

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,724

2

00:00:05,724 --> 00:00:10,700

Change film, camera four
is up, sync take seven.

3

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

4

00:00:32,330 --> 00:00:35,540

Oh, I'm sorry, can
you start again.

5

00:00:35,540 --> 00:00:37,610

OK.

6

00:00:37,610 --> 00:00:43,040

The camp we came to was a
small town called Bolkenhain.

7

00:00:43,040 --> 00:00:46,100

I remember we were marched
from the railroad station.

8

00:00:46,100 --> 00:00:50,600

People looked very
curiously at us.

9

00:00:50,600 --> 00:00:54,970

We came to an enclosure
adjacent to a factory, which

10

00:00:54,970 --> 00:00:58,060

had a couple of barrack.

11

00:00:58,060 --> 00:01:03,160

And it was a tremendous
click as the gates

12

00:01:03,160 --> 00:01:06,280

closed, sort of a finality.

13

00:01:06,280 --> 00:01:10,420

And there stood a woman,
clad all in black.

14

00:01:10,420 --> 00:01:12,410

And she was literally barking.

15

00:01:12,410 --> 00:01:16,510

I've never heard a human
voice being that harsh.

16

00:01:16,510 --> 00:01:19,990

She looked like a bulldog.

17

00:01:19,990 --> 00:01:24,910

And I said, this is going
to be absolutely the worst.

18

00:01:24,910 --> 00:01:29,020

We were supposed to refer
to her as Frau Kligler.

19

00:01:29,020 --> 00:01:32,640

20

00:01:32,640 --> 00:01:37,760

She turned out to be the
hope, the inspiration,

21

00:01:37,760 --> 00:01:43,440

and the knowledge that perhaps
not all Germans were cruel.

22

00:01:43,440 --> 00:01:48,120

She was a decent, wonderful,
warm, caring human being.

23

00:01:48,120 --> 00:01:52,620

No doubt she was picked for her
position because of her looks.

24

00:01:52,620 --> 00:01:58,740
But the looks completely belied
what was underneath it all.

25

00:01:58,740 --> 00:01:59,910
She was decent.

26

00:01:59,910 --> 00:02:01,770
She was good.

27

00:02:01,770 --> 00:02:05,310
We stayed in that camp
for a little over a year.

28

00:02:05,310 --> 00:02:08,449
No one was sent to Auschwitz.

29

00:02:08,449 --> 00:02:10,199
I don't know if she
particularly loved us,

30

00:02:10,199 --> 00:02:13,830
but she pinned a lie to
the lips of all those

31

00:02:13,830 --> 00:02:17,160
who said they had no choice.

32

00:02:17,160 --> 00:02:19,920
I personally am indebted
to her for my own life

33

00:02:19,920 --> 00:02:23,790
at one point when this
infamous Lindner was

34

00:02:23,790 --> 00:02:26,580
known for his
cruelty, swooped down

35

00:02:26,580 --> 00:02:28,650
for an inspection of the camp.

36
00:02:28,650 --> 00:02:30,180
And I had been
very ill at a time.

37
00:02:30,180 --> 00:02:31,810
I was running a very high fever.

38
00:02:31,810 --> 00:02:34,600
And I was permitted
to stay in my bunk.

39
00:02:34,600 --> 00:02:36,300
And she came in
there were two-- no,

40
00:02:36,300 --> 00:02:38,250
there were three of
us who were ill--

41
00:02:38,250 --> 00:02:41,320
and she came and she said,
girls, get yourself together.

42
00:02:41,320 --> 00:02:42,570
I remember I couldn't put my--

43
00:02:42,570 --> 00:02:43,750
I had my skiing boots.

44
00:02:43,750 --> 00:02:47,490
My father made me wear my skiing
boots when I left home-- skiing

45
00:02:47,490 --> 00:02:48,360
boots in June.

46
00:02:48,360 --> 00:02:50,430
And I blessed him
for it, because I

47
00:02:50,430 --> 00:02:52,950

wore those boots for three
years-- in every season.

48
00:02:52,950 --> 00:02:58,080
I remember she stooped
down to tie my boots,

49
00:02:58,080 --> 00:03:00,930
and she literally dragged
me and the two other girls

50
00:03:00,930 --> 00:03:01,650
to the factory.

51
00:03:01,650 --> 00:03:04,090
She had worked in
the factory before.

52
00:03:04,090 --> 00:03:06,000
And she set my looms in motion.

53
00:03:06,000 --> 00:03:07,630
And she said, pull
yourself together,

54
00:03:07,630 --> 00:03:10,870
this is life or death today.

55
00:03:10,870 --> 00:03:14,190
And before we left
Germany, there

56
00:03:14,190 --> 00:03:17,130
was a few of us who survived
or left the position-- said

57
00:03:17,130 --> 00:03:20,040
if Frau Kligler should be
found-- she might have been

58
00:03:20,040 --> 00:03:23,880
arrested for being the head
of a camp where actually she

59

00:03:23,880 --> 00:03:28,180

was the person who
had saved many lives.

