

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:12,910

2

00:00:12,910 --> 00:00:16,570

We continue with our  
videotaping Lauryann Friedman.

3

00:00:16,570 --> 00:00:18,520

Mrs. Friedman, you  
were saying you

4

00:00:18,520 --> 00:00:21,820

wanted to go back to the time  
when you left your mother.

5

00:00:21,820 --> 00:00:23,680

Right.

6

00:00:23,680 --> 00:00:28,690

As we were shoved, and  
pushed, and ordered,

7

00:00:28,690 --> 00:00:40,300

in German, of course, to march  
and be passed between these two

8

00:00:40,300 --> 00:00:44,350

Lager, which I learned  
the word later.

9

00:00:44,350 --> 00:00:48,070

And the people, as I  
have described them.

10

00:00:48,070 --> 00:00:53,710

We were-- after perhaps  
a 10-minute walk,

11

00:00:53,710 --> 00:00:58,630

we all arrived into a room  
where we were told quickly

12

00:00:58,630 --> 00:01:03,700

to undress and leave your  
clothes behind and go

13

00:01:03,700 --> 00:01:09,640

into another room, where we  
were given a soap and shower.

14

00:01:09,640 --> 00:01:13,450

But before that, we were shaved.

15

00:01:13,450 --> 00:01:15,430

All area that can be shaved.

16

00:01:15,430 --> 00:01:17,050

By men, totally.

17

00:01:17,050 --> 00:01:20,920

18

00:01:20,920 --> 00:01:25,270

How you call it, just  
completely shaven.

19

00:01:25,270 --> 00:01:27,940

And then we were--

20

00:01:27,940 --> 00:01:28,990

we took this shower.

21

00:01:28,990 --> 00:01:31,270

And then we were thrown  
some kind of clothing

22

00:01:31,270 --> 00:01:34,660

that, as I said, what  
we saw the other people.

23

00:01:34,660 --> 00:01:36,370

Now, we must have  
looked like that.

24

00:01:36,370 --> 00:01:38,320

Because we couldn't  
see ourselves.

25

00:01:38,320 --> 00:01:43,540

But we saw what we  
passed on the way in.

26

00:01:43,540 --> 00:01:49,450

The clothing were not  
assorted to size or--

27

00:01:49,450 --> 00:01:52,540

somebody tall got something  
ridiculously short.

28

00:01:52,540 --> 00:01:55,780

And somebody who was  
heavy got something

29

00:01:55,780 --> 00:01:57,760

so tight you could  
hardly squeeze into it.

30

00:01:57,760 --> 00:02:00,870

And there was no choice.

31

00:02:00,870 --> 00:02:03,030

And no underwear.

32

00:02:03,030 --> 00:02:05,920

Just an outer clothing.

33

00:02:05,920 --> 00:02:07,710

It was not a striped uniform.

34

00:02:07,710 --> 00:02:10,470

It was just a dirty  
clothes that must

35

00:02:10,470 --> 00:02:17,340

have been dumped into some kind

of fluid to sterilize already.

36

00:02:17,340 --> 00:02:20,160

And it was full of lice.

37

00:02:20,160 --> 00:02:22,050

That was worn before.

38

00:02:22,050 --> 00:02:23,940

Do you think that  
the objective of this

39

00:02:23,940 --> 00:02:26,370

was the kind of  
humiliation or degradation?

40

00:02:26,370 --> 00:02:29,370

Every step of the way  
everything they ever did

41

00:02:29,370 --> 00:02:36,240

was to take away your  
self-respect and humanity.

42

00:02:36,240 --> 00:02:39,360

You were no longer a woman.

43

00:02:39,360 --> 00:02:44,330

And after a while, you  
were no longer human.

44

00:02:44,330 --> 00:02:48,600

See, the-- when a  
child draws the picture

45

00:02:48,600 --> 00:02:51,690

of a woman and a man,  
a woman will have hair.

46

00:02:51,690 --> 00:02:56,820

Now, first thing they did is  
to dehumanize us this way,

47

00:02:56,820 --> 00:03:00,750

that women no longer  
looked like women.

48

00:03:00,750 --> 00:03:05,430

And perhaps it was good,  
because it could not

49

00:03:05,430 --> 00:03:08,190

have been that we had  
hair and lice in our hair.

50

00:03:08,190 --> 00:03:10,110

It would have been horrible.

51

00:03:10,110 --> 00:03:12,300

But I don't think it's  
for the good of it

52

00:03:12,300 --> 00:03:15,690

that they thought about it,  
but for their own reason

53

00:03:15,690 --> 00:03:18,900

of dehumanizing us.

54

00:03:18,900 --> 00:03:23,670

So now, we were wearing  
something absolutely horrible.

55

00:03:23,670 --> 00:03:32,610

And we were ushered into  
this enormous Lager just

56

00:03:32,610 --> 00:03:33,780

to spend the night.

57

00:03:33,780 --> 00:03:36,390

Everybody was on the  
same floor, there

58

00:03:36,390 --> 00:03:40,680

were no different,  
you know, like you

59  
00:03:40,680 --> 00:03:46,440  
might see in movies  
that were taken then,

60  
00:03:46,440 --> 00:03:50,894  
how there were three  
layer of people in these--

61  
00:03:50,894 --> 00:03:51,840  
Bunks.

62  
00:03:51,840 --> 00:03:54,000  
--bunks.

63  
00:03:54,000 --> 00:03:56,040  
There were no bunks.

64  
00:03:56,040 --> 00:03:58,290  
I suppose the newcomers,  
they were just

65  
00:03:58,290 --> 00:03:59,700  
shoved in there for overnight.

66  
00:03:59,700 --> 00:04:00,990  
And it was locked up at night.

67  
00:04:00,990 --> 00:04:02,198  
And you couldn't go anywhere.

68  
00:04:02,198 --> 00:04:05,280  
There were no bathroom facility.

69  
00:04:05,280 --> 00:04:10,630  
And people-- there were at  
least 1,000 people there.

70  
00:04:10,630 --> 00:04:13,570  
A sea of people as I could see.

71

00:04:13,570 --> 00:04:16,529

And you were told to march  
in and sit down as you were.

72

00:04:16,529 --> 00:04:19,860

So if I was against the wall,  
there were people front of me

73

00:04:19,860 --> 00:04:23,790

sitting down, and next to  
me, And left and right.

74

00:04:23,790 --> 00:04:27,150

And there was no way  
to walk out if you

75

00:04:27,150 --> 00:04:28,830

had to go to the bathroom.

76

00:04:28,830 --> 00:04:36,420

And people, from exhaustion  
and fatigue of the trip,

77

00:04:36,420 --> 00:04:40,110

they fell asleep and  
woke with nightmares

78

00:04:40,110 --> 00:04:43,440

or wanted to turn over and  
hit somebody in the dark.

79

00:04:43,440 --> 00:04:46,600

And that person next to  
you started screaming.

80

00:04:46,600 --> 00:04:51,090

Doesn't know what was happening  
and woke up in fright.

81

00:04:51,090 --> 00:04:56,560

There were absolute  
chaos that first night.

82  
00:04:56,560 --> 00:04:57,700  
And you could see nothing?

83  
00:04:57,700 --> 00:04:59,620  
No, you could see  
absolutely nothing.

84  
00:04:59,620 --> 00:05:03,130  
You heard shots outside  
and dogs barking

85  
00:05:03,130 --> 00:05:05,860  
and it was dark everywhere.

86  
00:05:05,860 --> 00:05:09,130  
And all you heard is  
from different parts

87  
00:05:09,130 --> 00:05:15,250  
of that enormous room  
somebody screaming or hitting

88  
00:05:15,250 --> 00:05:17,800  
somebody and somebody crying.

89  
00:05:17,800 --> 00:05:20,290

90  
00:05:20,290 --> 00:05:21,790  
In the middle of  
the night, somebody

91  
00:05:21,790 --> 00:05:23,470  
got up and wanted  
to go somewhere

92  
00:05:23,470 --> 00:05:26,710  
and was so disoriented,  
they stepped on somebody

93  
00:05:26,710 --> 00:05:27,580



right next to him.

94

00:05:27,580 --> 00:05:32,680

And that person thought  
she's being attacked.

95

00:05:32,680 --> 00:05:36,250

So it was really utter chaos.

96

00:05:36,250 --> 00:05:37,720

And people crying.

97

00:05:37,720 --> 00:05:41,440

98

00:05:41,440 --> 00:05:43,750

By then, of course, we  
had no children around us.

99

00:05:43,750 --> 00:05:45,850

There were very old people.

100

00:05:45,850 --> 00:05:50,050

We were selected on the  
way before we got there.

101

00:05:50,050 --> 00:05:53,830

And of course, the night didn't  
last long, because around--

102

00:05:53,830 --> 00:05:57,070

must have been at the crack  
of dawn, the first as the sun

103

00:05:57,070 --> 00:05:58,390

came up a little bit.

104

00:05:58,390 --> 00:05:59,990

We were already  
still in the dark.

105

00:05:59,990 --> 00:06:02,680

We were marched  
outside, and told,

106  
00:06:02,680 --> 00:06:06,940  
and pushed physically  
to line up five by five.

107  
00:06:06,940 --> 00:06:10,840  
We had to now learn a  
new way of doing things.

108  
00:06:10,840 --> 00:06:12,910  
And from then on, we knew.

109  
00:06:12,910 --> 00:06:17,530  
We learned very fast, because  
the butt of a machine gun

110  
00:06:17,530 --> 00:06:19,300  
is very hard.

111  
00:06:19,300 --> 00:06:21,880  
So you didn't waste  
any time moving on

112  
00:06:21,880 --> 00:06:28,600  
and stand up in fives in  
columns and stand straight.

113  
00:06:28,600 --> 00:06:32,900  
And we were told that  
we will be counted.

114  
00:06:32,900 --> 00:06:37,150  
And so many people have  
to be on that count.

115  
00:06:37,150 --> 00:06:42,460  
And if it doesn't correspond  
with their numbers,

116  
00:06:42,460 --> 00:06:44,740  
we will be counted until

it will correspond.

117  
00:06:44,740 --> 00:06:46,480  
This was the Appell?

118  
00:06:46,480 --> 00:06:48,370  
It was the Appell, yes.

119  
00:06:48,370 --> 00:06:51,400  
[GERMAN] Appell.

120  
00:06:51,400 --> 00:06:55,240  
But this didn't happen  
until about maybe 8 o'clock.

121  
00:06:55,240 --> 00:06:58,390  
And we learned to tell time  
by the way, the sun hit us

122  
00:06:58,390 --> 00:07:01,090  
and where our shadow fell.

123  
00:07:01,090 --> 00:07:05,810  
We had nothing on,  
nothing to tell time.

124  
00:07:05,810 --> 00:07:08,860  
And we got to know a  
little bit each other.

125  
00:07:08,860 --> 00:07:10,390  
And at least boys.

126  
00:07:10,390 --> 00:07:12,460  
And most people spoke  
the language we knew.

127  
00:07:12,460 --> 00:07:15,670  
They were all Hungarians.

128  
00:07:15,670 --> 00:07:21,070  
And before we were

marched out, we also

129

00:07:21,070 --> 00:07:28,030  
were given some kind of black  
coffee and nothing else.

