

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:19,220

2

00:00:19,220 --> 00:00:22,760

We continue our interview  
with Pearl Gruenberg.

3

00:00:22,760 --> 00:00:25,430

Mrs. Gruenberg, you were  
talking about the place

4

00:00:25,430 --> 00:00:26,990

where you lived in the ghetto.

5

00:00:26,990 --> 00:00:27,860

Would you continue--

6

00:00:27,860 --> 00:00:28,360

Yes--

7

00:00:28,360 --> 00:00:30,410

With that?

8

00:00:30,410 --> 00:00:33,480

We lived, like I  
said, in one room,

9

00:00:33,480 --> 00:00:35,990

a lot of families together.

10

00:00:35,990 --> 00:00:38,450

We all slept in  
the little corner

11

00:00:38,450 --> 00:00:40,040

with the little  
children, everybody

12

00:00:40,040 --> 00:00:42,560

together on little corner.

13

00:00:42,560 --> 00:00:46,910

We didn't go out from the  
alley was the ghetto--

14

00:00:46,910 --> 00:00:49,400

the house was like  
in an alleyway.

15

00:00:49,400 --> 00:00:52,370

We always just stayed  
inside in the alley.

16

00:00:52,370 --> 00:00:55,760

17

00:00:55,760 --> 00:01:00,110

The food, we used whatever  
we brought from home.

18

00:01:00,110 --> 00:01:01,820

My uncle Chayyim.

19

00:01:01,820 --> 00:01:03,920

He's the only one  
who used to go out

20

00:01:03,920 --> 00:01:08,150

and trade things for  
whatever we did and had,

21

00:01:08,150 --> 00:01:12,200

he brought from outside  
and other people.

22

00:01:12,200 --> 00:01:13,355

He did trading things.

23

00:01:13,355 --> 00:01:15,890

24

00:01:15,890 --> 00:01:16,640

Excuse me.

25  
00:01:16,640 --> 00:01:20,060

26  
00:01:20,060 --> 00:01:24,110  
It was not a pleasant sight.

27  
00:01:24,110 --> 00:01:26,900  
We were running out  
of a lot of things.

28  
00:01:26,900 --> 00:01:28,490  
The bread was tare.

29  
00:01:28,490 --> 00:01:32,450  
We had to take the bread and  
make like dry bread sticks,

30  
00:01:32,450 --> 00:01:33,860  
[NON-ENGLISH].

31  
00:01:33,860 --> 00:01:37,310  
Everybody was doing that.

32  
00:01:37,310 --> 00:01:41,480  
And we knew that they were going  
to take us away, so we should

33  
00:01:41,480 --> 00:01:44,900  
have things on the roads.

34  
00:01:44,900 --> 00:01:49,496  
We stayed there for four  
weeks in that ghetto.

35  
00:01:49,496 --> 00:01:54,470  
The only thing we could  
do-- sit and pray.

36  
00:01:54,470 --> 00:01:56,190  
We sat on the floor.

37

00:01:56,190 --> 00:01:59,870

My mother-- I mean her--

38

00:01:59,870 --> 00:02:04,010

I never forget, because  
that's all she was doing--

39

00:02:04,010 --> 00:02:08,570

sitting and praying,  
day and night.

40

00:02:08,570 --> 00:02:11,060

She was crying her eyes out.

41

00:02:11,060 --> 00:02:13,650

She was only crying  
for her children.

42

00:02:13,650 --> 00:02:15,470

She was mostly worried  
with her children.

43

00:02:15,470 --> 00:02:18,890

44

00:02:18,890 --> 00:02:23,990

I forgot to say, before they  
took us away from the house,

45

00:02:23,990 --> 00:02:30,540

she still wanted me to hide  
and the lady's attic where

46

00:02:30,540 --> 00:02:32,810

she told me she will hide me.

47

00:02:32,810 --> 00:02:37,560

And I said mother, if everybody  
is going, I want to go too.

48

00:02:37,560 --> 00:02:40,380

I didn't want to hide.

49  
00:02:40,380 --> 00:02:42,770  
That's how I went  
with them together.

50  
00:02:42,770 --> 00:02:45,320  
I said, whatever will  
happen with everybody

51  
00:02:45,320 --> 00:02:48,590  
will happen with me.

52  
00:02:48,590 --> 00:02:52,790  
So they are in the ghetto,  
she was very upset about me,

53  
00:02:52,790 --> 00:02:55,730  
because I was always  
sitting next to her

54  
00:02:55,730 --> 00:02:59,870  
and crying constantly.

55  
00:02:59,870 --> 00:03:01,850  
I saw her crying, I cried too.

56  
00:03:01,850 --> 00:03:06,590

57  
00:03:06,590 --> 00:03:09,760  
My uncle used to  
go out every day.

58  
00:03:09,760 --> 00:03:14,090  
He listened to the news, hear  
what's going on in the ghetto.

59  
00:03:14,090 --> 00:03:17,270  
Every day he used to come  
in and tell us the stories.

60  
00:03:17,270 --> 00:03:18,860

The Russians are near by.

61

00:03:18,860 --> 00:03:20,060

The Russians are near by.

62

00:03:20,060 --> 00:03:23,120

Any day the Russians  
will take us over,

63

00:03:23,120 --> 00:03:25,190

and everything will be OK.

64

00:03:25,190 --> 00:03:30,620

That was going for four weeks,  
and the Russians never came.

65

00:03:30,620 --> 00:03:32,210

We just stayed in there.

66

00:03:32,210 --> 00:03:34,820

And the ghetto was  
packed with people.

67

00:03:34,820 --> 00:03:40,050

It was like one, I don't  
know, section closed off.

68

00:03:40,050 --> 00:03:44,690

It was the people brought from  
all the communities from all

69

00:03:44,690 --> 00:03:48,080

around TÃ©sco, all  
the little towns.

70

00:03:48,080 --> 00:03:52,400

Must have been thousands  
of people there.

71

00:03:52,400 --> 00:04:02,570

After four weeks, one day came,  
they said, we have to pick up.

72

00:04:02,570 --> 00:04:08,822

We are going to be taken  
away to the labor camps.

73

00:04:08,822 --> 00:04:11,030

We really didn't know where  
they're going to take us.

74

00:04:11,030 --> 00:04:15,420

But they said and what they were  
doing is two different things.

75

00:04:15,420 --> 00:04:18,649

So the day before  
everybody packed up,

76

00:04:18,649 --> 00:04:21,880

everybody took whatever  
we had, everybody

77

00:04:21,880 --> 00:04:23,130

tried to take everything with.

78

00:04:23,130 --> 00:04:24,280

After all, we'll need it.

79

00:04:24,280 --> 00:04:25,670

We're going to work.

80

00:04:25,670 --> 00:04:29,060

We need all the clothes, all  
those things, whatever we had.

81

00:04:29,060 --> 00:04:31,280

We tried to pack everything up.

82

00:04:31,280 --> 00:04:33,110

We packed up.

83

00:04:33,110 --> 00:04:41,030

And the following day, came an  
order, the Hungarian gendarmes

84  
00:04:41,030 --> 00:04:47,600  
on the loudspeakers outside,  
were calling out all the Jews

85  
00:04:47,600 --> 00:04:55,160  
in the ghetto to gather  
outside in front of your houses

86  
00:04:55,160 --> 00:04:57,840  
and take everything with  
you, whatever you brought

87  
00:04:57,840 --> 00:05:00,740  
from home, because we  
are going to go take you

88  
00:05:00,740 --> 00:05:05,070  
to working camps.

89  
00:05:05,070 --> 00:05:09,520  
Naturally, everybody  
packed and went outside.

90  
00:05:09,520 --> 00:05:11,610  
The street was black from--

91  
00:05:11,610 --> 00:05:14,577  
you couldn't see one  
person from another

92  
00:05:14,577 --> 00:05:15,660  
because it was so crowded.

93  
00:05:15,660 --> 00:05:17,835  
It was so packed with people.

94  
00:05:17,835 --> 00:05:22,350  
It was like a big shadow  
over the whole street.

95  
00:05:22,350 --> 00:05:25,470



The kids, was little kids or  
mothers with little children,

96  
00:05:25,470 --> 00:05:28,320  
with little babies under  
arms, next to them.

97  
00:05:28,320 --> 00:05:31,223

98  
00:05:31,223 --> 00:05:33,390  
But they didn't know what  
to do with those children,

99  
00:05:33,390 --> 00:05:37,050  
because it was difficult  
in those big crowds

100  
00:05:37,050 --> 00:05:39,480  
to hold the bundles,  
to hold the children.

101  
00:05:39,480 --> 00:05:43,080  
And it was unbelievable.

102  
00:05:43,080 --> 00:05:45,800

103  
00:05:45,800 --> 00:05:47,890  
Everybody was outside  
from the houses.

104  
00:05:47,890 --> 00:05:51,880  
They ran and checked all  
the homes before they went,

105  
00:05:51,880 --> 00:05:54,380  
checked nobody  
should stay behind.

106  
00:05:54,380 --> 00:05:59,110  
All the soldiers,  
the Hungarians,

107  
00:05:59,110 --> 00:06:03,710  
when everybody was outside,  
we started walking.

108  
00:06:03,710 --> 00:06:06,430  
We didn't know where  
they're taking us.

109  
00:06:06,430 --> 00:06:07,540  
We couldn't walk.

110  
00:06:07,540 --> 00:06:09,320  
Everybody stepped  
on one another.

111  
00:06:09,320 --> 00:06:10,600  
The children were crying.

112  
00:06:10,600 --> 00:06:12,280  
People stepped on the kids.

113  
00:06:12,280 --> 00:06:13,210  
They were dragging.

114  
00:06:13,210 --> 00:06:15,520  
They had to hold them, my  
sister's two little girls.

115  
00:06:15,520 --> 00:06:17,410  
They had to hold  
on to her skirt.

116  
00:06:17,410 --> 00:06:19,240  
And she was having the bundles.

117  
00:06:19,240 --> 00:06:23,710  
And my sister took her tied  
up clothes and a sheet,

118  
00:06:23,710 --> 00:06:25,780  
and she put on the

little girl's shoulders

119

00:06:25,780 --> 00:06:27,370

they should carry something too.

120

00:06:27,370 --> 00:06:30,010

121

00:06:30,010 --> 00:06:32,470

We walked for a while.

122

00:06:32,470 --> 00:06:36,670

And they took us  
into a big huge,

123

00:06:36,670 --> 00:06:39,430

like in a warehouse  
in the cellar.

124

00:06:39,430 --> 00:06:40,960

We had to walk down steps.

125

00:06:40,960 --> 00:06:44,050

It was a huge building.

126

00:06:44,050 --> 00:06:49,885

And everybody was told to  
go down to this basement.

127

00:06:49,885 --> 00:06:52,540

128

00:06:52,540 --> 00:06:54,190

We walked into that basement.

129

00:06:54,190 --> 00:06:57,040

It was like in the afternoon,  
late in the afternoon.

130

00:06:57,040 --> 00:07:00,290

I don't know what date it was.

131

00:07:00,290 --> 00:07:02,570

It was the beginning of--

132

00:07:02,570 --> 00:07:06,800

was already at the end of  
May, May, something like that.

133

00:07:06,800 --> 00:07:12,060

May, end of May,  
it's end of May,

134

00:07:12,060 --> 00:07:14,820

May 20, something like that.

135

00:07:14,820 --> 00:07:17,820

We walked down that basement.

136

00:07:17,820 --> 00:07:22,260

And people was-- it was  
thousands of people.

137

00:07:22,260 --> 00:07:24,150

We didn't know how  
to get in there.

138

00:07:24,150 --> 00:07:25,530

It was steps, high steps.

139

00:07:25,530 --> 00:07:28,170

And everybody was  
pushing and pulling.

140

00:07:28,170 --> 00:07:31,350

And then the gendarmes  
were hitting everybody.

141

00:07:31,350 --> 00:07:37,550

Whoever walked down, and he  
just kept on pushing everybody.

142

00:07:37,550 --> 00:07:40,680

We walked in there.

143  
00:07:40,680 --> 00:07:44,430  
The cellar was up to the  
[? stairs ?] with water.

144  
00:07:44,430 --> 00:07:48,240

145  
00:07:48,240 --> 00:07:51,390  
The kids were crying.

146  
00:07:51,390 --> 00:07:55,478  
There was benches across  
the wall, wooden benches.

147  
00:07:55,478 --> 00:07:56,520  
I don't know what it was.

148  
00:07:56,520 --> 00:08:00,190  
It must have been like a  
warehouse or something.