60

00:03:28,180 --> 00:03:32,010

And she was sort of a bright
light in this darkness.

61

00:03:32,010 --> 00:03:36,410

62

00:03:36,410 --> 00:03:39,470

There was spiritual resistance
when you were in that camp.

63

00:03:39,470 --> 00:03:41,990

And she sort of must have
looked the other way.

64

00:03:41,990 --> 00:03:43,250

Can you tell me?

65

00:03:43,250 --> 00:03:44,360

Oh, sure.

66

00:03:44,360 --> 00:03:46,610

You know, I mean, look she
demanded certain things.

67

00:03:46,610 --> 00:03:49,490

I mean, I don't want to give you
the impression that she was--

68

00:03:49,490 --> 00:03:50,810

we worked very hard.

69

00:03:50,810 --> 00:03:52,670

We were taught to weave.

70

00:03:52,670 --> 00:03:56,180

And the work was very

difficult. And you

71

00:03:56,180 --> 00:04:01,160
had to be very swift in that
because the material which

72

00:04:01,160 --> 00:04:03,860
we were weaving, you
know, was very poor.

73

00:04:03,860 --> 00:04:05,000
The threads would break.

74

00:04:05,000 --> 00:04:07,130
And everything was
interpreted as a sabotage

75

00:04:07,130 --> 00:04:08,270
if you didn't work it.

76

00:04:08,270 --> 00:04:11,550
Like skilled weavers
would have two looms.

77

00:04:11,550 --> 00:04:13,000
We had four looms to watch.

78

00:04:13,000 --> 00:04:16,100
I mean it was hard,
backbreaking labor.

79

00:04:16,100 --> 00:04:18,829
But we still had some food.

80

00:04:18,829 --> 00:04:23,210
I mean, you would
consider it dreadful

81

00:04:23,210 --> 00:04:25,020
under normal circumstances.

82

00:04:25,020 --> 00:04:27,530

But of what was
to follow later, I

83
00:04:27,530 --> 00:04:33,170
think of that transition
period, from home and from love

84
00:04:33,170 --> 00:04:35,970
and from a normality to
the horror which followed.

85
00:04:35,970 --> 00:04:40,190
I think that she made
it bearable, you know.

86
00:04:40,190 --> 00:04:41,880
She did not steal
any of our food.

87
00:04:41,880 --> 00:04:43,220
We got to food.

88
00:04:43,220 --> 00:04:46,250
If somebody was
ill, as I mentioned

89
00:04:46,250 --> 00:04:49,130
I was at that particular time,
she let you stay in the bunk,

90
00:04:49,130 --> 00:04:51,050
you know.

91
00:04:51,050 --> 00:04:52,470
She really tried.

92
00:04:52,470 --> 00:04:54,470
She was a human being.

93
00:04:54,470 --> 00:04:58,130
And I think was terribly
important to meet a human being

94

00:04:58,130 --> 00:05:00,140
under those circumstances.

95

00:05:00,140 --> 00:05:04,700
To a lot of people I believe
that a concentration camp

96

00:05:04,700 --> 00:05:07,250
seems like a snake pit where
people stepped on each other

97

00:05:07,250 --> 00:05:08,990
for survival and
stole from each other.

98

00:05:08,990 --> 00:05:10,590
That wasn't the case at all.

99

00:05:10,590 --> 00:05:14,030
And again, I speak only about
the camps in which I was.

100

00:05:14,030 --> 00:05:18,320
And I can say that I
have seen the finest

101

00:05:18,320 --> 00:05:20,902
qualities of humanity there--

102

00:05:20,902 --> 00:05:22,960
the sharing and caring.

103

00:05:22,960 --> 00:05:27,160
And whatever one had
was shared with somebody

104

00:05:27,160 --> 00:05:29,710
else-- be it a crumb of bread
or if somebody had a birthday,

105

00:05:29,710 --> 00:05:30,210
you know.

106
00:05:30,210 --> 00:05:32,920
And on Sunday we sometimes
got margarine on our bread,

107
00:05:32,920 --> 00:05:35,920
so we would scrape the
margarine off on Sunday

108
00:05:35,920 --> 00:05:38,710
from several of the
pieces to save it

109
00:05:38,710 --> 00:05:40,930
for the person who had a
birthday-- on their birthday

110
00:05:40,930 --> 00:05:44,380
they put some margarine on the
bread, and things like that.

111
00:05:44,380 --> 00:05:48,040
My closest friend, Ilse,
of my speak so often,

112
00:05:48,040 --> 00:05:50,620
once found the
raspberry in the gutter.

113
00:05:50,620 --> 00:05:53,200
And she carried it in
her pocket all day long--

114
00:05:53,200 --> 00:05:55,750
through a hot
day-- a raspberry--

115
00:05:55,750 --> 00:05:57,190
her total possession.