130

00:07:28,030 --> 00:07:33,130  
That same night, later on, they  
distributed pieces of bread

131

00:07:33,130 --> 00:07:40,540  
that really looked like made of  
straw and a piece of margarine.

132

00:07:40,540 --> 00:07:45,070  
And that was our daily  
allotment for food.

133

00:07:45,070 --> 00:07:51,450

134

00:07:51,450 --> 00:07:53,490  
As I say, we  
learned to tell time

135

00:07:53,490 --> 00:07:58,770  
by seeing if there was sun,  
which way our shadow fell.

136

00:07:58,770 --> 00:08:02,370  
So we had to stand there  
to be counted and make sure

137

00:08:02,370 --> 00:08:06,180  
that we are in the  
proper position,

138

00:08:06,180 --> 00:08:09,870  
standing straight by the  
time the Germans came,

139

00:08:09,870 --> 00:08:11,550  
about 8 o'clock in the morning.

140  
00:08:11,550 --> 00:08:15,690  
That was from 4:00, there  
were still stars in the sky.

141  
00:08:15,690 --> 00:08:18,300  
And it was very cold.

142  
00:08:18,300 --> 00:08:20,540  
And little by  
little, it warmed up.

143  
00:08:20,540 --> 00:08:23,050

144  
00:08:23,050 --> 00:08:26,320  
And this became  
our daily routine.

145  
00:08:26,320 --> 00:08:30,790  
The following day, we were  
assigned to go which barrack.

146  
00:08:30,790 --> 00:08:33,490  
We were going to stay.

147  
00:08:33,490 --> 00:08:39,159  
Later, I learned that this  
was the [GERMAN] Lager.

148  
00:08:39,159 --> 00:08:42,250  
And I was in number 12 barrack.

149  
00:08:42,250 --> 00:08:45,050

150  
00:08:45,050 --> 00:08:49,390  
And that was now  
where I existed.

151  
00:08:49,390 --> 00:08:50,650  
That was your universe.

152  
00:08:50,650 --> 00:08:52,670  
That's right.

153  
00:08:52,670 --> 00:08:58,400  
In this barrack, there were  
the bunks, three rows of bunks,

154  
00:08:58,400 --> 00:09:00,770  
and just planks.

155  
00:09:00,770 --> 00:09:04,430  
Nothing on it, just planks.

156  
00:09:04,430 --> 00:09:09,200  
And six people were  
assigned to one space

157  
00:09:09,200 --> 00:09:13,370  
that perhaps two people  
should have been.

158  
00:09:13,370 --> 00:09:19,430  
We were so squeezed  
that at night, we

159  
00:09:19,430 --> 00:09:22,940  
formed a fetus position  
in order to fit in

160  
00:09:22,940 --> 00:09:25,880  
into each other's shape.

161  
00:09:25,880 --> 00:09:30,320  
And if one person had to  
turn, everybody had to turn.

162  
00:09:30,320 --> 00:09:32,180  
Because there was no place.

163  
00:09:32,180 --> 00:09:36,560  
And in between these planks

which were not wider than that,

164

00:09:36,560 --> 00:09:39,230  
sometime in the middle of  
the night, somebody who fell

165

00:09:39,230 --> 00:09:41,810  
asleep, a leg fell through.

166

00:09:41,810 --> 00:09:45,560  
And a person underneath felt it.

167

00:09:45,560 --> 00:09:50,240  
And again, chaos, because you  
didn't know where you were

168

00:09:50,240 --> 00:09:54,350  
or who was trying to touch you.

169

00:09:54,350 --> 00:09:59,690  
It was just a most  
uncomfortable way.

170

00:09:59,690 --> 00:10:01,040  
We had one blanket.

171

00:10:01,040 --> 00:10:04,280  
And of course, one on the left  
folded and one on the right

172

00:10:04,280 --> 00:10:06,170  
folded.

173

00:10:06,170 --> 00:10:11,690  
And when the early morning  
came, and the couple,

174

00:10:11,690 --> 00:10:16,310  
the block eldest  
who was assigned--

175

00:10:16,310 --> 00:10:19,160

and I can't recall her name.

176

00:10:19,160 --> 00:10:26,990

She was a Polish woman, very  
masculine-looking, very loud.

177

00:10:26,990 --> 00:10:29,570

There was some kind  
of brick construction

178

00:10:29,570 --> 00:10:32,330

in the middle of the barrack.

179

00:10:32,330 --> 00:10:34,700

And she marched up  
and down on that

180

00:10:34,700 --> 00:10:38,360

to make everybody understood  
with her whip in her hand

181

00:10:38,360 --> 00:10:41,655

that when I say up, you get up.

182

00:10:41,655 --> 00:10:44,510

And when I say, you  
march, you march.

183

00:10:44,510 --> 00:10:48,210

Or else you learn  
the consequences.

184

00:10:48,210 --> 00:10:53,810

And I account the SS.

185

00:10:53,810 --> 00:10:55,970

And my life depend on the SS.

186

00:10:55,970 --> 00:10:58,930

And your life depend on me.

187

00:10:58,930 --> 00:11:00,260



Did you see your strike anyone?

188  
00:11:00,260 --> 00:11:02,270  
Oh, constantly.

189  
00:11:02,270 --> 00:11:04,850  
They were very good at it.

190  
00:11:04,850 --> 00:11:07,610  
They had to make  
an example of it.

191  
00:11:07,610 --> 00:11:11,370  
Whenever somebody had to be  
struck for whatever reason,

192  
00:11:11,370 --> 00:11:13,070  
it was brutal.

193  
00:11:13,070 --> 00:11:14,720  
Were you ever hit?

194  
00:11:14,720 --> 00:11:16,250  
No.

195  
00:11:16,250 --> 00:11:20,720  
I have learned very  
fast never to have

196  
00:11:20,720 --> 00:11:22,200  
eye contact with anyone.

197  
00:11:22,200 --> 00:11:23,390  
This was self-preservation.

198  
00:11:23,390 --> 00:11:24,920  
Nobody told me  
about these things.

199  
00:11:24,920 --> 00:11:30,830  
I just learned on  
my own judgment.

200  
00:11:30,830 --> 00:11:31,698  
Did you look down?

201  
00:11:31,698 --> 00:11:32,240  
How did you--

202  
00:11:32,240 --> 00:11:32,990  
I looked--

203  
00:11:32,990 --> 00:11:33,770  
--focus your--

204  
00:11:33,770 --> 00:11:36,950  
--focused nowhere,  
just front of me.

205  
00:11:36,950 --> 00:11:42,260  
When the SS would pass and  
count very systematically

206  
00:11:42,260 --> 00:11:46,140  
in the morning, I was not there.

207  
00:11:46,140 --> 00:11:52,280  
I wove a certain no man's land  
around me like I don't see you

208  
00:11:52,280 --> 00:11:55,220  
and you should not see me.

209  
00:11:55,220 --> 00:11:59,630  
This was my-- from the very  
early time that I was there,

210  
00:11:59,630 --> 00:12:04,700  
I tried to be invisible  
and not to make eye contact

211  
00:12:04,700 --> 00:12:09,980  
with anyone of authority,  
except for the cellmates I had.

212  
00:12:09,980 --> 00:12:15,960

213  
00:12:15,960 --> 00:12:22,980  
After a while, I have heard  
someone, someone's voice.

214  
00:12:22,980 --> 00:12:25,530  
I'm very sensitive to voices.

215  
00:12:25,530 --> 00:12:27,000  
And I heard a young girl talk.

216  
00:12:27,000 --> 00:12:28,980  
And I liked the voice.

217  
00:12:28,980 --> 00:12:31,090  
And I repeated the  
words she just said.

218  
00:12:31,090 --> 00:12:34,860  
And I said who said such  
and such a thing just now?

219  
00:12:34,860 --> 00:12:38,550  
And she was two bunks below me.

220  
00:12:38,550 --> 00:12:41,790  
And I said, I'd  
like to meet you.

221  
00:12:41,790 --> 00:12:43,860  
And the first chance  
we had, we met.

222  
00:12:43,860 --> 00:12:45,300  
And we remained friends.

223  
00:12:45,300 --> 00:12:48,610  
We sort of looked  
out for each other.

224  
00:12:48,610 --> 00:12:50,460  
What she said was  
obviously in Hungarian.

225  
00:12:50,460 --> 00:12:51,690  
In Hungarian, yes.

226  
00:12:51,690 --> 00:12:54,420  
But it's her voice that appealed  
to me, not what she said.

227  
00:12:54,420 --> 00:12:57,360  
It had no special meaning.

228  
00:12:57,360 --> 00:13:02,150  
But this is how I made  
friends with one person.

229  
00:13:02,150 --> 00:13:08,210  
She has remained with me all  
the way through the other camps

230  
00:13:08,210 --> 00:13:11,720  
and liberation and died after.

231  
00:13:11,720 --> 00:13:14,980  
And I was in the  
same bunk with her.

232  
00:13:14,980 --> 00:13:18,440  
We ate from the same  
[GERMAN],, as they call it,

233  
00:13:18,440 --> 00:13:20,900  
which is a plate.

234  
00:13:20,900 --> 00:13:24,730  
And sometimes from  
the same spoon.

235  
00:13:24,730 --> 00:13:28,240

She had a very  
fast tuberculosis.

236  
00:13:28,240 --> 00:13:29,260  
She began to cough.

237  
00:13:29,260 --> 00:13:32,920  
And I remember hearing  
her little cough.

238  
00:13:32,920 --> 00:13:37,000  
But at the time, I didn't know  
what it was, what it meant.

239  
00:13:37,000 --> 00:13:38,350  
And it got worse and worse.

240  
00:13:38,350 --> 00:13:41,350  
And she died the day  
after we were liberated.

241  
00:13:41,350 --> 00:13:42,940  
Was she the same age as you?

242  
00:13:42,940 --> 00:13:43,510  
Yes.

243  
00:13:43,510 --> 00:13:45,790  
What was her name?

244  
00:13:45,790 --> 00:13:46,990  
I don't know her last name.

245  
00:13:46,990 --> 00:13:48,580  
I only know her--  
even then, I think

246  
00:13:48,580 --> 00:13:50,360  
only I knew her first name.

247  
00:13:50,360 --> 00:13:53,380  
Her first name was Magda.

248  
00:13:53,380 --> 00:13:56,920  
And then it was again chaos  
when we were liberated,

249  
00:13:56,920 --> 00:13:59,350  
just as much.

250  
00:13:59,350 --> 00:14:01,270  
That I remember, I was there.

251  
00:14:01,270 --> 00:14:03,790  
She was buried there.

252  
00:14:03,790 --> 00:14:08,320  
And I went on back to  
Hungary from that point on.

253  
00:14:08,320 --> 00:14:10,210  
So coming back to Auschwitz.

254  
00:14:10,210 --> 00:14:14,780

255  
00:14:14,780 --> 00:14:19,710  
You could see through  
the different Lagers.

256  
00:14:19,710 --> 00:14:23,510  
Because it was open only  
barbed wire separated us

257  
00:14:23,510 --> 00:14:26,870  
and that was as far as  
your eyesight could see.

258  
00:14:26,870 --> 00:14:31,040  
You could see far, far  
away that those were men.