149  
00:08:00,190 --> 00:08:04,260  
And all the people, most of  
the people and the little kids

150  
00:08:04,260 --> 00:08:06,830  
tried to sit down  
on the benches.

151  
00:08:06,830 --> 00:08:09,780  
We let the babies, to hold  
the babies, all the mothers,

152  
00:08:09,780 --> 00:08:14,110  
all the grandmothers  
are holding the babies.

153  
00:08:14,110 --> 00:08:19,470  
It was no room to stand  
around even with the bundles

154

00:08:19,470 --> 00:08:21,780  
and with everything.

155  
00:08:21,780 --> 00:08:24,270  
It was like a  
nightmare in there.

156  
00:08:24,270 --> 00:08:26,190  
We didn't know how come  
they brought us here.

157  
00:08:26,190 --> 00:08:27,390  
What's going to be here?

158  
00:08:27,390 --> 00:08:31,410

159  
00:08:31,410 --> 00:08:35,490  
We were sure they took us  
in there to get rid of us,

160  
00:08:35,490 --> 00:08:43,289  
to kill everybody, because it  
was not normal, was not human.

161  
00:08:43,289 --> 00:08:45,540  
And people were crying.

162  
00:08:45,540 --> 00:08:46,820  
People were carrying on.

163  
00:08:46,820 --> 00:08:49,630  
There was people, older  
people, younger people, babies,

164  
00:08:49,630 --> 00:08:54,780  
children, everything, just  
all the people or young kids,

165  
00:08:54,780 --> 00:08:57,970  
there was only older man.

166

00:08:57,970 --> 00:09:01,890

There was no young  
men, only young kids.

167

00:09:01,890 --> 00:09:04,470

Everybody carried on.

168

00:09:04,470 --> 00:09:07,125

If somebody asked  
one of the gendarmes,

169

00:09:07,125 --> 00:09:10,360

I remember ask him if they  
wanted to go to the bathroom,

170

00:09:10,360 --> 00:09:15,430

they started laughing at the  
person and kicking the person.

171

00:09:15,430 --> 00:09:16,230

Look at the Jews.

172

00:09:16,230 --> 00:09:18,180

You want to go to the bathroom.

173

00:09:18,180 --> 00:09:19,410

So what did we have to do?

174

00:09:19,410 --> 00:09:21,840

We had to go in a corner  
wherever we find the place

175

00:09:21,840 --> 00:09:24,600

and to go there.

176

00:09:24,600 --> 00:09:30,180

We were sitting there all  
night in that basement.

177

00:09:30,180 --> 00:09:32,610

The kids were hungry.

178

00:09:32,610 --> 00:09:33,900  
The kids were thirsty.

179  
00:09:33,900 --> 00:09:35,820  
The kids, we had to--

180  
00:09:35,820 --> 00:09:39,370  
they had some water  
and gave to the kids.

181  
00:09:39,370 --> 00:09:40,620  
We didn't know what to expect.

182  
00:09:40,620 --> 00:09:43,440

183  
00:09:43,440 --> 00:09:47,250  
It was really unbelievable.

184  
00:09:47,250 --> 00:09:51,177  
There was itself  
like hell in there.

185  
00:09:51,177 --> 00:09:52,260  
Was there any light there?

186  
00:09:52,260 --> 00:09:52,885  
Was there any--

187  
00:09:52,885 --> 00:09:54,270  
A little, very dim light.

188  
00:09:54,270 --> 00:09:56,790  
It was little windows,  
tiny little windows

189  
00:09:56,790 --> 00:10:00,090  
around with the bars  
around, tiny little windows.

190  
00:10:00,090 --> 00:10:04,260  
In the one end, there's only



where we walked down the steps.

191

00:10:04,260 --> 00:10:07,620

Was very dim lights, yes.

192

00:10:07,620 --> 00:10:10,410

And the gendarmes, the  
police, were standing around.

193

00:10:10,410 --> 00:10:15,060

They're outside of the hall,  
outside of the basement,

194

00:10:15,060 --> 00:10:18,100

outside and inside.

195

00:10:18,100 --> 00:10:20,760

And they were walking  
around and hitting the Jews

196

00:10:20,760 --> 00:10:22,590

with a beater  
special, whatever--

197

00:10:22,590 --> 00:10:24,600

they said, they pulled  
Jews, they were sitting.

198

00:10:24,600 --> 00:10:26,130

They had no room to sit.

199

00:10:26,130 --> 00:10:28,500

We were standing, like  
leaning against one

200

00:10:28,500 --> 00:10:30,450

another with the bundles.

201

00:10:30,450 --> 00:10:34,770

And I remember, I was so tired.

202

00:10:34,770 --> 00:10:37,950

I felt like I was passing out.

203

00:10:37,950 --> 00:10:41,790

My mother was sitting down,  
holding my sister's children.

204

00:10:41,790 --> 00:10:45,270

And they were sitting  
on top of one another,

205

00:10:45,270 --> 00:10:48,660

because was only  
the benches across.

206

00:10:48,660 --> 00:10:52,380

So my mother begged me to come  
and sit down a little bit,

207

00:10:52,380 --> 00:10:53,550

because I couldn't stand up.

208

00:10:53,550 --> 00:10:55,620

I was worn out.

209

00:10:55,620 --> 00:10:57,810

So she said, come, I'll  
get up and you sit down.

210

00:10:57,810 --> 00:11:00,600

I said, no, Ma, I'm not  
going to let you stand up.

211

00:11:00,600 --> 00:11:02,250

You sit.

212

00:11:02,250 --> 00:11:04,530

And I had the  
bundles in my hand.

213

00:11:04,530 --> 00:11:07,020

And I was leaning  
against my sisters.

214

00:11:07,020 --> 00:11:07,830

And I put the--

215

00:11:07,830 --> 00:11:09,288

like the bundles  
were on the floor.

216

00:11:09,288 --> 00:11:13,030

And I just sat down between the  
whole crowd and the bundles.

217

00:11:13,030 --> 00:11:15,840

And I was sitting  
there for a while.

218

00:11:15,840 --> 00:11:19,320

And we didn't know  
what to expect.

219

00:11:19,320 --> 00:11:25,830

The gendarmes took some women,  
and they started searching them

220

00:11:25,830 --> 00:11:30,180

for gold and diamonds.

221

00:11:30,180 --> 00:11:35,430

They was searching them  
around to find some--

222

00:11:35,430 --> 00:11:37,290

if they found something,  
they took away.

223

00:11:37,290 --> 00:11:40,800

224

00:11:40,800 --> 00:11:43,800

I remembered an older man.

225

00:11:43,800 --> 00:11:46,940

226

00:11:46,940 --> 00:11:51,170

The basement was very long with  
so many thousands of people.

227

00:11:51,170 --> 00:11:53,620

But an older man was  
sitting there and crying.

228

00:11:53,620 --> 00:11:56,780

He wanted to go out  
to the bathroom.

229

00:11:56,780 --> 00:11:59,240

He asked the  
gendarme if he could

230

00:11:59,240 --> 00:12:02,630

go outside to the bathroom.

231

00:12:02,630 --> 00:12:06,050

Gendarme took and  
pushed him right down

232

00:12:06,050 --> 00:12:10,550

in the water, because in the  
middle of the cellar was water.

233

00:12:10,550 --> 00:12:12,920

We were standing in the water.

234

00:12:12,920 --> 00:12:14,788

So he pushed him  
right, look at the Jew.

235

00:12:14,788 --> 00:12:16,580

He wants to go-- he  
took him with the boots

236

00:12:16,580 --> 00:12:18,260

and just kicked him  
down to the water.

237

00:12:18,260 --> 00:12:20,710

The poor man  
couldn't even get up.

238

00:12:20,710 --> 00:12:22,130

He was crying for help.

239

00:12:22,130 --> 00:12:23,260

Nobody could help him.

240

00:12:23,260 --> 00:12:24,260

You couldn't do nothing.

241

00:12:24,260 --> 00:12:27,050

Everybody was handicapped.

242

00:12:27,050 --> 00:12:29,630

Everybody was afraid.

243

00:12:29,630 --> 00:12:32,780

I don't even know  
what happened to him.

244

00:12:32,780 --> 00:12:39,560

We were sitting there in wet,  
damp basement all night long.

245

00:12:39,560 --> 00:12:41,180

We got the chills.

246

00:12:41,180 --> 00:12:42,950

Kids started coughing.

247

00:12:42,950 --> 00:12:44,000

I had the chills.

248

00:12:44,000 --> 00:12:45,865

I remember I was  
shivering and shaking.

249

00:12:45,865 --> 00:12:48,860

250

00:12:48,860 --> 00:12:52,670

My sister took out some kind  
of blankets and the bundle.

251

00:12:52,670 --> 00:12:55,040

And she gave it  
to me to wrap me.

252

00:12:55,040 --> 00:12:59,860

253

00:12:59,860 --> 00:13:01,920

So we were sitting  
there all night.

254

00:13:01,920 --> 00:13:03,440

We didn't know what to expect.

255

00:13:03,440 --> 00:13:08,820

So everybody said, I think  
this is going to be it.

256

00:13:08,820 --> 00:13:10,710

They wouldn't bring us  
in a place like that

257

00:13:10,710 --> 00:13:12,470

if they wanted to save us.

258

00:13:12,470 --> 00:13:15,000

We thought they  
will be blowing up.

259

00:13:15,000 --> 00:13:20,490

It looked this the place is  
going to be just go in flames.

260

00:13:20,490 --> 00:13:22,770

So we sat there all night.

261

00:13:22,770 --> 00:13:28,870  
And everybody was crying  
and crying and carrying on

262  
00:13:28,870 --> 00:13:30,310  
and praying to God.

263  
00:13:30,310 --> 00:13:31,850  
But I think God wasn't there.

264  
00:13:31,850 --> 00:13:32,413  
I don't know.

265  
00:13:32,413 --> 00:13:33,580  
Didn't listen to the people.

266  
00:13:33,580 --> 00:13:36,130  
Nobody tried  
physically to get out.

267  
00:13:36,130 --> 00:13:38,530  
You couldn't,  
because the gendarmes

268  
00:13:38,530 --> 00:13:42,220  
were standing there right by  
the steps with the big guns.

269  
00:13:42,220 --> 00:13:44,920  
And you couldn't do nothing.

270  
00:13:44,920 --> 00:13:47,380  
Everybody was handicapped.

271  
00:13:47,380 --> 00:13:49,960  
If somebody wanted to  
go, they pushed him.

272  
00:13:49,960 --> 00:13:51,980  
You couldn't do nothing.

273  
00:13:51,980 --> 00:13:55,000

And outside there was  
guards outside the building.

274  
00:13:55,000 --> 00:13:58,270  
Nobody could get outside.

275  
00:13:58,270 --> 00:14:02,380  
Finally, the morning,  
the night was over.

276  
00:14:02,380 --> 00:14:05,320  
It started to get light outside.

277  
00:14:05,320 --> 00:14:08,190  
Everybody was glad.

278  
00:14:08,190 --> 00:14:09,040  
The night is over.

279  
00:14:09,040 --> 00:14:09,920  
Nothing happened.

280  
00:14:09,920 --> 00:14:10,840  
They didn't kill us.

281  
00:14:10,840 --> 00:14:13,570  
The night is over.

282  
00:14:13,570 --> 00:14:16,250  
The morning, as soon as  
it gets a little light,

283  
00:14:16,250 --> 00:14:21,100  
they started calling  
on the loudspeakers.

284  
00:14:21,100 --> 00:14:23,890  
Everybody picked  
their things up.

285  
00:14:23,890 --> 00:14:24,970  
We're going to leave.



286  
00:14:24,970 --> 00:14:28,540

287  
00:14:28,540 --> 00:14:30,160  
So naturally people were glad.

288  
00:14:30,160 --> 00:14:35,440  
You were glad you were getting  
out of that wet basement.

289  
00:14:35,440 --> 00:14:36,550  
We didn't get killed.

290  
00:14:36,550 --> 00:14:39,280

291  
00:14:39,280 --> 00:14:41,950  
The basement itself was hell.

292  
00:14:41,950 --> 00:14:46,810  
So by the time people  
started walking out,

293  
00:14:46,810 --> 00:14:47,800  
they couldn't walk.

294  
00:14:47,800 --> 00:14:51,280  
People was numb from sitting  
on the floor in the water,

295  
00:14:51,280 --> 00:14:53,200  
because there was no  
room for everybody

296  
00:14:53,200 --> 00:14:57,010  
to sit around on the  
benches with all the people.

