:34:08,790 --> 00:34:09,989
Can we stay behind?

542
00:34:09,989 --> 00:34:13,050
Can we hide under something?

543
00:34:13,050 --> 00:34:20,730
But somehow-- when I say we, I'm
talking about Lili and Helena

544
00:34:20,730 --> 00:34:26,320
and our immediate
friends that we were--

545
00:34:26,320 --> 00:34:29,040
that we kept close.

546
00:34:29,040 --> 00:34:33,120
But somehow we never
found an opportune moment

547
00:34:33,120 --> 00:34:36,719
to be able to do it
because we were so scared

548

00:34:36,719 --> 00:34:40,230

that they will find us
and if they find us,

549

00:34:40,230 --> 00:34:42,179

they surely will shoot
us because that's

550

00:34:42,179 --> 00:34:47,219

what we saw that they did
to people that we knew.

551

00:34:47,219 --> 00:34:49,020

So we continued.

552

00:34:49,020 --> 00:34:54,130

So we continued walking
day in and day out.

553

00:34:54,130 --> 00:35:03,090

I just know that after weeks,
we did pass through Dresden.

554

00:35:03,090 --> 00:35:04,230

You heard of Dresden.

555

00:35:04,230 --> 00:35:05,120

Of course.

556

00:35:05,120 --> 00:35:06,037

It was bombed during--

557

00:35:06,037 --> 00:35:11,730

And we passed through Dresden
through the American bombing

558

00:35:11,730 --> 00:35:13,620

of Dresden.

559

00:35:13,620 --> 00:35:24,400

Now if I can just try to
give you a picture of this.

560

00:35:24,400 --> 00:35:32,330

The town was empty because the
inhabitants were in shelters.

561

00:35:32,330 --> 00:35:38,930

And this was-- and this group
of these unfortunate women

562

00:35:38,930 --> 00:35:43,850

in rags already and looking
ragged and emaciated already

563

00:35:43,850 --> 00:35:48,470

at that point because
the food that they

564

00:35:48,470 --> 00:35:54,050

found for us was less and less,
we didn't eat a whole day.

565

00:35:54,050 --> 00:35:55,580

They didn't have
any food for us.

566

00:35:55,580 --> 00:36:01,520

Only when we came to at night
that they were somehow able

567

00:36:01,520 --> 00:36:03,560

from the villagers
or from wherever

568

00:36:03,560 --> 00:36:06,210

we stopped to gather some food.

569

00:36:06,210 --> 00:36:08,870

But the times were very
bad, and the Germans

570

00:36:08,870 --> 00:36:12,470

didn't have much
food for themselves.

571
00:36:12,470 --> 00:36:16,460
So you can imagine that
there wasn't much for us,

572
00:36:16,460 --> 00:36:22,490
and whatever food that they
had, the SS people managed

573
00:36:22,490 --> 00:36:27,770
to procure for themselves
because they had it well.

574
00:36:27,770 --> 00:36:29,360
They weren't starving.

575
00:36:29,360 --> 00:36:31,982
They were just marching
with us, but they certainly

576
00:36:31,982 --> 00:36:32,690
weren't starving.

577
00:36:32,690 --> 00:36:36,630

578
00:36:36,630 --> 00:36:41,370
And at that point,
when you think

579
00:36:41,370 --> 00:36:46,110
of what was the
purpose of this march,

580
00:36:46,110 --> 00:36:49,815
it was a shelter for the SS.

581
00:36:49,815 --> 00:36:52,530

582
00:36:52,530 --> 00:36:53,340
Do you understand?

583
00:36:53,340 --> 00:36:57,120
Because they marched
us so they would not

584
00:36:57,120 --> 00:36:58,995
have to go to the front.

585
00:36:58,995 --> 00:37:01,510

586
00:37:01,510 --> 00:37:02,970
If you think about
it because they

587
00:37:02,970 --> 00:37:08,852
could have just taken a machine
gun and finished us off--

588
00:37:08,852 --> 00:37:09,477
So in a sense--

589
00:37:09,477 --> 00:37:10,685
It gave them something to do.

590
00:37:10,685 --> 00:37:12,150
So in a sense--

591
00:37:12,150 --> 00:37:13,925
The march was their
form of invasion.