259  
00:14:31,040 --> 00:14:35,570  
And one day, I observed

somebody being beaten.

260  
00:14:35,570 --> 00:14:38,110

261  
00:14:38,110 --> 00:14:40,100  
I was outside.

262  
00:14:40,100 --> 00:14:41,600  
I had to stay where I was.

263  
00:14:41,600 --> 00:14:45,300  
I could not move from there.

264  
00:14:45,300 --> 00:14:47,480  
And it was just  
a horrible sight.

265  
00:14:47,480 --> 00:14:50,810  
Even far, far away,  
without really recognizing

266  
00:14:50,810 --> 00:14:53,000  
expressions or faces.

267  
00:14:53,000 --> 00:14:57,485  
Just a group of people beating  
one man, a group of SS.

268  
00:14:57,485 --> 00:15:00,830

269  
00:15:00,830 --> 00:15:05,900  
It must have been at least four  
or five Lagers further from me.

270  
00:15:05,900 --> 00:15:08,780  
Each Lager had 32 barracks.

271  
00:15:08,780 --> 00:15:14,160  
And each barracks had  
about 1,200 people in it.

272  
00:15:14,160 --> 00:15:19,930  
Some of these  
barracks were latrines

273  
00:15:19,930 --> 00:15:23,220  
and some were washrooms.

274  
00:15:23,220 --> 00:15:26,010  
The washrooms were  
open and that you

275  
00:15:26,010 --> 00:15:30,210  
could go only a certain  
time, usually before you

276  
00:15:30,210 --> 00:15:32,430  
were stand to be counted.

277  
00:15:32,430 --> 00:15:35,310

278  
00:15:35,310 --> 00:15:41,610  
If we had to wash our clothes or  
our faces, we had to go before.

279  
00:15:41,610 --> 00:15:45,570  
And it was 3 o'clock  
in the morning.

280  
00:15:45,570 --> 00:15:48,690  
And that's how we  
washed our clothes.

281  
00:15:48,690 --> 00:15:52,050  
We were totally naked,  
because that's all we had.

282  
00:15:52,050 --> 00:15:54,600  
But we were going to wash.

283  
00:15:54,600 --> 00:15:57,570



And we washed our clothes  
and put it on wet.

284  
00:15:57,570 --> 00:15:59,340  
And we went outside,  
and sometimes it

285  
00:15:59,340 --> 00:16:02,190  
got stiff from the cold.

286  
00:16:02,190 --> 00:16:06,120  
And it thawed out on  
us and dried on us

287  
00:16:06,120 --> 00:16:09,360  
before the Germans would come  
and count us around 8 o'clock

288  
00:16:09,360 --> 00:16:11,660  
in the morning.

289  
00:16:11,660 --> 00:16:15,200  
Some people fainted  
from standing there.

290  
00:16:15,200 --> 00:16:17,160  
Some people had to  
go to the bathroom.

291  
00:16:17,160 --> 00:16:22,590  
They were unmercifully beaten.

292  
00:16:22,590 --> 00:16:27,780  
One day, some somebody overslept  
from exhaustion and hunger,

293  
00:16:27,780 --> 00:16:32,910  
and the people who were  
next to her didn't notice.

294  
00:16:32,910 --> 00:16:34,380  
They ran out.

295

00:16:34,380 --> 00:16:38,280

They didn't know that this  
person didn't go with them.

296

00:16:38,280 --> 00:16:42,360

And the count didn't  
correspond to the numbers

297

00:16:42,360 --> 00:16:44,450

that they supposed to counted.

298

00:16:44,450 --> 00:16:47,740

299

00:16:47,740 --> 00:16:52,050

And every 10th person was shot.

300

00:16:52,050 --> 00:16:56,750

Every other row, one  
at the end was shot.

301

00:16:56,750 --> 00:16:59,180

And other times, people  
were-- and the person

302

00:16:59,180 --> 00:17:01,130

who overslept was beaten.

303

00:17:01,130 --> 00:17:05,540

That was the last day  
she ever didn't wake up.

304

00:17:05,540 --> 00:17:09,950

From then on, she was  
just beaten to death.

305

00:17:09,950 --> 00:17:12,650

Kicked, beaten all the way.

306

00:17:12,650 --> 00:17:13,175

And dragged.

307

00:17:13,175 --> 00:17:15,700

308

00:17:15,700 --> 00:17:17,612

And this was a very--

309

00:17:17,612 --> 00:17:20,288

310

00:17:20,288 --> 00:17:22,510

an occurrence that

happened more and more

311

00:17:22,510 --> 00:17:25,690

often as the people got weaker

and weaker and selections

312

00:17:25,690 --> 00:17:29,440

began to happen daily.

313

00:17:29,440 --> 00:17:33,160

I have found two

very good friends

314

00:17:33,160 --> 00:17:35,380

who were from Ujpest,

from the school

315

00:17:35,380 --> 00:17:39,460

where I went to, sisters.

316

00:17:39,460 --> 00:17:41,172

And their name I

remember, of course,

317

00:17:41,172 --> 00:17:42,630

because we were in

school together.

318

00:17:42,630 --> 00:17:47,020

319

00:17:47,020 --> 00:17:49,390

Eva and Edith Schwartz.

320

00:17:49,390 --> 00:17:52,040

321

00:17:52,040 --> 00:17:56,210

Edith was in class with  
me, a beautiful girl

322

00:17:56,210 --> 00:18:00,980

with magnificent braids  
down to her knee,

323

00:18:00,980 --> 00:18:03,260

big, thick, black braids.

324

00:18:03,260 --> 00:18:04,940

She played the violin.

325

00:18:04,940 --> 00:18:07,070

She was a very talented girl.

326

00:18:07,070 --> 00:18:12,190

And her sister played the  
accordion, the younger one.

327

00:18:12,190 --> 00:18:15,520

And at one point,  
we were lined up

328

00:18:15,520 --> 00:18:24,640

to be for selection,  
which occurred most

329

00:18:24,640 --> 00:18:29,650

every day as time went on.

330

00:18:29,650 --> 00:18:32,710

And rumors had it that  
if they recognize you,

331

00:18:32,710 --> 00:18:36,400

that you were sisters,  
surely one of them

332

00:18:36,400 --> 00:18:40,060

will be sent to the wrong side.

333

00:18:40,060 --> 00:18:43,090

We never knew which one was  
the right or wrong side.

334

00:18:43,090 --> 00:18:45,900

335

00:18:45,900 --> 00:18:53,460

Just to make the other one  
suffer more being separated.

336

00:18:53,460 --> 00:18:56,910

So they didn't want to  
stand next to each other.

337

00:18:56,910 --> 00:18:59,380

And I stood between them.

338

00:18:59,380 --> 00:19:03,300

And as we came to the  
end of this, the barrack

339

00:19:03,300 --> 00:19:06,960

where the selection  
was being taken place,

340

00:19:06,960 --> 00:19:13,560

one was sent this way and  
I was sent the other way.

341

00:19:13,560 --> 00:19:18,450

And the one who stood behind  
me was also said the right way.

342

00:19:18,450 --> 00:19:19,560

Same as her sister.

343

00:19:19,560 --> 00:19:23,790

Unbeknown, I think, to the  
doctor who selected us,

344

00:19:23,790 --> 00:19:25,890

that they were sisters.

345

00:19:25,890 --> 00:19:28,800

And at the time,  
neither they nor I

346

00:19:28,800 --> 00:19:33,330

knew which one was  
the right place to be.

347

00:19:33,330 --> 00:19:37,060

Only later-- I never  
met them again.

348

00:19:37,060 --> 00:19:39,640

So this is how it  
happened every day.

349

00:19:39,640 --> 00:19:45,400

And as the war progressed,  
these selections became frantic.

350

00:19:45,400 --> 00:19:49,510

And the shouts at night,  
people being taken and carried,

351

00:19:49,510 --> 00:19:54,580

taken by trucks screaming  
in the middle of the night.

352

00:19:54,580 --> 00:19:57,730

And of course, Auschwitz  
was permeated with a scent

353

00:19:57,730 --> 00:20:00,250

that is indescribable.

354  
00:20:00,250 --> 00:20:02,380  
First of all, there  
was this chemical

355  
00:20:02,380 --> 00:20:07,610  
that they use to  
disinfect clothing with.

356  
00:20:07,610 --> 00:20:10,550  
It had a horrible smell.

357  
00:20:10,550 --> 00:20:14,960  
They dumped these clothes that  
every time we were selected,

358  
00:20:14,960 --> 00:20:18,200  
we were given a shower.

359  
00:20:18,200 --> 00:20:21,980  
And our clothes  
that we wore, we had

360  
00:20:21,980 --> 00:20:24,560  
to leave where it  
was and move on.

361  
00:20:24,560 --> 00:20:26,360  
And we were given others.

362  
00:20:26,360 --> 00:20:28,370  
But none of them  
were any different.

363  
00:20:28,370 --> 00:20:31,790  
It just was disinfected  
and something else.

364  
00:20:31,790 --> 00:20:34,390

365  
00:20:34,390 --> 00:20:41,320

I remember I got something to  
wear that was so long on me

366  
00:20:41,320 --> 00:20:45,370  
that I tore off the bottom  
of it and made a belt.

367  
00:20:45,370 --> 00:20:48,700  
And in between my  
legs, another part

368  
00:20:48,700 --> 00:20:53,010  
of it to be like an underwear.

369  
00:20:53,010 --> 00:20:58,380  
And of course, something  
was in our food

370  
00:20:58,380 --> 00:21:01,980  
that we didn't menstruate,  
which was to the good.

371  
00:21:01,980 --> 00:21:05,210

372  
00:21:05,210 --> 00:21:07,500  
And the food, too,  
had a special smell.

373  
00:21:07,500 --> 00:21:11,400  
I don't know what was in it,  
but it smelled something awful.

374  
00:21:11,400 --> 00:21:14,090  
And it came in big buckets.

375  
00:21:14,090 --> 00:21:17,840  
And everybody had to take  
turn to drink from it.

376  
00:21:17,840 --> 00:21:20,780  
Of course, you know, people  
are people and human.



377  
00:21:20,780 --> 00:21:23,930  
And each tried to take  
as much as possible.

378  
00:21:23,930 --> 00:21:24,860  
Was this soup?

379  
00:21:24,860 --> 00:21:26,390  
It was absolutely horrible.

380  
00:21:26,390 --> 00:21:29,030  
Sometimes we found  
pieces of wood in it.

381  
00:21:29,030 --> 00:21:31,190  
It looked more like  
what we used to give

382  
00:21:31,190 --> 00:21:35,240  
to the pigs, the leftover food.

383  
00:21:35,240 --> 00:21:40,200  
And it was something they  
put in it to make it thick.

384  
00:21:40,200 --> 00:21:43,300  
It was thick.

385  
00:21:43,300 --> 00:21:44,920  
And it had a  
horrible smell to it.

386  
00:21:44,920 --> 00:21:47,620  
It really was not  
palatable, nor for--

387  
00:21:47,620 --> 00:21:50,170  
for looks, it looked gray.

388  
00:21:50,170 --> 00:21:52,000  
And everybody had a spoon.

389  
00:21:52,000 --> 00:21:53,830  
And that was really  
the only thing

390  
00:21:53,830 --> 00:21:57,070  
you owned in life, a spoon.

