

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:38,710

2

00:00:38,710 --> 00:00:42,460

We continue our discussion
with Pearl Gruenberg.

3

00:00:42,460 --> 00:00:47,200

Pearl, you were talking
about your leaving Auschwitz

4

00:00:47,200 --> 00:00:52,540

and going to a labor camp
at Unterluss, was it?

5

00:00:52,540 --> 00:00:53,530

Unterluss, yes.

6

00:00:53,530 --> 00:00:56,080

Did anything significant
happen on the--

7

00:00:56,080 --> 00:01:02,200

Before we went to
Unterluss, we got

8

00:01:02,200 --> 00:01:09,520

to a different camp in Auschwitz
where they made the selections.

9

00:01:09,520 --> 00:01:13,600

So there was Mengele and a
few other SS men, the dogs,

10

00:01:13,600 --> 00:01:16,240

walking around.

11

00:01:16,240 --> 00:01:21,880

And Mengele was doing the
selection with another SS

12

00:01:21,880 --> 00:01:26,170
woman, and anybody they didn't--

13
00:01:26,170 --> 00:01:31,210
they pulled out the people who
are not strong enough, who they

14
00:01:31,210 --> 00:01:33,520
didn't feel was ready for work.

15
00:01:33,520 --> 00:01:35,500
They pulled them
out to one side.

16
00:01:35,500 --> 00:01:42,160
And the people who was for
work, they put to another side.

17
00:01:42,160 --> 00:01:46,472
They pulled me out three
times from the line

18
00:01:46,472 --> 00:01:52,870
for the left side, for
the crematorium side.

19
00:01:52,870 --> 00:01:59,440
And my sister started to scream
at me, run back, run back.

20
00:01:59,440 --> 00:02:01,510
And I said, how can I run back?

21
00:02:01,510 --> 00:02:02,830
I'm afraid.

22
00:02:02,830 --> 00:02:05,560
SS men will catch me.

23
00:02:05,560 --> 00:02:06,730
She said, just try.

24

00:02:06,730 --> 00:02:07,680
Run back.

25
00:02:07,680 --> 00:02:10,550
So I ran back once.

26
00:02:10,550 --> 00:02:12,580
Then I he came
again in the line.

27
00:02:12,580 --> 00:02:14,920
He pulled me out again.

28
00:02:14,920 --> 00:02:16,390
And then I ran back again.

29
00:02:16,390 --> 00:02:19,300
The third time, I couldn't run.

30
00:02:19,300 --> 00:02:22,060
My sister came and
just pulled me out.

31
00:02:22,060 --> 00:02:26,060
And the SS man noticed it.

32
00:02:26,060 --> 00:02:29,470
So he just walked over,
and he gave a grin,

33
00:02:29,470 --> 00:02:31,300
and he just didn't say nothing.

34
00:02:31,300 --> 00:02:33,580
He left me there.

35
00:02:33,580 --> 00:02:38,920
So then when they separated
the people for work,

36
00:02:38,920 --> 00:02:42,460
they pulled my

sister, Rachel, away.

37

00:02:42,460 --> 00:02:44,440

Was she the one
who ran out to you?

38

00:02:44,440 --> 00:02:46,780

She pulled me back, yes.

39

00:02:46,780 --> 00:02:49,120

And the SS woman noticed that.

40

00:02:49,120 --> 00:02:53,080

So then she took her
away from my line.

41

00:02:53,080 --> 00:02:58,150

So she said, she's going to go
to a different place to work.

42

00:02:58,150 --> 00:03:01,300

So my sister, my other
sister, started begging her,

43

00:03:01,300 --> 00:03:03,940

please, leave us
the three together.

44

00:03:03,940 --> 00:03:06,490

We want to stay together.

45

00:03:06,490 --> 00:03:10,540

So the SS woman says,
you'll be together.

46

00:03:10,540 --> 00:03:14,170

You'll follow her
in a week's time.

47

00:03:14,170 --> 00:03:18,490

You'll all be together at
the same place working.

48

00:03:18,490 --> 00:03:21,850

So my sister started crying.

49

00:03:21,850 --> 00:03:25,610

And they were
walking away from us.

50

00:03:25,610 --> 00:03:28,330

And they put them
on trucks already.

51

00:03:28,330 --> 00:03:31,250

So she said, she was
calling back to us,

52

00:03:31,250 --> 00:03:33,310

God knows if I will
ever see you again.

53

00:03:33,310 --> 00:03:35,860

54

00:03:35,860 --> 00:03:37,750

Excuse me.

55

00:03:37,750 --> 00:03:42,910

So after the truck was leaving,
we started calling after her

56

00:03:42,910 --> 00:03:44,860

and telling her,
we'll follow you.

57

00:03:44,860 --> 00:03:50,050

Soon, we'll see you in
a week's time or so.

58

00:03:50,050 --> 00:03:53,990

So that was the end of her.

59

00:03:53,990 --> 00:03:57,310

She just was gone from us.

60
00:03:57,310 --> 00:04:00,980
The rest of us, who
were picked up for work,

61
00:04:00,980 --> 00:04:04,960
they took us into
an empty barrack.

62
00:04:04,960 --> 00:04:07,790
It looked like the
camp was all deserted.

63
00:04:07,790 --> 00:04:11,890
The people were already
gone from that camp.

64
00:04:11,890 --> 00:04:13,990
We stayed in that
barrack all night long.

65
00:04:13,990 --> 00:04:19,000
It was a broken-down barrack,
like the beds were all down.

66
00:04:19,000 --> 00:04:21,100
Everything was down.

67
00:04:21,100 --> 00:04:24,460
And whenever we walked
in, there was an SS woman.

68
00:04:24,460 --> 00:04:27,640
She was 22 years old.

69
00:04:27,640 --> 00:04:29,410
Whoever walked in
the barracks, she

70
00:04:29,410 --> 00:04:32,020
was hitting us
with a rubber hose.

71

00:04:32,020 --> 00:04:33,940

Everybody passing
by, she was hitting--

72

00:04:33,940 --> 00:04:34,975

whoever she came across.

73

00:04:34,975 --> 00:04:37,720

74

00:04:37,720 --> 00:04:39,340

I remember passing her by.

75

00:04:39,340 --> 00:04:41,620

She hit me over my
head with a rubber hose

76

00:04:41,620 --> 00:04:46,150

so badly that I
just blacked out.

77

00:04:46,150 --> 00:04:48,040

She had no provocation
for doing it?

78

00:04:48,040 --> 00:04:52,190

No, just for nothing--
no reason at all.

79

00:04:52,190 --> 00:04:55,630

She was hitting the people,
whoever she came across.

80

00:04:55,630 --> 00:04:59,683

So when I came to
myself, I started--

81

00:04:59,683 --> 00:05:00,850

I didn't know what happened.

82

00:05:00,850 --> 00:05:02,530

I started crying.

83
00:05:02,530 --> 00:05:04,330
I said to my sister,
why did she hit me?

84
00:05:04,330 --> 00:05:06,130
I didn't do nothing.

85
00:05:06,130 --> 00:05:09,410
So my sister said, she
doesn't need a reason.

86
00:05:09,410 --> 00:05:11,590
Everything will be all right.

87
00:05:11,590 --> 00:05:16,180
So we stayed in that
barrack all night long,

88
00:05:16,180 --> 00:05:18,310
and the boards were down.

89
00:05:18,310 --> 00:05:21,340
Everything was like a mess.

90
00:05:21,340 --> 00:05:25,180
And we didn't know what's
going to happen with us there.

91
00:05:25,180 --> 00:05:26,950
So she was walking
around all night

92
00:05:26,950 --> 00:05:32,760
long hitting people and
torturing people for no reason

93
00:05:32,760 --> 00:05:34,430
at all.

94
00:05:34,430 --> 00:05:37,180
So the night, we didn't

know what's going to be.

95

00:05:37,180 --> 00:05:39,835

We thought that's
the end of us there.

96

00:05:39,835 --> 00:05:43,910

They're going to
just get rid of us.

97

00:05:43,910 --> 00:05:47,270

So finally, the
night went through.

98

00:05:47,270 --> 00:05:49,670

We were sitting without
water, without anything,

99

00:05:49,670 --> 00:05:52,520

all night long.

100

00:05:52,520 --> 00:05:59,100

Came the morning, so they
told us to walk outside.

101

00:05:59,100 --> 00:06:02,190

We walked outside.

102

00:06:02,190 --> 00:06:06,100

So we were counted again
and looked all over again.

103

00:06:06,100 --> 00:06:08,770

And we-- they gave us a number.

104

00:06:08,770 --> 00:06:18,090

We were 500, number 500, before
we went to the working camp.

105

00:06:18,090 --> 00:06:25,430

After we were all counted,
we walked a little further.

106

00:06:25,430 --> 00:06:31,620

We came to an empty field where
the trucks were waiting for us

107

00:06:31,620 --> 00:06:35,280

to be taken to work.

108

00:06:35,280 --> 00:06:38,370

There was a few trucks, like,
I don't know, three trucks,

109

00:06:38,370 --> 00:06:42,420

and we were all standing in
the truck squashed together.

110

00:06:42,420 --> 00:06:45,450

And they took off.

111

00:06:45,450 --> 00:06:51,150

And they drove all through the
bumpy roads, on the side roads.

112

00:06:51,150 --> 00:06:58,260

For a few hours, we were riding
till we got to a wooded area

113

00:06:58,260 --> 00:07:00,930

before we got into Unterluss.

114

00:07:00,930 --> 00:07:05,700

They let us off
before the woods.

115

00:07:05,700 --> 00:07:09,480

And then we all went
off from the trucks.

116

00:07:09,480 --> 00:07:12,270

We crossed the
woods, and there was

117

00:07:12,270 --> 00:07:17,190

a lot of guards waiting
for us in the woods.

118
00:07:17,190 --> 00:07:20,615
Nobody should run away.

119
00:07:20,615 --> 00:07:21,990
Then we walked
through the woods.

120
00:07:21,990 --> 00:07:29,160
We came to a huge place all
fenced in with tall fences.

121
00:07:29,160 --> 00:07:32,850
We didn't know what it was.

122
00:07:32,850 --> 00:07:34,950
Then the gates
opened, and we walked

123
00:07:34,950 --> 00:07:44,710
into the big, huge
place, and they took us

124
00:07:44,710 --> 00:07:51,370
into a barrack number three.

125
00:07:51,370 --> 00:07:57,280
As we walked into the barracks,
we got numbers for the beds,

126
00:07:57,280 --> 00:07:58,395
for our quarters.

127
00:07:58,395 --> 00:08:00,145
Everybody get a number
for their quarters.

128
00:08:00,145 --> 00:08:03,110

129

00:08:03,110 --> 00:08:05,780

They had like five
beds in a row,

130

00:08:05,780 --> 00:08:11,840

and each quarter all
across, and we had

131

00:08:11,840 --> 00:08:16,850

to be like 10 women in one row.

132

00:08:16,850 --> 00:08:19,040

And the five beds,
with narrow beds,

133

00:08:19,040 --> 00:08:21,530

like this table
let's say, and they

134

00:08:21,530 --> 00:08:27,170

had to straw underneath
and a blanket,

135

00:08:27,170 --> 00:08:29,390

covered with a blanket.