592
00:37:13,925 --> 00:37:18,910
Was their form of
protection for themselves.

593
00:37:18,910 --> 00:37:25,950
They had a mission because if
they would have finished us,

594
00:37:25,950 --> 00:37:27,510
where would they go?

595

00:37:27,510 --> 00:37:29,280

They would go to the front.

596

00:37:29,280 --> 00:37:33,780

It was better to walk,
to march, with the Jews

597

00:37:33,780 --> 00:37:35,380

than to go to the front.

598

00:37:35,380 --> 00:37:38,320

But as they were marching
you through Dresden--

599

00:37:38,320 --> 00:37:38,820

Yes.

600

00:37:38,820 --> 00:37:41,760

And through places like
that, which were constantly

601

00:37:41,760 --> 00:37:45,180

being bombed by Allied
planes, weren't they exposing

602

00:37:45,180 --> 00:37:46,548

themselves as well as you--

603

00:37:46,548 --> 00:37:47,340

But I'll tell you--

604

00:37:47,340 --> 00:37:49,560

To that?

605

00:37:49,560 --> 00:37:51,480

There was no bombs.

606

00:37:51,480 --> 00:37:53,640

We did not experience until--

607

00:37:53,640 --> 00:37:56,565
any bombings until
we came to Dresden.

608
00:37:56,565 --> 00:37:59,490

609
00:37:59,490 --> 00:38:01,530
And this was something
that they didn't

610
00:38:01,530 --> 00:38:03,270
know is going to transpire.

611
00:38:03,270 --> 00:38:07,350
When they-- when we
walked through town,

612
00:38:07,350 --> 00:38:09,330
we had to walk
through the bridge

613
00:38:09,330 --> 00:38:13,200
that was demolished right
after we walked through.

614
00:38:13,200 --> 00:38:17,310
I don't have the map and I don't
remember exactly where they

615
00:38:17,310 --> 00:38:20,760
were going, but they had
to go through the town

616
00:38:20,760 --> 00:38:24,060
and through the bridge to
get to where they wanted

617
00:38:24,060 --> 00:38:29,430
to go to run away
from the Germans

618
00:38:29,430 --> 00:38:31,705

or maybe it was already
the Americans that were--

619
00:38:31,705 --> 00:38:33,330
You mean to run away
from the Russians?

620
00:38:33,330 --> 00:38:34,200
From the Russians.

621
00:38:34,200 --> 00:38:34,700
Yes.

622
00:38:34,700 --> 00:38:37,325

623
00:38:37,325 --> 00:38:43,235
I just don't know exactly
what at that point

624
00:38:43,235 --> 00:38:48,800
they were moving us away
from, whom, but they did not

625
00:38:48,800 --> 00:38:53,840
plan this and they did know
that this big, big bombing is

626
00:38:53,840 --> 00:38:55,800
taking place.

627
00:38:55,800 --> 00:39:00,230
So as I started painting
this picture before,

628
00:39:00,230 --> 00:39:03,380
the bombs were falling all over.

629
00:39:03,380 --> 00:39:07,160
We were just marching, and
they are marching with us.

630

00:39:07,160 --> 00:39:09,620
And we were not--

631
00:39:09,620 --> 00:39:13,640
we meaning the Jewish girls--

632
00:39:13,640 --> 00:39:16,940
we were cheering.

633
00:39:16,940 --> 00:39:22,730
We were hoping that the bomb
will fall right on top of us

634
00:39:22,730 --> 00:39:26,780
and finish our misery
and end all this.

635
00:39:26,780 --> 00:39:32,480
Or maybe we were also seeing
that there is an end to--

636
00:39:32,480 --> 00:39:37,160
that maybe an end is
coming to our misery

637
00:39:37,160 --> 00:39:39,650
and there will be an
end to the war finally.

638
00:39:39,650 --> 00:39:41,760
Did you see it in terms
of retribution also for--

639
00:39:41,760 --> 00:39:42,260
No.

640
00:39:42,260 --> 00:39:45,860
We were-- at that point,
we were just survival.

641
00:39:45,860 --> 00:39:51,620
Just we were hoping that
even if it finishes us

642
00:39:51,620 --> 00:39:55,940
right then and there, it
was better than continuing.