391  
00:21:57,070 --> 00:21:59,510  
So everybody was trying  
to see if in the bottom,

392  
00:21:59,510 --> 00:22:02,240  
there is something  
in that to eat.

393  
00:22:02,240 --> 00:22:04,210  
Sometimes we found pieces  
of wood, other times

394  
00:22:04,210 --> 00:22:07,870  
we found shreds of meat.

395  
00:22:07,870 --> 00:22:13,330  
And someone said to me that that  
meat probably is horse meat.

396  
00:22:13,330 --> 00:22:24,220  
After that, I just took  
enough to satiate my hunger

397  
00:22:24,220 --> 00:22:26,650  
to the very least.

398  
00:22:26,650 --> 00:22:29,470  
Because the thought of  
it just turned me off,

399  
00:22:29,470 --> 00:22:34,020  
even though I was very  
hungry all the time.

400

00:22:34,020 --> 00:22:37,480  
And I don't know what I  
must have looked like.

401  
00:22:37,480 --> 00:22:39,820  
But somehow, I passed  
every selection,

402  
00:22:39,820 --> 00:22:40,890  
which was remarkable.

403  
00:22:40,890 --> 00:22:45,810  
Because when I am, in a way,  
the most in normal life,

404  
00:22:45,810 --> 00:22:48,870  
I'm not more than  
100 to 105 pounds.

405  
00:22:48,870 --> 00:22:52,780  
So I must have  
weighed half of that.

406  
00:22:52,780 --> 00:23:04,800  
And I remember one day, new  
people came into the camp.

407  
00:23:04,800 --> 00:23:06,310  
And we met them at the latrine.

408  
00:23:06,310 --> 00:23:08,010  
That's where you met people.

409  
00:23:08,010 --> 00:23:10,110  
You were not allowed  
to linger on for long.

410  
00:23:10,110 --> 00:23:12,790

411  
00:23:12,790 --> 00:23:15,130  
These were very beautiful  
people with skin

412  
00:23:15,130 --> 00:23:16,810  
I had never seen before.

413  
00:23:16,810 --> 00:23:19,270  
Even their hair  
was shaved, but it

414  
00:23:19,270 --> 00:23:22,390  
was-- you could see it  
was blond, blue-eyed.

415  
00:23:22,390 --> 00:23:25,180  
These were Polish Jews.

416  
00:23:25,180 --> 00:23:28,840  
And they were just let  
out from the Lodz ghetto.

417  
00:23:28,840 --> 00:23:32,330

418  
00:23:32,330 --> 00:23:34,220  
And they were skin and bone.

419  
00:23:34,220 --> 00:23:36,500  
And there, I have never  
seen anything like that.

420  
00:23:36,500 --> 00:23:41,510  
Their ears, earlobes  
were transparent.

421  
00:23:41,510 --> 00:23:43,790  
But they were still beautiful.

422  
00:23:43,790 --> 00:23:45,530  
And to me, this  
was a revelation,

423  
00:23:45,530 --> 00:23:51,620  
to see a lot of blond

women with blue eyes,

424

00:23:51,620 --> 00:23:54,500

with magnificent skin.

425

00:23:54,500 --> 00:23:56,180

Now, it didn't last long.

426

00:23:56,180 --> 00:23:57,980

We also came with decent skin.

427

00:23:57,980 --> 00:23:59,480

But then, it didn't last long.

428

00:23:59,480 --> 00:24:03,170

Because then we  
were eaten by lice.

429

00:24:03,170 --> 00:24:04,640

And everybody scratched.

430

00:24:04,640 --> 00:24:08,120

And this was also told  
from one to the next,

431

00:24:08,120 --> 00:24:09,560

don't ever scratch.

432

00:24:09,560 --> 00:24:12,500

Because as soon as they  
see a blemish on you,

433

00:24:12,500 --> 00:24:14,390

you'll be eliminated.

434

00:24:14,390 --> 00:24:17,360

435

00:24:17,360 --> 00:24:22,010

The C Lager, as I mentioned--

436

00:24:22,010 --> 00:24:26,380

later, I found out,  
I was never tattooed.

437

00:24:26,380 --> 00:24:29,030

And when I heard that there  
were people who were tattooed--

438

00:24:29,030 --> 00:24:32,660

and I saw people being  
marched out to work in striped

439

00:24:32,660 --> 00:24:36,800

uniforms, I said, how come  
they have a uniform, we don't?

440

00:24:36,800 --> 00:24:43,460

It turned out that this was a  
[GERMAN],, exterminating Lager.

441

00:24:43,460 --> 00:24:45,230

That is, they didn't  
want to account

442

00:24:45,230 --> 00:24:47,580

for us in numbers or names.

443

00:24:47,580 --> 00:24:50,810

They didn't give us a number.

444

00:24:50,810 --> 00:24:55,580

And it was at the end of the  
war, which we didn't know.

445

00:24:55,580 --> 00:24:59,870

To us, this was the  
beginning of the end.

446

00:24:59,870 --> 00:25:03,020

That's why we never  
were given uniforms.

447

00:25:03,020 --> 00:25:05,070

How long were you there?

448

00:25:05,070 --> 00:25:06,920

I was there from June--

449

00:25:06,920 --> 00:25:08,720

and I don't know the exact date.

450

00:25:08,720 --> 00:25:13,610

You see, from the time we were  
taken from this designated,

451

00:25:13,610 --> 00:25:22,910

star-marked building in  
Ujpest through the brick

452

00:25:22,910 --> 00:25:27,020

factory, which was  
the concentrated

453

00:25:27,020 --> 00:25:34,700

place next to always a  
railroad, I lost track of days.

454

00:25:34,700 --> 00:25:36,200

And I don't know the date.

455

00:25:36,200 --> 00:25:37,380

I could research it.

456

00:25:37,380 --> 00:25:38,960

But I never went  
back to research it.

457

00:25:38,960 --> 00:25:39,877

So anyway, then June--

458

00:25:39,877 --> 00:25:41,957

Do you remember the  
days getting colder?

459

00:25:41,957 --> 00:25:43,790

Or do you remember the  
days getting shorter?

460  
00:25:43,790 --> 00:25:46,070  
Or any--

461  
00:25:46,070 --> 00:25:47,720  
Well, later on, I knew the date.

462  
00:25:47,720 --> 00:25:50,060  
But I don't know the  
date from the time

463  
00:25:50,060 --> 00:25:53,510  
I arrived in Auschwitz.

464  
00:25:53,510 --> 00:25:56,480  
I was there through the summer.

465  
00:25:56,480 --> 00:26:00,410  
All the way till the day  
the selection, as I say,

466  
00:26:00,410 --> 00:26:02,150  
accelerated.

467  
00:26:02,150 --> 00:26:06,290  
And one day, there  
was another selection.

468  
00:26:06,290 --> 00:26:13,670  
And we were taken and  
locked up in one barrack.

469  
00:26:13,670 --> 00:26:16,962  
And for two days, we  
didn't get anything to eat.

470  
00:26:16,962 --> 00:26:18,920  
And we didn't know why  
we were locked up there,

471



00:26:18,920 --> 00:26:23,780  
what was the purpose of it,  
what they made us wait for.

472  
00:26:23,780 --> 00:26:26,390  
And then the following day,  
it was a horrible, rainy day

473  
00:26:26,390 --> 00:26:29,480  
in October, October the 16th.

474  
00:26:29,480 --> 00:26:35,150  
An [GERMAN],, a German soldier  
woman came and marched us

475  
00:26:35,150 --> 00:26:39,890  
and we wound up standing  
in line to the crematorium.

476  
00:26:39,890 --> 00:26:41,180  
There was no place.

477  
00:26:41,180 --> 00:26:44,060  
No place to get in, no  
place to go anywhere.

478  
00:26:44,060 --> 00:26:46,790  
And another one came running.

479  
00:26:46,790 --> 00:26:48,890  
And I still have this  
picture in my mind,

480  
00:26:48,890 --> 00:26:50,910  
because she was  
shouting in German.

481  
00:26:50,910 --> 00:26:52,730  
And I didn't know  
too much German,

482  
00:26:52,730 --> 00:26:56,150  
but I learned a little bit.

483  
00:26:56,150 --> 00:26:59,930  
That that is not a transport  
for the crematorium.

484  
00:26:59,930 --> 00:27:02,120  
That is not a group  
for the crematorium.

485  
00:27:02,120 --> 00:27:03,560  
That is a transport.

486  
00:27:03,560 --> 00:27:06,310  
Transport, she was shouting.

487  
00:27:06,310 --> 00:27:08,060  
And while we were  
waiting there, are a lot

488  
00:27:08,060 --> 00:27:12,050  
of people were praying, crying.

489  
00:27:12,050 --> 00:27:16,160  
And I was-- I felt very numb.

490  
00:27:16,160 --> 00:27:19,610  
By then, I was told what was  
happening, that I will never

491  
00:27:19,610 --> 00:27:20,630  
see my parents.

492  
00:27:20,630 --> 00:27:22,820  
The people who were  
there for a long time,

493  
00:27:22,820 --> 00:27:28,970  
they were eager to tell you and  
put you into reality, really.

494  
00:27:28,970 --> 00:27:31,670  
I don't know if they

did that because they

495

00:27:31,670 --> 00:27:34,070

felt they had to warn  
you, or because it

496

00:27:34,070 --> 00:27:35,340

happened to them already.

497

00:27:35,340 --> 00:27:38,480

So some of them  
were even resentful,

498

00:27:38,480 --> 00:27:41,090

saying that you were  
still in your bed

499

00:27:41,090 --> 00:27:43,340

when we were here already.

500

00:27:43,340 --> 00:27:44,900

And you were untouched.

501

00:27:44,900 --> 00:27:47,150

You were the last  
one to be taken.

502

00:27:47,150 --> 00:27:49,160

How did you know it  
was October 16th?

503

00:27:49,160 --> 00:27:51,890

This I know because  
we kept dates.

504

00:27:51,890 --> 00:27:54,710

We had our way, just  
like prisoners have ways,

505

00:27:54,710 --> 00:27:56,720

to mark the dates.

506

00:27:56,720 --> 00:27:58,370

And those who were  
religious even

507

00:27:58,370 --> 00:28:02,740

kept the dates of  
holidays, by being

508

00:28:02,740 --> 00:28:04,090

told from one to the other.

509

00:28:04,090 --> 00:28:07,000

And then somebody fell out  
and never been seen again,

510

00:28:07,000 --> 00:28:08,530

the other one knew it.

511

00:28:08,530 --> 00:28:09,785

And this was October 16th.

512

00:28:09,785 --> 00:28:12,520

513

00:28:12,520 --> 00:28:18,100

And so we were  
told to turn around

514

00:28:18,100 --> 00:28:24,610

and we were given a shower, and  
still, new, horrible clothes,

515

00:28:24,610 --> 00:28:26,710

and marched into a wagon.

516

00:28:26,710 --> 00:28:28,630

And we left Auschwitz.

517

00:28:28,630 --> 00:28:31,210

And everybody, all through  
the time I was there,

518

00:28:31,210 --> 00:28:36,610  
always said, the most important  
thing is to leave Auschwitz.