297  
00:14:57,010 --> 00:15:00,610  
They couldn't get  
up from the floors.

298

00:15:00,610 --> 00:15:03,770

They were a few people  
who couldn't get up.

299

00:15:03,770 --> 00:15:06,520

They just were dragging himself.

300

00:15:06,520 --> 00:15:07,840

And the gendarmes went.

301

00:15:07,840 --> 00:15:10,600

They saw they couldn't get up.  
he took them and pulled them,

302

00:15:10,600 --> 00:15:13,330

pulled them up and threw  
them back to the ground,

303

00:15:13,330 --> 00:15:14,830

to the water again.

304

00:15:14,830 --> 00:15:18,790

I don't even know what happened,  
if they ever made it out.

305

00:15:18,790 --> 00:15:20,410

So we started walking up.

306

00:15:20,410 --> 00:15:24,550

The steps of our high  
steps, wooden steps.

307

00:15:24,550 --> 00:15:28,420

They started pushing  
everybody, pushing quick out.

308

00:15:28,420 --> 00:15:33,410

The little kids, people, the  
little kids, it was really--

309

00:15:33,410 --> 00:15:36,260

it was horrible.

310  
00:15:36,260 --> 00:15:39,290  
They tried screaming at  
everybody to go faster

311  
00:15:39,290 --> 00:15:40,240  
and to walk faster.

312  
00:15:40,240 --> 00:15:42,940  
And if anybody  
couldn't walk fast,

313  
00:15:42,940 --> 00:15:45,370  
they just dragged them,  
pushed them back down.

314  
00:15:45,370 --> 00:15:46,580  
And they had to get out.

315  
00:15:46,580 --> 00:15:48,250  
There was no way.

316  
00:15:48,250 --> 00:15:51,100  
But the time we got out--

317  
00:15:51,100 --> 00:15:53,020  
was so many people,  
I don't even know

318  
00:15:53,020 --> 00:15:57,790  
how everybody got out of there.

319  
00:15:57,790 --> 00:16:00,190  
By the time we walked out--

320  
00:16:00,190 --> 00:16:03,880  
we tried to stick  
together, I mean my family.

321  
00:16:03,880 --> 00:16:06,320  
My mother always said,

children, whatever

322

00:16:06,320 --> 00:16:08,440  
was going to be, just  
try sticking together,

323

00:16:08,440 --> 00:16:10,460  
try being together.

324

00:16:10,460 --> 00:16:13,000  
So we tried to be together.

325

00:16:13,000 --> 00:16:14,170  
And we walked out.

326

00:16:14,170 --> 00:16:17,830  
We tried to walk up,  
walk outside together.

327

00:16:17,830 --> 00:16:20,080  
We finally made it out.

328

00:16:20,080 --> 00:16:22,960  
It was hell making it  
outside from the basement.

329

00:16:22,960 --> 00:16:25,490

330

00:16:25,490 --> 00:16:29,513  
And everybody was out already,  
this was the whole ghetto was--

331

00:16:29,513 --> 00:16:31,930  
I don't know how many people,  
how many thousands of people

332

00:16:31,930 --> 00:16:33,040  
there were.

333

00:16:33,040 --> 00:16:38,560  
Finally made it out, we

had to all wait around.

334

00:16:38,560 --> 00:16:41,860

And the street was jammed.

335

00:16:41,860 --> 00:16:45,370

We couldn't see from one  
person to the other person.

336

00:16:45,370 --> 00:16:50,650

It was like one big black  
cloud, the whole thing.

337

00:16:50,650 --> 00:16:51,983

We saw people walking.

338

00:16:51,983 --> 00:16:53,650

Then we didn't know  
what was-- we walked

339

00:16:53,650 --> 00:16:54,760

and followed everybody.

340

00:16:54,760 --> 00:16:56,680

And so people started walking.

341

00:16:56,680 --> 00:16:59,500

We walked after them.

342

00:16:59,500 --> 00:17:03,370

And my sister's little girls,  
that I will never forget--

343

00:17:03,370 --> 00:17:05,560

is still in my mind.

344

00:17:05,560 --> 00:17:08,980

I cannot forget those  
words from those kids.

345

00:17:08,980 --> 00:17:11,589

Those two little girls they

were dragging their bundles.

346

00:17:11,589 --> 00:17:14,950

My sister tied around the neck  
with a sheet and put things

347

00:17:14,950 --> 00:17:18,220

to carry for them, because  
everybody had to carry.

348

00:17:18,220 --> 00:17:20,690

And the older one--  
she was six years old--

349

00:17:20,690 --> 00:17:26,290

and she said to her mother  
when we were walking, she says,

350

00:17:26,290 --> 00:17:29,020

Mommy Dear, where  
are they taking us?

351

00:17:29,020 --> 00:17:31,740

What's going to be with us?

352

00:17:31,740 --> 00:17:34,000

She says, I cannot carry  
these bundles anymore.

353

00:17:34,000 --> 00:17:37,210

They're pulling me  
down to the floor.

354

00:17:37,210 --> 00:17:42,310

My sister started crying.

355

00:17:42,310 --> 00:17:44,620

She says, just a  
little bit longer.

356

00:17:44,620 --> 00:17:47,260

She says, just try to  
walk a little longer,

357

00:17:47,260 --> 00:17:50,860  
and we'll be there soon,  
wherever we're going.

358

00:17:50,860 --> 00:17:56,410  
Those words, I'll never forget,  
six-year-old to ask her mother.

359

00:17:56,410 --> 00:17:59,560  
And that's still--

360

00:17:59,560 --> 00:18:02,980  
I don't forget those things.

361

00:18:02,980 --> 00:18:06,460  
It still remains in my mind.

362

00:18:06,460 --> 00:18:08,800  
We walked and we  
walked and we walked.

363

00:18:08,800 --> 00:18:12,040  
And the kids, I don't  
know how they made it,

364

00:18:12,040 --> 00:18:16,090  
how they got to the place.

365

00:18:16,090 --> 00:18:19,060  
Finally, we got to the--

366

00:18:19,060 --> 00:18:21,340  
I saw people stopping  
already in front.

367

00:18:21,340 --> 00:18:22,120  
People stopping.

368

00:18:22,120 --> 00:18:23,500  
Everybody was  
stopping, stopping.

369

00:18:23,500 --> 00:18:26,080

I didn't know where we were,  
because you couldn't see,

370

00:18:26,080 --> 00:18:28,320

so many people,  
where we reached to.

371

00:18:28,320 --> 00:18:31,180

372

00:18:31,180 --> 00:18:33,700

When it got less  
and less people,

373

00:18:33,700 --> 00:18:38,620

then we realized there  
was cattle trains waiting.

374

00:18:38,620 --> 00:18:39,700

We got to the station.

375

00:18:39,700 --> 00:18:41,970

There was cattle  
trains waiting for us.

376

00:18:41,970 --> 00:18:44,770

We saw already people going  
into the cattle trains.

377

00:18:44,770 --> 00:18:49,180

378

00:18:49,180 --> 00:18:50,680

So then we saw  
the cattle trains.

379

00:18:50,680 --> 00:18:54,730

And we knew they were  
taking us someplace.

380



00:18:54,730 --> 00:18:59,010  
We got into those cattle trains.

381  
00:18:59,010 --> 00:19:02,160  
We tried to be together,  
like my uncles and us

382  
00:19:02,160 --> 00:19:05,890  
and another few families,  
whoever we were in the ghetto

383  
00:19:05,890 --> 00:19:08,585  
with tried to stick together.

384  
00:19:08,585 --> 00:19:14,358  
It was six, seven families  
tried to stick together.

385  
00:19:14,358 --> 00:19:18,060  
We got into the-- they pushed  
us quick in the cattle trains.

386  
00:19:18,060 --> 00:19:21,510  
This was like a machine  
working so fast.

387  
00:19:21,510 --> 00:19:22,920  
And the steps were too high.

388  
00:19:22,920 --> 00:19:26,060

389  
00:19:26,060 --> 00:19:28,950  
You were tripping on  
everything when we walk up.

390  
00:19:28,950 --> 00:19:31,080  
But finally, we made it in.

391  
00:19:31,080 --> 00:19:35,610  
The gendarmes were hitting  
everybody and pushing everybody

392

00:19:35,610 --> 00:19:36,330  
and screaming.

393

00:19:36,330 --> 00:19:40,080  
They were the worst ones.

394

00:19:40,080 --> 00:19:44,980  
If I think about  
it now, I get sick.

395

00:19:44,980 --> 00:19:47,490  
Finally, we made it  
into the cattle trains.

396

00:19:47,490 --> 00:19:51,840  
And each compartment--  
everybody took a compartment.

397

00:19:51,840 --> 00:19:53,520  
I mean, how many  
people, how many

398

00:19:53,520 --> 00:19:56,850  
families in one compartment.

399

00:19:56,850 --> 00:19:59,580  
We got in the compartment.

400

00:19:59,580 --> 00:20:03,660  
Everybody took a little  
space for themselves.

401

00:20:03,660 --> 00:20:07,860  
And we were just jammed  
together on the floor

402

00:20:07,860 --> 00:20:10,010  
and the little kids and all--

403

00:20:10,010 --> 00:20:13,120

404

00:20:13,120 --> 00:20:16,440  
they closed-- right away,  
as soon as we got in,

405

00:20:16,440 --> 00:20:23,460  
the doors were slammed  
from the cattle trains.

406

00:20:23,460 --> 00:20:27,540  
It was done so fast  
that nobody could even

407

00:20:27,540 --> 00:20:30,837  
think about anything.

408

00:20:30,837 --> 00:20:32,420  
All of a sudden, we  
just saw ourselves

409

00:20:32,420 --> 00:20:34,530  
with the slammed doors.

410

00:20:34,530 --> 00:20:37,680  
They put iron bars  
outside on the doors.

411

00:20:37,680 --> 00:20:40,710  
And there was only  
a tiny little window

412

00:20:40,710 --> 00:20:49,650  
with iron bars across the  
window in those compartments.

413

00:20:49,650 --> 00:20:51,660  
So we were sitting  
in-- we had nothing.

414

00:20:51,660 --> 00:20:52,370  
We were sitting.

415

00:20:52,370 --> 00:20:54,030

We were all in the trains.

416  
00:20:54,030 --> 00:20:55,950  
It took a little while.

417  
00:20:55,950 --> 00:20:58,510  
The trains took off.

418  
00:20:58,510 --> 00:20:59,872  
We were riding.

419  
00:20:59,872 --> 00:21:02,580  
We were riding and riding.

420  
00:21:02,580 --> 00:21:06,330  
We were riding.

421  
00:21:06,330 --> 00:21:09,210  
And everybody was crying.

422  
00:21:09,210 --> 00:21:12,060  
They didn't know where  
we going in the trains.

423  
00:21:12,060 --> 00:21:13,620  
It was hot.

424  
00:21:13,620 --> 00:21:16,530  
No air, smelly.

425  
00:21:16,530 --> 00:21:18,000  
We had to go to the bathroom.

426  
00:21:18,000 --> 00:21:19,020  
We had no way to go.

427  
00:21:19,020 --> 00:21:23,310  
We had to take a pot out what  
we had and go right there.

428  
00:21:23,310 --> 00:21:26,490

I remember I told my sister,  
I had to go to the bathroom.

429  
00:21:26,490 --> 00:21:27,990  
I told my sister I can't go.

430  
00:21:27,990 --> 00:21:30,540  
I said, how can I go  
in front of everybody?

431  
00:21:30,540 --> 00:21:33,170  
So she had to take  
a towel or something

432  
00:21:33,170 --> 00:21:36,060  
and hold in front of me  
so I should be able to go.

433  
00:21:36,060 --> 00:21:38,820  
We had to go right there.

434  
00:21:38,820 --> 00:21:41,910  
And we had to empty  
it between the doors,

435  
00:21:41,910 --> 00:21:45,330  
between where doors the joined.

436  
00:21:45,330 --> 00:21:47,230  
That's what we had to do.

437  
00:21:47,230 --> 00:21:49,710  
It was unbearable.

438  
00:21:49,710 --> 00:21:51,075  
It was hot.

439  
00:21:51,075 --> 00:21:52,140  
It was hot.

440  
00:21:52,140 --> 00:21:53,750  
It was the summer,

the hottest summer.

441

00:21:53,750 --> 00:21:56,820

442

00:21:56,820 --> 00:21:58,170

The kids were crying.

443

00:21:58,170 --> 00:21:59,260

They were tired.

444

00:21:59,260 --> 00:22:00,870

They were thirsty.

