

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:12,260

2
00:00:12,260 --> 00:00:13,690
OK, continue.

3
00:00:13,690 --> 00:00:15,320
Tell us about Auschwitz.

4
00:00:15,320 --> 00:00:16,490
Yes.

5
00:00:16,490 --> 00:00:22,160
Now, on the 21st of October,
on a Saturday morning,

6
00:00:22,160 --> 00:00:26,630
we left from Plaszow to
Auschwitz, 60 people in one

7
00:00:26,630 --> 00:00:30,050
boxcar, in a cattle train.

8
00:00:30,050 --> 00:00:31,320
It's cold.

9
00:00:31,320 --> 00:00:33,920
We are cramped tightly together.

10
00:00:33,920 --> 00:00:35,570
It's dark.

11
00:00:35,570 --> 00:00:41,180
And again, our misery
accentuates, it says.

12
00:00:41,180 --> 00:00:46,350
I have here a page
from my diary.

13

00:00:46,350 --> 00:00:47,300

Yes.

14

00:00:47,300 --> 00:00:50,270

That I have written
in the boxcar.

15

00:00:50,270 --> 00:00:52,590

Would you hold it up under you--

16

00:00:52,590 --> 00:00:54,170

like that, yeah, yeah.

17

00:00:54,170 --> 00:00:55,940

You were able to
write in the boxcar?

18

00:00:55,940 --> 00:01:00,710

Well, hardly, but I did.

19

00:01:00,710 --> 00:01:06,380

I was obsessed with
the idea to write down

20

00:01:06,380 --> 00:01:10,850

everything what's
going on, possibly

21

00:01:10,850 --> 00:01:13,160

everything that was going on.

22

00:01:13,160 --> 00:01:15,890

Yeah.

23

00:01:15,890 --> 00:01:17,990

Were both pages
written in the boxcar?

24

00:01:17,990 --> 00:01:19,880

Because I notice the
handwriting is so much--

25

00:01:19,880 --> 00:01:22,610

No, this page--
no, this page only.

26

00:01:22,610 --> 00:01:23,450

That page only.

27

00:01:23,450 --> 00:01:28,820

This page on the left where you
can see the traces of my tears

28

00:01:28,820 --> 00:01:32,390

that were falling down my cheek.

29

00:01:32,390 --> 00:01:35,570

And I was, with the
indelible pencil,

30

00:01:35,570 --> 00:01:38,210

I was doodling around them.

31

00:01:38,210 --> 00:01:40,130

Yeah, yeah.

32

00:01:40,130 --> 00:01:44,930

It looks as though there's
different colors there.

33

00:01:44,930 --> 00:01:49,340

And it looks like it's
being scrolled very quickly.

34

00:01:49,340 --> 00:01:54,030

Well, of course, I wasn't
sitting at my desk.

35

00:01:54,030 --> 00:01:55,270

Yes, yes.

36

00:01:55,270 --> 00:02:00,930

So, it was very difficult for
me, but I wanted to write this.

37

00:02:00,930 --> 00:02:01,430

Yeah.

38

00:02:01,430 --> 00:02:06,260

And every possible
moment I could grab,

39

00:02:06,260 --> 00:02:10,940

that nobody disturbed me
by pushing, or hitting,

40

00:02:10,940 --> 00:02:16,220

or pulling me, or
designating me to this group

41

00:02:16,220 --> 00:02:18,352

or to the other group, I tried.

42

00:02:18,352 --> 00:02:20,810

If you want to quote a little
bit of what you wrote there--

43

00:02:20,810 --> 00:02:21,310

Yes.

44

00:02:21,310 --> 00:02:22,910

--we would like to hear it.

45

00:02:22,910 --> 00:02:24,680

OK.

46

00:02:24,680 --> 00:02:27,890

In the middle of the
boxcar stands a bucket.

47

00:02:27,890 --> 00:02:29,420

Into this we defecate.

48

00:02:29,420 --> 00:02:31,340

We are dreadfully cramped.

49

00:02:31,340 --> 00:02:34,010

Quarrels break out--
move those legs-- oh,

50

00:02:34,010 --> 00:02:36,230

my foot has gone
to sleep-- move--

51

00:02:36,230 --> 00:02:38,060

at least a little bit.

52

00:02:38,060 --> 00:02:40,640

Sit still, smarty--
change places

53

00:02:40,640 --> 00:02:42,290

with me-- don't lay on me.

54

00:02:42,290 --> 00:02:45,050

Someone even scratched somebody.

55

00:02:45,050 --> 00:02:48,260

By daylight, when the doors
of the wagon are ajar,

56

00:02:48,260 --> 00:02:51,890

and it's bright inside,
our spirits are up.

57

00:02:51,890 --> 00:02:53,030

We sing.

58

00:02:53,030 --> 00:02:55,160

The mood gets light-hearted.

59

00:02:55,160 --> 00:02:58,520

One sees the ludicrous
moments of this ride.

60

00:02:58,520 --> 00:03:03,080

But when night falls and it
gets more and more chilly,

61

00:03:03,080 --> 00:03:06,110

then we feel profoundly
the whole distressfulness

62

00:03:06,110 --> 00:03:08,870

and misery of this
dismal journey.

63

00:03:08,870 --> 00:03:11,180

But this also comes to an end.

64

00:03:11,180 --> 00:03:14,330

In the middle of a
dark, drizzly night

65

00:03:14,330 --> 00:03:18,380

we finally arrive
at our designation.

66

00:03:18,380 --> 00:03:22,040

In rows of five, in an
enormously long column,

67

00:03:22,040 --> 00:03:24,560

we are walking
through a long alley.

68

00:03:24,560 --> 00:03:29,180

Instead of trees, alongside
there are electric wires.

69

00:03:29,180 --> 00:03:34,160

Behind them, barracks without
windows, dark, silent.

70

00:03:34,160 --> 00:03:36,650

Fear grips one's heart.

71

00:03:36,650 --> 00:03:42,240

From everywhere pervades an
air of some grim mystery.

72

00:03:42,240 --> 00:03:46,670
Some terror breathes from these
dark, mysterious barracks.

73
00:03:46,670 --> 00:03:49,760
All the rumors we have
heard about this hell

74
00:03:49,760 --> 00:03:52,580
now occupy our minds.

75
00:03:52,580 --> 00:03:54,350
We are turning again.

76
00:03:54,350 --> 00:03:57,620
And we are entering
into the rear alley,

77
00:03:57,620 --> 00:04:01,430
an alley with tall
birch trees growing

78
00:04:01,430 --> 00:04:07,580
densely, one next to another,
concealing some secret--

79
00:04:07,580 --> 00:04:08,930
Birkenau.

80
00:04:08,930 --> 00:04:11,780
Our restless eyes
are trying to pierce

81
00:04:11,780 --> 00:04:15,110
through the dark of
the night to penetrate

82
00:04:15,110 --> 00:04:17,630
beyond this wall of trees.

83
00:04:17,630 --> 00:04:21,769
There-- something must be there.

84

00:04:21,769 --> 00:04:24,320

Hearts are beating uneasily.

85

00:04:24,320 --> 00:04:28,280

Eyes searched until
they found it.

86

00:04:28,280 --> 00:04:31,880

Two tremendous tall
chimneys threateningly

87

00:04:31,880 --> 00:04:35,330

sticking out from behind
the wall of birches.

88

00:04:35,330 --> 00:04:37,040

What is that?

89

00:04:37,040 --> 00:04:39,860

Hearts shrink in animal fear.

90

00:04:39,860 --> 00:04:42,000

Thoughts are in a whirl.

91

00:04:42,000 --> 00:04:45,380

Imagination works frantically.

92

00:04:45,380 --> 00:04:48,410

To our minds come the children.

93

00:04:48,410 --> 00:04:53,570

No, no, it is better not
to think what comes now.

94

00:04:53,570 --> 00:04:56,840

Far away in the darkness
little lights glimmer.

95

00:04:56,840 --> 00:05:01,445

Some lit building, the bath,
sauna, an Auschwitz term.

96

00:05:01,445 --> 00:05:04,520

97

00:05:04,520 --> 00:05:10,690

And this was also a
horrible experience.

98

00:05:10,690 --> 00:05:15,220

The most frequently used
word was the word oven

99

00:05:15,220 --> 00:05:22,300

by the people that
served in the sauna.

100

00:05:22,300 --> 00:05:24,230

Did you know where
you were going?

101

00:05:24,230 --> 00:05:26,530

No, we never knew
where we are going.

102

00:05:26,530 --> 00:05:27,220

We never knew.

103

00:05:27,220 --> 00:05:32,620

And we always-- we heard
rumors in Schindler's camp

104

00:05:32,620 --> 00:05:38,140

that they burning people,
that they killing and burning

105

00:05:38,140 --> 00:05:41,560

people in a crematorium.

106

00:05:41,560 --> 00:05:43,930

But we shut them off.

107

00:05:43,930 --> 00:05:48,760

We said, keep quiet, don't

talk such crazy talk.

108
00:05:48,760 --> 00:05:51,030
We never wanted to believe it.

109
00:05:51,030 --> 00:05:53,890
We never-- even from the
very beginning of the war,

110
00:05:53,890 --> 00:05:54,890
we always--

111
00:05:54,890 --> 00:05:58,890

112
00:05:58,890 --> 00:06:06,560
we always hoped that in a week,
in two, the war would be ended.

113
00:06:06,560 --> 00:06:13,790
Especially that we got news
that England and France is

114
00:06:13,790 --> 00:06:16,750
behind us, behind Poland.