643
00:39:55,940 --> 00:40:00,410
But we did manage to go through
Dresden and through the bridge,

644
00:40:00,410 --> 00:40:05,525
and just as we passed the
bridge, the bridge was bombed.

645
00:40:05,525 --> 00:40:08,330

646
00:40:08,330 --> 00:40:10,580
And then they brought us--

647
00:40:10,580 --> 00:40:13,280
in the beginning-- in the
very beginning after the war,

648
00:40:13,280 --> 00:40:18,620
I was able to remember all the
towns, the names of the towns

649
00:40:18,620 --> 00:40:26,570
that we stopped in chronological
terms, but I don't remember now

650
00:40:26,570 --> 00:40:27,890
and I don't have a record.

651
00:40:27,890 --> 00:40:33,170
I wonder if any of the survivors
that went through the march

652
00:40:33,170 --> 00:40:35,330
remember the names.

653
00:40:35,330 --> 00:40:40,310

But I'll tell you how we
identified in the beginning

654
00:40:40,310 --> 00:40:45,470
with these stops was that
we remembered if perhaps we

655
00:40:45,470 --> 00:40:51,090
got a better soup at
the end of the day,

656
00:40:51,090 --> 00:40:54,950
we remembered it by what we ate.

657
00:40:54,950 --> 00:40:59,210
And this was so vivid
in our memories.

658
00:40:59,210 --> 00:41:03,770
Also I must tell you
that through the march,

659
00:41:03,770 --> 00:41:08,090
we were in a very, very
poor condition as far

660
00:41:08,090 --> 00:41:14,360
as cleanliness, and we were
full of lice at that point

661
00:41:14,360 --> 00:41:19,820
because the Hungarian women
were already not clean.

662
00:41:19,820 --> 00:41:25,340
And we were herded
together, and lice spread.

663
00:41:25,340 --> 00:41:27,860
And, of course, with
the dirt and we--

664
00:41:27,860 --> 00:41:30,450

there was no shower,
and there is no washing.

665
00:41:30,450 --> 00:41:33,830
There was no facilities at all.

666
00:41:33,830 --> 00:41:40,640
So I must tell you that
we marched the whole day,

667
00:41:40,640 --> 00:41:43,430
and we could not
take off our clothes.

668
00:41:43,430 --> 00:41:48,770
We slept in the clothes
that we were in for warmth

669
00:41:48,770 --> 00:41:51,110
and otherwise.

670
00:41:51,110 --> 00:41:54,200
The only thing that we
did was take off our shoes

671
00:41:54,200 --> 00:41:59,510
and try to dry them if we still
had shoes because there were

672
00:41:59,510 --> 00:42:02,630
some women that already
had rags on their feet

673
00:42:02,630 --> 00:42:04,640
or the shoes were
already full of holes

674
00:42:04,640 --> 00:42:08,730
because when you march--

675
00:42:08,730 --> 00:42:09,360
yes.

676

00:42:09,360 --> 00:42:11,010

As you went on, weren't
there some women that

677

00:42:11,010 --> 00:42:12,220

just couldn't keep up with you?

678

00:42:12,220 --> 00:42:12,600

Yes.

679

00:42:12,600 --> 00:42:14,892

And what happened to those
women as they would just not

680

00:42:14,892 --> 00:42:16,110

be able to go any further.

681

00:42:16,110 --> 00:42:22,970

They were either-- they just
died, or they killed them.

682

00:42:22,970 --> 00:42:25,190

But at that point
yet, I don't think

683

00:42:25,190 --> 00:42:29,210

that they had a wagon
because later on they

684

00:42:29,210 --> 00:42:34,127

had a wagon that was going
behind and the ones--

685

00:42:34,127 --> 00:42:35,150

Collecting bodies.

686

00:42:35,150 --> 00:42:35,690

Collecting--

687

00:42:35,690 --> 00:42:36,290

Corpses.

688

00:42:36,290 --> 00:42:38,510

No, not corpses.

689

00:42:38,510 --> 00:42:40,130

Corpses they didn't collect.

690

00:42:40,130 --> 00:42:46,070

Only the ones that were still
breathing but couldn't walk.

691

00:42:46,070 --> 00:42:48,680

So they finished their
life on the wagon.

692

00:42:48,680 --> 00:42:51,440

Did you ever feel that you
wouldn't be able to go on?