445

00:22:00,870 --> 00:22:01,723

They were hungry.

446

00:22:01,723 --> 00:22:02,640

They couldn't breathe.

447

00:22:02,640 --> 00:22:06,120

It was hell.

448

00:22:06,120 --> 00:22:12,660

We were riding already the  
third day without water,

449

00:22:12,660 --> 00:22:14,180

without nothing.

450

00:22:14,180 --> 00:22:15,750

Did you have a sense  
of time passing?

451

00:22:15,750 --> 00:22:18,120

Or were you able  
to measure hours--

452

00:22:18,120 --> 00:22:19,418

We could see it's night or day.

453

00:22:19,418 --> 00:22:20,460  
That's all we could see--

454  
00:22:20,460 --> 00:22:21,180  
Just through the cracks--

455  
00:22:21,180 --> 00:22:22,440  
Yeah, the little window.

456  
00:22:22,440 --> 00:22:24,350  
We could see through  
the little window.

457  
00:22:24,350 --> 00:22:26,475  
My uncle used to look out  
through the little window

458  
00:22:26,475 --> 00:22:28,020  
and see what's going down.

459  
00:22:28,020 --> 00:22:33,030  
But the thing is the  
trains were riding only

460  
00:22:33,030 --> 00:22:35,220  
in fields, like  
between the fields

461  
00:22:35,220 --> 00:22:40,440  
and, let's say, we never  
passed a city or anything.

462  
00:22:40,440 --> 00:22:41,550  
There were side roads.

463  
00:22:41,550 --> 00:22:44,370  
All those trains were  
going on the side roads.

464  
00:22:44,370 --> 00:22:46,500  
My uncle used to look outside.

465

00:22:46,500 --> 00:22:47,740  
He says, I don't see nothing.

466  
00:22:47,740 --> 00:22:50,430  
I only see empty  
field and empty road.

467  
00:22:50,430 --> 00:22:56,150  
Nothing, he couldn't see one  
town or one city passing by.

468  
00:22:56,150 --> 00:22:57,150  
They had it figured out.

469  
00:22:57,150 --> 00:22:59,750  
All the side roads  
so nobody could

470  
00:22:59,750 --> 00:23:02,460  
see where the Jews are taken.

471  
00:23:02,460 --> 00:23:05,860  
Every time, he used to look to,  
he says, I don't see nothing.

472  
00:23:05,860 --> 00:23:07,050  
Everything is just empty.

473  
00:23:07,050 --> 00:23:19,230  
Everything is just like  
ditches and like woods.

474  
00:23:19,230 --> 00:23:20,790  
Like there's nothing there.

475  
00:23:20,790 --> 00:23:24,730

476  
00:23:24,730 --> 00:23:28,660  
The third day-- we had only--

477  
00:23:28,660 --> 00:23:30,640



the kids were drying up.

478

00:23:30,640 --> 00:23:31,307

We were all dry.

479

00:23:31,307 --> 00:23:31,807

I had--

480

00:23:31,807 --> 00:23:32,350

Dehydrated--

481

00:23:32,350 --> 00:23:34,760

Saliva-- we were dehydrated.

482

00:23:34,760 --> 00:23:38,950

We had nothing-- I had no  
saliva in my mouth already left.

483

00:23:38,950 --> 00:23:43,420

Finally, the third day, we  
saw the train was stopping,

484

00:23:43,420 --> 00:23:45,940

slowly stopping, stopping.

485

00:23:45,940 --> 00:23:50,050

We said, gee, maybe we're  
getting to the place

486

00:23:50,050 --> 00:23:52,080

where we were  
supposed to get out.

487

00:23:52,080 --> 00:23:55,690

488

00:23:55,690 --> 00:23:57,167

It was slowing down.

489

00:23:57,167 --> 00:23:59,500

My uncle looked through that  
little window, and he says,

490  
00:23:59,500 --> 00:24:00,130  
I can't see.

491  
00:24:00,130 --> 00:24:01,660  
There's nothing  
here, only woods.

492  
00:24:01,660 --> 00:24:04,930

493  
00:24:04,930 --> 00:24:14,586  
So when the train finally  
stopped, everybody was shaking.

494  
00:24:14,586 --> 00:24:16,940  
We couldn't talk anymore.

495  
00:24:16,940 --> 00:24:19,960  
There was no air  
coming in from nowhere.

496  
00:24:19,960 --> 00:24:21,210  
All of a sudden--

497  
00:24:21,210 --> 00:24:23,320  
the train had  
stopped for a while--

498  
00:24:23,320 --> 00:24:25,760  
we heard the doors open.

499  
00:24:25,760 --> 00:24:29,040

500  
00:24:29,040 --> 00:24:35,430  
The doors opened and we  
saw the soldiers standing

501  
00:24:35,430 --> 00:24:41,850  
in front of the door in front  
of each compartment with water.

502  
00:24:41,850 --> 00:24:42,750  
The doors open.

503  
00:24:42,750 --> 00:24:46,860  
They had two soldiers, both  
with some pails of water.

504  
00:24:46,860 --> 00:24:49,270  
And everybody  
grabbed by the door,

505  
00:24:49,270 --> 00:24:54,510  
and everybody ran with their  
pots and took some water.

506  
00:24:54,510 --> 00:24:59,160  
That was the first day after  
the three days we got some water

507  
00:24:59,160 --> 00:25:01,200  
So we said, this  
doesn't look like we're

508  
00:25:01,200 --> 00:25:02,250  
going to get out here.

509  
00:25:02,250 --> 00:25:03,450  
There's nobody around here.

510  
00:25:03,450 --> 00:25:04,890  
You only see woods here.

511  
00:25:04,890 --> 00:25:06,170  
That's it.

512  
00:25:06,170 --> 00:25:09,240  
A few soldiers were  
giving us water.

513  
00:25:09,240 --> 00:25:11,790  
But everybody was very

happy with the water.

514

00:25:11,790 --> 00:25:14,610

After all, after three days,  
finally we got some water.

515

00:25:14,610 --> 00:25:16,290

We could wet our mouths.

516

00:25:16,290 --> 00:25:22,230

Everybody started drinking  
down that water like was a--

517

00:25:22,230 --> 00:25:22,800

Champagne--

518

00:25:22,800 --> 00:25:25,210

Champagne or anything.

519

00:25:25,210 --> 00:25:28,800

So it took in seconds  
everybody to water

520

00:25:28,800 --> 00:25:30,810

and they slammed the door again.

521

00:25:30,810 --> 00:25:32,160

And there was again--

522

00:25:32,160 --> 00:25:33,675

we again left in the trains.

523

00:25:33,675 --> 00:25:36,210

524

00:25:36,210 --> 00:25:37,830

So at least we had some water.

525

00:25:37,830 --> 00:25:40,590

526

00:25:40,590 --> 00:25:41,910  
In a way we were glad.

527  
00:25:41,910 --> 00:25:45,360  
He said, they would have left  
us out here, there's no--

528  
00:25:45,360 --> 00:25:47,430  
it's in the wilderness.

529  
00:25:47,430 --> 00:25:53,700  
So we were glad they didn't  
let us out in the wilderness.

530  
00:25:53,700 --> 00:25:55,020  
Soon the door slammed.

531  
00:25:55,020 --> 00:25:58,440  
The train started  
to taking off again.

532  
00:25:58,440 --> 00:26:03,250  
We were riding  
another two days--

533  
00:26:03,250 --> 00:26:12,005  
five days in those smelly hot  
cattle trains, without any air,

534  
00:26:12,005 --> 00:26:13,800  
without any nothing,  
only the once

535  
00:26:13,800 --> 00:26:15,225  
we when we got a little water.

536  
00:26:15,225 --> 00:26:19,170

537  
00:26:19,170 --> 00:26:21,960  
It was hell itself.

538

00:26:21,960 --> 00:26:24,090  
We saw that it was good.

539  
00:26:24,090 --> 00:26:25,860  
Everybody was saying already--

540  
00:26:25,860 --> 00:26:29,230  
I heard Uncle Chayyim was  
talking to my mother there.

541  
00:26:29,230 --> 00:26:31,248  
he says, it doesn't look good.

542  
00:26:31,248 --> 00:26:32,790  
I don't know where  
they're taking us,

543  
00:26:32,790 --> 00:26:33,980  
but it doesn't look good.

544  
00:26:33,980 --> 00:26:37,650

545  
00:26:37,650 --> 00:26:43,710  
After the five days,  
everybody was stiff.

546  
00:26:43,710 --> 00:26:46,060  
We couldn't get up on  
the floors no more.

547  
00:26:46,060 --> 00:26:46,810  
Couldn't move.

548  
00:26:46,810 --> 00:26:49,640

549  
00:26:49,640 --> 00:26:52,720  
After the five days,  
finally we saw again

550  
00:26:52,720 --> 00:26:57,190

the trains were stopping,  
slowing down, slowing down.

551  
00:26:57,190 --> 00:26:58,960  
And we said, that must be it.

552  
00:26:58,960 --> 00:27:01,960  
The trains are slowing down.

553  
00:27:01,960 --> 00:27:04,690  
And the trains slowed down.

554  
00:27:04,690 --> 00:27:09,160  
We heard noises  
outside, voices already.

555  
00:27:09,160 --> 00:27:11,740  
And my uncle looked  
through the little window.

556  
00:27:11,740 --> 00:27:13,660  
He said, gee, I  
see people outside.

557  
00:27:13,660 --> 00:27:14,830  
I see lots of people.

558  
00:27:14,830 --> 00:27:16,480  
I see people walking around.

559  
00:27:16,480 --> 00:27:18,120  
I see something  
is going on here.

560  
00:27:18,120 --> 00:27:20,802

561  
00:27:20,802 --> 00:27:21,910  
The train stopped.

562  
00:27:21,910 --> 00:27:24,550

563

00:27:24,550 --> 00:27:26,740

The doors opened.

564

00:27:26,740 --> 00:27:28,630

We arrived to Auschwitz.

565

00:27:28,630 --> 00:27:31,600

We didn't know it was Auschwitz.

566

00:27:31,600 --> 00:27:37,060

So they kept on yelling out,  
everybody take your belongings

567

00:27:37,060 --> 00:27:40,460

and walk out from the trains.

568

00:27:40,460 --> 00:27:43,670

So everybody got  
excited, nervous,

569

00:27:43,670 --> 00:27:50,030

screaming, grabbing the  
things what we took,

570

00:27:50,030 --> 00:27:57,100

starting, walking down  
the cattle trains.

571

00:27:57,100 --> 00:28:01,800

And we saw there people in front  
of us with striped clothes.

572

00:28:01,800 --> 00:28:03,995

We didn't know who they  
was or what they were,

573

00:28:03,995 --> 00:28:07,760

the man in the striped clothes.

574

00:28:07,760 --> 00:28:12,280

Soon as we walked



down the trains,

575

00:28:12,280 --> 00:28:15,890

the men was  
separated right away.

576

00:28:15,890 --> 00:28:18,220

Like no time, they didn't  
take them too long.

577

00:28:18,220 --> 00:28:20,170

The men was separated.

578

00:28:20,170 --> 00:28:21,980

And my mother was with us.

579

00:28:21,980 --> 00:28:25,270

And we tried to stick  
together, my mother.

580

00:28:25,270 --> 00:28:27,670

So soon as we walked  
done, one of the guys

581

00:28:27,670 --> 00:28:31,480

in the striped clothes kept  
on saying to everybody,

582

00:28:31,480 --> 00:28:34,990

anybody with little children,  
if you have a mother,

583

00:28:34,990 --> 00:28:36,640

give the little  
kids to your mother.

584

00:28:36,640 --> 00:28:40,380

585

00:28:40,380 --> 00:28:42,750

Of course, my sister  
had two little girls.

586

00:28:42,750 --> 00:28:46,620

And my sister-in-law  
had a little boy.

587

00:28:46,620 --> 00:28:48,480

So my sister took the kids.

588

00:28:48,480 --> 00:28:52,180

She didn't want to give  
the kids to nobody.

589

00:28:52,180 --> 00:28:54,060

So he said again--

590

00:28:54,060 --> 00:28:57,030

he grabbed the kids from her.

591

00:28:57,030 --> 00:28:58,660

And we were pulled on one side.

592

00:28:58,660 --> 00:29:01,350

And my mother was  
pulled on another side.

593

00:29:01,350 --> 00:29:03,930

And he grabbed the  
kids from my sister.

594

00:29:03,930 --> 00:29:05,790

He says, give your  
children to your mother.