115
00:06:16,750 --> 00:06:22,670
And they-- they are
against the Germans.

116
00:06:22,670 --> 00:06:27,200
So we were sure that this
will only take a short time.

117
00:06:27,200 --> 00:06:30,380
But it took six bitter years.

118
00:06:30,380 --> 00:06:33,250
Did you know what the smoke
from the chimney meant?

119
00:06:33,250 --> 00:06:37,190

Well, now we knew,
when we saw it.

120
00:06:37,190 --> 00:06:39,572
How did you know?

121
00:06:39,572 --> 00:06:41,990
From when we had this before.

122
00:06:41,990 --> 00:06:54,170
And then-- we heard in Plaszow
about the oven, about chimneys.

123
00:06:54,170 --> 00:06:57,455
Questions forced
themselves upon our lips.

124
00:06:57,455 --> 00:06:59,810
Where are the children?

125
00:06:59,810 --> 00:07:02,120
We asked the sauna crew.

126
00:07:02,120 --> 00:07:03,590
Better not ask.

127
00:07:03,590 --> 00:07:06,080
Where are the sick, the frail?

128
00:07:06,080 --> 00:07:08,780
Chimney, oven, chimney, oven.

129
00:07:08,780 --> 00:07:11,570
Thousands of people are
burned in the crematoriums

130
00:07:11,570 --> 00:07:16,010
and there are five such
ovens in Auschwitz.

131
00:07:16,010 --> 00:07:19,190
And there are--

aside from this--

132
00:07:19,190 --> 00:07:24,450

133
00:07:24,450 --> 00:07:26,600
I don't want to read this.

134
00:07:26,600 --> 00:07:27,700
All right.

135
00:07:27,700 --> 00:07:33,180
They used methods that
very intimidated us.

136
00:07:33,180 --> 00:07:33,680
And--

137
00:07:33,680 --> 00:07:37,340

138
00:07:37,340 --> 00:07:40,770
You said that there were
a number of selections.

139
00:07:40,770 --> 00:07:41,270
Yeah.

140
00:07:41,270 --> 00:07:42,740
Can you describe them?

141
00:07:42,740 --> 00:07:43,580
Yes.

142
00:07:43,580 --> 00:07:44,080
Please.

143
00:07:44,080 --> 00:07:47,420

144
00:07:47,420 --> 00:07:51,600

Now the most important thing
happens, the selection.

145
00:07:51,600 --> 00:07:54,800
Now your fate hangs
in the balance.

146
00:07:54,800 --> 00:07:56,930
We are ordered to undress.

147
00:07:56,930 --> 00:08:00,590
From our belongings we are
not allowed to take anything

148
00:08:00,590 --> 00:08:03,090
except shoes and bread.

149
00:08:03,090 --> 00:08:05,690
Like a pack of mad dogs
some camp personnel

150
00:08:05,690 --> 00:08:09,200
girls are plunging
in upon us, pounding,

151
00:08:09,200 --> 00:08:10,760
hitting, and screaming--

152
00:08:10,760 --> 00:08:12,710
quick, get undressed.

153
00:08:12,710 --> 00:08:14,720
Women from the
Brinitz, the transport,

154
00:08:14,720 --> 00:08:17,570
are not getting undressed
but assembled in the court.

155
00:08:17,570 --> 00:08:20,690
That gives us cause to
all kinds of speculations.

156

00:08:20,690 --> 00:08:24,740

Panic-- many of us
jump out of the window.

157

00:08:24,740 --> 00:08:28,670

We went to join the Brinitz
women, but there is--

158

00:08:28,670 --> 00:08:31,890

but there it goes
according to the list.

159

00:08:31,890 --> 00:08:33,210

Again, the list.

160

00:08:33,210 --> 00:08:36,080

We always have lists.

161

00:08:36,080 --> 00:08:38,539

From the beginning of
the war, there are lists.

162

00:08:38,539 --> 00:08:43,010

In the ghetto, in the
camps, always a list.

163

00:08:43,010 --> 00:08:48,920

This is why-- this is an
aftermath of this-- a hangover,

164

00:08:48,920 --> 00:08:54,560

you say, when somebody
knocks on my door today

165

00:08:54,560 --> 00:08:58,280

and hands me a list, would you
please, we vote for this one?

166

00:08:58,280 --> 00:09:00,300

I don't want to be on the list.

167

00:09:00,300 --> 00:09:02,270

I don't want to sign
my name on the list.

168
00:09:02,270 --> 00:09:03,600
Like a petition or anything?

169
00:09:03,600 --> 00:09:04,100
Yes.

170
00:09:04,100 --> 00:09:04,600
Yeah.

171
00:09:04,600 --> 00:09:06,260
Yes, no lists for me.

172
00:09:06,260 --> 00:09:10,760
It's something that awakes
fearful feelings in me.

173
00:09:10,760 --> 00:09:17,270

174
00:09:17,270 --> 00:09:18,860
Older women run down, looking--

175
00:09:18,860 --> 00:09:21,470

176
00:09:21,470 --> 00:09:25,190
older women run down
looking, the old, the frail,

177
00:09:25,190 --> 00:09:26,510
he puts aside.

178
00:09:26,510 --> 00:09:31,640
And again someone weeps, someone
scuffles, someone screams.

179
00:09:31,640 --> 00:09:35,120
We, the young and healthy
ones are moving ahead

180
00:09:35,120 --> 00:09:36,380
through a corridor.

181
00:09:36,380 --> 00:09:38,150
A mass of naked bodies.

182
00:09:38,150 --> 00:09:40,860
We are so cramped
that we are choking.

183
00:09:40,860 --> 00:09:45,560
Now they are shaving our
pubic and underarm hair.

184
00:09:45,560 --> 00:09:48,440
This performed in
the presence of men.

185
00:09:48,440 --> 00:09:51,290
Apparently, this is
no attraction for them

186
00:09:51,290 --> 00:09:54,710
because they are talking
leisurely with our flayers.

187
00:09:54,710 --> 00:09:57,560
Next process is the barber shop.

188
00:09:57,560 --> 00:09:59,810
The ones with
unclean, matted hair,

189
00:09:59,810 --> 00:10:03,410
but most of all the ones
that have pretty hair, they

190
00:10:03,410 --> 00:10:05,840
shave their heads bald.

191
00:10:05,840 --> 00:10:11,000

They are doing it with a rage,
cursing and yanking us about.

192
00:10:11,000 --> 00:10:16,460
They hate us, Polish women,
and they take revenge on us

193
00:10:16,460 --> 00:10:19,640
for injustices suffered
from the Germans.

194
00:10:19,640 --> 00:10:23,030
They are hitting and kicking
us, wild and irrepressible

195
00:10:23,030 --> 00:10:24,380
in their anger.

196
00:10:24,380 --> 00:10:28,940
I feel sorry for them,
degenerated creatures.

197
00:10:28,940 --> 00:10:30,920
And whose fault is it?

198
00:10:30,920 --> 00:10:31,940
Theirs.

199
00:10:31,940 --> 00:10:34,040
They dehumanized us.

200
00:10:34,040 --> 00:10:37,850
Whoever didn't want to come
to a pitiful end in Auschwitz

201
00:10:37,850 --> 00:10:41,480
had to become an animal.

202
00:10:41,480 --> 00:10:42,793
Now--

203
00:10:42,793 --> 00:10:43,835

Can I ask you a question?

204

00:10:43,835 --> 00:10:44,335

Yes.

205

00:10:44,335 --> 00:10:46,280

Was your mother with
you at this time?

206

00:10:46,280 --> 00:10:47,145

No more.

207

00:10:47,145 --> 00:10:47,645

Where--

208

00:10:47,645 --> 00:10:48,525

No more.

209

00:10:48,525 --> 00:10:49,400

What happened to her?

210

00:10:49,400 --> 00:10:53,750

My mother went with
one of these transports

211

00:10:53,750 --> 00:10:57,170

from Schindler's camp
because they had to make room

212

00:10:57,170 --> 00:10:57,770

Yeah--

213

00:10:57,770 --> 00:10:59,450

--for the people from the list.

214

00:10:59,450 --> 00:11:00,530

Yeah.

215

00:11:00,530 --> 00:11:02,402

And they took her to--

216

00:11:02,402 --> 00:11:07,970

217
00:11:07,970 --> 00:11:08,920
to Skarzysko.

218
00:11:08,920 --> 00:11:09,850
Yeah.

219
00:11:09,850 --> 00:11:11,440
And to also a camp.

220
00:11:11,440 --> 00:11:18,550
And then I didn't
have any more news.

221
00:11:18,550 --> 00:11:21,460
I didn't know anything
anymore about my mother.

222
00:11:21,460 --> 00:11:24,330

223
00:11:24,330 --> 00:11:34,720
And today I use all
my defense mechanism

224
00:11:34,720 --> 00:11:39,410
not to visualize
this, what happened.

225
00:11:39,410 --> 00:11:43,530
Because I couldn't go
on living, you know?

226
00:11:43,530 --> 00:11:44,030
Yeah.

227
00:11:44,030 --> 00:11:50,390

228
00:11:50,390 --> 00:11:55,220

After the barbershop--
oh, I almost left out.

229
00:11:55,220 --> 00:11:58,310
How hideous a woman
looks without hair.