116
00:05:57,190 --> 00:06:01,180
And that night she had reached
out through the barbed wire

117
00:06:01,180 --> 00:06:03,520
and got a leaf and washed it.

118
00:06:03,520 --> 00:06:06,520
And she presented me
the raspberry on a leaf.

119
00:06:06,520 --> 00:06:08,230
It was her total possession.

120
00:06:08,230 --> 00:06:11,080
I mean, people did some
wonderful things there.

121
00:06:11,080 --> 00:06:13,930
And those are the things
that I want to remember.

122
00:06:13,930 --> 00:06:16,870
And we had very little
time, of course, you know,

123
00:06:16,870 --> 00:06:19,210
and most of them with
we were very tired--

124
00:06:19,210 --> 00:06:20,680
whatever free time we had.

125
00:06:20,680 --> 00:06:22,570
But that was used if
somebody remembered

126
00:06:22,570 --> 00:06:26,110
of seeing a particular
film or ballet or something

127
00:06:26,110 --> 00:06:28,960
which was shared and,
you know, and acted out.

128

00:06:28,960 --> 00:06:34,740
And there was an enormous
support system there.

129
00:06:34,740 --> 00:06:40,070
And that really was the
other side to survive.

130
00:06:40,070 --> 00:06:44,000
That on one hand, we
experienced extreme cruelty,

131
00:06:44,000 --> 00:06:49,130
and on the other hand,
incredible love and friendship.

132
00:06:49,130 --> 00:06:50,780
And there was a balance there.

133
00:06:50,780 --> 00:06:53,864
And there was hope there.

134
00:06:53,864 --> 00:06:58,430
And somehow you
thought of them--

135
00:06:58,430 --> 00:07:02,100
the Nazis-- like
I would fantasize

136
00:07:02,100 --> 00:07:04,640
that they looked like a
snake or like this and that.

137
00:07:04,640 --> 00:07:06,470
I mean you didn't
think of them as human.

138
00:07:06,470 --> 00:07:09,050
But you could identify the
others as a human being.

139
00:07:09,050 --> 00:07:12,560

I always thought of them as
below my contempt, you know.

140
00:07:12,560 --> 00:07:14,870
And this is how you
could somehow take it.

141
00:07:14,870 --> 00:07:17,270
Sometimes, of course, you
fell under the spell of it,

142
00:07:17,270 --> 00:07:18,110
you know--

143
00:07:18,110 --> 00:07:20,480
when they would march
you out, and tell

144
00:07:20,480 --> 00:07:23,258
you that you will be here all
your life, and this and that.

145
00:07:23,258 --> 00:07:25,550
And I always said, you know,
you can't fall under that.

146
00:07:25,550 --> 00:07:28,280
You have to imagine
how they were

147
00:07:28,280 --> 00:07:30,110
look dead and things like that.

148
00:07:30,110 --> 00:07:33,350
And I was spinning
fantasies, and that helped.

149
00:07:33,350 --> 00:07:36,050
Again, you know, you have to
be very young at that time

150
00:07:36,050 --> 00:07:38,720
or have a very vivid

imagination, which

151
00:07:38,720 --> 00:07:40,010
fortunately I had.

152
00:07:40,010 --> 00:07:44,720
So you know, I could sort of
often lift myself out of that

153
00:07:44,720 --> 00:07:45,950
and imagine different things.

154
00:07:45,950 --> 00:07:49,910
And almost anything could
conjure this type of picture

155
00:07:49,910 --> 00:07:51,870
sometimes.

156
00:07:51,870 --> 00:07:55,400
I remember working on the looms,
and we had overhead lights.

157
00:07:55,400 --> 00:07:58,760
And the way sometimes the
light fell on the loom,

158
00:07:58,760 --> 00:08:01,400
I could remember that
light coming through

159
00:08:01,400 --> 00:08:04,730
to my window in the morning
when I was a child waking up.

160
00:08:04,730 --> 00:08:06,980
And then I could build a
whole picture around that

161
00:08:06,980 --> 00:08:09,920
and block out everything
that was around me.

162

00:08:09,920 --> 00:08:12,000

And live sort of in
a world-- you know,

163

00:08:12,000 --> 00:08:13,710

you could live on two levels.

164

00:08:13,710 --> 00:08:15,500

There's no problem about that.

165

00:08:15,500 --> 00:08:18,530

And I guess even now, I do
live on two levels, you know.

166

00:08:18,530 --> 00:08:20,570

Sometimes the other
one comes up and makes

167

00:08:20,570 --> 00:08:26,320

it a little more difficult
when that intrudes,

168

00:08:26,320 --> 00:08:29,250

but most of the time
you can keep it down.

169

00:08:29,250 --> 00:08:33,549

170

00:08:33,549 --> 00:08:35,740

Is this where the play was?

171

00:08:35,740 --> 00:08:36,616

Oh, yeah.

172

00:08:36,616 --> 00:08:37,929

Tell me about that.