136

00:08:29,390 --> 00:08:32,780

As soon as we walked there,
we all took our places.

137

00:08:32,780 --> 00:08:37,190

We were handed out our
clothes, working clothes,

138

00:08:37,190 --> 00:08:39,409

striped clothes--
white and-- not white--

139

00:08:39,409 --> 00:08:46,610

gray and blue striped
clothes, dresses.

140

00:08:46,610 --> 00:08:52,490

And we got a blanket, a
little pillow from straw,

141
00:08:52,490 --> 00:08:57,500
and a wooden bowl, and a spoon.

142
00:08:57,500 --> 00:09:01,330
That was our utilities.

143
00:09:01,330 --> 00:09:04,120
So everybody settled down.

144
00:09:04,120 --> 00:09:07,390
We slept two of us in one bed.

145
00:09:07,390 --> 00:09:11,000
We hardly had room just
to lay down on one side,

146
00:09:11,000 --> 00:09:11,860
but we were happy.

147
00:09:11,860 --> 00:09:14,010
At least we had beds
already to sleep.

148
00:09:14,010 --> 00:09:15,297
We had a blanket to cover.

149
00:09:15,297 --> 00:09:16,880
We didn't have to
sleep on the floors.

150
00:09:16,880 --> 00:09:20,590

151
00:09:20,590 --> 00:09:24,130
And everybody settled down.

152
00:09:24,130 --> 00:09:29,770
The officer then came into the
barrack to look everybody over.

153
00:09:29,770 --> 00:09:32,080
And we had to be
really very quiet,

154
00:09:32,080 --> 00:09:35,590
and everybody was
very frightened.

155
00:09:35,590 --> 00:09:38,650
She was very mean.

156
00:09:38,650 --> 00:09:42,730
She was 22 years
old, but she was

157
00:09:42,730 --> 00:09:44,830
the meanest person I ever saw.

158
00:09:44,830 --> 00:09:46,690
This was the same
woman who beat you?

159
00:09:46,690 --> 00:09:52,000
Who took us from the work--
from the Auschwitz already.

160
00:09:52,000 --> 00:09:53,440
She was in charge of us.

161
00:09:53,440 --> 00:09:56,150

162
00:09:56,150 --> 00:10:02,810
And we had-- they had selected
two women from our people to be

163
00:10:02,810 --> 00:10:06,320
the lageralteste and
two women who should be

164
00:10:06,320 --> 00:10:08,490

the blockalteste--

165
00:10:08,490 --> 00:10:12,150
inside in the
lager, in the camp.

166
00:10:12,150 --> 00:10:16,940

167
00:10:16,940 --> 00:10:19,970
Two young women,
who were in charge

168
00:10:19,970 --> 00:10:26,510
of feeding us, and giving us
the things out-- whatever.

169
00:10:26,510 --> 00:10:30,230
And the two older ones were in
charge of the outside lager--

170
00:10:30,230 --> 00:10:31,040
everything.

171
00:10:31,040 --> 00:10:35,760
They were taking care
of everything else.

172
00:10:35,760 --> 00:10:36,870
These were prisoners?

173
00:10:36,870 --> 00:10:39,080
They were the prisoners, yes.

174
00:10:39,080 --> 00:10:40,940
They were from Mukach.

175
00:10:40,940 --> 00:10:48,020
Two sisters were in charge of
the lager was also from Mukach.

176
00:10:48,020 --> 00:10:51,170

And the two sisters who were
in charge of the barrack inside

177
00:10:51,170 --> 00:10:52,388
were also from Mukach.

178
00:10:52,388 --> 00:10:55,740
They're all from Mukach.

179
00:10:55,740 --> 00:10:58,860
So the night, well, we
were happy that night.

180
00:10:58,860 --> 00:11:03,150
It was a very late at
night when we got there.

181
00:11:03,150 --> 00:11:05,280
It was already late.

182
00:11:05,280 --> 00:11:09,720
So we got something to eat.

183
00:11:09,720 --> 00:11:12,920
They had a potato soup
with some meat in it,

184
00:11:12,920 --> 00:11:14,980
and we were very
excited about it.

185
00:11:14,980 --> 00:11:17,640
Finally, we get
something to eat.

186
00:11:17,640 --> 00:11:21,000
So everybody was handed
out a little potato soup

187
00:11:21,000 --> 00:11:22,980
with some pieces of meat.

188

00:11:22,980 --> 00:11:25,110

There was already
a gourmet food,

189

00:11:25,110 --> 00:11:29,790

because all these months
we didn't have nothing.

190

00:11:29,790 --> 00:11:31,410

So there was already
a big change.

191

00:11:31,410 --> 00:11:34,690

192

00:11:34,690 --> 00:11:39,120

So the evening was over.

193

00:11:39,120 --> 00:11:43,180

Everybody had to go to
lay down and to sleep.

194

00:11:43,180 --> 00:11:50,190

And so 5 o'clock when
everybody already settled down,

195

00:11:50,190 --> 00:11:53,610

5 o'clock in the
morning the whistles

196

00:11:53,610 --> 00:11:57,870

were blowing for
everybody to get up.

197

00:11:57,870 --> 00:11:59,220

We didn't know what to expect.

198

00:11:59,220 --> 00:12:01,906

It was the first
day we were there.

199

00:12:01,906 --> 00:12:06,360

So 5 o'clock,

everybody got up quick.

200

00:12:06,360 --> 00:12:09,390

And we always only
had the same dress on,

201

00:12:09,390 --> 00:12:13,750

a cotton dress, striped dress,
and a pair of wooden shoes.

202

00:12:13,750 --> 00:12:16,740

That's all we had.

203

00:12:16,740 --> 00:12:21,660

Everybody had to go outside
to stand Zahlappell.

204

00:12:21,660 --> 00:12:24,680

205

00:12:24,680 --> 00:12:27,272

We were standing
outside from 5:30.

206

00:12:27,272 --> 00:12:30,002

207

00:12:30,002 --> 00:12:31,460

By the time we got
the black coffee

208

00:12:31,460 --> 00:12:33,380

in the morning-- first,
a little black coffee

209

00:12:33,380 --> 00:12:35,000

before we went outside.

210

00:12:35,000 --> 00:12:42,090

From 5:30 to 7 o'clock, every
morning we were counted.

211

00:12:42,090 --> 00:12:43,700

She was calling
everybody's name.

212

00:12:43,700 --> 00:12:45,740

Everybody had a number.

213

00:12:45,740 --> 00:12:48,050

Everybody's number was
called, and everybody

214

00:12:48,050 --> 00:12:51,910

had to say, here, I'm here.

215

00:12:51,910 --> 00:12:57,620

And then everybody was checked
out, everything since 7 o'clock

216

00:12:57,620 --> 00:12:59,600

in the morning.

217

00:12:59,600 --> 00:13:00,502

We took off.

218

00:13:00,502 --> 00:13:01,960

We didn't know
where we were going.

219

00:13:01,960 --> 00:13:04,550

220

00:13:04,550 --> 00:13:07,490

The trucks, we walked
out from the gate

221

00:13:07,490 --> 00:13:09,290

and walked into the woods.

222

00:13:09,290 --> 00:13:11,412

Every time we went
out and in, it

223

00:13:11,412 --> 00:13:13,850
was always through the woods.

224
00:13:13,850 --> 00:13:16,100
And at the end of
the woods, there

225
00:13:16,100 --> 00:13:18,330
were the trucks waiting for us.

226
00:13:18,330 --> 00:13:19,970
We never saw anything
else, but just

227
00:13:19,970 --> 00:13:23,000
the woods and the labor camp.

228
00:13:23,000 --> 00:13:26,340

229
00:13:26,340 --> 00:13:28,950
The trucks were waiting.

230
00:13:28,950 --> 00:13:31,590
We were picked up by the trucks.

231
00:13:31,590 --> 00:13:36,240
We kept riding always
on bumpy side roads.

232
00:13:36,240 --> 00:13:39,590
We never passed by any cities
or any towns, nothing--

233
00:13:39,590 --> 00:13:41,490
always on the bumpy side roads.

234
00:13:41,490 --> 00:13:43,410
Did they want to
keep you hidden?

235
00:13:43,410 --> 00:13:45,510

They wanted-- they
didn't want anybody

236
00:13:45,510 --> 00:13:47,980
to know what's going on.

237
00:13:47,980 --> 00:13:50,130
They just did
everything so nobody--

238
00:13:50,130 --> 00:13:55,500
the people shouldn't
see what's going on.

239
00:13:55,500 --> 00:13:57,240
The civilians shouldn't realize.

240
00:13:57,240 --> 00:13:59,910

241
00:13:59,910 --> 00:14:06,720
So we were riding for an hour
or so, and then we had to walk.

242
00:14:06,720 --> 00:14:11,460
Another hour, we
were walking until we

243
00:14:11,460 --> 00:14:19,030
came to a huge place,
also a fenced-in place.

244
00:14:19,030 --> 00:14:23,220
And then they told us there was
a factory, ammunition factory.

245
00:14:23,220 --> 00:14:26,980

246
00:14:26,980 --> 00:14:31,720
The SS guards-- there was a
lot of guards watching us--

247

00:14:31,720 --> 00:14:34,330

they separated us
in different groups

248

00:14:34,330 --> 00:14:37,190

when we got to the factory.

249

00:14:37,190 --> 00:14:42,070

So then the civilian
people came out

250

00:14:42,070 --> 00:14:47,440

and took us in different
entrances to the factory--

251

00:14:47,440 --> 00:14:49,270

certain groups in
different entrances.

252

00:14:49,270 --> 00:14:53,110

They had quite a few
different entrances.

253

00:14:53,110 --> 00:14:59,080

And we got in there, we were
assigned with the foremans.

254

00:14:59,080 --> 00:15:03,080

They had foremans, civilian
foremans, assigned to work.

255

00:15:03,080 --> 00:15:06,210

256

00:15:06,210 --> 00:15:08,010

I was just trying to do--

257

00:15:08,010 --> 00:15:12,030

there were machines
that made the bombs.

258

00:15:12,030 --> 00:15:16,980

The little bottles, they
looked like the bowling pins.

259
00:15:16,980 --> 00:15:19,680
And I was assigned to put--

260
00:15:19,680 --> 00:15:25,380
the machine was going and put
the bottles on the machines.

261
00:15:25,380 --> 00:15:26,552
And everybody had a job.

262
00:15:26,552 --> 00:15:28,260
Everybody was assigned
to something else.

263
00:15:28,260 --> 00:15:29,370
It was an assembly line?

264
00:15:29,370 --> 00:15:32,650
Assembly line, yes.

265
00:15:32,650 --> 00:15:38,350
And this was-- we were working
one week day shift and one week

266
00:15:38,350 --> 00:15:39,130
night shift.

267
00:15:39,130 --> 00:15:43,290

268
00:15:43,290 --> 00:15:47,490
Then when I finished
the machine work,

269
00:15:47,490 --> 00:15:49,990
I had to go unload
the big bottles.

270
00:15:49,990 --> 00:15:55,280

There were big bombs loading
on the trucks outside.

271
00:15:55,280 --> 00:15:57,300
[? Rows ?] assembly,
one hand to the other,

272
00:15:57,300 --> 00:15:59,530
and I had to throw
them on the trucks.