230
00:11:58,310 --> 00:12:01,140
Every step of the
way they brand us--

231
00:12:01,140 --> 00:12:04,970
armbands, Jewish
stars, painted stripes

232
00:12:04,970 --> 00:12:09,950
on our clothing, tattoos,
shaving of our hair, prison

233
00:12:09,950 --> 00:12:11,850
striped clothing.

234
00:12:11,850 --> 00:12:15,980
And in our souls they
branded an everlasting stigma

235
00:12:15,980 --> 00:12:18,220
of all these
horrible experiences.

236
00:12:18,220 --> 00:12:20,960

237
00:12:20,960 --> 00:12:24,290
After the barber shop, we are
coming finally to the showers.

238
00:12:24,290 --> 00:12:29,460
The sight of Dee,
beautiful Dee--

239
00:12:29,460 --> 00:12:31,560
that's the girl in the picture.

240
00:12:31,560 --> 00:12:32,760
The one--

241
00:12:32,760 --> 00:12:36,270
The beautiful girl
that looked like--

242
00:12:36,270 --> 00:12:37,080
Dorothy Lamour.

243
00:12:37,080 --> 00:12:38,670
Dorothy Lamour, yes.

244
00:12:38,670 --> 00:12:40,620
She was so beautiful.

245
00:12:40,620 --> 00:12:45,600
The sight of Dee, beautiful
Dee and Bee with shaved heads

246
00:12:45,600 --> 00:12:47,520
made an awful impression on me.

247
00:12:47,520 --> 00:12:50,100
I will never forget
the look in these eyes

248
00:12:50,100 --> 00:12:52,820
at the moment when
the hair clipper moved

249
00:12:52,820 --> 00:12:54,840
through her
beautiful blond hair.

250
00:12:54,840 --> 00:12:56,910
It was the look of
an animal caught

251
00:12:56,910 --> 00:13:00,780
in a cage, terrified,

forlorn, looking

252

00:13:00,780 --> 00:13:05,220

for help from somewhere,
a despairing reflex and--

253

00:13:05,220 --> 00:13:07,500

there's a missing
word here-- in vain.

254

00:13:07,500 --> 00:13:11,670

Somebody's strong hands, cold
steel of the hair clipper--

255

00:13:11,670 --> 00:13:13,050

despair.

256

00:13:13,050 --> 00:13:17,130

Ready, you have to
move ahead to the bath.

257

00:13:17,130 --> 00:13:19,230

They didn't shave off my hair.

258

00:13:19,230 --> 00:13:21,000

They didn't even shorten it.

259

00:13:21,000 --> 00:13:23,430

I am wearing such
short, straight hair.

260

00:13:23,430 --> 00:13:27,060

I always wore very
straight, short hair.

261

00:13:27,060 --> 00:13:32,460

The wave you see, it's
with a curling iron.

262

00:13:32,460 --> 00:13:34,410

When I saw Dee and
Bee without hair,

263

00:13:34,410 --> 00:13:38,610

I started to weep so hard that
I had to turn my head so they

264

00:13:38,610 --> 00:13:39,990

wouldn't see it.

265

00:13:39,990 --> 00:13:44,280

I composed myself and I
tried to lift their spirits.

266

00:13:44,280 --> 00:13:46,980

During those horrible
days in Auschwitz

267

00:13:46,980 --> 00:13:50,310

I was the strongest
of my four friends.

268

00:13:50,310 --> 00:13:53,190

I had, first of all,
better self-confidence.

269

00:13:53,190 --> 00:13:55,745

I had my hair and
a lot of energy.

270

00:13:55,745 --> 00:13:59,340

271

00:13:59,340 --> 00:14:01,940

Did you meet those friends in--

272

00:14:01,940 --> 00:14:02,910

Oh, yes.

273

00:14:02,910 --> 00:14:04,950

--in Plaszow or in Schindler's--

274

00:14:04,950 --> 00:14:08,470

Oh, these-- well, some of them
I knew from Krakow, of course.

275
00:14:08,470 --> 00:14:08,970
Yes.

276
00:14:08,970 --> 00:14:10,330
You know, yes.

277
00:14:10,330 --> 00:14:11,380
What happened to Dee?

278
00:14:11,380 --> 00:14:12,480
Can you tell us?

279
00:14:12,480 --> 00:14:14,670
Dee, I told you her
story, that she--

280
00:14:14,670 --> 00:14:15,990
Not on camera you didn't.

281
00:14:15,990 --> 00:14:16,860
Oh, I see.

282
00:14:16,860 --> 00:14:17,500
OK.

283
00:14:17,500 --> 00:14:20,430
Yes.

284
00:14:20,430 --> 00:14:30,335
Dee-- the man that
became her husband--

285
00:14:30,335 --> 00:14:35,770

286
00:14:35,770 --> 00:14:41,590
she got pregnant and
she didn't know it.

287
00:14:41,590 --> 00:14:43,990

And she went to Auschwitz.

288

00:14:43,990 --> 00:14:51,610

And she was selected by Mengele
to go out of the column.

289

00:14:51,610 --> 00:14:57,960

And they took her
to the [GERMAN]..

290

00:14:57,960 --> 00:14:59,010

The sick ward.

291

00:14:59,010 --> 00:15:01,410

The sick ward, yes.

292

00:15:01,410 --> 00:15:05,310

Where we don't know--

293

00:15:05,310 --> 00:15:08,190

most probably they wanted
to make experiments.

294

00:15:08,190 --> 00:15:14,190

295

00:15:14,190 --> 00:15:17,700

I remember that I
managed the next day

296

00:15:17,700 --> 00:15:19,470

to sneak out of my barrack.

297

00:15:19,470 --> 00:15:24,010

That was not far
from the sick ward.

298

00:15:24,010 --> 00:15:27,870

And I brought for her
a piece of red beet

299

00:15:27,870 --> 00:15:31,860

so she can paint her cheeks,
so she looks healthy.

300
00:15:31,860 --> 00:15:35,790
Because that was very decisive.

301
00:15:35,790 --> 00:15:40,410
If somebody looked
sick or frail,

302
00:15:40,410 --> 00:15:42,220
they took them straight
to the gas chamber.

303
00:15:42,220 --> 00:15:44,950

304
00:15:44,950 --> 00:15:48,370
Now, she lived
through in Auschwitz.

305
00:15:48,370 --> 00:15:54,260
Auschwitz was liberated
already in January.

306
00:15:54,260 --> 00:15:58,670
And she hid herself.

307
00:15:58,670 --> 00:16:00,890
When the Germans were
leaving Auschwitz,

308
00:16:00,890 --> 00:16:07,930
she was afraid that they will
shoot her because, of course,

309
00:16:07,930 --> 00:16:10,630
they didn't want any witnesses.

310
00:16:10,630 --> 00:16:15,085
So she buried herself
underneath the dead--

311

00:16:15,085 --> 00:16:19,300

312

00:16:19,300 --> 00:16:25,090

the dead people that were
prepared for the crematorium.

313

00:16:25,090 --> 00:16:32,260

And there she stayed because
the Russians were so nearby

314

00:16:32,260 --> 00:16:37,600

that any minute they expected
them to walk into Auschwitz.

315

00:16:37,600 --> 00:16:40,180

And so it was the
Russians walked in.

316

00:16:40,180 --> 00:16:46,240

And then she managed to get
to our hometown, Krakow,

317

00:16:46,240 --> 00:16:47,410

where she had her baby.

318

00:16:47,410 --> 00:16:50,470

319

00:16:50,470 --> 00:16:53,140

We visited her after the war.

320

00:16:53,140 --> 00:16:55,630

And we saw her baby.

321

00:16:55,630 --> 00:17:00,100

Her baby now is an officer
in the Israeli army,

322

00:17:00,100 --> 00:17:02,878

has a family of his own.

323

00:17:02,878 --> 00:17:07,900

A very handsome, beautiful man.

324

00:17:07,900 --> 00:17:15,380

And unfortunately,
she died shortly

325

00:17:15,380 --> 00:17:18,740

after the end of the war.

326

00:17:18,740 --> 00:17:22,730

Maybe all these experiences
caused her sickness

327

00:17:22,730 --> 00:17:24,630

or something.

328

00:17:24,630 --> 00:17:27,319

And she's no more alive.

329

00:17:27,319 --> 00:17:48,340

330

00:17:48,340 --> 00:17:50,740

So you spent four
months in Auschwitz.

331

00:17:50,740 --> 00:17:53,590

No, I spent only three
weeks in Auschwitz.

332

00:17:53,590 --> 00:17:54,820

And that was my luck.

333

00:17:54,820 --> 00:17:57,190

I have a number.

334

00:17:57,190 --> 00:17:59,390

I don't know if you want to--

335

00:17:59,390 --> 00:18:01,300

Well, I don't know
if we can see it--

336
00:18:01,300 --> 00:18:02,217
If you can see it, no.

337
00:18:02,217 --> 00:18:03,300
--on camera, but I see it.

338
00:18:03,300 --> 00:18:05,170
I have a number here
and I have also here.

339
00:18:05,170 --> 00:18:05,890
Yeah.

340
00:18:05,890 --> 00:18:09,200
KL, which means
konzentrationslager,

341
00:18:09,200 --> 00:18:12,220
which means concentration camp.

342
00:18:12,220 --> 00:18:13,840
Did they put you to work there?

343
00:18:13,840 --> 00:18:15,830
Did you do anything
while you were there?

344
00:18:15,830 --> 00:18:16,330
Where?

345
00:18:16,330 --> 00:18:19,630
In Auschwitz?

346
00:18:19,630 --> 00:18:23,860
From one roll call to another,
from one selection to another,

347
00:18:23,860 --> 00:18:26,650
then we were in Birkenau.