519  
00:28:36,610 --> 00:28:39,820  
And I didn't understand why.

520  
00:28:39,820 --> 00:28:41,830  
I didn't know there  
were other camps.

521  
00:28:41,830 --> 00:28:44,380  
And I didn't know that  
Auschwitz was an exterminating

522  
00:28:44,380 --> 00:28:46,990  
camp with all the crematoriums.

523  
00:28:46,990 --> 00:28:49,930  
I knew it was there, but I  
thought if anywhere else they

524  
00:28:49,930 --> 00:28:54,310  
would take us, perhaps it  
would be the same thing.

525  
00:28:54,310 --> 00:28:57,670  
So no, I was taken  
out of Auschwitz.

526  
00:28:57,670 --> 00:29:02,620  
And we arrived  
into a small camp,

527  
00:29:02,620 --> 00:29:06,400  
with a very beautiful  
woman [GERMAN]

528  
00:29:06,400 --> 00:29:08,350  
who wore a beautiful suit.

529  
00:29:08,350 --> 00:29:11,500

530  
00:29:11,500 --> 00:29:14,530  
Her name, I remember, was Lola.

531  
00:29:14,530 --> 00:29:16,810  
No on the last name.

532  
00:29:16,810 --> 00:29:19,870  
She was in charge of us.

533  
00:29:19,870 --> 00:29:23,740  
Rumors had it that she was  
the mistress of Mengele.

534  
00:29:23,740 --> 00:29:28,180  
I don't know if it was  
true, was it invented.

535  
00:29:28,180 --> 00:29:32,020  
But someone said that  
Mengele, who was so almighty,

536  
00:29:32,020 --> 00:29:33,520  
wanted her out.

537  
00:29:33,520 --> 00:29:38,120  
And that was a sign that  
the war is coming to an end.

538  
00:29:38,120 --> 00:29:40,030  
And this is why there  
were all the selection,

539  
00:29:40,030 --> 00:29:45,040  
they were eliminating and  
getting rid of everybody

540  
00:29:45,040 --> 00:29:51,040  
they could possibly destroy.

541  
00:29:51,040 --> 00:29:55,690  
And some-- we were lucky

that the Siemens corporation

542

00:29:55,690 --> 00:30:01,060  
from Nuremberg has  
asked for 500 workers.

543

00:30:01,060 --> 00:30:03,970  
And I was selected among them.

544

00:30:03,970 --> 00:30:11,470  
And as much as they were  
slave labor keepers,

545

00:30:11,470 --> 00:30:15,730  
if it wasn't for Siemens,  
I would not have survived.

546

00:30:15,730 --> 00:30:18,440  
Now, Siemens treated us better.

547

00:30:18,440 --> 00:30:20,140  
First of all, it  
was a small camp.

548

00:30:20,140 --> 00:30:22,180  
We were 500 of us.

549

00:30:22,180 --> 00:30:26,350  
We were given an individual  
dish to eat from,

550

00:30:26,350 --> 00:30:28,490  
which was incredible.

551

00:30:28,490 --> 00:30:30,550  
We felt almost human again.

552

00:30:30,550 --> 00:30:32,350  
How far was Siemens  
from Auschwitz?

553

00:30:32,350 --> 00:30:35,890

And how long did it  
take you to get there?

554  
00:30:35,890 --> 00:30:36,860  
I don't know.

555  
00:30:36,860 --> 00:30:38,490  
I really would  
have to look it up.

556  
00:30:38,490 --> 00:30:42,740

557  
00:30:42,740 --> 00:30:43,750  
But it didn't matter.

558  
00:30:43,750 --> 00:30:46,960  
It just didn't matter how  
long we spent in transport,

559  
00:30:46,960 --> 00:30:50,230  
or where we were going,  
what they were doing.

560  
00:30:50,230 --> 00:30:51,340  
It was already--

561  
00:30:51,340 --> 00:30:57,180  
I was totally numb.

562  
00:30:57,180 --> 00:30:59,170  
I didn't look to survive.

563  
00:30:59,170 --> 00:31:01,560  
I didn't do anything  
in order to survive.

564  
00:31:01,560 --> 00:31:05,940  
If I survived, it's  
sheer coincidence.

565  
00:31:05,940 --> 00:31:10,060



Do you remember thinking that  
you were going to survive?

566  
00:31:10,060 --> 00:31:12,040  
No.

567  
00:31:12,040 --> 00:31:15,850  
No, it seemed very hopeless  
to me, the whole thing.

568  
00:31:15,850 --> 00:31:20,530  
It seemed-- and I had no  
control over anything.

569  
00:31:20,530 --> 00:31:22,460  
And I didn't.

570  
00:31:22,460 --> 00:31:24,220  
I had to get up  
when they told me,

571  
00:31:24,220 --> 00:31:27,790  
and go to bed when they told  
me, and eat when they told me,

572  
00:31:27,790 --> 00:31:29,560  
and eat what they gave me.

573  
00:31:29,560 --> 00:31:33,880  
And to follow exactly orders  
and directions as I was told.

574  
00:31:33,880 --> 00:31:36,850  
And that's the only  
thing I could do.

575  
00:31:36,850 --> 00:31:39,280  
Did people talk about escaping?

576  
00:31:39,280 --> 00:31:41,500  
No, never.

577

00:31:41,500 --> 00:31:44,350  
From Auschwitz, I don't  
know if there was escaping.

578  
00:31:44,350 --> 00:31:48,820  
Perhaps among some men,  
I have heard later.

579  
00:31:48,820 --> 00:31:51,220  
But this was on programs  
that I have heard about.

580  
00:31:51,220 --> 00:31:54,590  
Not while I was there.

581  
00:31:54,590 --> 00:31:58,600  
The security was such  
that it was impossible.

582  
00:31:58,600 --> 00:32:01,480  
And first of all, we didn't  
even know what was nearby,

583  
00:32:01,480 --> 00:32:02,455  
where were we located?

584  
00:32:02,455 --> 00:32:05,660

585  
00:32:05,660 --> 00:32:12,630  
Once in Nuremberg, we didn't  
know we were in Nuremberg.

586  
00:32:12,630 --> 00:32:17,440  
We were marched from our  
barrack to another barrack,

587  
00:32:17,440 --> 00:32:22,660  
where some kind of machines were  
set up that we were working on.

588  
00:32:22,660 --> 00:32:26,740  
This was part of whatever

they were manufacturing.

589

00:32:26,740 --> 00:32:30,640

It could have been parts  
of radios, but small parts.

590

00:32:30,640 --> 00:32:33,430

And we were told what to do.

591

00:32:33,430 --> 00:32:37,630

And you did that  
under supervision

592

00:32:37,630 --> 00:32:39,340

and to your best  
of your ability.

593

00:32:39,340 --> 00:32:40,690

And that was it.

594

00:32:40,690 --> 00:32:43,810

But what-- was it toys,  
was it toward the bomb

595

00:32:43,810 --> 00:32:47,710

that I was working for,  
or radios, or whatever?

596

00:32:47,710 --> 00:32:49,560

No idea to this day.

597

00:32:49,560 --> 00:32:52,100

598

00:32:52,100 --> 00:32:55,070

Now, this young woman  
was very energetic,

599

00:32:55,070 --> 00:32:58,310

whose task was to  
be guarding us.

600

00:32:58,310 --> 00:33:01,700  
She was Jewish, Polish,  
absolutely the most beautiful

601  
00:33:01,700 --> 00:33:03,830  
sight I have ever seen.

602  
00:33:03,830 --> 00:33:07,200  
To me, she was like  
the wing victory.

603  
00:33:07,200 --> 00:33:12,060  
Bodily beautiful  
and well-dressed.

604  
00:33:12,060 --> 00:33:14,510  
And she was in charge of us.

605  
00:33:14,510 --> 00:33:18,230  
And she was very  
verbal and vocal

606  
00:33:18,230 --> 00:33:23,690  
to the local Germans  
who were of high rank SS

607  
00:33:23,690 --> 00:33:25,730  
whenever they didn't  
come to count us.

608  
00:33:25,730 --> 00:33:27,680  
Now, this was in the  
winter from August--

609  
00:33:27,680 --> 00:33:31,400  
from October till March.

610  
00:33:31,400 --> 00:33:34,160  
We marched out, we  
had no clothes on.

611  
00:33:34,160 --> 00:33:36,410  
And when they

didn't come and made

612  
00:33:36,410 --> 00:33:40,190  
us wait outside in  
the freezing weather.

613  
00:33:40,190 --> 00:33:46,880  
And when they came, she  
actually shouted at them.

614  
00:33:46,880 --> 00:33:47,990  
That what do you think?

615  
00:33:47,990 --> 00:33:48,950  
Why don't you come?

616  
00:33:48,950 --> 00:33:53,120  
These people are freezing here.

617  
00:33:53,120 --> 00:33:58,370  
And we, as the people, we  
couldn't believe that anybody

618  
00:33:58,370 --> 00:34:00,980  
can talk to the SS like that.

619  
00:34:00,980 --> 00:34:05,330  
So you see, the rumors  
that were circulated

620  
00:34:05,330 --> 00:34:08,610  
were confirmed by her  
act toward these people.

621  
00:34:08,610 --> 00:34:11,810  
Obviously, they must have  
known that she was somebody

622  
00:34:11,810 --> 00:34:15,830  
or that she had  
friends in high places,

623

00:34:15,830 --> 00:34:20,110  
that she should allow herself  
to shout at the Germans

624  
00:34:20,110 --> 00:34:21,739  
in front of us.

625  
00:34:21,739 --> 00:34:24,080  
And they were very kind to her.

626  
00:34:24,080 --> 00:34:25,690  
Hands off.

627  
00:34:25,690 --> 00:34:31,969  
And she had her own person who--

628  
00:34:31,969 --> 00:34:35,600  
a young woman who shared  
her bunk with her,

629  
00:34:35,600 --> 00:34:38,750  
and made a bag for  
her, or take good

630  
00:34:38,750 --> 00:34:41,330  
care of her clothes  
and her food.

631  
00:34:41,330 --> 00:34:44,840  
She had very special privileges.

632  
00:34:44,840 --> 00:34:48,409  
Afterwards, did you come  
across any accounts of her?

633  
00:34:48,409 --> 00:34:51,020  
Was there anything  
ever written about her?

634  
00:34:51,020 --> 00:34:51,830  
No.

635

00:34:51,830 --> 00:34:57,320  
But I have to add a postscript  
after I am told everything.

636  
00:34:57,320 --> 00:34:58,790  
I will tell everything.

637  
00:34:58,790 --> 00:35:02,810  
I have met somebody,  
by sheer coincidence,

638  
00:35:02,810 --> 00:35:08,450  
about a year ago on a Lower  
East Side in one of the shops.

639  
00:35:08,450 --> 00:35:11,240  
There was no one else  
in the shop but me.

640  
00:35:11,240 --> 00:35:16,190  
And when the lady came to me,  
asking me if I can help you,

641  
00:35:16,190 --> 00:35:18,470  
I detected an accent.

642  
00:35:18,470 --> 00:35:21,410  
But I wasn't sure  
what accent it was.

643  
00:35:21,410 --> 00:35:25,740  
So I dared to ask her, and  
said, are you from Europe?