595

00:29:05,790 --> 00:29:07,992

You will see them  
in a week's time.

596

00:29:07,992 --> 00:29:09,825

Your mother is going  
to watch your children.

597

00:29:09,825 --> 00:29:12,460

598

00:29:12,460 --> 00:29:14,670

And my sister-in-law had nobody.

599

00:29:14,670 --> 00:29:17,850

So she went with her little boy.

600

00:29:17,850 --> 00:29:20,980

Never saw her again.

601

00:29:20,980 --> 00:29:24,990

And my sister insisted, no, she  
wants to go with her children.

602

00:29:24,990 --> 00:29:27,570

And that man insisted.

603

00:29:27,570 --> 00:29:31,920

He said, no, you go  
with your other sisters.

604

00:29:31,920 --> 00:29:34,590

You will see your mother.

605

00:29:34,590 --> 00:29:36,870

It happened so fast.

606

00:29:36,870 --> 00:29:38,140

My mother took the children.

607

00:29:38,140 --> 00:29:40,140

There was all these people  
with the little kids,

608

00:29:40,140 --> 00:29:42,432

and younger women with the  
kids, all with the children.

609

00:29:42,432 --> 00:29:44,010

They all went on one side.

610

00:29:44,010 --> 00:29:45,480

They were like  
pushed to one side.

611

00:29:45,480 --> 00:29:48,180

And we were pushed on the  
other side, the younger women.

612

00:29:48,180 --> 00:29:51,710

613

00:29:51,710 --> 00:29:55,940

And all of a sudden, it  
was like in seconds, we

614

00:29:55,940 --> 00:29:58,640

were looking for my mother.

615

00:29:58,640 --> 00:30:02,393

We saw her already  
walking far away, like--

616

00:30:02,393 --> 00:30:05,780

617

00:30:05,780 --> 00:30:08,090

I don't know, it's like  
something happened,

618

00:30:08,090 --> 00:30:09,320

just walking.

619

00:30:09,320 --> 00:30:11,378

And we said to my  
sister, my God,

620

00:30:11,378 --> 00:30:12,920

I wanted to say  
goodbye to my mother.

621

00:30:12,920 --> 00:30:14,240

I want to kiss my mother.

622

00:30:14,240 --> 00:30:16,130

I didn't get a chance.

623

00:30:16,130 --> 00:30:18,350

She just was pulled  
over in no time.

624

00:30:18,350 --> 00:30:21,410

And we looked, we looked, and  
we were walking already one way

625

00:30:21,410 --> 00:30:23,390

and she was walking  
the other way.

626

00:30:23,390 --> 00:30:27,860

It looked like they  
were walking in bunches,

627

00:30:27,860 --> 00:30:31,430

like they disappeared,  
like a shadow disappears.

628

00:30:31,430 --> 00:30:34,370

All of a sudden, we couldn't  
see nothing no more.

629

00:30:34,370 --> 00:30:36,630

So we said, what  
happened to those people?

630

00:30:36,630 --> 00:30:40,040

Where did they  
disappear so quick?

631

00:30:40,040 --> 00:30:41,720

I don't know where  
they disappeared.

632

00:30:41,720 --> 00:30:42,710

I really don't know.

633

00:30:42,710 --> 00:30:46,340

It felt like they  
fell into the ground.

634

00:30:46,340 --> 00:30:49,390

Just could see a little shadow  
and all of a sudden, nothing.

635

00:30:49,390 --> 00:30:50,750

And we was wondering.

636

00:30:50,750 --> 00:30:52,370

I said, where so fast?

637

00:30:52,370 --> 00:30:53,040

What happened?

638

00:30:53,040 --> 00:30:54,610

Where did they take him?

639

00:30:54,610 --> 00:30:57,230

640

00:30:57,230 --> 00:30:58,460

And it was bothering me.

641

00:30:58,460 --> 00:31:00,680

I said, my God, I  
didn't even say goodbye.

642

00:31:00,680 --> 00:31:03,710

I didn't kiss my mother  
I didn't get a chance.

643

00:31:03,710 --> 00:31:04,210

Nobody.

644

00:31:04,210 --> 00:31:06,710

Not my brother, nothing.

645

00:31:06,710 --> 00:31:09,020

So there was the separation.

646  
00:31:09,020 --> 00:31:11,030  
And there was the end.

647  
00:31:11,030 --> 00:31:13,940  
And my sister started  
crying, why didn't I

648  
00:31:13,940 --> 00:31:15,050  
go with my children?

649  
00:31:15,050 --> 00:31:17,390  
Why did I give  
them to my mother?

650  
00:31:17,390 --> 00:31:18,780  
I should have gone with them?

651  
00:31:18,780 --> 00:31:21,650  
So I said to her,  
look, the man told you,

652  
00:31:21,650 --> 00:31:25,550  
you will see him in a week.

653  
00:31:25,550 --> 00:31:27,290  
They are staying with my mother.

654  
00:31:27,290 --> 00:31:29,780  
You know my mother  
will watch them.

655  
00:31:29,780 --> 00:31:32,430

656  
00:31:32,430 --> 00:31:38,150  
So we started walking.

657  
00:31:38,150 --> 00:31:39,880  
They took us away.

658

00:31:39,880 --> 00:31:43,670

Like I don't know,  
it was so fast.

659

00:31:43,670 --> 00:31:46,550

Everything was figured out  
so fast, we couldn't think.

660

00:31:46,550 --> 00:31:48,680

We didn't know  
what was going on.

661

00:31:48,680 --> 00:31:49,640

So we walked.

662

00:31:49,640 --> 00:31:50,820

They took us-- walked away.

663

00:31:50,820 --> 00:31:51,320

We walked.

664

00:31:51,320 --> 00:31:54,260

We came to a huge  
place after a while

665

00:31:54,260 --> 00:31:59,420

walking with all these bundles  
in our hands, dragging it.

666

00:31:59,420 --> 00:32:02,360

And we looked back to  
see, we can see anybody.

667

00:32:02,360 --> 00:32:04,670

We still can't see my  
mother or my brother.

668

00:32:04,670 --> 00:32:10,070

Nobody, no man, no more,  
like they just vanished.

669

00:32:10,070 --> 00:32:15,830

After we walked for a while,



we got to a huge place.

670

00:32:15,830 --> 00:32:21,230

They told us to put  
everything down.

671

00:32:21,230 --> 00:32:24,170

There was like under  
a tent, or a hallway--

672

00:32:24,170 --> 00:32:26,750

I don't remember what it was--

673

00:32:26,750 --> 00:32:29,570

to leave all the bundles, to  
put all the bundles-- everybody

674

00:32:29,570 --> 00:32:31,340

should put everything down.

675

00:32:31,340 --> 00:32:33,440

We threw everything down.

676

00:32:33,440 --> 00:32:38,720

We walked across another, like  
a hallway, a long hallway.

677

00:32:38,720 --> 00:32:43,220

We saw there women  
and men sitting

678

00:32:43,220 --> 00:32:47,300

by tables, a few tables  
set up with chairs.

679

00:32:47,300 --> 00:32:52,100

We saw the people sitting  
there and waiting,

680

00:32:52,100 --> 00:32:55,370

starting to work on us.

681

00:32:55,370 --> 00:32:59,210  
So everybody had to  
go over and undress.

682  
00:32:59,210 --> 00:33:01,940  
And they started  
shaving our heads,

683  
00:33:01,940 --> 00:33:06,200  
the hair off first and then  
all over the other places.

684  
00:33:06,200 --> 00:33:11,300  
They had a few like a future  
chairs set up, a few tables.

685  
00:33:11,300 --> 00:33:14,850  
And there was going  
like a factory work.

686  
00:33:14,850 --> 00:33:15,725  
After they finished--

687  
00:33:15,725 --> 00:33:17,790  
Were these prisoners  
who were doing this?

688  
00:33:17,790 --> 00:33:18,290  
Were these--

689  
00:33:18,290 --> 00:33:19,510  
Prisoners.

690  
00:33:19,510 --> 00:33:21,020  
I didn't know who they were.

691  
00:33:21,020 --> 00:33:21,980  
I had no idea.

692  
00:33:21,980 --> 00:33:25,040  
But I saw the people  
in the striped clothes.

693

00:33:25,040 --> 00:33:25,880

I had no idea.

694

00:33:25,880 --> 00:33:27,650

When we walked, as  
a matter of fact,

695

00:33:27,650 --> 00:33:32,552

when we got off the trains,  
I saw there SS, Germans.

696

00:33:32,552 --> 00:33:34,010

And I saw there,  
I didn't know who.

697

00:33:34,010 --> 00:33:34,790

It was Mengele.

698

00:33:34,790 --> 00:33:36,800

I didn't know who Mengele was.

699

00:33:36,800 --> 00:33:40,010

He was there selecting the  
people right by the station.

700

00:33:40,010 --> 00:33:42,650

The men on this side, and  
the women on this side.

701

00:33:42,650 --> 00:33:44,150

The children on this side.

702

00:33:44,150 --> 00:33:46,970

But who knew anything about it?

703

00:33:46,970 --> 00:33:51,020

I just found out  
after who Mengele was.

704

00:33:51,020 --> 00:33:53,540

After they finish shaving,  
we had to walk out

705  
00:33:53,540 --> 00:33:57,290  
everybody liked in a line.

706  
00:33:57,290 --> 00:34:02,150  
And we walked to a  
different department.

707  
00:34:02,150 --> 00:34:06,350  
Where they gave us  
some rags to put on.

708  
00:34:06,350 --> 00:34:09,980  
I remember I was  
getting a man's shirt.

709  
00:34:09,980 --> 00:34:12,469  
My sister got a man's jacket.

710  
00:34:12,469 --> 00:34:15,710  
My other sister, I  
don't know what she had.

711  
00:34:15,710 --> 00:34:18,170  
But we were like  
separated already.

712  
00:34:18,170 --> 00:34:20,270  
They didn't go--  
where my sister was,

713  
00:34:20,270 --> 00:34:23,090  
I didn't know where she was.

714  
00:34:23,090 --> 00:34:25,958  
So after they finished, I  
didn't recognize myself.

715  
00:34:25,958 --> 00:34:26,750  
I looked at myself.

716  
00:34:26,750 --> 00:34:27,542

I looked at people.

717  
00:34:27,542 --> 00:34:30,530  
I didn't recognize nobody.

718  
00:34:30,530 --> 00:34:32,719  
I looked to look  
where my sisters was.

719  
00:34:32,719 --> 00:34:33,739  
I couldn't see them.

720  
00:34:33,739 --> 00:34:35,929  
They were right behind me,  
but I couldn't see them.

721  
00:34:35,929 --> 00:34:37,850  
I didn't recognize them.

722  
00:34:37,850 --> 00:34:39,199  
They didn't recognize me.

723  
00:34:39,199 --> 00:34:41,000  
I didn't recognize them.

724  
00:34:41,000 --> 00:34:42,270  
I started crying.

725  
00:34:42,270 --> 00:34:43,580  
I started calling my sister.

726  
00:34:43,580 --> 00:34:45,050  
Sarah, Sarah, where are you.

727  
00:34:45,050 --> 00:34:47,780  
Rachel, Rachel, where are you?

728  
00:34:47,780 --> 00:34:53,080  
So they were calling me,  
and I was calling them.

729

00:34:53,080 --> 00:34:54,429  
Because we looked like monkeys.

730  
00:34:54,429 --> 00:34:57,010

731  
00:34:57,010 --> 00:35:00,270  
Finally, after when we  
started calling one another,

732  
00:35:00,270 --> 00:35:02,900  
then we find one another.

733  
00:35:02,900 --> 00:35:05,710  
We saw-- you know, by the name.

734  
00:35:05,710 --> 00:35:09,770  
So when everybody was finished  
shaving and dressing up,

735  
00:35:09,770 --> 00:35:12,790  
they made different groups up.

736  
00:35:12,790 --> 00:35:14,320  
With all these  
thousands of people,

737  
00:35:14,320 --> 00:35:15,940  
they had different  
groups made up.

738  
00:35:15,940 --> 00:35:19,350

739  
00:35:19,350 --> 00:35:23,520  
When we were ready  
to be taken away--

740  
00:35:23,520 --> 00:35:26,890  
I don't remember one thing.

741  
00:35:26,890 --> 00:35:32,430

If we had a shower when  
we get shaved or not.

742  
00:35:32,430 --> 00:35:35,760  
That I cannot remember.

743  
00:35:35,760 --> 00:35:39,840  
I'm trying to concentrate,  
but I cannot remember.