348
00:18:26,650 --> 00:18:34,520
I remember we were knocking with
some bricks, senseless work,

349
00:18:34,520 --> 00:18:35,020
really.

350
00:18:35,020 --> 00:18:38,260
Not-- nothing-- senseless work.

351
00:18:38,260 --> 00:18:43,900
And this was already
October, November.

352
00:18:43,900 --> 00:18:48,010
It was very cold, rainy season.

353
00:18:48,010 --> 00:18:50,170
And we had no
proper clothing on.

354
00:18:50,170 --> 00:18:54,580
We always talk with
our friends, how

355
00:18:54,580 --> 00:18:59,260
come that now we get colds
and head colds from anything,

356
00:18:59,260 --> 00:19:01,870
and there we had
no underwear, we

357
00:19:01,870 --> 00:19:07,510
had no proper shoes or socks.

358
00:19:07,510 --> 00:19:10,000
I was given--

359
00:19:10,000 --> 00:19:15,040
I was given some

shoes, different shoes.

360

00:19:15,040 --> 00:19:19,210

One was high and one was low.

361

00:19:19,210 --> 00:19:23,830

And many of us were

given the wooden--

362

00:19:23,830 --> 00:19:24,650

the Dutch shoes.

363

00:19:24,650 --> 00:19:25,150

Clogs.

364

00:19:25,150 --> 00:19:27,770

The clogs, yes.

365

00:19:27,770 --> 00:19:30,670

And in Auschwitz at this

time was very muddy.

366

00:19:30,670 --> 00:19:32,620

And I remember how we--

367

00:19:32,620 --> 00:19:35,620

we were five friends that

we were very, very close.

368

00:19:35,620 --> 00:19:38,890

And we always kept

close together.

369

00:19:38,890 --> 00:19:46,750

And we had to jump over a

puddle, big puddles of mud.

370

00:19:46,750 --> 00:19:50,930

We tried to keep

with each other.

371

00:19:50,930 --> 00:19:57,040

We tried to call each other,
we shouldn't get lost.

372
00:19:57,040 --> 00:20:04,250
And-- and I was
only, luckily for me,

373
00:20:04,250 --> 00:20:05,540
three weeks in Auschwitz.

374
00:20:05,540 --> 00:20:08,750
Because I would perish there.

375
00:20:08,750 --> 00:20:11,750
I couldn't take it really.

376
00:20:11,750 --> 00:20:17,420
And I remember one
incident that--

377
00:20:17,420 --> 00:20:20,120
there was underground in Poland.

378
00:20:20,120 --> 00:20:24,080
And some of my friends,
my very good friends

379
00:20:24,080 --> 00:20:26,720
were in this underground.

380
00:20:26,720 --> 00:20:32,160
When I was working
with the bricks there,

381
00:20:32,160 --> 00:20:38,940
the senseless work,
suddenly I saw a group of--

382
00:20:38,940 --> 00:20:43,960
a small group of men
coming from the Buna camp.

383

00:20:43,960 --> 00:20:47,910
That was a different--
a man's camp.

384
00:20:47,910 --> 00:20:50,470
They were in the underground.

385
00:20:50,470 --> 00:20:54,960
And I recognized
one of my friends.

386
00:20:54,960 --> 00:20:57,690
And I got up.

387
00:20:57,690 --> 00:21:04,140
And I looked at him
as he passed by me.

388
00:21:04,140 --> 00:21:08,370
And I said to him,
tell me just one thing,

389
00:21:08,370 --> 00:21:10,940
is it possible to
live through this?

390
00:21:10,940 --> 00:21:14,220
If not, I will
not fight anymore.

391
00:21:14,220 --> 00:21:19,110
And he couldn't show that he's
talking to me because that

392
00:21:19,110 --> 00:21:20,790
was dangerous for him.

393
00:21:20,790 --> 00:21:23,460

394
00:21:23,460 --> 00:21:28,890
And he said it under his
breath, putting his head down.

395
00:21:28,890 --> 00:21:30,360
I never forget it.

396
00:21:30,360 --> 00:21:34,080
He said, you want to live?

397
00:21:34,080 --> 00:21:40,080
Go on, hold yourself.

398
00:21:40,080 --> 00:21:45,940
And that gave me
courage and hope.

399
00:21:45,940 --> 00:21:50,810
And-- and we lived through.

400
00:21:50,810 --> 00:21:53,180
Because they took
us-- luckily, they

401
00:21:53,180 --> 00:21:57,650
took a transport of 300 women.

402
00:21:57,650 --> 00:22:00,050
They came one time.

403
00:22:00,050 --> 00:22:05,360
We were already standing next
to the crematorium, you know.

404
00:22:05,360 --> 00:22:07,130
But we didn't know
it was crematorium.

405
00:22:07,130 --> 00:22:11,330
Later on they told us that
it was the crematorium.

406
00:22:11,330 --> 00:22:14,810
And we were standing
and standing for hours.

407

00:22:14,810 --> 00:22:19,190

And then it became an
order that we should

408

00:22:19,190 --> 00:22:22,940

go someplace, some other place.

409

00:22:22,940 --> 00:22:29,750

And there was a column maybe of
thousands of women, maybe more.

410

00:22:29,750 --> 00:22:37,910

And some Germans came
and needed 300 women.

411

00:22:37,910 --> 00:22:41,600

And we were lucky to
be among the 300 women

412

00:22:41,600 --> 00:22:43,280

that they counted.

413

00:22:43,280 --> 00:22:47,180

And they took us
to this camp in--

414

00:22:47,180 --> 00:22:52,910

working camp in Sudetenland.

415

00:22:52,910 --> 00:22:56,510

And that was-- I mean, it
was a concentration camp.

416

00:22:56,510 --> 00:22:58,910

We were very hungry there.

417

00:22:58,910 --> 00:23:00,620

We were working.

418

00:23:00,620 --> 00:23:02,280

What was a camp called?

419
00:23:02,280 --> 00:23:03,740
Lichterwerden.

420
00:23:03,740 --> 00:23:07,160
This was a spinner--

421
00:23:07,160 --> 00:23:12,020
they spinned from flax thread.

422
00:23:12,020 --> 00:23:14,300
And we were working there.

423
00:23:14,300 --> 00:23:17,750
We were six months in this camp.

424
00:23:17,750 --> 00:23:20,930
And it took six months
to learn the skill

425
00:23:20,930 --> 00:23:26,220
of stopping that, turning--

426
00:23:26,220 --> 00:23:27,200
the turning.

427
00:23:27,200 --> 00:23:28,975
The spinning Jenny,
as they called it.

428
00:23:28,975 --> 00:23:32,360
The spinning thing, yes.

429
00:23:32,360 --> 00:23:36,500
Of course, this caused us
a lot of physical pain.

430
00:23:36,500 --> 00:23:38,195
Because we were unskilled.

431
00:23:38,195 --> 00:23:41,960

It takes six months
to get skilled.

432
00:23:41,960 --> 00:23:45,230
And at night we were laying
and licking our wounds.

433
00:23:45,230 --> 00:23:47,810
Because the threads
cut in to us.

434
00:23:47,810 --> 00:23:52,880
And from the [INAUDIBLE],,
we had no vitamins, no food.

435
00:23:52,880 --> 00:23:57,200
It was-- we were cut
and it didn't heal.

436
00:23:57,200 --> 00:23:59,512
Was the treatment
very brutal there?

437
00:23:59,512 --> 00:24:06,210
The treatment, we got
beatings, but we were not shot.

438
00:24:06,210 --> 00:24:13,160
But they were always
threatening us, the SS ladies.

439
00:24:13,160 --> 00:24:14,810
They were always threatening us.

440
00:24:14,810 --> 00:24:16,130
You see that hill?

441
00:24:16,130 --> 00:24:20,900
On this hill you will be all
shot because you are swines.

442
00:24:20,900 --> 00:24:23,690
Because we stole some food.

443
00:24:23,690 --> 00:24:26,660
Some girls broke into
the kitchen one time,

444
00:24:26,660 --> 00:24:28,400
into the cellar.

445
00:24:28,400 --> 00:24:29,990
Because we couldn't
go on anymore.

446
00:24:29,990 --> 00:24:33,650
The hunger was
terrible, you know.

447
00:24:33,650 --> 00:24:38,390
And we got all follicles
all over our body.

448
00:24:38,390 --> 00:24:44,090
And how you call it--
you know, wounds.

449
00:24:44,090 --> 00:24:44,770
Scabs.

450
00:24:44,770 --> 00:24:51,440
Scabs and follicles
oozing, that didn't heal,

451
00:24:51,440 --> 00:24:54,770
because we had no food,
no vitamins, no nothing.

452
00:24:54,770 --> 00:24:56,300
The soup was water.

453
00:24:56,300 --> 00:25:01,460
At the end of the war
they gave us this soup

454

00:25:01,460 --> 00:25:09,320
without salt. And one of my dear
friends who is in Israel now,

455
00:25:09,320 --> 00:25:12,230
my friend Ruth,
she said, I'm not

456
00:25:12,230 --> 00:25:14,840
going to eat that
soup without salt.

457
00:25:14,840 --> 00:25:20,780
This was just water with a
rotten beet or potato anyway.

458
00:25:20,780 --> 00:25:24,050
And we persuaded her--
we tried to persuade her,

459
00:25:24,050 --> 00:25:26,690
you have to eat
otherwise you will die.