644  
00:35:25,740 --> 00:35:27,020  
She said yes.

645  
00:35:27,020 --> 00:35:30,840  
She was very-- she was giving  
me answers like yes or no.

646  
00:35:30,840 --> 00:35:31,340  
Guarded.

647  
00:35:31,340 --> 00:35:33,110  
Guarded.

648  
00:35:33,110 --> 00:35:36,780  
And I said, I can't  
place your accent.

649  
00:35:36,780 --> 00:35:40,080  
She said it's Czechoslovakian.

650  
00:35:40,080 --> 00:35:45,420  
But by then I heard a  
Hungarian sound in it.

651  
00:35:45,420 --> 00:35:48,870  
She happened to come from  
that part of Hungary that

652  
00:35:48,870 --> 00:35:53,610  
was given to Czechoslovakia  
after World War I.

653  
00:35:53,610 --> 00:35:55,740  
So immediately, I was curious.

654  
00:35:55,740 --> 00:35:58,440  
I said, were you in  
a concentration camp?

655  
00:35:58,440 --> 00:36:00,950

656  
00:36:00,950 --> 00:36:03,140  
She said yes.

657  
00:36:03,140 --> 00:36:06,510  
So in order to allow  
her to answer me again--

658  
00:36:06,510 --> 00:36:11,720  
and I didn't want to be too



inquisitive because she was

659

00:36:11,720 --> 00:36:13,910

giving me such a  
guarded answers--

660

00:36:13,910 --> 00:36:15,270

I said, I was, too.

661

00:36:15,270 --> 00:36:17,630

That's why I'm asking.

662

00:36:17,630 --> 00:36:19,070

To put her at ease.

663

00:36:19,070 --> 00:36:20,180

I said, where were you?

664

00:36:20,180 --> 00:36:22,850

This allowed me  
the next question.

665

00:36:22,850 --> 00:36:25,520

She said, I was in Auschwitz.

666

00:36:25,520 --> 00:36:28,490

I said, so was I.  
Where in Auschwitz?

667

00:36:28,490 --> 00:36:31,760

She said the C Lager.

668

00:36:31,760 --> 00:36:34,130

Again, not more than  
what she had to answer.

669

00:36:34,130 --> 00:36:38,120

She was polite, but  
just to the point.

670

00:36:38,120 --> 00:36:41,360

I said, which--

said, were you there?

671

00:36:41,360 --> 00:36:42,600

How long were you there?

672

00:36:42,600 --> 00:36:46,915

She says, till the fall of 1944.

673

00:36:46,915 --> 00:36:52,430

I said, I asked her,  
how did you get out?

674

00:36:52,430 --> 00:36:55,391

She said, I was sent  
to another camp.

675

00:36:55,391 --> 00:36:57,320

I said, may I ask you where?

676

00:36:57,320 --> 00:37:00,020

She said, to Nuremberg.

677

00:37:00,020 --> 00:37:07,160

And I knew that she  
was among the 500.

678

00:37:07,160 --> 00:37:09,710

I said, I was there, too.

679

00:37:09,710 --> 00:37:12,840

And still, there was no  
customers to interrupt us.

680

00:37:12,840 --> 00:37:15,740

This was a shop where I  
went upstairs where she

681

00:37:15,740 --> 00:37:17,870

was selling coats and jackets.

682

00:37:17,870 --> 00:37:20,490

There was nobody.

683  
00:37:20,490 --> 00:37:23,790  
I said-- and by then I saw  
a little taboret there.

684  
00:37:23,790 --> 00:37:24,880  
I said, may I sit down?

685  
00:37:24,880 --> 00:37:26,130  
I thought I felt faint.

686  
00:37:26,130 --> 00:37:28,440  
I never met anyone  
from this group.

687  
00:37:28,440 --> 00:37:31,960

688  
00:37:31,960 --> 00:37:34,330  
And she said, of course.

689  
00:37:34,330 --> 00:37:36,880  
I said, I want to  
ask you something.

690  
00:37:36,880 --> 00:37:39,430  
Were you guarded by  
a woman named Lola?

691  
00:37:39,430 --> 00:37:41,710  
She says yes.

692  
00:37:41,710 --> 00:37:44,800  
I said, tell me,  
was she beautiful?

693  
00:37:44,800 --> 00:37:47,350  
You know, when you are  
alone with thoughts

694  
00:37:47,350 --> 00:37:52,660  
for years and years of a

certain event and memories,

695

00:37:52,660 --> 00:37:56,110

you have the feeling that  
maybe I invented this.

696

00:37:56,110 --> 00:37:58,660

Maybe it's my imagination.

697

00:37:58,660 --> 00:37:59,680

Maybe it wasn't so.

698

00:37:59,680 --> 00:38:04,150

There is nobody that you could  
discuss it with, verify it

699

00:38:04,150 --> 00:38:06,160

with.

700

00:38:06,160 --> 00:38:08,200

And this is long ago.

701

00:38:08,200 --> 00:38:10,210

And I said, tell me  
what she looked like.

702

00:38:10,210 --> 00:38:12,460

And she described her.

703

00:38:12,460 --> 00:38:14,347

I said, was there  
a young girl shot

704

00:38:14,347 --> 00:38:16,180

when she went out in  
the middle of the night

705

00:38:16,180 --> 00:38:19,960

to steal a potato from where  
they kept the potato covered

706

00:38:19,960 --> 00:38:26,350

with straw and dirt, soil?

707

00:38:26,350 --> 00:38:28,480

That's how they kept  
the potato from being

708

00:38:28,480 --> 00:38:31,000

frozen in the winter.

709

00:38:31,000 --> 00:38:32,615

And that was our ration.

710

00:38:32,615 --> 00:38:34,240

And there was a young  
girl who went out

711

00:38:34,240 --> 00:38:35,630

at night to steal a potato.

712

00:38:35,630 --> 00:38:38,170

She was shot by the guard.

713

00:38:38,170 --> 00:38:39,780

She says yes.

714

00:38:39,780 --> 00:38:41,580

I said, well, for  
the first time,

715

00:38:41,580 --> 00:38:43,860

I have somebody  
that I can talk to.

716

00:38:43,860 --> 00:38:45,120

That it was really so.

717

00:38:45,120 --> 00:38:49,680

And this is not a figment  
of my imagination.

718

00:38:49,680 --> 00:38:51,750

And then we talked,

and I said, do you

719

00:38:51,750 --> 00:38:55,670

remember when we were  
sent to Czechoslovakia?

720

00:38:55,670 --> 00:38:58,210

721

00:38:58,210 --> 00:39:01,780

She says, we were not all  
sent to Czechoslovakia.

722

00:39:01,780 --> 00:39:04,180

Well, I didn't know that  
until I met this woman,

723

00:39:04,180 --> 00:39:11,890

that half of the 500,  
or 499 at this point,

724

00:39:11,890 --> 00:39:13,360

were sent somewhere else.

725

00:39:13,360 --> 00:39:15,190

I still don't know where.

726

00:39:15,190 --> 00:39:17,590

But we were only 250.

727

00:39:17,590 --> 00:39:19,240

When you are in  
a crowd, you have

728

00:39:19,240 --> 00:39:23,860

no idea if you are 250 or 500.

729

00:39:23,860 --> 00:39:25,660

I know originally we were 500.

730

00:39:25,660 --> 00:39:28,350

And she told me, she

said, only 250 of us.

731  
00:39:28,350 --> 00:39:29,440  
Now, she stayed.

732  
00:39:29,440 --> 00:39:32,650  
She survived with  
her sister-in-law.

733  
00:39:32,650 --> 00:39:34,588  
She didn't have to  
talk to anybody.

734  
00:39:34,588 --> 00:39:36,130  
And if she had to,  
there was somebody

735  
00:39:36,130 --> 00:39:38,590  
who was with her,  
who experienced

736  
00:39:38,590 --> 00:39:41,590  
and lived her experiences.

737  
00:39:41,590 --> 00:39:42,580  
And I was isolated--

738  
00:39:42,580 --> 00:39:43,372  
But you had no one.

739  
00:39:43,372 --> 00:39:45,550  
--all these years.

740  
00:39:45,550 --> 00:39:47,830  
And this is part of  
the reason she was not

741  
00:39:47,830 --> 00:39:49,120  
eager to talk about it.

742  
00:39:49,120 --> 00:39:51,610  
If she ever wanted to talk,

her sister-in-law was there.

743

00:39:51,610 --> 00:39:54,420

I have her name and address.

744

00:39:54,420 --> 00:39:56,650

She was very sweet.

745

00:39:56,650 --> 00:39:59,920

And I said, can I come back  
another time to talk to you?

746

00:39:59,920 --> 00:40:01,180

She said sure.

747

00:40:01,180 --> 00:40:05,020

So I hope I can find her  
again if I gather courage

748

00:40:05,020 --> 00:40:06,490

again to talk to her.

749

00:40:06,490 --> 00:40:09,940

But she's the only  
affirmation of this period,

750

00:40:09,940 --> 00:40:13,540

of my incarceration,  
would you say.

751

00:40:13,540 --> 00:40:15,040

Or I was a [GERMAN].

752

00:40:15,040 --> 00:40:17,230

And you know the word in German?

753

00:40:17,230 --> 00:40:19,870

I was shocked not too long  
ago when I was in Europe.

754

00:40:19,870 --> 00:40:25,420

And I heard somebody who



was a prisoner on the radio,

755

00:40:25,420 --> 00:40:27,550

a German radio in a car.

756

00:40:27,550 --> 00:40:30,610

And they mentioned  
the word [GERMAN]..

757

00:40:30,610 --> 00:40:31,930

And I said, that's me.

758

00:40:31,930 --> 00:40:35,845

I remember being referred  
to as a [GERMAN]..

759

00:40:35,845 --> 00:40:36,595

That's a prisoner.

760

00:40:36,595 --> 00:40:39,340

761

00:40:39,340 --> 00:40:42,760

See, we think about  
concentration camp,

762

00:40:42,760 --> 00:40:44,438

being in a concentration camp.

763

00:40:44,438 --> 00:40:45,980

But actually, there  
is a word for it.

764

00:40:45,980 --> 00:40:48,460

We were prisoners in  
a concentration camp.

765

00:40:48,460 --> 00:40:50,500

It's very seldom  
said it as a whole.

766

00:40:50,500 --> 00:40:53,170

767

00:40:53,170 --> 00:40:58,090

Anyway, they bombed our  
little haven at Siemens,

768

00:40:58,090 --> 00:41:05,200

where we were eaten  
nightly by bedbugs.

769

00:41:05,200 --> 00:41:08,050

We were sleeping on straw beds.

770

00:41:08,050 --> 00:41:15,520

The bed inside-- the  
inside these canvas

771

00:41:15,520 --> 00:41:17,950

mattresses, they were straw.

772

00:41:17,950 --> 00:41:22,900

And in the straw, there  
were thousands of bedbugs.

773

00:41:22,900 --> 00:41:27,130

So if that didn't wake us,  
then the air raid woke us.

774

00:41:27,130 --> 00:41:28,960

And we were bombed daily.

775

00:41:28,960 --> 00:41:31,681

And daily, we heard air raids.

776

00:41:31,681 --> 00:41:33,040

And we were very happy.