744  
00:35:39,840 --> 00:35:45,960  
I only remember giving these  
clothes walking, walking away.

745  
00:35:45,960 --> 00:35:49,110  
We walked for a while.

746  
00:35:49,110 --> 00:35:53,580  
And then after we walked around,  
we saw a big sign, Auschwitz.

747  
00:35:53,580 --> 00:35:56,940  
We didn't even know  
it was Auschwitz.

748  
00:35:56,940 --> 00:35:59,820  
Only before we  
got into the Lager

749  
00:35:59,820 --> 00:36:03,010  
was a sign, big sign, Auschwitz.

750  
00:36:03,010 --> 00:36:05,925  
We passed by a few Lagers.

751  
00:36:05,925 --> 00:36:07,050  
We didn't know what it was.

752  
00:36:07,050 --> 00:36:09,480  
We passed by a lot of barracks.

753  
00:36:09,480 --> 00:36:14,780

We walked and walked  
and passed by one Lager,

754  
00:36:14,780 --> 00:36:16,910  
passed by another Lager.

755  
00:36:16,910 --> 00:36:23,800  
Finally, we got to  
C Lager, Lager C.

756  
00:36:23,800 --> 00:36:27,500  
And we walked till we got  
to one of the barracks.

757  
00:36:27,500 --> 00:36:32,450

758  
00:36:32,450 --> 00:36:36,125  
We got to Lager C, Barracks 16.

759  
00:36:36,125 --> 00:36:39,970

760  
00:36:39,970 --> 00:36:43,320  
When we got the front  
of the barracks,

761  
00:36:43,320 --> 00:36:46,040  
everybody stayed and waited.

762  
00:36:46,040 --> 00:36:47,120  
What's going to happen?

763  
00:36:47,120 --> 00:36:47,960  
What's going to be?

764  
00:36:47,960 --> 00:36:51,570  
We say stopped there.

765  
00:36:51,570 --> 00:36:56,830  
So we stayed there for a while.



766

00:36:56,830 --> 00:37:02,200

Finally, the door opened from  
the barrack, door opened.

767

00:37:02,200 --> 00:37:09,940

And we heard  
somebody saying, I am

768

00:37:09,940 --> 00:37:13,300

going to be your Lageralteste.

769

00:37:13,300 --> 00:37:15,040

I am in charge of your barrack.

770

00:37:15,040 --> 00:37:16,300

And my name is--

771

00:37:16,300 --> 00:37:18,430

I think I can mention the name--

772

00:37:18,430 --> 00:37:20,380

her name was Hanka.

773

00:37:20,380 --> 00:37:23,470

I am Hanka, and I'm going  
to be in charge of you.

774

00:37:23,470 --> 00:37:27,200

775

00:37:27,200 --> 00:37:30,290

We walked in like  
it was by groups.

776

00:37:30,290 --> 00:37:34,520

We had to walk through to  
the Lager, to the barrack.

777

00:37:34,520 --> 00:37:38,960

The barrack had double  
bunkbeds, double bunks.

778

00:37:38,960 --> 00:37:42,930  
It was squared double bunkbeds.

779

00:37:42,930 --> 00:37:45,860  
We walked in by groups.

780

00:37:45,860 --> 00:37:48,130  
And everybody had to take--

781

00:37:48,130 --> 00:37:53,300  
she said, everybody had to take  
their place, one of the bunks.

782

00:37:53,300 --> 00:37:55,770  
13 girls in one bunk.

783

00:37:55,770 --> 00:38:00,380  
We had to be 13 women  
sitting on one bunk.

784

00:38:00,380 --> 00:38:03,110  
So we want our  
families together.

785

00:38:03,110 --> 00:38:12,380  
And by coincidence, we met  
our two cousins from Romania

786

00:38:12,380 --> 00:38:14,000  
in the same group.

787

00:38:14,000 --> 00:38:16,520  
They wound up in the  
same area where we were.

788

00:38:16,520 --> 00:38:17,990  
I never knew my cousins.

789

00:38:17,990 --> 00:38:21,230  
I never saw them.

790

00:38:21,230 --> 00:38:23,750  
But my sister knew them.

791  
00:38:23,750 --> 00:38:26,480  
So I don't know how they  
came in the same day,

792  
00:38:26,480 --> 00:38:29,300  
and they wound up to  
be with us together.

793  
00:38:29,300 --> 00:38:33,320  
We were sitting  
in the same bunk.

794  
00:38:33,320 --> 00:38:38,660  
And a few other girls  
from TÃ©sco what we knew,

795  
00:38:38,660 --> 00:38:41,120  
my sisters friends.

796  
00:38:41,120 --> 00:38:43,430  
So we were 13 on that bunk.

797  
00:38:43,430 --> 00:38:46,490  
And underneath the  
bunk, there were 13,

798  
00:38:46,490 --> 00:38:48,050  
underneath and on the top.

799  
00:38:48,050 --> 00:38:52,020  
By the time we walked in,  
we wound up on the top bunk.

800  
00:38:52,020 --> 00:38:56,900  
You had to climb up  
to the second row.

801  
00:38:56,900 --> 00:39:01,040  
And we round up all the way  
in the back in the barrack.

802  
00:39:01,040 --> 00:39:05,515  
When everybody was settled,  
everybody was there already.

803  
00:39:05,515 --> 00:39:08,740

804  
00:39:08,740 --> 00:39:16,050  
So this Hanka,  
she was Slovakian.

805  
00:39:16,050 --> 00:39:19,470  
She was already-- we  
didn't know who she was.

806  
00:39:19,470 --> 00:39:22,680  
She was there already for three  
years in the concentration

807  
00:39:22,680 --> 00:39:24,270  
camp.

808  
00:39:24,270 --> 00:39:27,570  
She was in charge of the  
people in the barrack.

809  
00:39:27,570 --> 00:39:31,290  
And she had some other  
girls helping her.

810  
00:39:31,290 --> 00:39:34,950  
She was so bitter that woman.

811  
00:39:34,950 --> 00:39:37,650  
She was screaming constantly.

812  
00:39:37,650 --> 00:39:39,990  
We didn't know why.

813  
00:39:39,990 --> 00:39:44,940  
She said things, yes,

you are lucky people.

814

00:39:44,940 --> 00:39:48,870

I am here already three  
years and you just arrived.

815

00:39:48,870 --> 00:39:53,370

And you had it good up to now.

816

00:39:53,370 --> 00:39:56,160

And you don't know what it is.

817

00:39:56,160 --> 00:39:58,530

You will see, when you  
will be here for a while,

818

00:39:58,530 --> 00:40:02,080

you will feel what  
I felt. I said,

819

00:40:02,080 --> 00:40:03,840

what is she talking like this?

820

00:40:03,840 --> 00:40:05,880

I mean, we couldn't  
figure her out.

821

00:40:05,880 --> 00:40:09,210

822

00:40:09,210 --> 00:40:13,128

That night, they gave us--

823

00:40:13,128 --> 00:40:14,670

I think when we  
arrived that evening,

824

00:40:14,670 --> 00:40:19,230

they gave us something  
to eat first.

825

00:40:19,230 --> 00:40:24,960

Everybody was handed  
a bowl of soup

826  
00:40:24,960 --> 00:40:29,040  
that night, because we got  
in that late afternoon.

827  
00:40:29,040 --> 00:40:35,460  
And one wooden bowl  
for the 13 girls.

828  
00:40:35,460 --> 00:40:41,040  
Everybody had to give one  
sip and pass it around.

829  
00:40:41,040 --> 00:40:46,200  
The soup was cut of bread with  
sand, full of sand and it.

830  
00:40:46,200 --> 00:40:47,790  
Who could swallow it?

831  
00:40:47,790 --> 00:40:51,150  
So when I took that in my  
mouth, I said to my sister,

832  
00:40:51,150 --> 00:40:52,485  
I can't swallow this.

833  
00:40:52,485 --> 00:40:54,360  
This is full of sand.

834  
00:40:54,360 --> 00:40:55,830  
This is going between my teeth.

835  
00:40:55,830 --> 00:40:58,140  
I cannot swallow this.

836  
00:40:58,140 --> 00:41:00,680  
So my sister said,  
well, you have to.

837

00:41:00,680 --> 00:41:02,040  
You have no other choice.

838  
00:41:02,040 --> 00:41:05,160  
I said, I can't take  
this in of my mouth.

839  
00:41:05,160 --> 00:41:06,520  
So I just didn't take it.

840  
00:41:06,520 --> 00:41:07,650  
So they were going around.

841  
00:41:07,650 --> 00:41:11,400  
The girls, whoever could  
drink it were drinking it.

842  
00:41:11,400 --> 00:41:13,500  
Whoever couldn't,  
they didn't take it.

843  
00:41:13,500 --> 00:41:16,430

844  
00:41:16,430 --> 00:41:22,250  
So that night, middle of  
the night, all of a sudden--

845  
00:41:22,250 --> 00:41:25,010  
there was no room for nobody  
to lay down in those bunks.

846  
00:41:25,010 --> 00:41:29,960  
We were just sitting like  
this with the feet under us.

847  
00:41:29,960 --> 00:41:31,580  
You couldn't stretch out.

848  
00:41:31,580 --> 00:41:35,270  
You couldn't do nothing, because  
13 in a square thing, 13 women.

849

00:41:35,270 --> 00:41:38,210

We tried to lay down,  
everybody's feet

850

00:41:38,210 --> 00:41:40,520

was on top of the head  
or everybody's head

851

00:41:40,520 --> 00:41:41,740

was on top of your feet.

852

00:41:41,740 --> 00:41:43,070

You couldn't lay down.

853

00:41:43,070 --> 00:41:46,190

You were pushing  
around and fighting.

854

00:41:46,190 --> 00:41:49,070

It was horrible.

855

00:41:49,070 --> 00:41:51,770

So we just were  
sitting up there.

856

00:41:51,770 --> 00:41:54,500

And I was crying to my  
sister, saying, I'm so tired.

857

00:41:54,500 --> 00:41:55,590

I just want to lay down.

858

00:41:55,590 --> 00:41:56,840

I want to sleep.

859

00:41:56,840 --> 00:41:58,040

So she said, try.

860

00:41:58,040 --> 00:42:00,990

I was the youngest one  
between the two of them.



861

00:42:00,990 --> 00:42:03,760

So she said, try  
to lay down, try.

862

00:42:03,760 --> 00:42:04,910

I said, I can't.

863

00:42:04,910 --> 00:42:06,590

I lay down, somebody kicks me.

864

00:42:06,590 --> 00:42:09,950

865

00:42:09,950 --> 00:42:14,360

So all of a sudden, I had  
to go to the bathroom.

866

00:42:14,360 --> 00:42:16,820

So there was bathrooms in  
the back of the barracks.

867

00:42:16,820 --> 00:42:21,530

There was a regular  
like bathrooms outside.

868

00:42:21,530 --> 00:42:24,165

So we were allowed to go  
there outside to the bathroom.

869

00:42:24,165 --> 00:42:27,173

870

00:42:27,173 --> 00:42:29,340

All of sudden, middle of  
the night, I had to go out.

871

00:42:29,340 --> 00:42:37,390

And so we hear screams, a  
lot of screaming outside,

872

00:42:37,390 --> 00:42:39,210

noises, screaming.

873  
00:42:39,210 --> 00:42:42,880  
We didn't know  
what was going on.

874  
00:42:42,880 --> 00:42:45,148  
And I walked to the  
door with my sister--

875  
00:42:45,148 --> 00:42:46,690  
I didn't go myself--  
with my sisters.

876  
00:42:46,690 --> 00:42:53,248  
And I saw the smokes, like  
black smokes in the skies.

877  
00:42:53,248 --> 00:42:56,790  
We didn't know what it was.

878  
00:42:56,790 --> 00:42:59,400  
So we came back inside.

879  
00:42:59,400 --> 00:43:03,250  
So everybody was so  
frightened, so scared.

880  
00:43:03,250 --> 00:43:05,430  
We didn't know what  
the screaming is.

881  
00:43:05,430 --> 00:43:10,407  
So Hanka says to all of us, she  
says, do you hear that scream?

882  
00:43:10,407 --> 00:43:11,490  
Do you hear that shouting?

883  
00:43:11,490 --> 00:43:13,170  
Do you hear that noise?

884  
00:43:13,170 --> 00:43:15,980

Do you see that  
smoke in the skies?

885  
00:43:15,980 --> 00:43:19,200  
They're burning your  
mothers and fathers

886  
00:43:19,200 --> 00:43:23,340  
and your little children  
in the crematoriums.