460
00:25:26,690 --> 00:25:27,690
You will die.

461
00:25:27,690 --> 00:25:30,900
It was shortly before the war--
very short before the war.

462
00:25:30,900 --> 00:25:36,290
And our rations that belonged
to us, the Germans, the crew,

463
00:25:36,290 --> 00:25:39,620
they stole it, because
they were also not--

464
00:25:39,620 --> 00:25:44,900
it was the end of the
war, and they were also--

465

00:25:44,900 --> 00:25:46,790
they don't had such deliveries.

466
00:25:46,790 --> 00:25:49,850
So the delivery that
came to us, they stole--

467
00:25:49,850 --> 00:25:52,940
the salt and other
things, you know.

468
00:25:52,940 --> 00:25:58,380
So my good friend Ruth-- this
is on the humoristic side,

469
00:25:58,380 --> 00:26:02,150
she said I'm not going to
eat those soups without salt,

470
00:26:02,150 --> 00:26:03,380
never.

471
00:26:03,380 --> 00:26:06,080
And she went on maybe for a day.

472
00:26:06,080 --> 00:26:08,900
And we persuaded
her, you must eat.

473
00:26:08,900 --> 00:26:11,880
And then, the end
of the war came.

474
00:26:11,880 --> 00:26:15,440
So she said, now when I got
used to the unsalty soups,

475
00:26:15,440 --> 00:26:16,730
the war ends.

476
00:26:16,730 --> 00:26:19,925
She had always a
good sense of humor.

477
00:26:19,925 --> 00:26:21,050
She was a wonderful person.

478
00:26:21,050 --> 00:26:23,330
So you were liberated
from that camp?

479
00:26:23,330 --> 00:26:25,970
Yes, we were liberated
from that camp.

480
00:26:25,970 --> 00:26:28,430
And this liberation was--

481
00:26:28,430 --> 00:26:30,800
the Russians liberated us.

482
00:26:30,800 --> 00:26:35,590
And the liberation was
really like in a fairy tale.

483
00:26:35,590 --> 00:26:37,280
Really, truly like
in a fairy tale.

484
00:26:37,280 --> 00:26:38,840
Can you describe it a little
for us in your own words?

485
00:26:38,840 --> 00:26:39,050
Oh, yes.

486
00:26:39,050 --> 00:26:39,770
Yes, surely.

487
00:26:39,770 --> 00:26:42,680

488
00:26:42,680 --> 00:26:47,480
It was the night-- first
of all, the detonations

489
00:26:47,480 --> 00:26:49,310
and we heard fighting.

490
00:26:49,310 --> 00:27:01,110
And the 6th of May,
our lagerfuhrer,

491
00:27:01,110 --> 00:27:08,010
that means the kommandant of our
camp, he was not a young man.

492
00:27:08,010 --> 00:27:12,000
Because at this point
they took many that were--

493
00:27:12,000 --> 00:27:15,510
the kommandant of our
camp in Lichterwerden

494
00:27:15,510 --> 00:27:18,440
was a little bit crazy.

495
00:27:18,440 --> 00:27:22,290
And really, he hit us.

496
00:27:22,290 --> 00:27:25,830
And he was not quite there.

497
00:27:25,830 --> 00:27:30,310
But at this point they took
everybody, older people.

498
00:27:30,310 --> 00:27:36,420
And this man, who was drunk
like anything, he came out,

499
00:27:36,420 --> 00:27:37,650
he made the roll call.

500
00:27:37,650 --> 00:27:48,340
And he came out and he

said, [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]-----

501

00:27:48,340 --> 00:27:57,040

I am damned to do this,
to announce to you

502

00:27:57,040 --> 00:28:03,100

that from now on you are free.

503

00:28:03,100 --> 00:28:14,540

At that moment, it was
such a mixture of feelings.

504

00:28:14,540 --> 00:28:18,500

We were-- we felt very jubilant.

505

00:28:18,500 --> 00:28:26,020

And then we threw ourselves
at each other and we cried.

506

00:28:26,020 --> 00:28:37,020

Because we realized that our
families are not with us.

507

00:28:37,020 --> 00:28:44,315

And it was a very strong moment.

508

00:28:44,315 --> 00:28:54,670

It was a very happy moment and
we also felt the tragedy of it.

509

00:28:54,670 --> 00:28:58,550

510

00:28:58,550 --> 00:29:00,830

Our dream came true.

511

00:29:00,830 --> 00:29:03,020

We became free.

512

00:29:03,020 --> 00:29:07,400

Now just before we

heard detonations.

513
00:29:07,400 --> 00:29:10,610
You asked me about how--

514
00:29:10,610 --> 00:29:13,520
we heard detonations
and shooting.

515
00:29:13,520 --> 00:29:21,080
And we didn't go out
of the camp, of course,

516
00:29:21,080 --> 00:29:22,370
not even to work.

517
00:29:22,370 --> 00:29:28,370
At one point, and I have
written this in my diary,

518
00:29:28,370 --> 00:29:34,970
that the kommandant of our camp
wanted to destroy us all as

519
00:29:34,970 --> 00:29:38,550
not to leave any witnesses.

520
00:29:38,550 --> 00:29:42,440
And the director of our
factory where we worked,

521
00:29:42,440 --> 00:29:45,260
who was a civilian, he--

522
00:29:45,260 --> 00:29:48,410

523
00:29:48,410 --> 00:29:49,520
he was against it.

524
00:29:49,520 --> 00:29:53,090
And somehow he didn't do it.

525
00:29:53,090 --> 00:29:53,960
We were lucky.

526
00:29:53,960 --> 00:29:57,850

527
00:29:57,850 --> 00:30:06,690
That night, before
the liberation,

528
00:30:06,690 --> 00:30:10,350
many German houses had already--

529
00:30:10,350 --> 00:30:14,520
we saw this later and we
were told also about it--

530
00:30:14,520 --> 00:30:17,130
white--

531
00:30:17,130 --> 00:30:17,940
Flags?

532
00:30:17,940 --> 00:30:19,410
--flags, yes.

533
00:30:19,410 --> 00:30:23,310
But there were groups
of Germans coming

534
00:30:23,310 --> 00:30:27,240
through that tore down the
flags and didn't allow this.

535
00:30:27,240 --> 00:30:32,310
Because they didn't
want to give in.

536
00:30:32,310 --> 00:30:35,790
Now we were near a--

537

00:30:35,790 --> 00:30:38,190
we were near woods.

538

00:30:38,190 --> 00:30:42,150
And a small road
led to our camp,

539

00:30:42,150 --> 00:30:44,040
that at the
beginning of the town

540

00:30:44,040 --> 00:30:45,720
it said [? Verboten weg ?].

541

00:30:45,720 --> 00:30:49,650
That means the forbidden
road, that no civilian

542

00:30:49,650 --> 00:30:52,830
was allowed to go there.

543

00:30:52,830 --> 00:30:55,050
And we were at the
end of that road.

544

00:30:55,050 --> 00:30:56,955
We were 300 women
in the barracks.

545

00:30:56,955 --> 00:31:02,080

546

00:31:02,080 --> 00:31:08,110
And at night we heard
constant detonations.

547

00:31:08,110 --> 00:31:10,330
We heard shootings.

548

00:31:10,330 --> 00:31:16,130
And we put our ears to the
floor as to hear better.

549
00:31:16,130 --> 00:31:21,610
And then on the windows
we had those shutters,

550
00:31:21,610 --> 00:31:23,110
wooden shutters.

551
00:31:23,110 --> 00:31:26,900
And we tried to peek out.

552
00:31:26,900 --> 00:31:30,580
We tried to see something,
but it was pitch black.

553
00:31:30,580 --> 00:31:32,320
And just at the--

554
00:31:32,320 --> 00:31:36,940

555
00:31:36,940 --> 00:31:38,800
dawn, the beginning of--

556
00:31:38,800 --> 00:31:39,580
Dawn, yeah.

557
00:31:39,580 --> 00:31:40,372
Yeah, just at dawn.

558
00:31:40,372 --> 00:31:41,500
Sunrise.

559
00:31:41,500 --> 00:31:48,370
Suddenly we heard like
the horses, horseshoes,

560
00:31:48,370 --> 00:31:52,600
click, click, click,
very fast from one side--

561

00:31:52,600 --> 00:31:56,350
from one side of the
woods to another side.

562
00:31:56,350 --> 00:31:57,400
And we looked.

563
00:31:57,400 --> 00:32:03,610
And we saw a rider on the
horse, on a white horse.

564
00:32:03,610 --> 00:32:07,960
Like in a fairy tale was
this liberation really.

565
00:32:07,960 --> 00:32:10,480
And then few minutes later--

566
00:32:10,480 --> 00:32:13,960
and we were so excited
and we were so--

567
00:32:13,960 --> 00:32:15,850
we were-- we felt so--

568
00:32:15,850 --> 00:32:19,360
I can't describe it.

569
00:32:19,360 --> 00:32:23,350
And two minutes later, a few
minutes later, another horse

570
00:32:23,350 --> 00:32:26,710
passed by, also
on a white horse.

571
00:32:26,710 --> 00:32:28,690
And a few times so.

572
00:32:28,690 --> 00:32:37,630
And then it became to the light,
the day came, daylight came.

573

00:32:37,630 --> 00:32:43,540

And suddenly we
heard harmonicas.

574

00:32:43,540 --> 00:32:47,530

And we heard tanks coming.

575

00:32:47,530 --> 00:32:48,790

The tanks were coming.