273
00:15:59,530 --> 00:16:04,890
And there was the guards
watching us, the SS men.

274
00:16:04,890 --> 00:16:06,015
And I was--

275
00:16:06,015 --> 00:16:09,550

276
00:16:09,550 --> 00:16:11,290
I couldn't do it anymore.

277
00:16:11,290 --> 00:16:14,080
After the third day,
after working for days,

278
00:16:14,080 --> 00:16:16,100
it was getting too much for me.

279
00:16:16,100 --> 00:16:19,840
I was felt weak and weaker
every time I was doing it.

280
00:16:19,840 --> 00:16:21,483
Were you allowed to
rest at any time?

281
00:16:21,483 --> 00:16:22,650
Were you ever given a break?

282

00:16:22,650 --> 00:16:24,940
Well, we had to keep going.

283
00:16:24,940 --> 00:16:27,970
Only when we rested
when the air raid came.

284
00:16:27,970 --> 00:16:30,220
Every day was an
air raid coming,

285
00:16:30,220 --> 00:16:31,930
and we had to run
out to the woods.

286
00:16:31,930 --> 00:16:34,696

287
00:16:34,696 --> 00:16:38,230
The woods was right next to
the factory was the woods.

288
00:16:38,230 --> 00:16:40,080
And we had to run
in and to hide.

289
00:16:40,080 --> 00:16:43,680
That was the time
when we rested.

290
00:16:43,680 --> 00:16:47,340
And when everything was
over, we went inside again.

291
00:16:47,340 --> 00:16:51,610
Now, the first day wasn't
too bad we were doing this.

292
00:16:51,610 --> 00:16:55,140
Then we worked till 5 o'clock.

293
00:16:55,140 --> 00:16:57,750
At 5 o'clock, we went

back home to the--

294

00:16:57,750 --> 00:17:03,000

it took us, again, two hours
to get right to the barrack.

295

00:17:03,000 --> 00:17:06,250

We got there again.

296

00:17:06,250 --> 00:17:09,720

We walked again to
the woods, and that's

297

00:17:09,720 --> 00:17:12,089

how we got to the gates.

298

00:17:12,089 --> 00:17:15,675

Nobody should see us.

299

00:17:15,675 --> 00:17:18,829

We got into the barracks again.

300

00:17:18,829 --> 00:17:19,940

It was 5 o'clock.

301

00:17:19,940 --> 00:17:26,900

So we all got our meals again,
the little ladle of soup.

302

00:17:26,900 --> 00:17:30,740

That was our meal for the day.

303

00:17:30,740 --> 00:17:35,390

And they used to
give us a small bread

304

00:17:35,390 --> 00:17:40,440

for five people for two days.

305

00:17:40,440 --> 00:17:44,430

And we had to cut up always.

306

00:17:44,430 --> 00:17:46,830

There was somebody
in charge to cut up

307

00:17:46,830 --> 00:17:48,990

the bread in five portions.

308

00:17:48,990 --> 00:17:50,630

And everybody used to fight--

309

00:17:50,630 --> 00:17:53,200

one portion shouldn't be
bigger than the other portion.

310

00:17:53,200 --> 00:17:55,830

311

00:17:55,830 --> 00:17:58,575

So my sister used
to cut the bread.

312

00:17:58,575 --> 00:18:00,810

And we used to be together
with my two cousins.

313

00:18:00,810 --> 00:18:02,910

I had two cousins
and two of my--

314

00:18:02,910 --> 00:18:06,660

and me, and my sister, and
another person was with us.

315

00:18:06,660 --> 00:18:10,560

We were five together, like
five people in the line.

316

00:18:10,560 --> 00:18:14,160

Every time they divided the
bread, we used to fight.

317

00:18:14,160 --> 00:18:17,130

My cousin used to cut the
bread, my sister used to fight.

318
00:18:17,130 --> 00:18:19,530
My sister used to cut the
bread, my cousin used to fight.

319
00:18:19,530 --> 00:18:21,280
They were always
afraid one portion

320
00:18:21,280 --> 00:18:25,000
is bigger than another portion.

321
00:18:25,000 --> 00:18:29,350
And we had to save some
bread for the following day,

322
00:18:29,350 --> 00:18:32,720
because we didn't get
nothing the following day.

323
00:18:32,720 --> 00:18:36,950
We had to save to take to work.

324
00:18:36,950 --> 00:18:39,040
By the time we get
up in the morning,

325
00:18:39,040 --> 00:18:41,050
the bread used to be gone.

326
00:18:41,050 --> 00:18:43,590
Somebody stole a piece of bread.

327
00:18:43,590 --> 00:18:45,730
So the following day when
we had to go to work,

328
00:18:45,730 --> 00:18:50,300
we had nothing to take with us,
because the bread was stolen.

329

00:18:50,300 --> 00:18:52,630

So we worked all day,
only a little coffee

330

00:18:52,630 --> 00:18:58,720

in the morning, and
nothing all day.

331

00:18:58,720 --> 00:19:06,325

We worked in that factory for
three months the same place.

332

00:19:06,325 --> 00:19:10,050

333

00:19:10,050 --> 00:19:13,000

And we came to the night shift.

334

00:19:13,000 --> 00:19:14,050

I couldn't take it.

335

00:19:14,050 --> 00:19:15,390

I couldn't do it.

336

00:19:15,390 --> 00:19:17,730

I just collapsed.

337

00:19:17,730 --> 00:19:20,970

A few times, I collapsed
by the machine.

338

00:19:20,970 --> 00:19:25,110

And the foreman saw that.

339

00:19:25,110 --> 00:19:29,250

So he took me and he gave
me something else to do,

340

00:19:29,250 --> 00:19:34,140

like little polishing little
brass covers for the bottles.

341

00:19:34,140 --> 00:19:37,260

He took me into a little
room, and he told me to do--

342

00:19:37,260 --> 00:19:40,260

sit there and just to polish
those little brass covers.

343

00:19:40,260 --> 00:19:45,110

344

00:19:45,110 --> 00:19:48,950

The following time when I
was working by the trucks,

345

00:19:48,950 --> 00:19:53,960

again, the SS was
watching us there already.

346

00:19:53,960 --> 00:19:58,370

I was loading the
bottles, and I just--

347

00:19:58,370 --> 00:20:01,370

each bottle I used to put
on the truck, I used to cry,

348

00:20:01,370 --> 00:20:04,040

because I couldn't
do it anymore.

349

00:20:04,040 --> 00:20:09,980

I was crying, and crying, but
there was no way out for me.

350

00:20:09,980 --> 00:20:12,600

They were watching us.

351

00:20:12,600 --> 00:20:18,260

And one day, I just
collapsed again.

352

00:20:18,260 --> 00:20:21,260

So the SS man went
into the foreman

353

00:20:21,260 --> 00:20:24,500

and told him that I have to go.

354

00:20:24,500 --> 00:20:27,000

She's not capable
to work anymore.

355

00:20:27,000 --> 00:20:29,480

She's got to go.

356

00:20:29,480 --> 00:20:31,900

So he knew already.

357

00:20:31,900 --> 00:20:33,900

The foreman knew
if I have to go,

358

00:20:33,900 --> 00:20:35,570

he knew where I would wind up.

359

00:20:35,570 --> 00:20:39,750

They would take me away
to the crematorium.

360

00:20:39,750 --> 00:20:44,420

So he told to the SS guard,
I have something else

361

00:20:44,420 --> 00:20:45,290

for her to do.

362

00:20:45,290 --> 00:20:46,490

I need her.

363

00:20:46,490 --> 00:20:50,060

I have other things
what she can do inside.

364

00:20:50,060 --> 00:20:52,490
So he was really my lifesaver.

365
00:20:52,490 --> 00:20:55,640
He had a little
compassion himself,

366
00:20:55,640 --> 00:20:58,790
because, I don't know, he just--

367
00:20:58,790 --> 00:21:01,850
I was lucky, I guess.

368
00:21:01,850 --> 00:21:03,440
So he took me inside
for a little--

369
00:21:03,440 --> 00:21:04,460
He was a civilian?

370
00:21:04,460 --> 00:21:05,570
He was a civilian.

371
00:21:05,570 --> 00:21:09,600
He was the foreman
from the factory.

372
00:21:09,600 --> 00:21:12,320
So he took me inside to a
little room, and he told me,

373
00:21:12,320 --> 00:21:16,670
you know what, just sit
here in the little room

374
00:21:16,670 --> 00:21:18,230
till you're ready to go home.

375
00:21:18,230 --> 00:21:21,510
You don't have to do nothing.

376
00:21:21,510 --> 00:21:24,090

And this saved my life.

377

00:21:24,090 --> 00:21:27,620

When the time came, we went
back home to the barracks again.

378

00:21:27,620 --> 00:21:31,670

379

00:21:31,670 --> 00:21:34,550

So we got the same food again.

380

00:21:34,550 --> 00:21:40,170

We had a big washroom there,
like quite a few sinks.

381

00:21:40,170 --> 00:21:42,020

And every day when
we went home, we

382

00:21:42,020 --> 00:21:44,420

were able to wash
ourselves-- wash our hands,

383

00:21:44,420 --> 00:21:48,050

take off our dresses,
and rinse them out.

384

00:21:48,050 --> 00:21:49,940

Until the morning,
we used to hang them

385

00:21:49,940 --> 00:21:53,110

on the edge of the bed
to dry a little bit.

386

00:21:53,110 --> 00:21:56,170

387

00:21:56,170 --> 00:22:02,650

And this was going on till
November in the ammunition

388

00:22:02,650 --> 00:22:04,650
factory.

389

00:22:04,650 --> 00:22:08,590
And one day, one night when we
came back from the factory we

390

00:22:08,590 --> 00:22:13,450
heard next morning that
the factory was bombed.

391

00:22:13,450 --> 00:22:16,420
We couldn't go back no more.

392

00:22:16,420 --> 00:22:18,590
So we were glad the
factory was bombed.

393

00:22:18,590 --> 00:22:22,990
We didn't have to go work
in the factory anymore.

394

00:22:22,990 --> 00:22:30,520
So after that-- it was
in the end of November--

395

00:22:30,520 --> 00:22:35,270
they took us to work
on the construction,

396

00:22:35,270 --> 00:22:39,920
construction work some
place on the farm.

397

00:22:39,920 --> 00:22:41,110
I don't know where it was.

398

00:22:41,110 --> 00:22:44,460

399

00:22:44,460 --> 00:22:49,980
My job was loading the

sand from the trucks--

400

00:22:49,980 --> 00:22:56,190

the cement, I'm sorry, and
mixing the cement with my feet.

401

00:22:56,190 --> 00:22:59,290

402

00:22:59,290 --> 00:23:00,600

It was cold already.

403

00:23:00,600 --> 00:23:03,510

In November, it was very cold.

404

00:23:03,510 --> 00:23:04,740

I had to mix.

405

00:23:04,740 --> 00:23:08,040

The cement came up to my knees,
and I had to stand and dance

406

00:23:08,040 --> 00:23:09,460

in the cement.

407

00:23:09,460 --> 00:23:11,220

And I couldn't do it.

408

00:23:11,220 --> 00:23:12,430

I just was too weak.