173

00:08:37,929 --> 00:08:45,140

Well, one Christmas-- again
it was under Frau Kligler--

174

00:08:45,140 --> 00:08:47,500
during Frau Kligler time--

175

00:08:47,500 --> 00:08:51,860
I think Christmas and Hanukkah
sort of fell together.

176

00:08:51,860 --> 00:08:55,840
And so we had to clean
the factory space.

177

00:08:55,840 --> 00:08:58,120
We were allowed a hot
shower after that was over.

178

00:08:58,120 --> 00:09:00,460
And that was the best
shower I ever remember.

179

00:09:00,460 --> 00:09:02,680
It was hot because we
didn't have hot showers.

180

00:09:02,680 --> 00:09:06,010
We were permitted to shower
once a week, cold shower.

181

00:09:06,010 --> 00:09:07,510
But this was a hot shower--

182

00:09:07,510 --> 00:09:09,220
sort of a special deal.

183

00:09:09,220 --> 00:09:11,590
And we were going
to put on a play

184

00:09:11,590 --> 00:09:13,240
because everybody else was busy.

185

00:09:13,240 --> 00:09:16,690
And Frau Kligler we did not

worry so terribly much about.

186

00:09:16,690 --> 00:09:19,112

Because we did throw some
things in Polish, and of course,

187

00:09:19,112 --> 00:09:20,320

she didn't understand Polish.

188

00:09:20,320 --> 00:09:22,240

So that was OK.

189

00:09:22,240 --> 00:09:27,200

My friend Ilse and
I staged a play.

190

00:09:27,200 --> 00:09:29,830

And of course, I
participated in it as well.

191

00:09:29,830 --> 00:09:32,280

Some people had wonderful
singing voices and dance,

192

00:09:32,280 --> 00:09:35,170

so we were going to
have a performance.

193

00:09:35,170 --> 00:09:38,740

And this particular play
dealt with two grandmothers--

194

00:09:38,740 --> 00:09:40,810

Ilse and I were two
grandmothers in that play.

195

00:09:40,810 --> 00:09:44,050

196

00:09:44,050 --> 00:09:48,640

We gathered some stuff
from under the looms

197

00:09:48,640 --> 00:09:50,950

and put it in our
hair to make it gray.

198

00:09:50,950 --> 00:09:53,020

And we had found
little pieces of wire

199

00:09:53,020 --> 00:09:54,550

and made such a granny glasses.

200

00:09:54,550 --> 00:09:58,750

And I wrote the play in
the washroom at night.

201

00:09:58,750 --> 00:10:00,608

And the next day
we performed it.

202

00:10:00,608 --> 00:10:02,900

We were sitting-- we made a
clearing between the bunks.

203

00:10:02,900 --> 00:10:05,920

There was a clearing that we
could push the tables aside.

204

00:10:05,920 --> 00:10:09,850

And we were talking about
the war, the past of course,

205

00:10:09,850 --> 00:10:13,090

you know predicting great
futures for everyone.

206

00:10:13,090 --> 00:10:17,800

And I still remember
the words of the play.

207

00:10:17,800 --> 00:10:20,110

One of my friends, who
as a matter of fact

208

00:10:20,110 --> 00:10:24,730
lives in Los Angeles, reminded
me of that particular thing.

209

00:10:24,730 --> 00:10:27,172
And then we had our two
granddaughters come up

210

00:10:27,172 --> 00:10:28,630
and they listen to
us for a while--

211

00:10:28,630 --> 00:10:30,490
sort of this bored look.

212

00:10:30,490 --> 00:10:35,180
And they said, come on, let's
talk about our boyfriends.

213

00:10:35,180 --> 00:10:37,920
You know how old
people exaggerate.

214

00:10:37,920 --> 00:10:40,440
And so we were 17
and 18, respectively,

215

00:10:40,440 --> 00:10:42,190
at that particular time.

216

00:10:42,190 --> 00:10:45,120
We somehow seem to have
hit upon the very core

217

00:10:45,120 --> 00:10:46,860
of our existence--

218

00:10:46,860 --> 00:10:49,860
that someday we
will live in a place

219

00:10:49,860 --> 00:10:52,440

where Jewish grandmothers
will be allowed to live

220
00:10:52,440 --> 00:10:55,260
and Jewish
grandchildren will live.

221
00:10:55,260 --> 00:10:57,750
But best of all
to live in a place

222
00:10:57,750 --> 00:11:01,140
where the climate will
be such that our children

223
00:11:01,140 --> 00:11:06,560
and grandchildren will not
believe our tales of the past.

224
00:11:06,560 --> 00:11:08,750
The person who played my
granddaughter in the play

225
00:11:08,750 --> 00:11:09,320
is alive.

226
00:11:09,320 --> 00:11:11,070
She's in Israel.

227
00:11:11,070 --> 00:11:15,170
She's the mother of one of
Israel's most decorated heroes.