576

00:32:48,790 --> 00:32:51,880

The Russian tanks were coming.

577

00:32:51,880 --> 00:32:55,510

And the Russian soldiers,
they sit on the tanks

578

00:32:55,510 --> 00:32:59,410

and they play on
their harmonicas.

579

00:32:59,410 --> 00:33:09,240

And when we heard that, whoever
was capable in that camp

580

00:33:09,240 --> 00:33:18,070

ran out on that forbidden
road towards the town.

581

00:33:18,070 --> 00:33:26,010

And an officer on a
white horse came in.

582

00:33:26,010 --> 00:33:32,935

583

00:33:32,935 --> 00:33:34,570

His legs in the stirrups.

584

00:33:34,570 --> 00:33:44,064

585

00:33:44,064 --> 00:33:45,315

We kissed his feet.

586

00:33:45,315 --> 00:33:49,740

587

00:33:49,740 --> 00:33:56,340

At this time, you don't
ask who is liberating you.

588

00:33:56,340 --> 00:34:00,300

589

00:34:00,300 --> 00:34:02,670

They were our liberators.

590

00:34:02,670 --> 00:34:07,020

And right away, they
had a beautiful speech.

591

00:34:07,020 --> 00:34:15,270

And they said in Russian, you
are our sisters and brothers.

592

00:34:15,270 --> 00:34:19,230

And they brought some
food into the camp.

593

00:34:19,230 --> 00:34:24,760

And also they said, you are
free to go wherever you want.

594

00:34:24,760 --> 00:34:29,310

And so we went the
next day, we went home.

595

00:34:29,310 --> 00:34:32,239

596

00:34:32,239 --> 00:34:38,630

And that journey was, of
course, a happy journey.

597
00:34:38,630 --> 00:34:40,940
We went a lot by foot.

598
00:34:40,940 --> 00:34:43,639
And we went also--

599
00:34:43,639 --> 00:34:46,429
we stopped the trucks.

600
00:34:46,429 --> 00:34:48,139
Did home mean
directly to Krakow?

601
00:34:48,139 --> 00:34:50,750
Oh, yes, definitely, yes.

602
00:34:50,750 --> 00:34:52,250
First we wanted to go home.

603
00:34:52,250 --> 00:34:58,820
And we wanted to see who
of our families are alive.

604
00:34:58,820 --> 00:35:06,250
And that journey was slow.

605
00:35:06,250 --> 00:35:10,750
We stopped in
Czechoslovakia, I remember.

606
00:35:10,750 --> 00:35:18,460
And I also never forget an
incident when we stopped there

607
00:35:18,460 --> 00:35:23,830
and we knocked on
a farmer's house.

608
00:35:23,830 --> 00:35:30,090
When the night came and we
didn't have any place to sleep,

609

00:35:30,090 --> 00:35:34,600
we knocked on the farmer's door.

610

00:35:34,600 --> 00:35:37,450
And we asked if we
can stay overnight.

611

00:35:37,450 --> 00:35:40,420
We were five of us.

612

00:35:40,420 --> 00:35:41,960
We stuck together.

613

00:35:41,960 --> 00:35:44,440
We were-- excuse me, we are
more than five, we were eight.

614

00:35:44,440 --> 00:35:46,840
Because we had other
friends that came with us.

615

00:35:46,840 --> 00:35:48,940
And we didn't want to travel--

616

00:35:48,940 --> 00:35:53,200
nobody ever wanted
to be by himself, not

617

00:35:53,200 --> 00:35:55,720
in the war situation with the--

618

00:35:55,720 --> 00:36:00,590

619

00:36:00,590 --> 00:36:02,060
And he took you in?

620

00:36:02,060 --> 00:36:07,460
And these people took us in.

621

00:36:07,460 --> 00:36:10,460
And they gave us their bedroom.

622
00:36:10,460 --> 00:36:13,370
We were dirty.

623
00:36:13,370 --> 00:36:16,700
We might have had lice.

624
00:36:16,700 --> 00:36:20,840
We were very hungry
and not clean.

625
00:36:20,840 --> 00:36:21,650
And we were Jewish.

626
00:36:21,650 --> 00:36:24,250

627
00:36:24,250 --> 00:36:27,010
And they took us, they
gave us the bedroom.

628
00:36:27,010 --> 00:36:29,810
And we asked them,
where will you sleep?

629
00:36:29,810 --> 00:36:32,660
And they said, no, we
have a place to sleep.

630
00:36:32,660 --> 00:36:37,690
And at night when I went
for a drink of water,

631
00:36:37,690 --> 00:36:39,910
they were all
sleeping on the floor

632
00:36:39,910 --> 00:36:42,448
in the kitchen, these people.

633

00:36:42,448 --> 00:36:43,490
I will never forget them.

634
00:36:43,490 --> 00:36:44,630
The whole family?

635
00:36:44,630 --> 00:36:46,570
The whole family, yes.

636
00:36:46,570 --> 00:36:49,690
I will never forget
them, really.

637
00:36:49,690 --> 00:36:58,540
This-- as I said, I always
have faith in the good people.

638
00:36:58,540 --> 00:37:03,255
It cannot be that only
bad people succeed.

639
00:37:03,255 --> 00:37:06,540

640
00:37:06,540 --> 00:37:08,340
The good must succeed.

641
00:37:08,340 --> 00:37:12,080
It cannot be otherwise.

642
00:37:12,080 --> 00:37:14,900
If I can go back for a
moment to your diary.

643
00:37:14,900 --> 00:37:16,790
Yes.

644
00:37:16,790 --> 00:37:21,217
You said you retrieved it.

645
00:37:21,217 --> 00:37:23,300
You lost it three times,

retrieved it three times.

646
00:37:23,300 --> 00:37:23,450
Yes.

647
00:37:23,450 --> 00:37:24,330
Tell us about that.

648
00:37:24,330 --> 00:37:26,060
Tell us the specifics.

649
00:37:26,060 --> 00:37:34,780
Well, the first time
it was taken away

650
00:37:34,780 --> 00:37:37,230
in the Schindler's camp.

651
00:37:37,230 --> 00:37:42,960
And I simply went
to the office there.

652
00:37:42,960 --> 00:37:44,160
This was a small camp.

653
00:37:44,160 --> 00:37:47,250
It was only 1,000 people.

654
00:37:47,250 --> 00:37:49,560
I simply went to
the office there

655
00:37:49,560 --> 00:37:55,230
and I saw it laying there.

656
00:37:55,230 --> 00:37:56,280
And I just took it.

657
00:37:56,280 --> 00:37:58,880

658

00:37:58,880 --> 00:37:59,480
I took it.

659
00:37:59,480 --> 00:38:00,950
I didn't ask much questions.

660
00:38:00,950 --> 00:38:03,380
I took it.

661
00:38:03,380 --> 00:38:05,690
The second time
it was taken away

662
00:38:05,690 --> 00:38:07,660
when I went to the camp Plaszow.

663
00:38:07,660 --> 00:38:11,150

664
00:38:11,150 --> 00:38:16,010
And it was taken by a
lager lageraltester.

665
00:38:16,010 --> 00:38:17,270
She was a tall woman.

666
00:38:17,270 --> 00:38:18,380
I don't know who she was.

667
00:38:18,380 --> 00:38:19,580
I don't know what--

668
00:38:19,580 --> 00:38:22,550
I don't even think
she was Jewish.

669
00:38:22,550 --> 00:38:28,760
But I walked over later
to her and I asked

670
00:38:28,760 --> 00:38:31,950
her to give it back to me.

671

00:38:31,950 --> 00:38:35,180
And for some reason, she didn't
want to be bothered with it

672

00:38:35,180 --> 00:38:38,150
and she gave it to me.

673

00:38:38,150 --> 00:38:47,870
The third time, and this
was the most dramatic way

674

00:38:47,870 --> 00:38:51,020
that it's been
taken away from me.

675

00:38:51,020 --> 00:38:56,810
It was a very small entrance
from one room to another.

676

00:38:56,810 --> 00:38:59,090
And the crew of
Auschwitz was standing--

677

00:38:59,090 --> 00:39:02,780
a girl was standing
there with her foot

678

00:39:02,780 --> 00:39:04,430
up so no one could pass.

679

00:39:04,430 --> 00:39:10,970
Only she-- she passed one person
at a time, one woman at a time.

680

00:39:10,970 --> 00:39:16,400
Everybody had what
was his priority.

681

00:39:16,400 --> 00:39:20,150
One person, one of my
friends had a piece of soap.

682

00:39:20,150 --> 00:39:25,370

683

00:39:25,370 --> 00:39:27,420

One of my friends had a--

684

00:39:27,420 --> 00:39:33,810

685

00:39:33,810 --> 00:39:35,580

how you call it--

686

00:39:35,580 --> 00:39:37,800

a brassier.

687

00:39:37,800 --> 00:39:43,260

Because she was very big
and she wanted to put that

688

00:39:43,260 --> 00:39:43,980

brassiere on.

689

00:39:43,980 --> 00:39:47,730

That was very important for her.

690

00:39:47,730 --> 00:39:53,580

Other people had maybe
something else, I don't know.

691

00:39:53,580 --> 00:39:55,200

I had my diary.

692

00:39:55,200 --> 00:39:56,790

I had my diary.

693

00:39:56,790 --> 00:40:03,390

It was like a homework
book rolled together

694

00:40:03,390 --> 00:40:05,430

and bind with a string.

695
00:40:05,430 --> 00:40:08,100
And I always kept it--

696
00:40:08,100 --> 00:40:11,520
maybe I was lucky, I was
very flat at this time.