777

00:41:33,040 --> 00:41:37,720

We knew that that meant that  
they were fighting for us.

778

00:41:37,720 --> 00:41:39,400

Somebody was fighting for us.

779

00:41:39,400 --> 00:41:42,930

780

00:41:42,930 --> 00:41:45,060

Siemens was bombed out.

781

00:41:45,060 --> 00:41:48,100

The waterworks were bombed.

782

00:41:48,100 --> 00:41:52,540

We had no water and no food.

783

00:41:52,540 --> 00:41:58,810

So they marched us every day  
to the city of Nuremberg,

784

00:41:58,810 --> 00:42:01,360

which was an unbelievable site.

785

00:42:01,360 --> 00:42:02,320

Bombed totally.

786

00:42:02,320 --> 00:42:06,560

787

00:42:06,560 --> 00:42:07,880

Rubbles everywhere.

788

00:42:07,880 --> 00:42:13,370

And our job was now to  
find unexploded bombs

789

00:42:13,370 --> 00:42:19,950

under the rubble as the  
buildings collapsed.

790

00:42:19,950 --> 00:42:23,070

So brick by brick, we  
had to carry the bricks

791

00:42:23,070 --> 00:42:25,350

from one side to  
the other in order

792

00:42:25,350 --> 00:42:31,050

to clear it and put it in  
order, all under supervision.

793

00:42:31,050 --> 00:42:37,950

And we saw local people carrying  
bundles and riding on bicycle,

794

00:42:37,950 --> 00:42:42,960

standing on line near a water  
hydrant, waiting for water

795

00:42:42,960 --> 00:42:43,770

themselves.

796

00:42:43,770 --> 00:42:47,000

797

00:42:47,000 --> 00:42:52,040

And in March, I'm not  
quite sure of the date,

798

00:42:52,040 --> 00:42:56,990

we were again marched into a  
wagon and sent somewhere else.

799

00:42:56,990 --> 00:43:01,580

And that's when we were  
sent to Czechoslovakia.

800

00:43:01,580 --> 00:43:03,500

Where we were, we didn't know.

801

00:43:03,500 --> 00:43:06,500

But this was,  
again, two barracks.

802

00:43:06,500 --> 00:43:09,530

One in a distance that we  
never knew who were there.

803  
00:43:09,530 --> 00:43:10,400  
There were women.

804  
00:43:10,400 --> 00:43:13,340

805  
00:43:13,340 --> 00:43:24,950  
We were working in an  
underground something

806  
00:43:24,950 --> 00:43:28,110  
in a forest.

807  
00:43:28,110 --> 00:43:33,930  
And we saw men being  
marched to another area

808  
00:43:33,930 --> 00:43:35,850  
and always guarded.

809  
00:43:35,850 --> 00:43:36,510  
Waving.

810  
00:43:36,510 --> 00:43:43,640  
Some people waved when the  
German soldier didn't see us.

811  
00:43:43,640 --> 00:43:47,850  
Simply for waving, for  
solidarity, nothing else.

812  
00:43:47,850 --> 00:43:50,660  
But we never had  
any conversation.

813  
00:43:50,660 --> 00:43:54,020  
Somebody, I don't know who,  
how much it was true or not,

814

00:43:54,020 --> 00:43:57,800  
said that they were Italian  
and French prisoner of war.

815  
00:43:57,800 --> 00:44:00,350

816  
00:44:00,350 --> 00:44:03,260  
But I really am not--

817  
00:44:03,260 --> 00:44:06,410  
I don't know more than that.

818  
00:44:06,410 --> 00:44:14,403  
And we worked carrying  
something that I still

819  
00:44:14,403 --> 00:44:15,320  
don't know what it is.

820  
00:44:15,320 --> 00:44:29,030  
It was like wooden cases  
with very heavy handles.

821  
00:44:29,030 --> 00:44:31,370  
And we were carrying it  
from one place to another.

822  
00:44:31,370 --> 00:44:34,540  
Now, it could have  
been explosive in it.

823  
00:44:34,540 --> 00:44:36,110  
I don't know.

824  
00:44:36,110 --> 00:44:38,840  
This was our job  
in Czechoslovakia.

825  
00:44:38,840 --> 00:44:42,950  
This was from March  
until we were liberated.

826

00:44:42,950 --> 00:44:46,490

First by the Partisans, who--

827

00:44:46,490 --> 00:44:50,990

the liberation was really  
quite an incredible story.

828

00:44:50,990 --> 00:44:55,730

Because the Germans,  
before they would leave--

829

00:44:55,730 --> 00:44:57,590

we were locked up in a barrack.

830

00:44:57,590 --> 00:45:00,410

We couldn't come and go out.

831

00:45:00,410 --> 00:45:01,610

Nobody came in.

832

00:45:01,610 --> 00:45:05,150

But we heard a lot  
of noises on top.

833

00:45:05,150 --> 00:45:09,230

And later, after  
liberation, we were

834

00:45:09,230 --> 00:45:13,550

told to move out because  
they have stored gasoline

835

00:45:13,550 --> 00:45:15,320

and covered them with trees.

836

00:45:15,320 --> 00:45:19,150

837

00:45:19,150 --> 00:45:22,560

And they plan to  
put us all at fire.

838

00:45:22,560 --> 00:45:25,640

839

00:45:25,640 --> 00:45:29,420

And as I say, we were locked up.

840

00:45:29,420 --> 00:45:31,430

There were some  
windows way up high

841

00:45:31,430 --> 00:45:34,040

that somebody had to stand  
on somebody else's shoulder

842

00:45:34,040 --> 00:45:35,940

to look out.

843

00:45:35,940 --> 00:45:37,110

And it was quiet.

844

00:45:37,110 --> 00:45:39,650

There were no Germans around us.

845

00:45:39,650 --> 00:45:41,640

There were no noise, nothing.

846

00:45:41,640 --> 00:45:43,000

And we were like in a vacuum.

847

00:45:43,000 --> 00:45:45,770

848

00:45:45,770 --> 00:45:50,150

And we slept that way.

849

00:45:50,150 --> 00:45:51,360

That was it.

850

00:45:51,360 --> 00:45:54,500

We didn't know what was to come.



851

00:45:54,500 --> 00:45:57,770

First thing, as  
soon as they came,

852

00:45:57,770 --> 00:46:00,230

somebody again start  
to climb up there

853

00:46:00,230 --> 00:46:05,570

to look around on either side  
of these high windows way up.

854

00:46:05,570 --> 00:46:08,870

And somebody said,  
there are soldiers.

855

00:46:08,870 --> 00:46:10,580

But we didn't know what.

856

00:46:10,580 --> 00:46:14,390

Whoever looked out didn't know  
what uniform they were wearing.

857

00:46:14,390 --> 00:46:17,510

These were the Partisans,  
the forerunners

858

00:46:17,510 --> 00:46:19,940

of the American Army.

859

00:46:19,940 --> 00:46:22,370

They first got there.

860

00:46:22,370 --> 00:46:23,480

These were Czech--

861

00:46:23,480 --> 00:46:24,020

Yugoslav?

862

00:46:24,020 --> 00:46:27,000

Yugoslav Partisans.

863

00:46:27,000 --> 00:46:28,550

Of course, I couldn't--

864

00:46:28,550 --> 00:46:30,470

I didn't speak to any of them.

865

00:46:30,470 --> 00:46:32,960

Again, I still maintain  
the same thing-- never

866

00:46:32,960 --> 00:46:37,770

to talk to anyone unless you  
have to or you're questioned.

867

00:46:37,770 --> 00:46:42,030

If I could have crawled into  
underground not to be seen,

868

00:46:42,030 --> 00:46:45,120

I probably would  
have done that, too.

869

00:46:45,120 --> 00:46:47,610

This was my  
self-preservation, my instinct

870

00:46:47,610 --> 00:46:49,350

of self-preservation.

871

00:46:49,350 --> 00:46:52,110

I also, during that  
time, invented something.

872

00:46:52,110 --> 00:46:53,257

I thought I invented it.

873

00:46:53,257 --> 00:46:54,840

I didn't know there  
was a word for it.

874

00:46:54,840 --> 00:46:59,100

875  
00:46:59,100 --> 00:47:02,100  
I repeated to myself when  
I was very, very hungry

876  
00:47:02,100 --> 00:47:05,000  
or very, very cold  
that you're not cold,

877  
00:47:05,000 --> 00:47:07,620  
you're not cold, until  
that's all I could hear.

878  
00:47:07,620 --> 00:47:11,280  
And it actually-- it  
was self-hypnosis.

879  
00:47:11,280 --> 00:47:14,070  
I didn't know there  
was such a word.

880  
00:47:14,070 --> 00:47:20,670  
But this is what I used,  
out of my own invention,

881  
00:47:20,670 --> 00:47:25,200  
and out of the necessity  
of standing straight

882  
00:47:25,200 --> 00:47:27,870  
when your feet were frozen.

883  
00:47:27,870 --> 00:47:30,840  
That you're not cold,  
you're not cold,

884  
00:47:30,840 --> 00:47:33,330  
until I didn't feel  
the cold or the hunger.

885  
00:47:33,330 --> 00:47:36,040

886

00:47:36,040 --> 00:47:42,190

And as I say, I didn't talk  
to these soldiers, who I--

887

00:47:42,190 --> 00:47:47,580

they were not  
well-clothed or clean.

888

00:47:47,580 --> 00:47:50,740

This is why we had trouble  
identifying who were they.

889

00:47:50,740 --> 00:47:52,540

But they were not Germans.

890

00:47:52,540 --> 00:47:54,910

Already, this was a plus.

891

00:47:54,910 --> 00:47:56,650

A very great plus.

892

00:47:56,650 --> 00:47:57,760

They had no dogs.

893

00:47:57,760 --> 00:47:59,395

They had rifles, but no dogs.

894

00:47:59,395 --> 00:48:02,380

895

00:48:02,380 --> 00:48:08,170

And they came through  
the door, and shouted,

896

00:48:08,170 --> 00:48:10,240

and start to push it in.

897

00:48:10,240 --> 00:48:14,410

And we, on the other side, from  
inside, were pushing it out.

898

00:48:14,410 --> 00:48:21,500

And actually, we broke out  
with their help the door.

899

00:48:21,500 --> 00:48:26,510

And somebody who understood  
the language translated

900

00:48:26,510 --> 00:48:30,050

that we were liberated.

901

00:48:30,050 --> 00:48:34,490

These were people on our side.

902

00:48:34,490 --> 00:48:35,960

And the war is over.

903

00:48:35,960 --> 00:48:39,320

And we didn't see any Germans.

904

00:48:39,320 --> 00:48:41,660

The night before, there  
were a couple of shots.

905

00:48:41,660 --> 00:48:48,860

The Germans ran away, literally,  
bodily, physically ran away

906

00:48:48,860 --> 00:48:51,928

into the nearest forest to  
disappear and probably change

907

00:48:51,928 --> 00:48:52,970

into some other clothing.

908

00:48:52,970 --> 00:48:55,820

909

00:48:55,820 --> 00:48:58,190

We were not guarded by Germans.

910

00:48:58,190 --> 00:49:01,550

Suddenly, we had to-- we  
had another thing to face--

911  
00:49:01,550 --> 00:49:03,210  
freedom.