228
00:11:15,170 --> 00:11:18,650
Tragically the person who
played Ilse's granddaughter

229
00:11:18,650 --> 00:11:20,120
is not alive.

230
00:11:20,120 --> 00:11:21,590
Just as Ilse is not alive.

231

00:11:21,590 --> 00:11:26,390

And these are the faces
that I remember looking at.

232

00:11:26,390 --> 00:11:27,650

We performed it--

233

00:11:27,650 --> 00:11:33,900

234

00:11:33,900 --> 00:11:37,170

During the time when
we did the play,

235

00:11:37,170 --> 00:11:41,340

we also fashioned a menorah
out of our evening meal

236

00:11:41,340 --> 00:11:42,060

of potatoes.

237

00:11:42,060 --> 00:11:44,610

We cut it very carefully.

238

00:11:44,610 --> 00:11:47,100

And we had sort of
a dilemma, should

239

00:11:47,100 --> 00:11:49,860

we try to find-- of
course, we had no candles.

240

00:11:49,860 --> 00:11:51,870

But then we thought
even if we had candles

241

00:11:51,870 --> 00:11:53,520

that it would be
more symbolic to sort

242

00:11:53,520 --> 00:11:58,410

of light the flame of hope

within us without seeing it.

243

00:11:58,410 --> 00:12:01,140

That would be the unseen things.

244

00:12:01,140 --> 00:12:04,620

And we sang a song
about Hanukkah.

245

00:12:04,620 --> 00:12:08,720

But we reworked it
to a modern, then,

246

00:12:08,720 --> 00:12:11,310

version of this
new hopeful menorah

247

00:12:11,310 --> 00:12:14,460

and of the defiance
of the Maccabees.

248

00:12:14,460 --> 00:12:19,350

And the little bit of oil
which lasted for seven days

249

00:12:19,350 --> 00:12:22,300

when it was supposed
to last only one night.

250

00:12:22,300 --> 00:12:24,060

So you know, we
applied it to us.

251

00:12:24,060 --> 00:12:28,250

And we felt very, very
strongly about it.

252

00:12:28,250 --> 00:12:31,140

We also did some other
things like Yom Kippur

253

00:12:31,140 --> 00:12:33,480

when we were admonished--

254
00:12:33,480 --> 00:12:36,750
had to fast and had to
deliver the prescribed quota

255
00:12:36,750 --> 00:12:37,470
of material.

256
00:12:37,470 --> 00:12:42,510
Everyone fasted even though
we knew the dire consequences

257
00:12:42,510 --> 00:12:45,420
if you did not do it, which
was difficult even under most

258
00:12:45,420 --> 00:12:47,700
normal circumstances.

259
00:12:47,700 --> 00:12:51,060
And we were given noodles
and sugar at some point.

260
00:12:51,060 --> 00:12:53,160
Nobody ate it.

261
00:12:53,160 --> 00:12:58,500
And there was a feeling
of almost holiness

262
00:12:58,500 --> 00:13:01,230
and tranquility.

263
00:13:01,230 --> 00:13:06,060
It was a very important
victory within you.

264
00:13:06,060 --> 00:13:07,650
Yes, you can do it.

265
00:13:07,650 --> 00:13:11,670
And it was a victory

over the Nazis.

266

00:13:11,670 --> 00:13:13,800

We could do it within ourselves.

267

00:13:13,800 --> 00:13:19,020

And we did a number
of things like that.

268

00:13:19,020 --> 00:13:21,210

I remember when they were
particularly vicious--

269

00:13:21,210 --> 00:13:24,410

not Frau Kligler, but the
ones that were coming in

270

00:13:24,410 --> 00:13:25,680

to give us a pep talk.

271

00:13:25,680 --> 00:13:28,290

There was particularly
one, Meister Zimmer,

272

00:13:28,290 --> 00:13:29,790

whom I absolutely detested.

273

00:13:29,790 --> 00:13:31,890

And he was totally bald.

274

00:13:31,890 --> 00:13:36,510

He was very intelligent
and spoke marvelously well.

275

00:13:36,510 --> 00:13:39,000

I mean he had almost
an hypnotic voice.

276

00:13:39,000 --> 00:13:41,460

And he would say that
if we stayed our lives

277

00:13:41,460 --> 00:13:43,800
we will learn
decency and things.

278
00:13:43,800 --> 00:13:46,980
And he just drove me crazy
was his type of thing,

279
00:13:46,980 --> 00:13:51,480
because decency was the thing
that I felt my parents live by.

280
00:13:51,480 --> 00:13:54,040
And to hear it by him
it became an ugly thing.

281
00:13:54,040 --> 00:13:56,670
And I remember as
soon as I was starting

282
00:13:56,670 --> 00:13:59,722
to fall under his spell, I
imagined his ears were sort

283
00:13:59,722 --> 00:14:00,930
of put through a [INAUDIBLE].