693

00:42:51,440 --> 00:42:53,180

Yes, many times.

694

00:42:53,180 --> 00:42:57,950

Many times but as long as we
had the physical strength,

695

00:42:57,950 --> 00:43:03,830

we managed to push another day.

696

00:43:03,830 --> 00:43:08,765

After Dresden, they
herded us into a camp.

697

00:43:08,765 --> 00:43:13,725

698

00:43:13,725 --> 00:43:14,975

What was the name of the camp?

699

00:43:14,975 --> 00:43:15,475

I just--

700

00:43:15,475 --> 00:43:19,200

701

00:43:19,200 --> 00:43:20,790

I just have a blank.

702

00:43:20,790 --> 00:43:24,690

This was an existing camp.

703

00:43:24,690 --> 00:43:30,790

It was a concentration camp,
but it wasn't just Jewish people

704

00:43:30,790 --> 00:43:31,290

there.

705

00:43:31,290 --> 00:43:32,940

They were--

706

00:43:32,940 --> 00:43:34,350

This wasn't Flossenbug, was it?

707

00:43:34,350 --> 00:43:35,070

No.

708

00:43:35,070 --> 00:43:35,820

Because that was--

709

00:43:35,820 --> 00:43:37,890

No.

710

00:43:37,890 --> 00:43:39,030

It'll come to me.

711

00:43:39,030 --> 00:43:42,230

712

00:43:42,230 --> 00:43:45,154

I can't remember.

713

00:43:45,154 --> 00:43:48,740

But they-- we stopped there.

714
00:43:48,740 --> 00:43:51,380
As we came there, they
stripped us again,

715
00:43:51,380 --> 00:43:55,891
and they stripped us of more
possessions that we had.

716
00:43:55,891 --> 00:43:58,657

717
00:43:58,657 --> 00:44:02,270
We still had our personal
things like a toothbrush

718
00:44:02,270 --> 00:44:06,290
or a comb or a mirror
or something from home

719
00:44:06,290 --> 00:44:10,730
or some women were
still able to hide

720
00:44:10,730 --> 00:44:15,830
a little ring or some pictures.

721
00:44:15,830 --> 00:44:21,670
When we arrived
into that camp, they

722
00:44:21,670 --> 00:44:28,720
made us give all our
possessions, whatever it was,

723
00:44:28,720 --> 00:44:29,500
away--

724
00:44:29,500 --> 00:44:31,570
pictures and all.

725

00:44:31,570 --> 00:44:35,140
Now remember I showed you
the picture of my mother

726
00:44:35,140 --> 00:44:38,620
and myself and that
other little picture.

727
00:44:38,620 --> 00:44:41,670
I folded-- this was
a little snapshot--

728
00:44:41,670 --> 00:44:43,720
a little tiny snapshot.

729
00:44:43,720 --> 00:44:47,140
I folded it, in four
and I put it in my shoe

730
00:44:47,140 --> 00:44:54,520
and I risked my life virtually
hiding that because they just

731
00:44:54,520 --> 00:44:58,870
shot you for such
a subordination,

732
00:44:58,870 --> 00:45:02,260
that this was not allowed.

733
00:45:02,260 --> 00:45:08,410
But I was able to retain
it and survive with it.

734
00:45:08,410 --> 00:45:15,913
They also stripped us of all
our clothes for entlausung.

735
00:45:15,913 --> 00:45:17,080
Do you know what that means?

736
00:45:17,080 --> 00:45:20,150
De-lousing.

737
00:45:20,150 --> 00:45:23,000
I don't know they boiled
the clothes, which

738
00:45:23,000 --> 00:45:27,920
would have been very welcome if
it would accomplish the purpose

739
00:45:27,920 --> 00:45:31,640
but didn't do anything.

740
00:45:31,640 --> 00:45:35,900
They just-- it was
another humility

741
00:45:35,900 --> 00:45:39,710
to strip you of everything
and then you couldn't get back

742
00:45:39,710 --> 00:45:44,420
your clothes, but whatever
you grabbed, you had.

743
00:45:44,420 --> 00:45:47,150
So the short women were--

744
00:45:47,150 --> 00:45:50,750
wound up with big
dresses or whatever,

745
00:45:50,750 --> 00:45:53,440
and the taller girls wound
up with little things

746
00:45:53,440 --> 00:45:54,440
that they couldn't wear.