409

00:23:12,430 --> 00:23:13,140

I couldn't.

410

00:23:13,140 --> 00:23:14,460

I had to dance in there.

411

00:23:14,460 --> 00:23:19,020

And in those area, the SS woman
was standing on top of me.

412

00:23:19,020 --> 00:23:22,860

Each time I stopped,
she was hitting me

413

00:23:22,860 --> 00:23:25,530

with the rubber
hose over my head.

414

00:23:25,530 --> 00:23:29,910

And I just had to go on jumping
around, and I was crying.

415

00:23:29,910 --> 00:23:31,900

Each time I lifted my
foot, I was crying.

416

00:23:31,900 --> 00:23:33,960

I couldn't do it.

417

00:23:33,960 --> 00:23:36,910

I couldn't feel my legs anymore.

418

00:23:36,910 --> 00:23:42,540

I felt that my legs
were coming off.

419

00:23:42,540 --> 00:23:45,120

But she didn't-- she was
so mean, she didn't care.

420

00:23:45,120 --> 00:23:49,040

421

00:23:49,040 --> 00:23:50,180

I was mixing it.

422

00:23:50,180 --> 00:23:54,230

I felt like the sand
was pulling my skin off.

423

00:23:54,230 --> 00:23:57,050

I got full of blisters,
and the skin was just

424
00:23:57,050 --> 00:24:00,740
coming off from my feet.

425
00:24:00,740 --> 00:24:05,750
And she was standing on top
of me till I collapsed again.

426
00:24:05,750 --> 00:24:06,630
So she left me.

427
00:24:06,630 --> 00:24:09,800
She told somebody to
come and pick me up.

428
00:24:09,800 --> 00:24:15,650
After they picked me
up, I couldn't move.

429
00:24:15,650 --> 00:24:17,510
My legs were full of sores.

430
00:24:17,510 --> 00:24:18,830
The skin was coming off.

431
00:24:18,830 --> 00:24:23,090
I tried washing off my
legs from the cement.

432
00:24:23,090 --> 00:24:29,120
Just the skin was all red,
all bloody, and everything.

433
00:24:29,120 --> 00:24:32,970
I couldn't go on.

434
00:24:32,970 --> 00:24:36,750
So finally, the day was over.

435
00:24:36,750 --> 00:24:40,153
We went back to their barracks.

436

00:24:40,153 --> 00:24:41,820

And we were working
on this construction

437

00:24:41,820 --> 00:24:44,210

work for four weeks.

438

00:24:44,210 --> 00:24:50,240

We broke up the roads, and
we had to make new roads--

439

00:24:50,240 --> 00:24:53,090

labor work.

440

00:24:53,090 --> 00:25:00,050

And between working on the
roads, we were like in a--

441

00:25:00,050 --> 00:25:04,880

close by was an empty
field, like these ditches.

442

00:25:04,880 --> 00:25:08,870

We had to dig graves.

443

00:25:08,870 --> 00:25:11,120

We were digging graves.

444

00:25:11,120 --> 00:25:14,300

The girls, some girls, were
working on the construction

445

00:25:14,300 --> 00:25:17,750

work and some were
digging the graves.

446

00:25:17,750 --> 00:25:19,280

We were digging the graves.

447

00:25:19,280 --> 00:25:21,680

And everybody was
saying, we probably

448
00:25:21,680 --> 00:25:24,590
are digging the
graves for ourselves.

449
00:25:24,590 --> 00:25:26,355
When we're finished
digging the graves,

450
00:25:26,355 --> 00:25:27,785
they'll throw us in the graves.

451
00:25:27,785 --> 00:25:30,750
They'll get rid of us.

452
00:25:30,750 --> 00:25:32,045
We didn't know what to expect.

453
00:25:32,045 --> 00:25:36,680

454
00:25:36,680 --> 00:25:40,400
So I'm finished
digging the graves.

455
00:25:40,400 --> 00:25:41,890
The day was over.

456
00:25:41,890 --> 00:25:43,110
Nothing happened.

457
00:25:43,110 --> 00:25:46,700
We were saved.

458
00:25:46,700 --> 00:25:48,730
So when the evening
came again, we

459
00:25:48,730 --> 00:25:54,160
were glad to go
back to the camp.

460

00:25:54,160 --> 00:25:56,860

We got back to the camp.

461

00:25:56,860 --> 00:25:59,440

The same thing-- we

were given, again,

462

00:25:59,440 --> 00:26:03,460

the same ladle of potato soup.

463

00:26:03,460 --> 00:26:05,890

And she used to

come those areas,

464

00:26:05,890 --> 00:26:10,390

and used to come in every

night looking us over,

465

00:26:10,390 --> 00:26:12,880

seeing if everything was--

466

00:26:12,880 --> 00:26:14,650

everybody had to be so quiet.

467

00:26:14,650 --> 00:26:16,330

We were so frightened of her.

468

00:26:16,330 --> 00:26:20,200

Each time she came in, everybody

was shivering and shaking,

469

00:26:20,200 --> 00:26:22,330

because she used

to pass our beds

470

00:26:22,330 --> 00:26:25,480

and just hit everybody

with no reason.

471

00:26:25,480 --> 00:26:30,710

472

00:26:30,710 --> 00:26:32,060

She was very mean.

473

00:26:32,060 --> 00:26:36,720

I really cannot understand
a young woman, 22 years old,

474

00:26:36,720 --> 00:26:41,180

how much hatred
she had in herself.

475

00:26:41,180 --> 00:26:44,600

There was a Scharf $\frac{1}{4}$ hrer
us too, but he never came

476

00:26:44,600 --> 00:26:47,450

into the barracks.

477

00:26:47,450 --> 00:26:49,350

He just told her what to do.

478

00:26:49,350 --> 00:26:52,400

She was in charge
of the whole thing.

479

00:26:52,400 --> 00:26:57,050

Because I guess a man
was a little bit more

480

00:26:57,050 --> 00:26:58,508

compassionate than a woman.

481

00:26:58,508 --> 00:26:59,050

I don't know.

482

00:26:59,050 --> 00:27:01,850

483

00:27:01,850 --> 00:27:05,510

So this was, again,
the following morning.

484

00:27:05,510 --> 00:27:07,450

I was called already outside.

485

00:27:07,450 --> 00:27:08,230

It was winter.

486

00:27:08,230 --> 00:27:10,610

It was raining.

487

00:27:10,610 --> 00:27:12,940

We had to stay again
the following morning

488

00:27:12,940 --> 00:27:16,330

outside from 5:30 to 7 o'clock.

489

00:27:16,330 --> 00:27:17,680

The rain was coming down.

490

00:27:17,680 --> 00:27:18,805

It was hailing.

491

00:27:18,805 --> 00:27:22,120

It was already December.

492

00:27:22,120 --> 00:27:25,060

It was snowing.

493

00:27:25,060 --> 00:27:29,400

Our clothes used to get frozen--

494

00:27:29,400 --> 00:27:31,980

just used to stay
away frozen stiff.

495

00:27:31,980 --> 00:27:33,780

And then by the
winter, but December,

496

00:27:33,780 --> 00:27:36,180

we used to get a

little flannel vest

497

00:27:36,180 --> 00:27:37,425
to put on under the dresses.

498

00:27:37,425 --> 00:27:39,930

499

00:27:39,930 --> 00:27:42,510
And the people were
called, they were freezing.

500

00:27:42,510 --> 00:27:44,370
So some of the women,
we used to take

501

00:27:44,370 --> 00:27:46,560
pieces of stripes
of the blankets,

502

00:27:46,560 --> 00:27:51,540
tear off, and wrap around
us under the dresses

503

00:27:51,540 --> 00:27:54,340
to keep us a little warm.

504

00:27:54,340 --> 00:28:01,350
And when we stayed
Zahlappell, this SS woman,

505

00:28:01,350 --> 00:28:06,690
she noticed anybody who had
something under the dress.

506

00:28:06,690 --> 00:28:09,360
She came over.

507

00:28:09,360 --> 00:28:12,030
My sister had a piece of
blanket, and I had to a piece.

508

00:28:12,030 --> 00:28:13,920
She wrapped a piece
of blanket on me.

509
00:28:13,920 --> 00:28:16,510
She came over.

510
00:28:16,510 --> 00:28:19,095
She pulled my sister
out from the line.

511
00:28:19,095 --> 00:28:22,140

512
00:28:22,140 --> 00:28:24,120
She took her into the washroom.

513
00:28:24,120 --> 00:28:25,860
I never told this to nobody.

514
00:28:25,860 --> 00:28:29,220
She took her into the washroom.

515
00:28:29,220 --> 00:28:30,990
She started beating her.

516
00:28:30,990 --> 00:28:35,100
She hit her head
again the sinks.

517
00:28:35,100 --> 00:28:39,360
She was bleeding.

518
00:28:39,360 --> 00:28:41,340
Her nose was broken.

519
00:28:41,340 --> 00:28:44,790
Her mouth was-- the
teeth broke off.

520
00:28:44,790 --> 00:28:48,240
She hit her head so hard,

and she was beating her,

521

00:28:48,240 --> 00:28:50,370

and she let the water
run on top of her head

522

00:28:50,370 --> 00:28:52,720

while she was beating her.

523

00:28:52,720 --> 00:28:55,980

By the time my sister
came out from there,

524

00:28:55,980 --> 00:28:58,560

she was all black and blue.

525

00:28:58,560 --> 00:28:59,415

She couldn't talk.

526

00:28:59,415 --> 00:29:05,400

527

00:29:05,400 --> 00:29:06,900

She was near death.

528

00:29:06,900 --> 00:29:08,845

She was like almost gone.

529

00:29:08,845 --> 00:29:11,560

530

00:29:11,560 --> 00:29:14,485

Then she did the same thing to
another friend of my sister's.

531

00:29:14,485 --> 00:29:18,140

532

00:29:18,140 --> 00:29:23,300

Anybody came out of the washroom
was a miracle still alive.

533

00:29:23,300 --> 00:29:24,550

I don't know how they made it.

534

00:29:24,550 --> 00:29:29,870

535

00:29:29,870 --> 00:29:35,030

Then one day-- my poor sister
didn't even say nothing.

536

00:29:35,030 --> 00:29:40,760

She was-- she couldn't
talk about it.

537

00:29:40,760 --> 00:29:45,760

And so one day, she
took me out of the line.

538

00:29:45,760 --> 00:29:47,920

I was suspicious to her, too.

539

00:29:47,920 --> 00:29:51,550

She dragged me out of the
line, and she pulled--

540

00:29:51,550 --> 00:29:54,160

I had a piece of blanket, and
she pulled a piece of blanket

541

00:29:54,160 --> 00:29:55,570

off me.

542

00:29:55,570 --> 00:29:57,070

She didn't take me
to the washroom.

543

00:29:57,070 --> 00:29:58,510

I was lucky.

544

00:29:58,510 --> 00:30:01,870

She just started beating me
right in front of the people.

545
00:30:01,870 --> 00:30:05,590
And she threw me to
the floor so my nose--

546
00:30:05,590 --> 00:30:06,880
I started gushing.

547
00:30:06,880 --> 00:30:08,785
The blood started
gushing out from my nose,

548
00:30:08,785 --> 00:30:10,570
and from my mouth--
from all of over.