912  
00:49:03,210 --> 00:49:07,900  
And it was not easy.

913  
00:49:07,900 --> 00:49:14,740  
Suddenly, you were  
even more vulnerable.

914  
00:49:14,740 --> 00:49:16,430  
Before, we were guarded.

915  
00:49:16,430 --> 00:49:20,290  
We told what time to get  
up, where to go, what to do.

916  
00:49:20,290 --> 00:49:22,420  
Suddenly, there was nothing.

917  
00:49:22,420 --> 00:49:27,030  
It's like nothingness.

918  
00:49:27,030 --> 00:49:30,960  
Being totally  
exposed to the world,

919  
00:49:30,960 --> 00:49:34,920  
no longer being guarded,  
not even by the enemy.

920  
00:49:34,920 --> 00:49:37,800

921  
00:49:37,800 --> 00:49:40,590  
So we had nothing to do but  
go back to the same place

922  
00:49:40,590 --> 00:49:43,506

where we were used  
to doing and being.

923  
00:49:43,506 --> 00:49:47,700  
The following day, the  
American soldiers arrived.

924  
00:49:47,700 --> 00:49:49,620  
Tanks.

925  
00:49:49,620 --> 00:49:51,780  
And a lot of people  
spoke Yiddish.

926  
00:49:51,780 --> 00:49:58,230  
And one of the first tanks  
had one GI standing there,

927  
00:49:58,230 --> 00:50:03,330  
and shouting, I am  
Moishe from Brooklyn.

928  
00:50:03,330 --> 00:50:07,350  
And somebody who spoke  
Yiddish understood.

929  
00:50:07,350 --> 00:50:09,360  
So he was Moishe,  
we were all right.

930  
00:50:09,360 --> 00:50:13,662

931  
00:50:13,662 --> 00:50:14,870  
And that was your liberation?

932  
00:50:14,870 --> 00:50:16,340  
That was my liberation.

933  
00:50:16,340 --> 00:50:20,980  
The 5th of May, 1945.

934

00:50:20,980 --> 00:50:21,700  
Where did you go?

935  
00:50:21,700 --> 00:50:25,130

936  
00:50:25,130 --> 00:50:28,320  
Now, I lost my very best friend.

937  
00:50:28,320 --> 00:50:29,420  
She's the one who died.

938  
00:50:29,420 --> 00:50:30,127  
Of tuberculosis.

939  
00:50:30,127 --> 00:50:30,710  
The day after.

940  
00:50:30,710 --> 00:50:33,900

941  
00:50:33,900 --> 00:50:36,660  
And there was  
another young girl,

942  
00:50:36,660 --> 00:50:40,410  
a very beautiful young girl.

943  
00:50:40,410 --> 00:50:43,710  
I lost touch with her totally.

944  
00:50:43,710 --> 00:50:46,050  
She was there with her  
mother in Auschwitz.

945  
00:50:46,050 --> 00:50:48,240  
And that's why I  
didn't know her better.

946  
00:50:48,240 --> 00:50:49,920  
Because she was with her mother.



947

00:50:49,920 --> 00:50:53,410

They formed a duo  
together to survive.

948

00:50:53,410 --> 00:50:56,200

And I remember her  
mother very well.

949

00:50:56,200 --> 00:50:59,820

Her name was Raisa.

950

00:50:59,820 --> 00:51:03,703

And so she looked  
after her mother.

951

00:51:03,703 --> 00:51:05,370

And that's why I  
didn't know her better.

952

00:51:05,370 --> 00:51:06,900

But she was in our transport.

953

00:51:06,900 --> 00:51:10,120

And then I saw her later,  
but without her mother.

954

00:51:10,120 --> 00:51:13,530

See, the last time we were  
selected in Auschwitz,

955

00:51:13,530 --> 00:51:15,420

her mother was rejected.

956

00:51:15,420 --> 00:51:16,980

And she came out.

957

00:51:16,980 --> 00:51:21,120

But I had my friend  
and my loyalty to her.

958

00:51:21,120 --> 00:51:24,630

And until after the

liberation, until then,

959

00:51:24,630 --> 00:51:26,340

I didn't become  
any closer to her.

960

00:51:26,340 --> 00:51:28,830

But then, now that  
she was alone also.

961

00:51:28,830 --> 00:51:33,270

And with this girl, she  
spoke Russian, and Polish,

962

00:51:33,270 --> 00:51:34,020

and Yiddish.

963

00:51:34,020 --> 00:51:39,090

Well, those were good languages  
to speak after the liberation.

964

00:51:39,090 --> 00:51:42,930

And we went to the  
railroad station together.

965

00:51:42,930 --> 00:51:45,850

And we heard Hungarian speaking.

966

00:51:45,850 --> 00:51:49,440

And of course she  
spoke Hungarian, too.

967

00:51:49,440 --> 00:51:52,933

And we asked the soldiers,  
where were they going?

968

00:51:52,933 --> 00:51:54,600

And they said, they're  
going to Hungary.

969

00:51:54,600 --> 00:51:56,120

Well, that's all we needed.

970  
00:51:56,120 --> 00:51:57,240  
So we got on the train.

971  
00:51:57,240 --> 00:51:59,910

972  
00:51:59,910 --> 00:52:02,580  
But this was an  
incredible sight.

973  
00:52:02,580 --> 00:52:09,510  
After the war was over,  
Europe was like a beehive.

974  
00:52:09,510 --> 00:52:11,550  
Or perhaps an anthill.

975  
00:52:11,550 --> 00:52:14,730  
Everybody was going  
to another direction.

976  
00:52:14,730 --> 00:52:17,530  
Soldiers who were  
in Czechoslovakia

977  
00:52:17,530 --> 00:52:21,280  
were going to every other  
place, wherever they came from.

978  
00:52:21,280 --> 00:52:24,450  
And to get on a  
train was horrendous.

979  
00:52:24,450 --> 00:52:25,500  
It was all soldiers.

980  
00:52:25,500 --> 00:52:30,930  
And on top of the trains and  
on the steps of the trains.

981  
00:52:30,930 --> 00:52:32,610  
So we squeezed through.

982  
00:52:32,610 --> 00:52:36,870  
I was a very shy child  
and very, very protected.

983  
00:52:36,870 --> 00:52:38,640  
At home up until that point.

984  
00:52:38,640 --> 00:52:40,230  
And I was not very streetwise.

985  
00:52:40,230 --> 00:52:41,460  
She was much more so.

986  
00:52:41,460 --> 00:52:45,300  
And it was a good thing  
for me to be with her.

987  
00:52:45,300 --> 00:52:47,880  
So she pulled me on  
a train with her.

988  
00:52:47,880 --> 00:52:52,870  
And we struck up conversations  
with Hungarian soldiers.

989  
00:52:52,870 --> 00:52:56,490  
And one of the  
Hungarian soldiers

990  
00:52:56,490 --> 00:53:00,930  
said to us, if you see  
any Russian soldiers,

991  
00:53:00,930 --> 00:53:02,190  
don't talk to them.

992  
00:53:02,190 --> 00:53:03,990  
Because she spoke in Russian.

993  
00:53:03,990 --> 00:53:07,120

994  
00:53:07,120 --> 00:53:09,270  
And we didn't-- I didn't  
understand what it was all

995  
00:53:09,270 --> 00:53:09,770  
about.

996  
00:53:09,770 --> 00:53:11,730  
I never saw a Russian  
soldier before.

997  
00:53:11,730 --> 00:53:14,070  
But of course, we encountered.

998  
00:53:14,070 --> 00:53:17,760  
Soon after, some Russian  
soldiers came on the train.

999  
00:53:17,760 --> 00:53:21,510  
And I was sitting next to  
these Hungarian soldiers.

1000  
00:53:21,510 --> 00:53:23,490  
And other Hungarians.

1001  
00:53:23,490 --> 00:53:26,130  
So some of them on the floor.

1002  
00:53:26,130 --> 00:53:29,610  
And these Russian soldiers  
asked the Hungarian soldiers

1003  
00:53:29,610 --> 00:53:35,970  
in Russian, [RUSSIAN]?

1004  
00:53:35,970 --> 00:53:38,670  
And that's where I  
learned the word, Hebrew?

1005  
00:53:38,670 --> 00:53:42,380

1006  
00:53:42,380 --> 00:53:43,670  
And he answered, no.

1007  
00:53:43,670 --> 00:53:46,800

1008  
00:53:46,800 --> 00:53:49,830  
And then he asked, [RUSSIAN]?

1009  
00:53:49,830 --> 00:53:52,110  
Which I never heard  
before either.

1010  
00:53:52,110 --> 00:53:56,850  
So after he said, he said yes.

1011  
00:53:56,850 --> 00:54:02,010  
So after they left, I asked  
the soldier what was he saying.

1012  
00:54:02,010 --> 00:54:05,790  
He says first, he wanted  
to know if you were Jewish.

1013  
00:54:05,790 --> 00:54:08,520  
Then he wanted to know  
if you were my wife.

1014  
00:54:08,520 --> 00:54:11,470  
And he said yes.

1015  
00:54:11,470 --> 00:54:13,780  
He obviously knew  
the consequences

1016  
00:54:13,780 --> 00:54:16,060  
if he would have said no.

1017  
00:54:16,060 --> 00:54:20,830  
So you see, as much as there  
were antisemitism in Hungary

1018  
00:54:20,830 --> 00:54:25,150  
and among the Hungarians, there  
were still some feelings left

1019  
00:54:25,150 --> 00:54:27,460  
after the war.

1020  
00:54:27,460 --> 00:54:31,970  
And this is how, with this  
train, we got back to Hungary.

1021  
00:54:31,970 --> 00:54:36,790  
I don't remember what  
towns we went through.

1022  
00:54:36,790 --> 00:54:43,130  
But before the border,  
the train stopped.

1023  
00:54:43,130 --> 00:54:45,950  
Everybody got off to  
stretch their legs,

1024  
00:54:45,950 --> 00:54:51,530  
to get a drink of water while  
they put on water on the train.

1025  
00:54:51,530 --> 00:54:58,910  
And there was a few  
minutes before they

1026  
00:54:58,910 --> 00:55:02,100  
would cross the border.

1027  
00:55:02,100 --> 00:55:05,640  
Soldiers gathered and  
started singing together.

1028  
00:55:05,640 --> 00:55:08,550  
And others were just talking.

1029

00:55:08,550 --> 00:55:12,960

And this was the  
point from where

1030

00:55:12,960 --> 00:55:18,130

I have a very terrifying story.

1031

00:55:18,130 --> 00:55:22,470

But I don't think we'll have  
time on this side of the tape.

1032

00:55:22,470 --> 00:55:24,420

I hope that you can come back--

1033

00:55:24,420 --> 00:55:25,320

I will.

1034

00:55:25,320 --> 00:55:28,770

--and tell the  
story, and finish.

1035

00:55:28,770 --> 00:55:31,530

Because this was really my  
first encounter face-to-face

1036

00:55:31,530 --> 00:55:33,770

with a Russian soldier.

1037

00:55:33,770 --> 00:55:36,200

I think we're going to  
stop right at this point.

1038

00:55:36,200 --> 00:55:38,290

To be continued.

1039

00:55:38,290 --> 00:55:43,307