747
00:45:54,440 --> 00:46:00,770
But later on we tried
to trade off and to--

748

00:46:00,770 --> 00:46:02,480

What was your own
physical condition

749

00:46:02,480 --> 00:46:04,022

like when you arrived
this last time.

750

00:46:04,022 --> 00:46:07,520

It was getting-- it was very--
it was getting deteriorated.

751

00:46:07,520 --> 00:46:08,750

We were very--

752

00:46:08,750 --> 00:46:13,460

I was very thin already, lost,
of course, a lot of weight.

753

00:46:13,460 --> 00:46:18,065

But I did not have
any sicknesses.

754

00:46:18,065 --> 00:46:24,180

I still was able to function,
and so was Lili and so was

755

00:46:24,180 --> 00:46:27,440

Helenka and our friends.

756

00:46:27,440 --> 00:46:31,280

And this facil-- this camp was--

757

00:46:31,280 --> 00:46:34,430

I can't remember the name of it.

758

00:46:34,430 --> 00:46:35,090

It's all right.

759

00:46:35,090 --> 00:46:37,090

Maybe it'll come back to
you when we [INAUDIBLE]

760

00:46:37,090 --> 00:46:38,300

It was a terrible camp.

761

00:46:38,300 --> 00:46:43,000

It was a terrible experience
because we did not work there.

762

00:46:43,000 --> 00:46:45,550

We just sat there.

763

00:46:45,550 --> 00:46:49,150

They herded us
into a big barrack.

764

00:46:49,150 --> 00:46:50,240

There were no beds.

765

00:46:50,240 --> 00:46:56,470

We were on the floor and straw,
just loose straw I think.

766

00:46:56,470 --> 00:46:58,450

It was filthy.

767

00:46:58,450 --> 00:47:01,270

They-- the food
was terrible there.

768

00:47:01,270 --> 00:47:04,570

There was water for--

769

00:47:04,570 --> 00:47:14,770

the soup was some cabbage leaves
flowing in some dirty water.

770

00:47:14,770 --> 00:47:17,410

771

00:47:17,410 --> 00:47:20,660

There was a piece of bread
sometimes yes, sometimes no.

772

00:47:20,660 --> 00:47:22,060

And there was sickness.

773

00:47:22,060 --> 00:47:26,570

There was typhoid
prevalent there.

774

00:47:26,570 --> 00:47:30,550

So women were just getting
very sick with typhoid.

775

00:47:30,550 --> 00:47:38,035

There was a clinic that the
sick ones called the Revere.

776

00:47:38,035 --> 00:47:41,050

777

00:47:41,050 --> 00:47:44,020

The sick ones, they took--

778

00:47:44,020 --> 00:47:45,310

they separated.

779

00:47:45,310 --> 00:47:47,440

And, of course, there
was no medicine,

780

00:47:47,440 --> 00:47:52,300

and there's no doctor, no
help, and the ones that

781

00:47:52,300 --> 00:47:57,080

did get sick with typhoid,
most of them did not survive.

782

00:47:57,080 --> 00:48:02,500

They just died there, and
we were just sitting there

783

00:48:02,500 --> 00:48:05,010

and waiting to die.

784
00:48:05,010 --> 00:48:07,810

785
00:48:07,810 --> 00:48:11,410
And I remember
toward-- we were there

786
00:48:11,410 --> 00:48:13,800
for like maybe
four or five weeks.

787
00:48:13,800 --> 00:48:16,280
It was a very long call,
and it was very bad.

788
00:48:16,280 --> 00:48:20,500
They herded us to appel
like three times a day,

789
00:48:20,500 --> 00:48:29,380
and they just made it very
hard for us to even exist.

790
00:48:29,380 --> 00:48:30,960
Was this the winter?

791
00:48:30,960 --> 00:48:32,080
This was the winter, yes.

792
00:48:32,080 --> 00:48:37,900
This was-- I would say
maybe this was March,

793
00:48:37,900 --> 00:48:40,930
but it was winter.

794
00:48:40,930 --> 00:48:43,330
It was cold and miserable.