887  
00:43:23,340 --> 00:43:24,780  
That's all we had to hear.

888  
00:43:24,780 --> 00:43:26,610  
We said, gee, she's crazy.

889  
00:43:26,610 --> 00:43:28,800  
What kind of stories  
is she telling us?

890  
00:43:28,800 --> 00:43:30,810  
What is she lying?

891  
00:43:30,810 --> 00:43:31,980  
She must be crazy.

892  
00:43:31,980 --> 00:43:35,940  
She must be jealous because  
we just arrived and she's here

893  
00:43:35,940 --> 00:43:37,050  
for three years.

894  
00:43:37,050 --> 00:43:39,990  
How come she's  
telling us that story?

895  
00:43:39,990 --> 00:43:41,400  
We didn't want to believe it.

896  
00:43:41,400 --> 00:43:46,490

897  
00:43:46,490 --> 00:43:49,060  
We were there the  
following day--

898  
00:43:49,060 --> 00:43:50,110  
we didn't believe it.

899  
00:43:50,110 --> 00:43:52,480  
We didn't really know  
what was going on.

900  
00:43:52,480 --> 00:43:59,410  
The following  
morning, everybody was

901  
00:43:59,410 --> 00:44:02,620  
supposed to go outside  
in front of the barracks.

902  
00:44:02,620 --> 00:44:04,990  
We woke up 5 o'clock  
in the morning,

903  
00:44:04,990 --> 00:44:08,340  
woke us up, everybody outside.

904  
00:44:08,340 --> 00:44:11,530  
We went outside.

905  
00:44:11,530 --> 00:44:14,530  
Then I knew who Mengele was.

906  
00:44:14,530 --> 00:44:17,740  
Then I found out, Mengele  
and a woman Dreschel.

907  
00:44:17,740 --> 00:44:19,240  
I don't know if you  
heard about her,

908

00:44:19,240 --> 00:44:21,790  
anybody mentioned  
the name Dreschel.

909  
00:44:21,790 --> 00:44:23,645  
She was the SS  
woman was Mengele.

910  
00:44:23,645 --> 00:44:26,560

911  
00:44:26,560 --> 00:44:28,870  
And I saw that we  
were standing outside.

912  
00:44:28,870 --> 00:44:29,710  
We had to line up.

913  
00:44:29,710 --> 00:44:32,510  
They told us to  
line up in 5 a line.

914  
00:44:32,510 --> 00:44:35,270  
And we had to line up.

915  
00:44:35,270 --> 00:44:38,530  
And then we saw this  
Mengele with Dreschel

916  
00:44:38,530 --> 00:44:43,120  
with the big dog walking  
around, walking up and down.

917  
00:44:43,120 --> 00:44:44,290  
Those lines were big.

918  
00:44:44,290 --> 00:44:49,330  
We were 1,000 girls in  
barrack, 1,000 girls.

919  
00:44:49,330 --> 00:44:51,820  
And they were walking  
around, up and down

920  
00:44:51,820 --> 00:44:55,663  
the lines with a  
big German shepherd.

921  
00:44:55,663 --> 00:44:57,580  
I didn't even know what  
a German shepherd was.

922  
00:44:57,580 --> 00:45:01,080

923  
00:45:01,080 --> 00:45:04,230  
And everybody standing  
and shivering.

924  
00:45:04,230 --> 00:45:07,230  
We didn't know who  
those people were.

925  
00:45:07,230 --> 00:45:11,850  
And we saw Mengele  
started pulling out women,

926  
00:45:11,850 --> 00:45:16,380  
pulling out here, pulling out  
this one, that one, started

927  
00:45:16,380 --> 00:45:21,210  
pulling out all the good looking  
women, and the other women--

928  
00:45:21,210 --> 00:45:24,300  
made selections,  
pulled out people.

929  
00:45:24,300 --> 00:45:27,480  
So we said, we didn't what--

930  
00:45:27,480 --> 00:45:29,850  
we didn't know nothing.

931

00:45:29,850 --> 00:45:31,570  
We were standing in the line.

932  
00:45:31,570 --> 00:45:35,430  
And then after he pulled  
everybody people out

933  
00:45:35,430 --> 00:45:37,830  
he wanted to pull out.

934  
00:45:37,830 --> 00:45:40,920  
Pregnant women, he took away.

935  
00:45:40,920 --> 00:45:47,430  
If he saw somebody not capable  
for work, very, very weak,

936  
00:45:47,430 --> 00:45:51,670  
skinny looking, he  
pulled them out.

937  
00:45:51,670 --> 00:45:54,330  
Some women still had  
mothers, some people mothers

938  
00:45:54,330 --> 00:45:57,570  
came with their  
daughters were there.

939  
00:45:57,570 --> 00:45:59,430  
Pulled those people out.

940  
00:45:59,430 --> 00:46:02,940

941  
00:46:02,940 --> 00:46:03,720  
We didn't know.

942  
00:46:03,720 --> 00:46:07,470  
After everybody, those people  
were pulled separately,

943

00:46:07,470 --> 00:46:08,690  
put away separate inside.

944  
00:46:08,690 --> 00:46:10,275  
We didn't know  
what was going on.

945  
00:46:10,275 --> 00:46:14,250  
We were standing for  
quite a bit in the line.

946  
00:46:14,250 --> 00:46:16,530  
And after everybody was--

947  
00:46:16,530 --> 00:46:18,600  
and they had their  
selections made,

948  
00:46:18,600 --> 00:46:21,810  
they counted the  
rest of the people.

949  
00:46:21,810 --> 00:46:24,510  
And it was quite a couple hours.

950  
00:46:24,510 --> 00:46:28,550  
Then we got back  
to the barracks.

951  
00:46:28,550 --> 00:46:32,850  
After that what, they  
gave us some black coffee.

952  
00:46:32,850 --> 00:46:39,150  
Also one bowl for the  
11 girls in the bunk.

953  
00:46:39,150 --> 00:46:44,160  
Soon as they took some people  
away from the from the groups,

954  
00:46:44,160 --> 00:46:46,530  
they brought other people in.



955  
00:46:46,530 --> 00:46:48,870  
So the barrack was full  
all the time with people.

956  
00:46:48,870 --> 00:46:51,640

957  
00:46:51,640 --> 00:46:56,140  
After the first day, it  
was quite a few hours

958  
00:46:56,140 --> 00:46:57,640  
once we got in.

959  
00:46:57,640 --> 00:47:00,460  
Came at the end, dinner time.

960  
00:47:00,460 --> 00:47:03,130  
Hanka was telling her  
authorities, what's going on.

961  
00:47:03,130 --> 00:47:05,746  
We just didn't believe it.

962  
00:47:05,746 --> 00:47:07,160  
It's again at night.

963  
00:47:07,160 --> 00:47:11,530  
Again, we got that bowl of soup  
and the grass and the sand.

964  
00:47:11,530 --> 00:47:13,640  
I still couldn't  
take it out my mouth.

965  
00:47:13,640 --> 00:47:17,390  
And my sister started begging  
me, you want to survive.

966  
00:47:17,390 --> 00:47:19,000  
You have to take a few sips.

967  
00:47:19,000 --> 00:47:20,920  
I said, I can't.

968  
00:47:20,920 --> 00:47:23,200  
The sand is sticking  
between my teeth.

969  
00:47:23,200 --> 00:47:24,280  
I just can't take it.

970  
00:47:24,280 --> 00:47:26,350  
I cannot do it.

971  
00:47:26,350 --> 00:47:30,460  
She said, you will not survive  
if you don't take nothing.

972  
00:47:30,460 --> 00:47:32,890  
I said, I don't care, but  
I just cannot swallow.

973  
00:47:32,890 --> 00:47:34,150  
It is stuck in my throat.

974  
00:47:34,150 --> 00:47:35,470  
I tried to swallow it.

975  
00:47:35,470 --> 00:47:36,460  
It wouldn't go down.

976  
00:47:36,460 --> 00:47:41,280

977  
00:47:41,280 --> 00:47:47,610  
Again, that night we heard  
again the same screaming,

978  
00:47:47,610 --> 00:47:50,460  
crying, carrying on.

979

00:47:50,460 --> 00:47:53,700

980

00:47:53,700 --> 00:47:57,480

And, again, Hanka says, you  
hear those screaming again.

981

00:47:57,480 --> 00:48:01,020

This is another transport.

982

00:48:01,020 --> 00:48:03,540

They're burning again the  
people, the other mothers,

983

00:48:03,540 --> 00:48:08,730

the mothers with the  
children in the crematoriums.

984

00:48:08,730 --> 00:48:10,900

We didn't pay attention  
to her anymore.

985

00:48:10,900 --> 00:48:13,230

We said, nah, she's  
just scaring us off.

986

00:48:13,230 --> 00:48:16,500

987

00:48:16,500 --> 00:48:20,340

The second day we were  
there, you walked again.

988

00:48:20,340 --> 00:48:22,120

We had to go out of  
the barracks again.

989

00:48:22,120 --> 00:48:24,960

990

00:48:24,960 --> 00:48:29,350

They said they're going  
to take us to showers

991  
00:48:29,350 --> 00:48:32,140  
the second day we were there.

992  
00:48:32,140 --> 00:48:34,680  
We were outside  
lining up outside.

993  
00:48:34,680 --> 00:48:39,800  
After a while, after  
we were counted,

994  
00:48:39,800 --> 00:48:41,360  
we started walking again.

995  
00:48:41,360 --> 00:48:43,060  
So Hanka said-- we didn't know--

996  
00:48:43,060 --> 00:48:46,890  
but Hanka said, they're going  
to take you to the showers.

997  
00:48:46,890 --> 00:48:48,060  
We started walking.

998  
00:48:48,060 --> 00:48:49,455  
We walked through the Lagers.

999  
00:48:49,455 --> 00:48:50,515  
And we walked.

1000  
00:48:50,515 --> 00:48:53,140

1001  
00:48:53,140 --> 00:48:57,360  
We saw a sign, Birkenau.

1002  
00:48:57,360 --> 00:48:58,725  
We walked into that Lager.

1003  
00:48:58,725 --> 00:49:02,470

1004  
00:49:02,470 --> 00:49:04,830  
We got to walk  
through the Lager.

1005  
00:49:04,830 --> 00:49:09,670  
We saw a big beautiful  
flower garden with flowers.

1006  
00:49:09,670 --> 00:49:11,730  
And my sister said,  
look at these flowers.

1007  
00:49:11,730 --> 00:49:13,400  
Isn't that beautiful?

1008  
00:49:13,400 --> 00:49:17,420  
They even have flowers for us.

1009  
00:49:17,420 --> 00:49:18,660  
So we walked again.

1010  
00:49:18,660 --> 00:49:21,320  
And all of a sudden  
I hear music playing.

1011  
00:49:21,320 --> 00:49:22,100  
Music was playing.

1012  
00:49:22,100 --> 00:49:23,058  
But who paid attention?

1013  
00:49:23,058 --> 00:49:24,080  
Nobody paid attention?

1014  
00:49:24,080 --> 00:49:26,210  
I didn't pay attention to music.

1015  
00:49:26,210 --> 00:49:28,550  
I didn't even look where  
the music was coming.

1016  
00:49:28,550 --> 00:49:31,100  
But I just heard music playing.

1017  
00:49:31,100 --> 00:49:33,410  
So my sister said,  
you hear the music?

1018  
00:49:33,410 --> 00:49:35,540  
They have music playing.

1019  
00:49:35,540 --> 00:49:38,360  
So after a while, we  
walked a little further.

1020  
00:49:38,360 --> 00:49:44,780  
We saw that women in striped  
clothes and white kerchiefs

1021  
00:49:44,780 --> 00:49:48,530  
playing the violin.

1022  
00:49:48,530 --> 00:49:49,520  
Who paid attention?

1023  
00:49:49,520 --> 00:49:51,830  
They played music.

1024  
00:49:51,830 --> 00:49:55,280  
We came, we walked, we  
came to this huge building.

1025  
00:49:55,280 --> 00:49:59,960  
And we saw the black smoke  
coming out from the chimney

1026  
00:49:59,960 --> 00:50:01,770  
there.

1027  
00:50:01,770 --> 00:50:02,850  
Smoke is coming out.

1028

00:50:02,850 --> 00:50:05,150

Smoke is coming out.

1029

00:50:05,150 --> 00:50:07,890

They took us into that--

1030

00:50:07,890 --> 00:50:09,890

it was supposed to  
be the bathhouse.

1031

00:50:09,890 --> 00:50:13,820

They took us into the big  
hallway, the big room.