549
00:30:10,570 --> 00:30:13,080

550
00:30:13,080 --> 00:30:16,050
So she told me to pick up the
piece of blanket she tore off,

551
00:30:16,050 --> 00:30:17,925
take the piece of
blanket, and wipe myself.

552
00:30:17,925 --> 00:30:20,490

553
00:30:20,490 --> 00:30:21,730
So that's what I did.

554
00:30:21,730 --> 00:30:27,730
But my head was bothering
me for days since then.

555
00:30:27,730 --> 00:30:29,040
So I was like--

556
00:30:29,040 --> 00:30:31,590

557

00:30:31,590 --> 00:30:33,180

I didn't know what was going on.

558

00:30:33,180 --> 00:30:35,910

559

00:30:35,910 --> 00:30:38,010

That was the last time

I put a piece of blanket

560

00:30:38,010 --> 00:30:38,970

on me and my sister.

561

00:30:38,970 --> 00:30:41,700

We never did it again.

562

00:30:41,700 --> 00:30:44,880

So we had to go to

work that day again.

563

00:30:44,880 --> 00:30:50,700

We were working in the

field digging ditches.

564

00:30:50,700 --> 00:30:55,040

We had to dig the ditches

out and cut trees down.

565

00:30:55,040 --> 00:30:56,730

It was winter.

566

00:30:56,730 --> 00:30:57,735

It was raining.

567

00:30:57,735 --> 00:30:58,890

It was pouring.

568

00:30:58,890 --> 00:31:01,800

It was hailing outside.

569

00:31:01,800 --> 00:31:06,380
It was impossible to work.

570
00:31:06,380 --> 00:31:11,970
We start-- a few girls try to
get together and stand back

571
00:31:11,970 --> 00:31:14,070
to back together to--

572
00:31:14,070 --> 00:31:17,460
the rain shouldn't
hit us so much.

573
00:31:17,460 --> 00:31:22,450
And she saw, the SS woman,
that we were standing together

574
00:31:22,450 --> 00:31:23,790
and didn't do nothing.

575
00:31:23,790 --> 00:31:27,510
She came over and started
beating everybody with a rubber

576
00:31:27,510 --> 00:31:30,440
hose-- back to work.

577
00:31:30,440 --> 00:31:31,770
We couldn't see nothing.

578
00:31:31,770 --> 00:31:35,160
It was everything
was just coming down

579
00:31:35,160 --> 00:31:37,950
like in buckets, the rain.

580
00:31:37,950 --> 00:31:39,630
And everything was frozen.

581
00:31:39,630 --> 00:31:40,530

It was winter.

582

00:31:40,530 --> 00:31:43,650

It was December.

583

00:31:43,650 --> 00:31:46,770

We had to-- we couldn't

hold on to the ditches.

584

00:31:46,770 --> 00:31:47,910

It was all frozen.

585

00:31:47,910 --> 00:31:52,840

It was all icy, but they

didn't-- she didn't care.

586

00:31:52,840 --> 00:31:53,970

We had to.

587

00:31:53,970 --> 00:31:57,630

We were cutting the ditches,

digging the ditches,

588

00:31:57,630 --> 00:31:59,640

and crying.

589

00:31:59,640 --> 00:32:02,760

Every time we touched the

ditch, we were crying.

590

00:32:02,760 --> 00:32:04,740

My hands, I felt I have--

591

00:32:04,740 --> 00:32:06,240

my fingers were frozen.

592

00:32:06,240 --> 00:32:08,820

My legs, my toes, were froze.

593

00:32:08,820 --> 00:32:10,230

I didn't feel my body.

594

00:32:10,230 --> 00:32:12,210

My face was frozen.

595

00:32:12,210 --> 00:32:13,480

I didn't feel anything.

596

00:32:13,480 --> 00:32:16,600

I couldn't feel, and

I was just crying.

597

00:32:16,600 --> 00:32:19,020

I couldn't do nothing.

598

00:32:19,020 --> 00:32:20,290

She came over.

599

00:32:20,290 --> 00:32:25,840

She started beating the people
if she so anybody standing.

600

00:32:25,840 --> 00:32:35,440

It was really impossible to do
anything, but she didn't care.

601

00:32:35,440 --> 00:32:40,200

We couldn't wait for
the day to be over again

602

00:32:40,200 --> 00:32:43,730

to go back to the barracks.

603

00:32:43,730 --> 00:32:47,960

We stood on the
trucks lining up.

604

00:32:47,960 --> 00:32:52,430

Everybody was squashed in
going back, and it was--

605

00:32:52,430 --> 00:32:55,100

the rain was hitting everybody.

606

00:32:55,100 --> 00:32:59,540

Everybody was just
soaken like a cat,

607

00:32:59,540 --> 00:33:02,231

soaken through and through.

608

00:33:02,231 --> 00:33:04,580

By the time we got
back to their barracks,

609

00:33:04,580 --> 00:33:10,070

we were happy that we could
take off our wet clothes

610

00:33:10,070 --> 00:33:12,410

and get dried up a little bit.

611

00:33:12,410 --> 00:33:14,930

The toes were frozen.

612

00:33:14,930 --> 00:33:16,910

We couldn't feel our hands.

613

00:33:16,910 --> 00:33:19,200

We couldn't feel our feet.

614

00:33:19,200 --> 00:33:26,810

We used to take the towels and
rub our legs to get them back,

615

00:33:26,810 --> 00:33:29,795

because we thought there
was-- we didn't feel anything.

616

00:33:29,795 --> 00:33:33,560

617

00:33:33,560 --> 00:33:36,710

So the following--
that was December.

618

00:33:36,710 --> 00:33:40,885

That was going on every
day, the same thing.

619

00:33:40,885 --> 00:33:44,440

And one day, again, we
had to go stand Zahlappell

620

00:33:44,440 --> 00:33:47,080

the following morning.

621

00:33:47,080 --> 00:33:51,660

It was hailing badly.

622

00:33:51,660 --> 00:33:56,240

It was impossible to
take off for work.

623

00:33:56,240 --> 00:33:59,690

So we were standing
outside for hours

624

00:33:59,690 --> 00:34:03,470

in that rain, and
the snow, hailing.

625

00:34:03,470 --> 00:34:06,050

The big pieces were
coming down on us.

626

00:34:06,050 --> 00:34:08,150

Everybody was crying.

627

00:34:08,150 --> 00:34:10,770

We couldn't do nothing.

628

00:34:10,770 --> 00:34:14,120

And if she saw somebody
didn't stand up straight,

629

00:34:14,120 --> 00:34:18,739

she made us stand on one

leg with our hands up.

630

00:34:18,739 --> 00:34:20,000

Everybody?

631

00:34:20,000 --> 00:34:21,335

Whoever couldn't stand straight.

632

00:34:21,335 --> 00:34:24,110

Whoever couldn't stand.

633

00:34:24,110 --> 00:34:25,850

I couldn't stand up on one leg.

634

00:34:25,850 --> 00:34:26,389

How could I?

635

00:34:26,389 --> 00:34:27,080

It was raining.

636

00:34:27,080 --> 00:34:27,739

It was pouring.

637

00:34:27,739 --> 00:34:28,460

It was cold.

638

00:34:28,460 --> 00:34:30,080

I couldn't even make it anymore.

639

00:34:30,080 --> 00:34:31,610

I couldn't stand.

640

00:34:31,610 --> 00:34:33,560

And I kept on falling down.

641

00:34:33,560 --> 00:34:38,030

Every time I kept on falling
down, she used to hit me.

642

00:34:38,030 --> 00:34:40,523

I didn't even feel

the beatings anymore.

643

00:34:40,523 --> 00:34:44,600

644

00:34:44,600 --> 00:34:50,870

So then the rain
didn't stop for hours.

645

00:34:50,870 --> 00:34:52,150

So we went in.

646

00:34:52,150 --> 00:34:57,200

So she saw that it's
impossible to go to the fields.

647

00:34:57,200 --> 00:35:00,850

So we went into the
barracks for a little while.

648

00:35:00,850 --> 00:35:04,090

And then she decided that
wouldn't be good enough.

649

00:35:04,090 --> 00:35:08,860

She took us back out in
that storm, in that rain,

650

00:35:08,860 --> 00:35:12,350

and she took us
back to the fields.

651

00:35:12,350 --> 00:35:15,336

We got back to the fields.

652

00:35:15,336 --> 00:35:20,660

It was impossible to put
the shovel in the ground.

653

00:35:20,660 --> 00:35:21,160

We couldn't.

654

00:35:21,160 --> 00:35:22,450

It was frozen.

655

00:35:22,450 --> 00:35:23,545

Everything was an icicle.

656

00:35:23,545 --> 00:35:26,850

657

00:35:26,850 --> 00:35:28,590

We had to just stand there.

658

00:35:28,590 --> 00:35:30,930

And then she was watching.

659

00:35:30,930 --> 00:35:34,290

She had to try and
push the shovel down,

660

00:35:34,290 --> 00:35:39,526

and it took us hours to
just to put the shovel in.

661

00:35:39,526 --> 00:35:43,790

When she didn't look, we
just stood around there.

662

00:35:43,790 --> 00:35:47,025

And we got into bunches, and we
stood with our backs together--

663

00:35:47,025 --> 00:35:48,780

the rain shouldn't
hit us so badly.

664

00:35:48,780 --> 00:35:51,770

665

00:35:51,770 --> 00:35:54,990

When she used to see that
again, she used to come again,

666

00:35:54,990 --> 00:35:56,210
do the same thing--

667
00:35:56,210 --> 00:35:57,145
pulling us apart.

668
00:35:57,145 --> 00:36:00,020

669
00:36:00,020 --> 00:36:01,670
Finally, the day was over.

670
00:36:01,670 --> 00:36:05,960
She saw that this was no use
for us to stay on all day.

671
00:36:05,960 --> 00:36:07,160
It was bad.

672
00:36:07,160 --> 00:36:09,845
So she took us back to
home, to the barracks.

673
00:36:09,845 --> 00:36:13,090

674
00:36:13,090 --> 00:36:21,250
This was going on for
December and January--

675
00:36:21,250 --> 00:36:27,280
working in the fields in
the cold, and in the snow,

676
00:36:27,280 --> 00:36:30,310
in the rain, and whatever.

677
00:36:30,310 --> 00:36:34,360
It was the worst.

678
00:36:34,360 --> 00:36:40,290
One day I started

coughing badly.

679

00:36:40,290 --> 00:36:43,080

I started coughing up blood.

680

00:36:43,080 --> 00:36:46,740

I had a high temperature.

681

00:36:46,740 --> 00:36:50,430

I couldn't go out.

682

00:36:50,430 --> 00:36:52,950

Next morning, I just
couldn't go out to the field.

683

00:36:52,950 --> 00:36:57,600

I stood in line there,
and I just collapsed.

684

00:36:57,600 --> 00:37:01,590

I couldn't help it.

685

00:37:01,590 --> 00:37:02,910

And she saw, the officer.

686

00:37:02,910 --> 00:37:04,500

And she saw me collapsing.

687

00:37:04,500 --> 00:37:08,237

And she's-- my sister went
out and told her that I have

688

00:37:08,237 --> 00:37:08,820

a temperature.