795
00:48:43,330 --> 00:48:47,260
I must relate to you one

incident and this woman

796
00:48:47,260 --> 00:48:47,860
is alive.

797
00:48:47,860 --> 00:48:50,290
She did survive.

798
00:48:50,290 --> 00:48:54,730
She managed to hide a
bunch of her pictures

799
00:48:54,730 --> 00:49:00,470
through this initial checkpoint.

800
00:49:00,470 --> 00:49:07,520
And she wanted to hide them,
and she went behind the barrack

801
00:49:07,520 --> 00:49:10,340
with the pictures and
somebody spotted her.

802
00:49:10,340 --> 00:49:11,660
I don't know if--

803
00:49:11,660 --> 00:49:17,540
who it was-- if a German spotted
her hiding these pictures.

804
00:49:17,540 --> 00:49:22,130
And they took her, and
they shaved her head.

805
00:49:22,130 --> 00:49:30,480
And they made her stand outside
for I think it was 24 hours.

806
00:49:30,480 --> 00:49:31,150
And they--

807
00:49:31,150 --> 00:49:35,000

808
00:49:35,000 --> 00:49:41,080
I think they poured water
over her, and she survived it.

809
00:49:41,080 --> 00:49:42,700
She somehow survived it.

810
00:49:42,700 --> 00:49:46,570
She lives in Queens.

811
00:49:46,570 --> 00:49:49,570
She was able to survive
this terrible ordeal.

812
00:49:49,570 --> 00:49:55,660
This was for trying to hold
on to her family pictures.

813
00:49:55,660 --> 00:49:56,680
Wasn't gold.

814
00:49:56,680 --> 00:49:58,450
It wasn't dollars.

815
00:49:58,450 --> 00:50:00,190
It wasn't guns.

816
00:50:00,190 --> 00:50:02,090
It was pictures.

817
00:50:02,090 --> 00:50:04,180
This was another way
of de-humanizing you,

818
00:50:04,180 --> 00:50:08,171
cutting off your
connection to your family.

819
00:50:08,171 --> 00:50:12,320
And doing such a thing

as an example to anybody

820
00:50:12,320 --> 00:50:17,090
else not to try anything.

821
00:50:17,090 --> 00:50:21,470
There were many incidents
for other infractions

822
00:50:21,470 --> 00:50:24,650
that they did things like that.

823
00:50:24,650 --> 00:50:28,270

824
00:50:28,270 --> 00:50:32,800
Finally, after I think
five or six weeks,

825
00:50:32,800 --> 00:50:34,540
they marched us
out of that place

826
00:50:34,540 --> 00:50:40,420
again because the Americans
were getting closer.

827
00:50:40,420 --> 00:50:41,330
Did you know that?

828
00:50:41,330 --> 00:50:41,830
Yes.

829
00:50:41,830 --> 00:50:42,330
You did.

830
00:50:42,330 --> 00:50:44,350
We knew that the Americans
are getting closer.

831
00:50:44,350 --> 00:50:47,230
As a matter of fact,

it was one or two days

832
00:50:47,230 --> 00:50:50,920
that the American
planes flew over,

833
00:50:50,920 --> 00:50:56,110
and we were hoping that they
are going to bomb the place.

834
00:50:56,110 --> 00:50:59,290
We were hoping.

835
00:50:59,290 --> 00:51:00,460
Do you see.

836
00:51:00,460 --> 00:51:03,790
When you hear now, people
say why didn't the Americans

837
00:51:03,790 --> 00:51:06,820
bomb Auschwitz.

838
00:51:06,820 --> 00:51:09,790
Many times I've heard that.

839
00:51:09,790 --> 00:51:11,065
Why didn't they?

840
00:51:11,065 --> 00:51:13,390
It would have been a
relief even if they would

841
00:51:13,390 --> 00:51:15,970
have bombed and killed people.

842
00:51:15,970 --> 00:51:20,750
To the inmates, to the people
in the concentration camps,

843
00:51:20,750 --> 00:51:22,590
it would have been a relief.

844
00:51:22,590 --> 00:51:28,660
It would have been at
least dying for a purpose.

845
00:51:28,660 --> 00:51:32,260
So we-- when we saw
the planes, we all

846
00:51:32,260 --> 00:51:37,060
ran out to greet these planes
and to greet whatever is

847
00:51:37,060 --> 00:51:40,690
coming, but there was no bombs.