284
00:14:00,930 --> 00:14:02,760
And I imagine how
he would look dead

285
00:14:02,760 --> 00:14:04,470
and how worms would
come out of his ears.

286
00:14:04,470 --> 00:14:06,053
And I remember once
I must have smiled

287
00:14:06,053 --> 00:14:08,608
to myself because he said to
me, what are you smiling about.

288

00:14:08,608 --> 00:14:09,150
I don't know.

289
00:14:09,150 --> 00:14:10,170
I was smiling.

290
00:14:10,170 --> 00:14:15,750
So you could take certain
things and turn it around,

291
00:14:15,750 --> 00:14:17,790
and feel that, in
your mind, you had

292
00:14:17,790 --> 00:14:20,310
a certain victory over the
things that they were saying.

293
00:14:20,310 --> 00:14:23,670
And I thought to myself, sure,
he will die long before I will.

294
00:14:23,670 --> 00:14:25,020
And I will do such and such.

295
00:14:25,020 --> 00:14:27,750
And it was probably
very childish,

296
00:14:27,750 --> 00:14:29,280
but I think it worked.

297
00:14:29,280 --> 00:14:31,380
It sometimes could
work very, very well.

298
00:14:31,380 --> 00:14:34,920
You could lift yourself
above what was there.

299
00:14:34,920 --> 00:14:39,930
I remember in one of my-- which
followed very much later--

300
00:14:39,930 --> 00:14:43,110
that I was busy on
the death march.

301
00:14:43,110 --> 00:14:44,590
You don't want the
death march now?

302
00:14:44,590 --> 00:14:45,546
Not yet.

303
00:14:45,546 --> 00:14:46,502
Let's go--

304
00:14:46,502 --> 00:14:48,727
Then I should leave that
one out, because that--

305
00:14:48,727 --> 00:14:50,310
No, we're going to
do the death march.

306
00:14:50,310 --> 00:14:51,810
But we'll do it later.

307
00:14:51,810 --> 00:14:54,270
No, because I have this
one particular thing that--

308
00:14:54,270 --> 00:14:55,907
should I do it later?

309
00:14:55,907 --> 00:14:57,240
Sorry, you will probably cut it.

310
00:14:57,240 --> 00:14:57,960
Do it now.

311
00:14:57,960 --> 00:15:00,060
OK.

312

00:15:00,060 --> 00:15:04,050

We didn't get anything to
eat for days, literally.

313

00:15:04,050 --> 00:15:06,210

We were bitter cold and
hungry and everything.

314

00:15:06,210 --> 00:15:10,560

And I was planning a
party after the war.

315

00:15:10,560 --> 00:15:13,800

And I had a dilemma,
for almost an entire day

316

00:15:13,800 --> 00:15:17,700

I should have a blue velvet
dress or a red velvet dress.

317

00:15:17,700 --> 00:15:18,720

I couldn't resolve it.

318

00:15:18,720 --> 00:15:21,690

I really liked the color
blue much better as a color.

319

00:15:21,690 --> 00:15:25,200

But I knew that red
looked better on me.

320

00:15:25,200 --> 00:15:28,500

But you could occupy your
mind and hang your thoughts

321

00:15:28,500 --> 00:15:30,310

on trivia of that nature.

322

00:15:30,310 --> 00:15:31,690

And it became very important.

323

00:15:31,690 --> 00:15:33,840

And this is how you
passed the hours

324
00:15:33,840 --> 00:15:36,690
and forgot the
hunger and the cold.

325
00:15:36,690 --> 00:15:44,110
And I do believe that if you
were blessed with imagination,

326
00:15:44,110 --> 00:15:47,140
that you could work that.

327
00:15:47,140 --> 00:15:51,520
If unfortunately you were a
person that faced reality,

328
00:15:51,520 --> 00:15:53,370
I think you didn't
have much of a chance.

329
00:15:53,370 --> 00:15:56,340

330
00:15:56,340 --> 00:15:58,670
I felt I was lucky because
I never faced reality.

331
00:15:58,670 --> 00:15:59,450
I still don't.

332
00:15:59,450 --> 00:16:02,240

333
00:16:02,240 --> 00:16:08,600
But when we had to
leave Bolkenhain, which

334
00:16:08,600 --> 00:16:12,110
was very hard, we
left for another camp

335

00:16:12,110 --> 00:16:18,290
because we did not have enough
raw material to do any weaving.

336

00:16:18,290 --> 00:16:23,678
Bolkenhain had a sort of
a sister factory called--

337

00:16:23,678 --> 00:16:24,470
there were several.

338

00:16:24,470 --> 00:16:25,220
One was Landeshut.

339

00:16:25,220 --> 00:16:26,430
One was Merzdorf.

340

00:16:26,430 --> 00:16:28,550
And we were sent to Merzdorf.

341

00:16:28,550 --> 00:16:32,090
And Merzdorf was horrible camp
by comparison with Bolkenhain.