689

00:37:08,820 --> 00:37:11,940

I'm running a temperature,
and I'm coughing up blood.

690

00:37:11,940 --> 00:37:14,520

691

00:37:14,520 --> 00:37:18,930

So she agreed to
leave me, the one day,

692

00:37:18,930 --> 00:37:21,420

stay back in the barracks.

693

00:37:21,420 --> 00:37:25,455

I didn't go out that day.

694

00:37:25,455 --> 00:37:30,460

For one or two days
she left me there.

695

00:37:30,460 --> 00:37:35,830

Following after the two days,
I had to go back to the fields

696

00:37:35,830 --> 00:37:36,410

to work.

697

00:37:36,410 --> 00:37:40,400

698

00:37:40,400 --> 00:37:42,480

I couldn't go on.

699

00:37:42,480 --> 00:37:43,850

I just couldn't do it.

700

00:37:43,850 --> 00:37:46,790

I just collapsed
every time I went out.

701

00:37:46,790 --> 00:37:49,035

I collapsed.

702

00:37:49,035 --> 00:37:49,860

It was hailing.

703

00:37:49,860 --> 00:37:50,990

It was raining.

704

00:37:50,990 --> 00:37:51,710

It was cold.

705

00:37:51,710 --> 00:37:53,150

I couldn't do it.

706

00:37:53,150 --> 00:37:53,760

I don't know.

707

00:37:53,760 --> 00:37:56,420

Somehow I was lucky.

708

00:37:56,420 --> 00:37:58,430

I was afraid she'll
take me and send me away

709

00:37:58,430 --> 00:37:59,690

to the crematorium.

710

00:37:59,690 --> 00:38:02,430

711

00:38:02,430 --> 00:38:04,130

So she just ignored me.

712

00:38:04,130 --> 00:38:06,620

That day when I went
out, she ignored me.

713

00:38:06,620 --> 00:38:10,400

She didn't bother me.

714

00:38:10,400 --> 00:38:15,080

So everybody was working,
cutting the trees down,

715

00:38:15,080 --> 00:38:16,310

whatever we could do.

716

00:38:16,310 --> 00:38:19,202

717

00:38:19,202 --> 00:38:22,045

It was impossible to--

718

00:38:22,045 --> 00:38:23,060

it was snowing.

719

00:38:23,060 --> 00:38:24,430

It was bad.

720

00:38:24,430 --> 00:38:25,110

It was winter.

721

00:38:25,110 --> 00:38:27,660

722

00:38:27,660 --> 00:38:31,050

We went back to
their barracks again.

723

00:38:31,050 --> 00:38:34,890

And once a week, we used
to get a piece of soap

724

00:38:34,890 --> 00:38:36,300

to wash ourselves.

725

00:38:36,300 --> 00:38:39,300

726

00:38:39,300 --> 00:38:44,540

And we heard that
the soap was made

727

00:38:44,540 --> 00:38:49,700

from the people's bodies,
the people who they

728

00:38:49,700 --> 00:38:52,040

burned in the crematoriums.

729
00:38:52,040 --> 00:38:54,510
The soap was made
from their fat,

730
00:38:54,510 --> 00:38:58,550
from the people's body fat.

731
00:38:58,550 --> 00:38:59,910
That was the talk.

732
00:38:59,910 --> 00:39:01,580
That was what they were saying.

733
00:39:01,580 --> 00:39:03,220
How did you hear this?

734
00:39:03,220 --> 00:39:06,290
The girls were
talking to the people.

735
00:39:06,290 --> 00:39:11,200
I think the guards used
to tell, the blockalteste,

736
00:39:11,200 --> 00:39:13,160
who was in charge of us.

737
00:39:13,160 --> 00:39:19,220
The guards used to tell
them a lot of things,

738
00:39:19,220 --> 00:39:27,110
what was going on, that the soap
was made from the people's fat

739
00:39:27,110 --> 00:39:28,280
from the bodies.

740
00:39:28,280 --> 00:39:30,730
That's what they were
telling, the lageraltestes.

741
00:39:30,730 --> 00:39:33,760

742
00:39:33,760 --> 00:39:37,610
Everybody was talking about it.

743
00:39:37,610 --> 00:39:41,170
So every time I used to
take the soap on my hands,

744
00:39:41,170 --> 00:39:43,750
I used to cry and
squeeze the soap.

745
00:39:43,750 --> 00:39:51,190
I said, gee, maybe I'm washing
with my own mother's flesh

746
00:39:51,190 --> 00:39:52,270
my body.

747
00:39:52,270 --> 00:39:57,985
Who knows whose flesh, whose
body, I have on my hands?

748
00:39:57,985 --> 00:40:01,210
And every time I used
to take the soap, that

749
00:40:01,210 --> 00:40:05,200
was going into my mind.

750
00:40:05,200 --> 00:40:10,250
My mother, the kids,
my other families--

751
00:40:10,250 --> 00:40:17,230
it used to make me sick just to
think about it to use the soap.

752
00:40:17,230 --> 00:40:19,850

Even when we were
eating the potatoes,

753
00:40:19,850 --> 00:40:23,970
there was pieces of
meat in it, there was--

754
00:40:23,970 --> 00:40:27,910
we were saying, maybe
this is the meat

755
00:40:27,910 --> 00:40:29,080
from the people's bodies.

756
00:40:29,080 --> 00:40:32,620
We don't know what we're eating.

757
00:40:32,620 --> 00:40:35,920
But really, we didn't care,
because everybody was hungry.

758
00:40:35,920 --> 00:40:38,380
Everybody was eating
whatever they had.

759
00:40:38,380 --> 00:40:40,810
And a lot of times,
the girls used

760
00:40:40,810 --> 00:40:43,060
to go to the garbage
cans at night

761
00:40:43,060 --> 00:40:48,370
when the SS were
inside already and pick

762
00:40:48,370 --> 00:40:52,960
potato peels, rotten
potatoes, whatever they found,

763
00:40:52,960 --> 00:40:55,690
to take inside, and hiding

it under their dresses,

764

00:40:55,690 --> 00:40:58,760
and bring it inside to eat--

765

00:40:58,760 --> 00:41:01,180
even the dog dishes.

766

00:41:01,180 --> 00:41:03,940
They used to take the
food from the dogs,

767

00:41:03,940 --> 00:41:08,020
and bring it inside,
and then eat it.

768

00:41:08,020 --> 00:41:11,140
She ate it with other girls.

769

00:41:11,140 --> 00:41:12,620
My sister send me one.

770

00:41:12,620 --> 00:41:14,560
She says, why don't you
go and take something,

771

00:41:14,560 --> 00:41:17,230
to bring in something?

772

00:41:17,230 --> 00:41:22,432
I went as far as I go-- went
to the middle of the block,

773

00:41:22,432 --> 00:41:23,390
and then I turned back.

774

00:41:23,390 --> 00:41:25,810
The dogs started barking.

775

00:41:25,810 --> 00:41:27,250
I was so scared.

776

00:41:27,250 --> 00:41:28,240

So I ran back.

777

00:41:28,240 --> 00:41:29,050

I couldn't.

778

00:41:29,050 --> 00:41:31,180

I said to her, I cannot go.

779

00:41:31,180 --> 00:41:31,850

I'm afraid.

780

00:41:31,850 --> 00:41:34,210

The dogs barking.

781

00:41:34,210 --> 00:41:37,990

My cousins used to go and
bring always the potato peels.

782

00:41:37,990 --> 00:41:39,520

One of them was very--

783

00:41:39,520 --> 00:41:42,850

she had a lot of
guts on herself.

784

00:41:42,850 --> 00:41:45,400

And every time she used to
bring a little potato peel,

785

00:41:45,400 --> 00:41:50,680

she used to give me a piece and
my sister, to share it with us.

786

00:41:50,680 --> 00:41:51,820

People were hungry.

787

00:41:51,820 --> 00:41:54,490

The ladle of potato
soup at that time

788

00:41:54,490 --> 00:41:57,265
was not enough anymore when
all day working outside.

789
00:41:57,265 --> 00:42:00,820

790
00:42:00,820 --> 00:42:06,440
It was really unbelievable.

791
00:42:06,440 --> 00:42:11,650
And by the end of
January, everybody

792
00:42:11,650 --> 00:42:14,650
was already too
weak, was already--

793
00:42:14,650 --> 00:42:18,310
we were no more
used to the Germans.

794
00:42:18,310 --> 00:42:21,670
We were already
just skin and bone

795
00:42:21,670 --> 00:42:26,330
by the time we were
finished with our work.

796
00:42:26,330 --> 00:42:28,870
They had nothing to do
for us anymore, I guess.

797
00:42:28,870 --> 00:42:31,985
When you were there, did they
bring other people in there?

798
00:42:31,985 --> 00:42:32,485
No.

799
00:42:32,485 --> 00:42:33,420
Or you were the only ones?

800

00:42:33,420 --> 00:42:34,628

We were the only group there.

801

00:42:34,628 --> 00:42:35,620

We were the group 500.

802

00:42:35,620 --> 00:42:37,990

So they didn't necessarily have
anybody to replace you with?

803

00:42:37,990 --> 00:42:38,490

No, no.

804

00:42:38,490 --> 00:42:39,640

We were the only group--

805

00:42:39,640 --> 00:42:43,030

500 women in this
certain labor camp.

806

00:42:43,030 --> 00:42:45,760

807

00:42:45,760 --> 00:42:51,880

By the end of January we
couldn't go outside anymore,

808

00:42:51,880 --> 00:42:53,020

because it was really bad.

809

00:42:53,020 --> 00:42:55,005

The snow was big already.

810

00:42:55,005 --> 00:42:57,130

We couldn't do nothing in
the field either anymore.

811

00:42:57,130 --> 00:42:58,840

And we finished cutting--

812

00:42:58,840 --> 00:43:00,040
we finished that field.

813
00:43:00,040 --> 00:43:01,390
We finished cutting the trees.

814
00:43:01,390 --> 00:43:04,030
We finished digging
the ditches out.

815
00:43:04,030 --> 00:43:07,180
Everything was done.

816
00:43:07,180 --> 00:43:08,740
But it was end of January.

817
00:43:08,740 --> 00:43:13,420

818
00:43:13,420 --> 00:43:18,550
We didn't know we were-- they
made us clean up the camp

819
00:43:18,550 --> 00:43:19,510
there--

820
00:43:19,510 --> 00:43:24,060
everything, whatever was broken
in the washrooms, the sinks.

821
00:43:24,060 --> 00:43:27,640
Whatever was broken, we
had to fix, try fixing it,

822
00:43:27,640 --> 00:43:28,780
clean the yards--

823
00:43:28,780 --> 00:43:30,915
whatever they found
for us to do inside.

824
00:43:30,915 --> 00:43:36,100

825
00:43:36,100 --> 00:43:45,060
Then one day, we
heard the guards

826
00:43:45,060 --> 00:43:50,640
told the lageraltestes,
you know,

827
00:43:50,640 --> 00:43:52,410
the Russians are not far away.

828
00:43:52,410 --> 00:43:55,890
I think you'll be
liberated soon.

829
00:43:55,890 --> 00:43:58,750
We Germans will
have to run away.