697
00:40:11,520 --> 00:40:18,730
And I kept it always on my
body here, on my breast.

698
00:40:18,730 --> 00:40:27,270
And this way when I was supposed
to go through the entrance

699
00:40:27,270 --> 00:40:34,620
where she kept her foot,
the girl, I took my diary,

700
00:40:34,620 --> 00:40:39,720
I rolled it, and I
kept it along my arm.

701
00:40:39,720 --> 00:40:44,580
And I just went sort of like
sideways when she pushed me.

702
00:40:44,580 --> 00:40:48,430
But she saw that I
have something there.

703
00:40:48,430 --> 00:40:52,770
And she tore it out
from under my arm.

704
00:40:52,770 --> 00:40:59,760
And she dumped it on that little
hill that was in the doorway.

705
00:40:59,760 --> 00:41:03,240
The little hill was made
out of those little pieces

706
00:41:03,240 --> 00:41:06,570
of soap, of the brassieres,
of those other--

707
00:41:06,570 --> 00:41:08,160
and of my diary.

708
00:41:08,160 --> 00:41:12,690
And as soon as I passed that
entrance when she tore it out,

709
00:41:12,690 --> 00:41:16,305
I hid behind the--

710
00:41:16,305 --> 00:41:18,030
you know, like this.

711
00:41:18,030 --> 00:41:24,330
And I was just waiting till she
was busy beating up somebody.

712
00:41:24,330 --> 00:41:28,290
And then I quickly bent
down and picked up my diary

713
00:41:28,290 --> 00:41:33,030
and very quickly mingled
with the hundreds

714
00:41:33,030 --> 00:41:36,780
of women that were in the room.

715
00:41:36,780 --> 00:41:40,828
Now there was a soldier that
was walking around with a--

716
00:41:40,828 --> 00:41:43,756

717
00:41:43,756 --> 00:41:44,732
A gun?

718
00:41:44,732 --> 00:41:46,470
A gun, yeah.

719
00:41:46,470 --> 00:41:48,660
So I was walking like this.

720
00:41:48,660 --> 00:41:54,990
Wherever he was, I was with this
arm up, not making eye contact.

721
00:41:54,990 --> 00:41:59,190
And if he went there, I
turned with this arm there.

722
00:41:59,190 --> 00:42:04,170
And miraculously I escaped
this way in many selections,

723
00:42:04,170 --> 00:42:06,210
in few selections
that I went through.

724
00:42:06,210 --> 00:42:11,940
And then they counted
the 300 of us.

725
00:42:11,940 --> 00:42:16,230
And we went to the last
camp that I was liberated.

726
00:42:16,230 --> 00:42:17,550
And this is why--

727
00:42:17,550 --> 00:42:21,870
really, it was an obsession with
me to bring this diary through.

728
00:42:21,870 --> 00:42:31,140
And I am writing at
one point that I am--

729

00:42:31,140 --> 00:42:35,580

I hope that this diary will
not fall in the wrong hands.

730

00:42:35,580 --> 00:42:38,040

And I have to write.

731

00:42:38,040 --> 00:42:47,190

I have to write so people
will know what has happened.

732

00:42:47,190 --> 00:42:52,200

And thank God, I lived through.

733

00:42:52,200 --> 00:42:55,345

And here I am.

734

00:42:55,345 --> 00:42:59,290

It's an amazing story.

735

00:42:59,290 --> 00:43:04,060

Is there anything else you
would like to add to this?

736

00:43:04,060 --> 00:43:07,030

I don't know.

737

00:43:07,030 --> 00:43:08,650

How did you meet your husband?

738

00:43:08,650 --> 00:43:11,140

Oh, that's a lovely story.

739

00:43:11,140 --> 00:43:12,810

Why not end with a lovely story?

740

00:43:12,810 --> 00:43:16,630

741

00:43:16,630 --> 00:43:24,100

My husband-- after the
war we could travel,

742
00:43:24,100 --> 00:43:28,820
just the number
was our document.

743
00:43:28,820 --> 00:43:30,078
You didn't need money.

744
00:43:30,078 --> 00:43:31,120
You didn't need anything.

745
00:43:31,120 --> 00:43:33,910
You could travel from
one country to another

746
00:43:33,910 --> 00:43:35,980
without money.

747
00:43:35,980 --> 00:43:37,540
We didn't have money anyway.

748
00:43:37,540 --> 00:43:38,530
And you know.

749
00:43:38,530 --> 00:43:42,040

750
00:43:42,040 --> 00:43:45,640
So I traveled to
Austria with my friend

751
00:43:45,640 --> 00:43:50,530
who was looking for her husband,
for her present husband.

752
00:43:50,530 --> 00:43:52,600
At this time she
was going with him.

753
00:43:52,600 --> 00:43:55,220
And then they found each other.

754

00:43:55,220 --> 00:43:57,310

And she was asking me,
please come with me.

755

00:43:57,310 --> 00:43:59,140

She didn't want to
travel by herself.

756

00:43:59,140 --> 00:44:01,060

And I went with her.

757

00:44:01,060 --> 00:44:05,200

And I went with her
to Theresienstadt,

758

00:44:05,200 --> 00:44:08,920

and here and there,
and no place.

759

00:44:08,920 --> 00:44:11,750

And finally, I wound up in Linz.

760

00:44:11,750 --> 00:44:14,620

761

00:44:14,620 --> 00:44:20,920

And then I was in the Linz DP
camp, displaced persons camp.

762

00:44:20,920 --> 00:44:22,270

And there I met my husband.

763

00:44:22,270 --> 00:44:24,940

My husband was my neighbor.

764

00:44:24,940 --> 00:44:33,640

And one night they made a dance.

765

00:44:33,640 --> 00:44:38,830

They made a dance for the
survivors, for the [INAUDIBLE]..

766

00:44:38,830 --> 00:44:41,650

And my husband invited
me to that dance.

767

00:44:41,650 --> 00:44:45,910

768

00:44:45,910 --> 00:44:48,800

And we came.

769

00:44:48,800 --> 00:44:54,724

We have been taken and
brought by big trucks.

770

00:44:54,724 --> 00:44:58,810

We were in the camp and they
brought us and they brought us

771

00:44:58,810 --> 00:45:00,820

back with big trucks.

772

00:45:00,820 --> 00:45:06,620

And my husband at this time--

773

00:45:06,620 --> 00:45:10,960

oh, he already
preliminary to that

774

00:45:10,960 --> 00:45:15,970

tried to get acquainted
a little with me.

775

00:45:15,970 --> 00:45:21,580

I was working at this time
in the UNRRA, in the United--

776

00:45:21,580 --> 00:45:22,780

Nations Relief.

777

00:45:22,780 --> 00:45:25,750

--Relief organization.

778

00:45:25,750 --> 00:45:28,390

779

00:45:28,390 --> 00:45:35,930

And then he wanted to
make a date for skiing.

780

00:45:35,930 --> 00:45:37,630

This-- we came 3
o'clock in the morning,

781

00:45:37,630 --> 00:45:44,260

and he wanted already
meet me the same morning.

782

00:45:44,260 --> 00:45:46,920

Just a good story.

783

00:45:46,920 --> 00:45:50,350

Yeah, so nice.

784

00:45:50,350 --> 00:45:54,250

And we started to--
courtship started.

785

00:45:54,250 --> 00:46:02,040

And then he proposed to me.

786

00:46:02,040 --> 00:46:05,190

And he had a cousin in America--

787

00:46:05,190 --> 00:46:09,720

788

00:46:09,720 --> 00:46:16,830

Lieutenant Colonel Isadore
Abrahamer, was a great man,

789

00:46:16,830 --> 00:46:18,480

was a lovely man.

790

00:46:18,480 --> 00:46:21,330

791

00:46:21,330 --> 00:46:27,300

And he was in Salzburg,
stationed in Salzburg.

792

00:46:27,300 --> 00:46:30,480

And he gave a sign--
he put a sign in--

793

00:46:30,480 --> 00:46:34,530

if anybody from the family
Abrahamer from Krakow

794

00:46:34,530 --> 00:46:38,160

knows anybody from the
Abrahamer family from Krakow,

795

00:46:38,160 --> 00:46:41,880

please contact me
here in this office.

796

00:46:41,880 --> 00:46:45,930

And so somebody told my husband
that such and such person

797

00:46:45,930 --> 00:46:46,890

is looking for you.

798

00:46:46,890 --> 00:46:51,570

And my husband went to Salzburg
and he found this cousin.

799

00:46:51,570 --> 00:46:59,400

And this cousin arranged
for papers for my husband.

800

00:46:59,400 --> 00:47:04,560

And my husband was one of the
first ones to get the papers.

801

00:47:04,560 --> 00:47:06,720

But in order for me--

802
00:47:06,720 --> 00:47:10,020
we got engaged, and
in order for him

803
00:47:10,020 --> 00:47:13,800
to take me with him to
America we had to be married,

804
00:47:13,800 --> 00:47:15,750
not engaged just.

805
00:47:15,750 --> 00:47:20,010
Otherwise, I would have to
stay for God knows how long.

806
00:47:20,010 --> 00:47:24,390
So soon after we had married.

807
00:47:24,390 --> 00:47:28,260
It was Passover time.

808
00:47:28,260 --> 00:47:39,750
We went on our honeymoon to the
Austrian Alps, where we skied.

809
00:47:39,750 --> 00:47:42,678
I lost my ski.