342

00:16:32,090 --> 00:16:34,640
First of all, we were
housed in a building

343

00:16:34,640 --> 00:16:37,580
maybe under the sixth or
seventh or eighth floor, way up.

344

00:16:37,580 --> 00:16:40,727
And it was horribly hot
there during the summer.

345

00:16:40,727 --> 00:16:42,560
And of course, the
windows were nailed down.

346

00:16:42,560 --> 00:16:44,520
I mean, we were

literally broiling.

347

00:16:44,520 --> 00:16:47,570

And the people in charge there
were in complete contrast

348

00:16:47,570 --> 00:16:48,950

to what we know Frau Kligler.

349

00:16:48,950 --> 00:16:52,730

There was a lagerfÃ¼hrer in there
who was perhaps 18 or 19 years

350

00:16:52,730 --> 00:16:55,340

old-- the most
vulgar looking thing.

351

00:16:55,340 --> 00:16:57,230

She was wearing rings
on every finger.

352

00:16:57,230 --> 00:16:59,510

And then sometimes two or
three rings on each finger.

353

00:16:59,510 --> 00:17:02,120

And she had short
stubby red hands.

354

00:17:02,120 --> 00:17:07,160

And her enjoyment was to-- she
had a little cart like children

355

00:17:07,160 --> 00:17:08,240

ride around.

356

00:17:08,240 --> 00:17:11,270

And she would sit in that
cart with a little whip.

357

00:17:11,270 --> 00:17:14,000

And we had to pull her.

358

00:17:14,000 --> 00:17:15,980

That was her joy.

359

00:17:15,980 --> 00:17:20,210

I mean the mentality of that
person was not to be believed.

360

00:17:20,210 --> 00:17:22,250

And then there was
another person there

361

00:17:22,250 --> 00:17:23,839

who was in charge of us.

362

00:17:23,839 --> 00:17:30,380

And she had been a guard
in one of the female jails.

363

00:17:30,380 --> 00:17:32,330

And we sometimes had--

364

00:17:32,330 --> 00:17:37,280

the work that we did,
people who committed

365

00:17:37,280 --> 00:17:40,700

some sort of misdemeanor
or what have you in jail

366

00:17:40,700 --> 00:17:45,200

came to spend a day
working with us.

367

00:17:45,200 --> 00:17:48,230

And that was our normal work.

368

00:17:48,230 --> 00:17:51,170

We worked at
different jobs there.

369

00:17:51,170 --> 00:17:54,110

One of the jobs, which

was dreadful-- there

370

00:17:54,110 --> 00:17:55,610

were several that

were bad-- one was

371

00:17:55,610 --> 00:17:58,800

to hand bricks one to another.

372

00:17:58,800 --> 00:18:01,170

And you have to throw the

brick and catch it quickly.

373

00:18:01,170 --> 00:18:03,950

If you didn't, it

landed on your hands

374

00:18:03,950 --> 00:18:07,920

and it crushed your fingers.

375

00:18:07,920 --> 00:18:12,240

The other job was to

go in a nearby swamp

376

00:18:12,240 --> 00:18:14,610

because they were

growing linen there.

377

00:18:14,610 --> 00:18:20,020

And in the swamp you

had to put the little--

378

00:18:20,020 --> 00:18:21,430

the not finished

linen, they sink

379

00:18:21,430 --> 00:18:23,520

and grown, into the swamp too.

380

00:18:23,520 --> 00:18:25,830

Because then it opened--

381

00:18:25,830 --> 00:18:28,800
the enclosure in which
to threads the linen

382
00:18:28,800 --> 00:18:32,010
was, I don't know if
I'm explaining it right.

383
00:18:32,010 --> 00:18:35,100
It was backbreaking labor.

384
00:18:35,100 --> 00:18:37,920
You had to stand in
the swamp doing that,

385
00:18:37,920 --> 00:18:40,230
and it was swarming
with mosquitoes.

386
00:18:40,230 --> 00:18:42,940

387
00:18:42,940 --> 00:18:46,480
And the other thing
that we did is load

388
00:18:46,480 --> 00:18:48,520
into a silo, an enormous silo--

389
00:18:48,520 --> 00:18:52,320
I don't know how
many stories high--

390
00:18:52,320 --> 00:18:55,490
a man with a crane was
throwing down bundles.

391
00:18:55,490 --> 00:18:56,780
And we were standing on--

392
00:18:56,780 --> 00:19:01,825
the bundles came crashing down,
and you had to arrange them.

393

00:19:01,825 --> 00:19:03,700

And you could easily be
swallowed up in that.

394

00:19:03,700 --> 00:19:06,220

First of all, you were
swaying all the time.

395

00:19:06,220 --> 00:19:08,920

And then they came
so fast that if you

396

00:19:08,920 --> 00:19:12,400

didn't catch it fast enough, it
hit you and pricked your skin.

397

00:19:12,400 --> 00:19:15,012

And then your skin was bleeding.