848
00:51:40,690 --> 00:51:42,040
It was just an overflight.

849
00:51:42,040 --> 00:51:45,730
I think if I remember,
there were some leaflets

850
00:51:45,730 --> 00:51:47,000
that they threw.

851
00:51:47,000 --> 00:51:50,290
So they knew that there
was something here.

852
00:51:50,290 --> 00:51:51,910
I don't remember what--

853
00:51:51,910 --> 00:51:57,310
we probably didn't
understand the English.

854
00:51:57,310 --> 00:52:01,140
And, of course, the Germans
didn't let us keep any of it,

855
00:52:01,140 --> 00:52:05,780

and they herded us
immediately inside the bunk

856
00:52:05,780 --> 00:52:09,700
so that we wouldn't
know what's going on.

857
00:52:09,700 --> 00:52:14,740
But we did march out of
there, and it was the, again,

858
00:52:14,740 --> 00:52:17,330
they were fleeing the Americans.

859
00:52:17,330 --> 00:52:20,320
The American front
was coming here.

860
00:52:20,320 --> 00:52:27,370
And the group that started
out from that place

861
00:52:27,370 --> 00:52:33,880
was really a very
ragged and very terrible

862
00:52:33,880 --> 00:52:39,790
sight because we were dirty
and we were sick and we were--

863
00:52:39,790 --> 00:52:43,269

864
00:52:43,269 --> 00:52:46,742
we really we looked like--

865
00:52:46,742 --> 00:52:48,950
This was just a remnant of
the group that marched out

866
00:52:48,950 --> 00:52:49,450
of Gr nberg.

867

00:52:49,450 --> 00:52:50,980

Just a remnant, whoever--

868

00:52:50,980 --> 00:52:57,430

another few that survived
this ordeal that didn't die

869

00:52:57,430 --> 00:53:02,260

of typhus that still remained.

870

00:53:02,260 --> 00:53:05,560

But we went through
the same routine.

871

00:53:05,560 --> 00:53:08,650

They marched us again
every single day

872

00:53:08,650 --> 00:53:11,920

and found some
facilities at night,

873

00:53:11,920 --> 00:53:19,195

and there were more girls
dying of exposure and hunger.

874

00:53:19,195 --> 00:53:22,360

875

00:53:22,360 --> 00:53:25,630

And there were more
trying to run away,

876

00:53:25,630 --> 00:53:27,280

and there were more killed.

877

00:53:27,280 --> 00:53:31,670

Some did run away successfully--

878

00:53:31,670 --> 00:53:34,760

that did successfully run away.

879

00:53:34,760 --> 00:53:43,930

But the three of us plus other
girls plus Gerda and her friend

880

00:53:43,930 --> 00:53:45,715

continued on the march.

881

00:53:45,715 --> 00:53:49,090

882

00:53:49,090 --> 00:53:52,900

And we marched until we got--

883

00:53:52,900 --> 00:53:56,180

they got us to Czechoslovakia.

884

00:53:56,180 --> 00:53:59,570

Halina, you had said that your
friend Helenka did not survive.

885

00:53:59,570 --> 00:54:01,550

No, but that was--

886

00:54:01,550 --> 00:54:03,380

she died in Czechoslovakia.

887

00:54:03,380 --> 00:54:06,290

I'll tell you about it.

888

00:54:06,290 --> 00:54:09,380

I want to tell you
about Czechoslovakia

889

00:54:09,380 --> 00:54:16,700

because this was a very
unusual experience after all

890

00:54:16,700 --> 00:54:21,680

the months of marching through
Germany that we had with the--

891

00:54:21,680 --> 00:54:23,000

This might be a good point.

892

00:54:23,000 --> 00:54:25,130

We can hold that story
for the next round

893

00:54:25,130 --> 00:54:26,630

because we have
five minutes anyway,

894

00:54:26,630 --> 00:54:28,755

and I don't want to be cut
off in the middle of it.

895

00:54:28,755 --> 00:54:29,420

OK, very good.

896

00:54:29,420 --> 00:54:31,790

We'll stop for a few minutes.

897

00:54:31,790 --> 00:54:34,520

[INAUDIBLE]

898

00:54:34,520 --> 00:56:36,330