1032

00:50:13,820 --> 00:50:16,046

We got in there.

1033

00:50:16,046 --> 00:50:17,465

It was a huge building.

1034

00:50:17,465 --> 00:50:19,990

1035

00:50:19,990 --> 00:50:22,440

We all had to get in one room.

1036

00:50:22,440 --> 00:50:24,080

We all had to get undressed.

1037

00:50:24,080 --> 00:50:27,190

1038

00:50:27,190 --> 00:50:30,580

And they took us into  
a different room.

1039

00:50:30,580 --> 00:50:33,880

The SS were standing right  
there in the hallways watching

1040

00:50:33,880 --> 00:50:35,080

everybody passing by.

1041  
00:50:35,080 --> 00:50:35,890  
We were all naked.

1042  
00:50:35,890 --> 00:50:41,350  
I said to my sister, how can we  
walk naked in front of the SS.

1043  
00:50:41,350 --> 00:50:42,040  
I'm ashamed.

1044  
00:50:42,040 --> 00:50:44,110  
I'm embarrassed.

1045  
00:50:44,110 --> 00:50:46,480  
How can they do that?

1046  
00:50:46,480 --> 00:50:48,280  
So my sister-- nothing.

1047  
00:50:48,280 --> 00:50:51,320  
She was in the same predicament.

1048  
00:50:51,320 --> 00:50:55,390  
So we walked in  
the big, huge room.

1049  
00:50:55,390 --> 00:50:59,476  
They had low benches on  
the floor across the room.

1050  
00:50:59,476 --> 00:51:02,260  
They told everybody-- they  
told us-- this is huge room.

1051  
00:51:02,260 --> 00:51:05,320  
It was 1,000 girls, 1,000 women.

1052  
00:51:05,320 --> 00:51:06,250  
We sat down.



1053

00:51:06,250 --> 00:51:09,700

And everybody had to sit  
down on those benches, low,

1054

00:51:09,700 --> 00:51:13,510

on the floor, like  
one next to another,

1055

00:51:13,510 --> 00:51:17,170

right across the whole room.

1056

00:51:17,170 --> 00:51:18,250

We sat down there.

1057

00:51:18,250 --> 00:51:21,170

And all of a sudden, I  
feel like water coming out

1058

00:51:21,170 --> 00:51:24,440

from under the bench,  
under the floor.

1059

00:51:24,440 --> 00:51:26,350

I said, where does  
the heat coming?

1060

00:51:26,350 --> 00:51:29,420

From underneath from  
between the floors?

1061

00:51:29,420 --> 00:51:32,500

How is that possible?

1062

00:51:32,500 --> 00:51:37,070

And all of a sudden, we  
saw steam coming out steam.

1063

00:51:37,070 --> 00:51:39,070

A lot of steam.

1064

00:51:39,070 --> 00:51:42,310

And it got so steamed up,

we couldn't see nobody.

1065

00:51:42,310 --> 00:51:46,600

We started screaming  
we thought this is it.

1066

00:51:46,600 --> 00:51:48,130

So I didn't see my sister--

1067

00:51:48,130 --> 00:51:49,990

I started crying.

1068

00:51:49,990 --> 00:51:51,650

I said, Rachel,  
Sarah, where are you?

1069

00:51:51,650 --> 00:51:52,750

I can't see you?

1070

00:51:52,750 --> 00:51:53,470

I'm choking.

1071

00:51:53,470 --> 00:51:56,050

Everybody was  
choking, was coughing.

1072

00:51:56,050 --> 00:52:00,710

It was like that  
was the end of us.

1073

00:52:00,710 --> 00:52:04,540

It took for quite a few minutes.

1074

00:52:04,540 --> 00:52:05,808

Everybody started screaming.

1075

00:52:05,808 --> 00:52:06,850

They're going to kill us.

1076

00:52:06,850 --> 00:52:08,380

They said, we're  
going to be dying.

1077  
00:52:08,380 --> 00:52:09,600  
That's it.

1078  
00:52:09,600 --> 00:52:11,140  
They're getting rid of us.

1079  
00:52:11,140 --> 00:52:14,410

1080  
00:52:14,410 --> 00:52:18,890  
It was a few minutes going  
and couldn't see nothing,

1081  
00:52:18,890 --> 00:52:20,510  
couldn't see nobody.

1082  
00:52:20,510 --> 00:52:24,410  
Then slowly this team  
started disappearing.

1083  
00:52:24,410 --> 00:52:25,270  
So we were glad.

1084  
00:52:25,270 --> 00:52:29,530  
I was happy the steam is  
starting disappearing.

1085  
00:52:29,530 --> 00:52:32,200  
And then this just went away.

1086  
00:52:32,200 --> 00:52:35,860  
And then we felt  
the water started

1087  
00:52:35,860 --> 00:52:39,530  
dripping from the  
ceilings, water

1088  
00:52:39,530 --> 00:52:41,378  
was starting dripping  
a little water.

1089  
00:52:41,378 --> 00:52:41,920  
We were glad.

1090  
00:52:41,920 --> 00:52:43,765  
I said, a little cold water.

1091  
00:52:43,765 --> 00:52:46,690  
It started and it stopped.

1092  
00:52:46,690 --> 00:52:50,072  
A few times, they started  
the water and they stopped.

1093  
00:52:50,072 --> 00:52:52,380  
I said, they're  
fooling around with us.

1094  
00:52:52,380 --> 00:52:55,970  
Something is going on here.

1095  
00:52:55,970 --> 00:52:58,120  
So then finally, the  
water was coming down,

1096  
00:52:58,120 --> 00:53:00,640  
and we got the showers.

1097  
00:53:00,640 --> 00:53:02,950  
And it stopped, and  
we started walking out

1098  
00:53:02,950 --> 00:53:07,760  
and walked into another  
steam room to dry up.

1099  
00:53:07,760 --> 00:53:11,260  
So we were already happy that  
we were out of that room,

1100  
00:53:11,260 --> 00:53:13,900  
that they're not

going to kill us,

1101  
00:53:13,900 --> 00:53:16,760  
because we were sure that's  
what they were going to do.

1102  
00:53:16,760 --> 00:53:18,070  
We went into the steam room.

1103  
00:53:18,070 --> 00:53:18,820  
We dried up.

1104  
00:53:18,820 --> 00:53:20,140  
They gave us different clothes.

1105  
00:53:20,140 --> 00:53:22,060  
Anything, whatever  
they got in their hands

1106  
00:53:22,060 --> 00:53:25,160  
they threw us clean clothes.

1107  
00:53:25,160 --> 00:53:28,690  
It was like the steam  
from the steam room.

1108  
00:53:28,690 --> 00:53:32,740  
And everybody got their  
things to put on again.

1109  
00:53:32,740 --> 00:53:35,140  
And we walked out again.

1110  
00:53:35,140 --> 00:53:36,880  
We had to line up again outside.

1111  
00:53:36,880 --> 00:53:39,490  
And we started walking back.

1112  
00:53:39,490 --> 00:53:45,250  
When we saw that we got  
to the Lager 16, Block 16,

1113  
00:53:45,250 --> 00:53:49,750  
in our Lager, we were  
relieved, because we were

1114  
00:53:49,750 --> 00:53:53,740  
sure there was the end of us.

1115  
00:53:53,740 --> 00:53:56,030  
This was going on--

1116  
00:53:56,030 --> 00:53:59,050  
I was for two  
months in Auschwitz.

1117  
00:53:59,050 --> 00:54:01,450  
And twice a week they  
took us to those showers.

1118  
00:54:01,450 --> 00:54:05,020  
It seemed like they couldn't  
make up their minds what

1119  
00:54:05,020 --> 00:54:07,510  
they want to do with us.

1120  
00:54:07,510 --> 00:54:13,510  
Every time we were  
walking to the showers,

1121  
00:54:13,510 --> 00:54:16,850  
they used to cut off-- the SS  
used to cut off from the lines

1122  
00:54:16,850 --> 00:54:19,900  
people, here from the  
back or the front,

1123  
00:54:19,900 --> 00:54:21,850  
cut off certain  
people, or dragging

1124

00:54:21,850 --> 00:54:25,870  
from the middle of the group.

1125  
00:54:25,870 --> 00:54:27,770  
I used to run from  
one end to the other.

1126  
00:54:27,770 --> 00:54:30,130  
And we never knew  
we had to stay.

1127  
00:54:30,130 --> 00:54:33,040  
If we stand in the  
front, maybe they'll

1128  
00:54:33,040 --> 00:54:35,190  
cut off people from the front.

1129  
00:54:35,190 --> 00:54:36,700  
We stand in the  
back, maybe they'll

1130  
00:54:36,700 --> 00:54:37,990  
cut the people from the back.

1131  
00:54:37,990 --> 00:54:40,448  
If we go in the middle, maybe  
they'll take from the middle.

1132  
00:54:40,448 --> 00:54:41,470  
We never knew.

1133  
00:54:41,470 --> 00:54:44,770  
We used to run from one  
end to the other end.

1134  
00:54:44,770 --> 00:54:48,470  
And one day and they were  
taking us to the showers,

1135  
00:54:48,470 --> 00:54:50,360  
we said, no, we're going  
to stand in barrack.

1136  
00:54:50,360 --> 00:54:51,490  
We're going to hide.

1137  
00:54:51,490 --> 00:54:54,220  
We're not going to go no  
place, because maybe they're

1138  
00:54:54,220 --> 00:54:57,430  
taking to the crematorium now.

1139  
00:54:57,430 --> 00:55:00,520  
So we stayed in the  
barracks till the people

1140  
00:55:00,520 --> 00:55:02,930  
gathered outside  
after we decided,

1141  
00:55:02,930 --> 00:55:04,570  
no, it wouldn't be good.

1142  
00:55:04,570 --> 00:55:06,610  
If they take the people  
to a different place,

1143  
00:55:06,610 --> 00:55:08,780  
what's going to be with us.

1144  
00:55:08,780 --> 00:55:09,970  
We better go with them.

1145  
00:55:09,970 --> 00:55:13,270  
So we went out and stood  
in the group again.

1146  
00:55:13,270 --> 00:55:14,290  
We couldn't hide anyhow.

1147  
00:55:14,290 --> 00:55:16,318  
But we thought we could.



1148

00:55:16,318 --> 00:55:17,860

And when we started  
walking-- we used

1149

00:55:17,860 --> 00:55:22,930

to run away behind the  
different barracks to hide,

1150

00:55:22,930 --> 00:55:25,750

because we knew they take  
them to the crematorium.

1151

00:55:25,750 --> 00:55:28,430

We never knew which  
day is going to happen.

1152

00:55:28,430 --> 00:55:30,160

So we ran hiding  
back in barrack.

1153

00:55:30,160 --> 00:55:33,670

Then we decided to run back  
in the line, because we said,

1154

00:55:33,670 --> 00:55:35,830

no, if they take the  
people to a different place

1155

00:55:35,830 --> 00:55:39,050

and we still be left  
here, if they find us,

1156

00:55:39,050 --> 00:55:40,300

they will kill us.

1157

00:55:40,300 --> 00:55:41,800

What's going to be?

1158

00:55:41,800 --> 00:55:44,290

So we went back  
always to the line.

1159

00:55:44,290 --> 00:55:46,940

And we followed the  
rest of the people.

1160

00:55:46,940 --> 00:55:49,043

And this was going  
on for two months.

1161

00:55:49,043 --> 00:55:51,085

Twice a week they used to  
take us to the showers.

1162

00:55:51,085 --> 00:55:54,960

1163

00:55:54,960 --> 00:56:01,540

Finally, after they made  
all their selections,

1164

00:56:01,540 --> 00:56:04,360

every day, they do the  
same thing, the selections.

1165

00:56:04,360 --> 00:56:06,670

We were lucky,  
they didn't take me

1166

00:56:06,670 --> 00:56:08,620

and my sisters and my cousins.

1167

00:56:08,620 --> 00:56:10,860

We always stayed  
in the same place.

1168

00:56:10,860 --> 00:56:13,400

1169

00:56:13,400 --> 00:56:17,360

After two months, we  
were told to pack up--

1170

00:56:17,360 --> 00:56:21,080

pack up with nothing to pack--

we are leaving Auschwitz.

1171

00:56:21,080 --> 00:56:24,060

They're going to take  
us to working camps.

1172

00:56:24,060 --> 00:56:26,060

We're going to have to  
stop at this point again.

1173

00:56:26,060 --> 00:56:26,560

OK.

1174

00:56:26,560 --> 00:56:27,970

OK.

1175

00:56:27,970 --> 00:56:32,000