810
00:47:42,678 --> 00:47:45,810
It fell all the way down.

811
00:47:45,810 --> 00:47:47,160
We came back.

812
00:47:47,160 --> 00:47:55,530
And then-- oh, we
had a lovely wedding.

813
00:47:55,530 --> 00:47:58,350
We had 20 people on our wedding.

814
00:47:58,350 --> 00:48:02,610
Before we went on our honeymoon.

815
00:48:02,610 --> 00:48:04,770
We had a very lovely wedding.

816
00:48:04,770 --> 00:48:08,490
20 people, our friends,
made this in the kitchen.

817
00:48:08,490 --> 00:48:13,560
In the kitchen was
the chuppah, you know.

818
00:48:13,560 --> 00:48:15,960
And I remember,
like today that--

819
00:48:15,960 --> 00:48:19,980

820
00:48:19,980 --> 00:48:21,300
one of my friends--

821
00:48:21,300 --> 00:48:23,490
they were already
married women--

822
00:48:23,490 --> 00:48:27,690
they led me seven times--
as it is the Jewish custom--

823
00:48:27,690 --> 00:48:28,740
around.

824
00:48:28,740 --> 00:48:34,380
And I remember, like today,
that I was putting my nails

825
00:48:34,380 --> 00:48:36,870
into my thighs.

826
00:48:36,870 --> 00:48:38,970
Because not to shake.

827
00:48:38,970 --> 00:48:43,590
Because at this
moment I remembered

828
00:48:43,590 --> 00:48:48,330
my parents, who always--

829
00:48:48,330 --> 00:48:54,420
there was a saying, that
we wish that we should live

830
00:48:54,420 --> 00:48:57,150
to bring you under the chuppah.

831
00:48:57,150 --> 00:49:03,210
That's was this every mother's
dream, every Jewish mother's

832
00:49:03,210 --> 00:49:04,950
dream.

833
00:49:04,950 --> 00:49:09,720
And I remember I
was very emotional.

834
00:49:09,720 --> 00:49:16,980
And I was choking my tears
down as I was thinking

835
00:49:16,980 --> 00:49:21,790
about my mother, my father.

836
00:49:21,790 --> 00:49:23,880
So it was.

837
00:49:23,880 --> 00:49:26,020
We had 20 people
at that wedding.

838
00:49:26,020 --> 00:49:29,633
And we had an American
rabbi that gave us the--

839
00:49:29,633 --> 00:49:32,550

840
00:49:32,550 --> 00:49:33,910
he--

841
00:49:33,910 --> 00:49:34,800
A military chaplain.

842
00:49:34,800 --> 00:49:37,040
A military chaplain, yes.

843
00:49:37,040 --> 00:49:39,950
When did you come to
the United States?

844
00:49:39,950 --> 00:49:47,450
We came to the United
States in 1948.

845
00:49:47,450 --> 00:49:57,290
It was-- unfortunately, when
we were called to the United

846
00:49:57,290 --> 00:50:03,200
States, we were stopped for
about nine months in Munich

847
00:50:03,200 --> 00:50:06,170
because the Polish
quota stopped.

848
00:50:06,170 --> 00:50:07,650
And we were very unhappy.

849
00:50:07,650 --> 00:50:11,150
It was a terrible place there.

850
00:50:11,150 --> 00:50:17,570
And we had no place really
to bathe or to keep--

851
00:50:17,570 --> 00:50:19,970
there were 12 people in a room.

852
00:50:19,970 --> 00:50:24,060
We slept on a army cot.

853
00:50:24,060 --> 00:50:27,930
And it was really very--

854
00:50:27,930 --> 00:50:29,300
it was no privacy.

855
00:50:29,300 --> 00:50:34,040
It was very, very bad.

856
00:50:34,040 --> 00:50:35,640
It was very poor.

857
00:50:35,640 --> 00:50:41,190
And this-- we ran every
morning to the list again.

858
00:50:41,190 --> 00:50:42,870
If our name-- and we are A--

859
00:50:42,870 --> 00:50:43,660
Abrahamer.

860
00:50:43,660 --> 00:50:45,700
So we should be on
the top of the list.

861
00:50:45,700 --> 00:50:47,940
If we are on the list
to go to America,

862

00:50:47,940 --> 00:50:51,540
because they stopped
the Polish quota.

863
00:50:51,540 --> 00:50:55,950
Finally, after nine months came
the [INAUDIBLE] Commission.

864
00:50:55,950 --> 00:50:58,950
And they came--

865
00:50:58,950 --> 00:51:03,390
I have even in my
photo album pictures.

866
00:51:03,390 --> 00:51:08,240
And he helped us to--

867
00:51:08,240 --> 00:51:11,780
not only us, but the
Polish quota went through.

868
00:51:11,780 --> 00:51:14,580
And finally we came
to the United States.

869
00:51:14,580 --> 00:51:19,850
And I have pictures when
they greet us on the pier

870
00:51:19,850 --> 00:51:21,420
with music.

871
00:51:21,420 --> 00:51:23,450
And I have written captions.

872
00:51:23,450 --> 00:51:26,150
And they greeted us with music.

873
00:51:26,150 --> 00:51:29,660
We were one of the first
refugees-- not the very first

874

00:51:29,660 --> 00:51:32,540

refugees, but one of the
first transports of refugees

875

00:51:32,540 --> 00:51:34,280

coming to the United States.

876

00:51:34,280 --> 00:51:36,470

Were both of your
children born here?

877

00:51:36,470 --> 00:51:39,770

Yes, both of my children
were born here in New York.

878

00:51:39,770 --> 00:51:43,470

Do you talk with them
about your experiences?

879

00:51:43,470 --> 00:51:44,600

Or have they ever asked?

880

00:51:44,600 --> 00:51:47,810

Well, on the beginning
when they were small,

881

00:51:47,810 --> 00:51:51,350

and they asked me mommy,
what's that, showing my number.

882

00:51:51,350 --> 00:51:52,280

I didn't tell them.

883

00:51:52,280 --> 00:51:53,210

They were too small.

884

00:51:53,210 --> 00:51:56,610

I didn't want to stuff
horror into their minds.

885

00:51:56,610 --> 00:52:00,860

I didn't want to tell them that

people can be bad or something.

886

00:52:00,860 --> 00:52:05,717

So I told them, oh, that's my
telephone number, anything.

887

00:52:05,717 --> 00:52:07,550

You know, they were too
small to understand.

888

00:52:07,550 --> 00:52:10,340

And then little by little--

889

00:52:10,340 --> 00:52:12,290

little by little I tell them.

890

00:52:12,290 --> 00:52:23,270

My daughter read the
diary, the translation.

891

00:52:23,270 --> 00:52:28,830

And she was really the
one that encouraged me,

892

00:52:28,830 --> 00:52:31,880

along with my husband, of
course, who always encouraged

893

00:52:31,880 --> 00:52:35,270

me to publish it.

894

00:52:35,270 --> 00:52:37,310

My daughter said--

895

00:52:37,310 --> 00:52:38,630

I gave her to read it.

896

00:52:38,630 --> 00:52:44,390

And I said-- my daughter
is a teacher by profession

897

00:52:44,390 --> 00:52:47,780

with emphasis on reading and
all kinds of other courses

898
00:52:47,780 --> 00:52:49,550
that she went through.

899
00:52:49,550 --> 00:52:51,710
And she said, mommy, it's great.

900
00:52:51,710 --> 00:52:55,160
Mommy, you should
really publish it

901
00:52:55,160 --> 00:52:58,850
with some small
corrections of the sayings.

902
00:52:58,850 --> 00:53:01,610
Like she said, this is not
really an English expression.

903
00:53:01,610 --> 00:53:05,930
You have to put it
this way or that way.

904
00:53:05,930 --> 00:53:13,540
But my translation
is my very own.

905
00:53:13,540 --> 00:53:17,110
I worked very hard
for a few years.

906
00:53:17,110 --> 00:53:23,450
And I am very
meticulous with words.

907
00:53:23,450 --> 00:53:27,145
And I adore the art of words.

908
00:53:27,145 --> 00:53:29,850

909

00:53:29,850 --> 00:53:34,620

And therefore, I would never
settle for any substitute.

910

00:53:34,620 --> 00:53:39,510

If I got stuck on a word
that couldn't be translated

911

00:53:39,510 --> 00:53:43,140

or something, I
looked so many times

912

00:53:43,140 --> 00:53:48,690

and I read so many things until
sometimes I jumped up at night

913

00:53:48,690 --> 00:53:52,770

and I said, that's the
word, that's the word.

914

00:53:52,770 --> 00:53:55,390

And I made a notation.

915

00:53:55,390 --> 00:54:00,690

And I have tons of
notations, of words

916

00:54:00,690 --> 00:54:06,270

that I want to use or words that
I question which word to use.

917

00:54:06,270 --> 00:54:10,590

Which is the real equivalent
of the Polish expression

918

00:54:10,590 --> 00:54:12,030

that I have write.

919

00:54:12,030 --> 00:54:17,050

And my Polish was pretty good.

920

00:54:17,050 --> 00:54:18,790

So, you know.

921

00:54:18,790 --> 00:54:21,200

Mrs. Abrahamer,

thank you very much.

922

00:54:21,200 --> 00:54:22,810

I thank you.

923

00:54:22,810 --> 00:54:27,920

And I hope that it

will do some good.

924

00:54:27,920 --> 00:54:29,850

I'm sure it will.

925

00:54:29,850 --> 00:54:39,000