830
00:43:58,750 --> 00:44:04,140
Don't worry, he said,
you're close to liberation.

831
00:44:04,140 --> 00:44:06,180
He was always-- must
have been a nice man.

832
00:44:06,180 --> 00:44:07,380
I don't know who he was.

833
00:44:07,380 --> 00:44:14,190
He always told the
lageralteste this was going on.

834
00:44:14,190 --> 00:44:19,050
One day they told us to
get out of the barrack--

835
00:44:19,050 --> 00:44:25,350
end of January--
to line up outside.

836
00:44:25,350 --> 00:44:29,100
We didn't know what's going on.

837
00:44:29,100 --> 00:44:38,820
We stood outside in
the driveway for hours.

838
00:44:38,820 --> 00:44:39,810
We waited.

839
00:44:39,810 --> 00:44:43,710
We stood there in
the cold weather.

840
00:44:43,710 --> 00:44:46,710
The dresses are frozen on us.

841
00:44:46,710 --> 00:44:48,090
Everything was just stiff--

842
00:44:48,090 --> 00:44:52,010

843
00:44:52,010 --> 00:44:56,045
stood for quite a few hours.

844
00:44:56,045 --> 00:45:00,920
Then finally they
told us we are going

845
00:45:00,920 --> 00:45:02,480
to be taken away from there.

846
00:45:02,480 --> 00:45:05,084

847
00:45:05,084 --> 00:45:09,750
And there was quite
a few guards around.

848

00:45:09,750 --> 00:45:12,450
We started walking out.

849
00:45:12,450 --> 00:45:14,100
The gates opened.

850
00:45:14,100 --> 00:45:17,760
We started walking
out of the gates.

851
00:45:17,760 --> 00:45:23,860
We walked into the
woods, and then walked

852
00:45:23,860 --> 00:45:25,180
through the whole woods.

853
00:45:25,180 --> 00:45:31,920
And then we walked
through a big field

854
00:45:31,920 --> 00:45:36,690
where the trucks were waiting
for us to be picked up.

855
00:45:36,690 --> 00:45:39,550
We didn't know where we
are going or anything.

856
00:45:39,550 --> 00:45:42,848

857
00:45:42,848 --> 00:45:45,770
We came, and the trucks was--

858
00:45:45,770 --> 00:45:49,210
with three trucks
for the 500 girls.

859
00:45:49,210 --> 00:45:52,610
And we were crushed in together.

860

00:45:52,610 --> 00:45:54,485
I was-- it was hailing outside.

861
00:45:54,485 --> 00:45:58,190
It was snowing.

862
00:45:58,190 --> 00:46:04,010
And we were riding for hours
to the side bumpy roads.

863
00:46:04,010 --> 00:46:04,790
I was lucky.

864
00:46:04,790 --> 00:46:08,810
I was skinny and
little, so I could

865
00:46:08,810 --> 00:46:10,610
stand between the taller girls.

866
00:46:10,610 --> 00:46:14,960
I didn't get wet as much as
they did, because the snow was

867
00:46:14,960 --> 00:46:16,370
hitting us.

868
00:46:16,370 --> 00:46:17,743
And we used to take snow.

869
00:46:17,743 --> 00:46:19,910
When the snow was falling,
we used to take the snow,

870
00:46:19,910 --> 00:46:23,210
and open our mouths, and to
get some water in ourselves

871
00:46:23,210 --> 00:46:24,770
to have something
in our stomachs.

872

00:46:24,770 --> 00:46:27,830

873

00:46:27,830 --> 00:46:31,310

We were riding for hours.

874

00:46:31,310 --> 00:46:34,880

We didn't know

where we were going.

875

00:46:34,880 --> 00:46:39,920

Finally, we got in to-- we saw
another-- like another lager.

876

00:46:39,920 --> 00:46:41,120

We got into another lager.

877

00:46:41,120 --> 00:46:45,400

878

00:46:45,400 --> 00:46:54,920

So we came to a barrack, and
they said it was Bergen-Belsen.

879

00:46:54,920 --> 00:46:58,170

We came to Bergen-Belsen.

880

00:46:58,170 --> 00:47:00,500

There was a sign, Bergen-Belsen,
but I didn't see it.

881

00:47:00,500 --> 00:47:01,580

But that's what I heard.

882

00:47:01,580 --> 00:47:04,421

They said, it's Bergen-Belsen.

883

00:47:04,421 --> 00:47:06,350

We got off the trucks.

884

00:47:06,350 --> 00:47:11,900

We were led into a block,

barrack number 220.

885

00:47:11,900 --> 00:47:14,540

There was a lot
of barracks there.

886

00:47:14,540 --> 00:47:16,370

But our barrack was 220.

887

00:47:16,370 --> 00:47:20,630

We were taken into that barrack.

888

00:47:20,630 --> 00:47:26,630

That was already people in that
barrack sitting on the floors.

889

00:47:26,630 --> 00:47:30,335

And our group was all
the way in the back.

890

00:47:30,335 --> 00:47:33,020

It was walking all the
way to-- we were sent

891

00:47:33,020 --> 00:47:35,810

all the way to sit in the back.

892

00:47:35,810 --> 00:47:39,660

We got into that
barracks and the floors.

893

00:47:39,660 --> 00:47:42,848

894

00:47:42,848 --> 00:47:47,780

We tried to be-- my sister,
and me, and my two cousins

895

00:47:47,780 --> 00:47:49,010

tried to be together.

896

00:47:49,010 --> 00:47:50,015

We were always together.

897

00:47:50,015 --> 00:47:53,070

898

00:47:53,070 --> 00:47:59,880

And every day they were
bringing in sick people

899

00:47:59,880 --> 00:48:01,140

from other places.

900

00:48:01,140 --> 00:48:02,745

It a huge barrack.

901

00:48:02,745 --> 00:48:05,070

It was, I don't know,
thousands of people

902

00:48:05,070 --> 00:48:08,640

went into that barracks, because
we were sitting like sardines.

903

00:48:08,640 --> 00:48:12,150

We had no room to lay down
on anything-- just sitting

904

00:48:12,150 --> 00:48:12,945

on the bare floors.

905

00:48:12,945 --> 00:48:15,840

906

00:48:15,840 --> 00:48:16,680

We got there.

907

00:48:16,680 --> 00:48:20,700

I got there, what was
it, the end of January.

908

00:48:20,700 --> 00:48:25,770

We were able to walk

around that time outside,

909

00:48:25,770 --> 00:48:28,710

and we were free to walk.

910

00:48:28,710 --> 00:48:32,680

Every day I went outside

looking for somebody.

911

00:48:32,680 --> 00:48:34,980

Maybe I was looking

for my sister, Rachel.

912

00:48:34,980 --> 00:48:38,250

Maybe she came in some place

in a different barrack.

913

00:48:38,250 --> 00:48:42,810

Maybe she is there or somebody

else from my relatives.

914

00:48:42,810 --> 00:48:45,720

Every day I used to go

out and look for somebody.

915

00:48:45,720 --> 00:48:52,150

916

00:48:52,150 --> 00:48:54,750

All of a sudden, I was

walking, I mean, every day.

917

00:48:54,750 --> 00:49:01,570

Then all of a sudden, I saw pits

on the streets, some big pits.

918

00:49:01,570 --> 00:49:04,630

It was already weeks later.

919

00:49:04,630 --> 00:49:08,590

And I looked in in those

pits, and I saw water

920

00:49:08,590 --> 00:49:11,500
in the pits, some water.

921

00:49:11,500 --> 00:49:15,190
And I went to take some
water to drink with my palms.

922

00:49:15,190 --> 00:49:20,950
I was taking the water, and I
felt something under the water.

923

00:49:20,950 --> 00:49:23,440
When I was drinking already
a few times the water,

924

00:49:23,440 --> 00:49:28,210
I saw the dead bodies laying
under the water with their hair

925

00:49:28,210 --> 00:49:33,370
floating around after I
was drinking the water.

926

00:49:33,370 --> 00:49:34,450
I didn't care.

927

00:49:34,450 --> 00:49:35,530
I was thirsty.

928

00:49:35,530 --> 00:49:38,680
I was already-- felt dry.

929

00:49:38,680 --> 00:49:40,300
I had to have something.

930

00:49:40,300 --> 00:49:41,350
And I went again.

931

00:49:41,350 --> 00:49:44,020
I took some water.

932

00:49:44,020 --> 00:49:47,500

It somehow didn't bother me,
the dead bodies laying around

933

00:49:47,500 --> 00:49:49,480

there.

934

00:49:49,480 --> 00:49:51,940

And a few times, I went.

935

00:49:51,940 --> 00:49:53,620

I went a few days.

936

00:49:53,620 --> 00:49:57,910

I went same thing,
to look for water,

937

00:49:57,910 --> 00:50:01,150

till one day the pits
were already so filled up

938

00:50:01,150 --> 00:50:04,350

with the bodies I couldn't
get some water anymore.

939

00:50:04,350 --> 00:50:07,540

940

00:50:07,540 --> 00:50:12,760

And every day, we were
sitting in their barracks.

941

00:50:12,760 --> 00:50:16,190

Already, people started dying.

942

00:50:16,190 --> 00:50:18,590

When it passed a few--

943

00:50:18,590 --> 00:50:24,220

couple of weeks, I
was surrounded already

944

00:50:24,220 --> 00:50:26,140
with dead bodies around me.

945
00:50:26,140 --> 00:50:31,510
Every day, I just saw
dead people next to me

946
00:50:31,510 --> 00:50:33,850
laying around.

947
00:50:33,850 --> 00:50:37,220
Every time they pulled
out the dead bodies,

948
00:50:37,220 --> 00:50:40,168
they used to bring
other people in.

949
00:50:40,168 --> 00:50:42,460
They didn't survive too long,
because the people looked

950
00:50:42,460 --> 00:50:45,760
like skeletons when
they brought them back.

951
00:50:45,760 --> 00:50:48,700
And we were sitting on the
floor and sleeping on the floor.

952
00:50:48,700 --> 00:50:50,170
We had hardly any room.

953
00:50:50,170 --> 00:50:55,480
And every time we looked around,
it was more and more dead

954
00:50:55,480 --> 00:50:58,060
people around us.

955
00:50:58,060 --> 00:51:00,910
I was sleeping with
the dead bodies.

956
00:51:00,910 --> 00:51:05,710
Like it didn't bother me.

957
00:51:05,710 --> 00:51:08,080
For a couple of weeks, I
was able to walk around.

958
00:51:08,080 --> 00:51:12,490
And then it started
to get hard to walk.

959
00:51:12,490 --> 00:51:17,110
Soon as I got up to
walk through the people

960
00:51:17,110 --> 00:51:22,060
I couldn't, because I was
bumping into the other people,

961
00:51:22,060 --> 00:51:24,070
to the body, dead people.

962
00:51:24,070 --> 00:51:28,210
Everywhere you looked, you
saw bodies laying around.

963
00:51:28,210 --> 00:51:31,120
Were you together with any of
the people from the work camp

964
00:51:31,120 --> 00:51:31,750
then, too?

965
00:51:31,750 --> 00:51:33,190
Were they among the dead, too?

966
00:51:33,190 --> 00:51:36,790
I don't-- they were right
in the same corner with me.

967
00:51:36,790 --> 00:51:39,820

We were all together,
but they all--

968
00:51:39,820 --> 00:51:41,140
not too many were left.

969
00:51:41,140 --> 00:51:43,060
Every day, somebody
else was gone.

970
00:51:43,060 --> 00:51:46,390

971
00:51:46,390 --> 00:51:49,840
As far as I know, it was my
sister, and me, and my two

972
00:51:49,840 --> 00:51:50,830
cousins.

973
00:51:50,830 --> 00:51:53,350
And there was some women--

974
00:51:53,350 --> 00:51:56,800
we worked together in the
working camp-- which I knew.

975
00:51:56,800 --> 00:52:00,070
They were just dying like flies.

976
00:52:00,070 --> 00:52:02,170
They didn't survive too long.

977
00:52:02,170 --> 00:52:06,980
After weeks, the people
started to get typhus.

978
00:52:06,980 --> 00:52:09,800
They couldn't get up anymore.

979
00:52:09,800 --> 00:52:13,730
They couldn't go out,

excuse me, to the bathroom.

980

00:52:13,730 --> 00:52:17,330

They just went onto themselves.

981

00:52:17,330 --> 00:52:20,780

There was the kitchen
outside some place,

982

00:52:20,780 --> 00:52:24,450

and we used to go by the
kitchen and look for some food.

983

00:52:24,450 --> 00:52:30,010

And we found some cans, and
we took the empty cans inside

984

00:52:30,010 --> 00:52:31,580

with us.

985

00:52:31,580 --> 00:52:34,430

We used that for
going to the bathroom.

986

00:52:34,430 --> 00:52:36,980

Because when people
started to get weak,

987

00:52:36,980 --> 00:52:38,620

they couldn't go out anymore.

988

00:52:38,620 --> 00:52:43,360

989

00:52:43,360 --> 00:52:45,810

Whoever could walk
out, they went out.

990

00:52:45,810 --> 00:52:48,993

And whoever couldn't go
out, they just used the cans

991

00:52:48,993 --> 00:52:50,660
and then emptied it
through the windows.

992
00:52:50,660 --> 00:52:53,600
There was little windows,
and somebody else

993
00:52:53,600 --> 00:52:56,030
emptied it or in the
corners of the barracks.

994
00:52:56,030 --> 00:52:58,960

995
00:52:58,960 --> 00:53:04,945
I was there for-- already
it was February, March.

996
00:53:04,945 --> 00:53:09,730

997
00:53:09,730 --> 00:53:11,590
My sister got very sick already.

998
00:53:11,590 --> 00:53:14,110
She couldn't get up anymore.

999
00:53:14,110 --> 00:53:17,230
She had diarrhea, excuse me.

1000
00:53:17,230 --> 00:53:22,790
Everybody started
getting diarrhea.

1001
00:53:22,790 --> 00:53:25,490

1002
00:53:25,490 --> 00:53:27,350
She couldn't get up
anymore and walk.

1003

00:53:27,350 --> 00:53:29,780
I tried walking till I could.

1004
00:53:29,780 --> 00:53:32,090
I tried to get up, but
I kept on falling down.

1005
00:53:32,090 --> 00:53:33,920
But I didn't let myself go.

1006
00:53:33,920 --> 00:53:36,740
I just started walking.

1007
00:53:36,740 --> 00:53:39,000
I walked halfway to barrack.

1008
00:53:39,000 --> 00:53:42,350
I couldn't go further,
so I had to come back.

1009
00:53:42,350 --> 00:53:45,540
My knees were weak and shaky.

1010
00:53:45,540 --> 00:53:47,480
I was just skin
and bone already.

1011
00:53:47,480 --> 00:53:49,550
I couldn't get up no more.

1012
00:53:49,550 --> 00:53:50,705
I couldn't walk no more.

1013
00:53:50,705 --> 00:53:58,430

1014
00:53:58,430 --> 00:54:04,490
Every morning you woke up there
was more and more dead people.

1015
00:54:04,490 --> 00:54:09,770
The girls from the barrack who

were able to walk around yet,

1016

00:54:09,770 --> 00:54:12,650

they used to drag
the bodies out.

1017

00:54:12,650 --> 00:54:15,290

They used to get a little
more food for that.

1018

00:54:15,290 --> 00:54:18,200

There were three Polish
ladies who took care of us

1019

00:54:18,200 --> 00:54:19,760

in the barrack.

1020

00:54:19,760 --> 00:54:21,680

They used to bring us coffee.

1021

00:54:21,680 --> 00:54:24,590

They used to handed us
on the floor sitting.

1022

00:54:24,590 --> 00:54:29,040

1023

00:54:29,040 --> 00:54:35,710

There was already-- one
day in the middle of April

1024

00:54:35,710 --> 00:54:37,140

we heard a rumor.

1025

00:54:37,140 --> 00:54:42,060

We heard the Germans
were running away.

1026

00:54:42,060 --> 00:54:48,360

The English soldiers are in,
but we didn't see anything.

1027

00:54:48,360 --> 00:54:49,740
Nobody came to the barrack.

1028
00:54:49,740 --> 00:54:51,000
Nobody told us anything.

1029
00:54:51,000 --> 00:54:52,960
Just the women were
talking between themselves

1030
00:54:52,960 --> 00:54:56,800
who were able to walk around.

1031
00:54:56,800 --> 00:55:01,930
So it passed a couple of days.

1032
00:55:01,930 --> 00:55:05,030
We didn't see nothing.

1033
00:55:05,030 --> 00:55:10,060
And one day the powdered
milk all of a sudden came in.

1034
00:55:10,060 --> 00:55:18,610
They used to bring powdered milk
in and meat, the canned meat.

1035
00:55:18,610 --> 00:55:20,230
How do you call it?

1036
00:55:20,230 --> 00:55:22,120
Spam or whatever?

1037
00:55:22,120 --> 00:55:23,830
In the cans.

1038
00:55:23,830 --> 00:55:24,850
Yes.

1039
00:55:24,850 --> 00:55:27,970
And they gave it to
the people to eat.

1040
00:55:27,970 --> 00:55:31,690
And everybody started drinking
the powdered milk down

1041
00:55:31,690 --> 00:55:34,510
and eating the meat so fast.

1042
00:55:34,510 --> 00:55:35,710
They're just like vultures.

1043
00:55:35,710 --> 00:55:38,380
Everybody was hungry.

1044
00:55:38,380 --> 00:55:42,250
And when they started to drink
that milk and eat that meat,

1045
00:55:42,250 --> 00:55:43,450
people really got sick.

1046
00:55:43,450 --> 00:55:46,780
They started to
get bad diarrhea.

1047
00:55:46,780 --> 00:55:49,120
And they got-- the
stomachs were all blown up.

1048
00:55:49,120 --> 00:55:52,630

1049
00:55:52,630 --> 00:55:55,210
Then they just were
going like flies.

1050
00:55:55,210 --> 00:55:59,750
People were dying like flies
after the English soldiers came

1051
00:55:59,750 --> 00:56:03,610
in and after the liberation.

1052
00:56:03,610 --> 00:56:05,410
Mostly of the people
in the barracks

1053
00:56:05,410 --> 00:56:10,660
was just laying
around dead there.

1054
00:56:10,660 --> 00:56:13,420
My sister was the stronger one.

1055
00:56:13,420 --> 00:56:15,790
I was the weak one.

1056
00:56:15,790 --> 00:56:19,180
The lice, you should excuse
me, was eating us up.

1057
00:56:19,180 --> 00:56:22,220
I couldn't take it.

1058
00:56:22,220 --> 00:56:26,890
I used to tell her, please,
to pick, to clean my head.

1059
00:56:26,890 --> 00:56:30,980
I used to sit there and
clean, to pick, the clothes.

1060
00:56:30,980 --> 00:56:32,830
It was already an
obsession with me,

1061
00:56:32,830 --> 00:56:35,770
cleaning-- sitting
and picking the lice

1062
00:56:35,770 --> 00:56:38,170
from the clothes all day long.

1063
00:56:38,170 --> 00:56:40,750

I was crying to my
sister, I cannot take it.

1064
00:56:40,750 --> 00:56:43,000
The lice are eating me up.

1065
00:56:43,000 --> 00:56:49,060
I just-- I was crying like
I would be the only one.

1066
00:56:49,060 --> 00:56:52,520
So my sister said,
what can she do?

1067
00:56:52,520 --> 00:56:53,800
She has the same thing.

1068
00:56:53,800 --> 00:56:58,320

1069
00:56:58,320 --> 00:57:06,880
One night it was already like
two weeks after the liberation.

1070
00:57:06,880 --> 00:57:09,550

1071
00:57:09,550 --> 00:57:13,990
I was sleeping
next to my sister.

1072
00:57:13,990 --> 00:57:17,380
All of a sudden, I feel
somebody is feeling me.

1073
00:57:17,380 --> 00:57:20,450
Somebody's hand is on top of me.

1074
00:57:20,450 --> 00:57:26,920
So she says to me,
Pearl, are you here?

1075

00:57:26,920 --> 00:57:28,600
Are you laying here next to me?

1076
00:57:28,600 --> 00:57:31,390
I said, yes, I'm here.

1077
00:57:31,390 --> 00:57:33,830
She said, I just want to
make sure that you are here.

1078
00:57:33,830 --> 00:57:37,200

1079
00:57:37,200 --> 00:57:40,510
So I went back to sleep.

1080
00:57:40,510 --> 00:57:46,470
In the morning, I woke
up, and I found her hands

1081
00:57:46,470 --> 00:57:48,750
on top of my body.

1082
00:57:48,750 --> 00:57:49,875
I thought she was sleeping.

1083
00:57:49,875 --> 00:57:52,380

1084
00:57:52,380 --> 00:57:55,500
I started-- I took
her hands off for me,

1085
00:57:55,500 --> 00:57:58,010
and I started talking to her.

1086
00:57:58,010 --> 00:58:00,330
I said, Sarah, Sarah,
are you asleep?

1087
00:58:00,330 --> 00:58:01,480
Are you up?

1088
00:58:01,480 --> 00:58:03,240
Are you sleeping?

1089
00:58:03,240 --> 00:58:05,010
And she didn't respond.

1090
00:58:05,010 --> 00:58:07,030
She didn't answer me.

1091
00:58:07,030 --> 00:58:10,300
And I started to shake her.

1092
00:58:10,300 --> 00:58:11,740
I said, do you hear me?

1093
00:58:11,740 --> 00:58:13,530
Are you still asleep?

1094
00:58:13,530 --> 00:58:16,410
Her eyes were open.

1095
00:58:16,410 --> 00:58:20,040
So my cousins were
right next to me.

1096
00:58:20,040 --> 00:58:23,100
So they said, she's dead.

1097
00:58:23,100 --> 00:58:24,095
She's no more alive.

1098
00:58:24,095 --> 00:58:26,400
There's no use for
you to shake her.

1099
00:58:26,400 --> 00:58:28,150
We're going to have
to stop at this point.

1100
00:58:28,150 --> 00:58:29,608

We'll change the
tape and continue.

1101
00:58:29,608 --> 00:58:31,070
OK.

1102
00:58:31,070 --> 00:58:37,000