398

00:19:15,012 --> 00:19:17,470

And then you were in the swamp,
and the mosquitoes waiting.

399

00:19:17,470 --> 00:19:18,820

It was a horrible time.

400

00:19:18,820 --> 00:19:23,170

And it was there in that
silo where some of the women

401

00:19:23,170 --> 00:19:26,950

came from jails, who had
committed murder or God knows

402

00:19:26,950 --> 00:19:29,790

what, as punishment for a day.

403

00:19:29,790 --> 00:19:32,070

And they said they
preferred solitary any time

404

00:19:32,070 --> 00:19:34,500
then to work there.

405
00:19:34,500 --> 00:19:36,150
It was there, as
a matter of fact,

406
00:19:36,150 --> 00:19:39,270
where I really felt I
was going to give up.

407
00:19:39,270 --> 00:19:42,420
There was one overseer who
was particularly cruel to me.

408
00:19:42,420 --> 00:19:46,240
And he had singled me out
for this type of punishment.

409
00:19:46,240 --> 00:19:48,900
So during the day I
was working at flax

410
00:19:48,900 --> 00:19:51,450
or handling the bundles.

411
00:19:51,450 --> 00:19:55,440
At night we had to shovel coal.

412
00:19:55,440 --> 00:19:57,690
Wagons, you know, came.

413
00:19:57,690 --> 00:20:01,560
We had to shovel it because
the tracks had to be cleared.

414
00:20:01,560 --> 00:20:03,590
And it was going
on day and night.

415
00:20:03,590 --> 00:20:05,960
There were lots of
soldier trains going by.

416
00:20:05,960 --> 00:20:08,900
We didn't know if there were
trains with German soldiers

417
00:20:08,900 --> 00:20:09,890
going back.

418
00:20:09,890 --> 00:20:12,060
And people said there
were trains of people

419
00:20:12,060 --> 00:20:14,090
to be sent to Auschwitz.

420
00:20:14,090 --> 00:20:18,170
And I remember my
resistance really weakening.

421
00:20:18,170 --> 00:20:27,040
And I said to myself once
after the coal car was empty,

422
00:20:27,040 --> 00:20:30,370
and I was standing with
that shovel in my hand,

423
00:20:30,370 --> 00:20:32,500
and I said it would
be so easy now

424
00:20:32,500 --> 00:20:34,630
to jump in the oncoming train.

425
00:20:34,630 --> 00:20:37,660
And it will be over
in a couple of seconds

426
00:20:37,660 --> 00:20:40,390
and become a part
of that stillness

427

00:20:40,390 --> 00:20:42,253
not to have to face tomorrow.

428
00:20:42,253 --> 00:20:43,420
What's going to be tomorrow?

429
00:20:43,420 --> 00:20:45,130
It's going to be
flax in the morning

430
00:20:45,130 --> 00:20:50,390
and bundles at night and into
a swamp again and to hunger.

431
00:20:50,390 --> 00:20:53,320
And I just felt I had enough.

432
00:20:53,320 --> 00:20:55,810
And I resisted that.

433
00:20:55,810 --> 00:21:01,910
And then another day came
by, and the next night--

434
00:21:01,910 --> 00:21:07,030
and I remember I had
promised my father.

435
00:21:07,030 --> 00:21:08,920
That was one thing I
was never going to do,

436
00:21:08,920 --> 00:21:10,810
was to really give up.

437
00:21:10,810 --> 00:21:11,610
And it sort of a--

438
00:21:11,610 --> 00:21:14,210

439
00:21:14,210 --> 00:21:16,590

but I came very
close to doing it.

440
00:21:16,590 --> 00:21:20,060
And I remember that one night
when I definitely said--

441
00:21:20,060 --> 00:21:22,890
it was a beautiful
moonlit night--

442
00:21:22,890 --> 00:21:27,170
and I said to myself,
it's time to do it.

443
00:21:27,170 --> 00:21:32,230
And I heard very faint
oncoming of a train--

444
00:21:32,230 --> 00:21:34,510
from very far away probably.

445
00:21:34,510 --> 00:21:41,840
Suddenly I felt a pain in
my both sides of my neck--

446
00:21:41,840 --> 00:21:44,700
very sharp.

447
00:21:44,700 --> 00:21:48,940
And it was right in the
beginning of the war

448
00:21:48,940 --> 00:21:51,090
when we had not heard
from my brother.

449
00:21:51,090 --> 00:21:53,070
My mother was sick.

450
00:21:53,070 --> 00:21:55,380
And we were told that
we had to leave with 20

451
00:21:55,380 --> 00:21:58,520
pounds of our belongings--

452
00:21:58,520 --> 00:22:00,650
our home.

453
00:22:00,650 --> 00:22:02,100
I remember standing there.

454
00:22:02,100 --> 00:22:05,940
And we heard of a family who
committed suicide together.

455
00:22:05,940 --> 00:22:10,290
And I sort of half wished that
my parents had suggested that.

456
00:22:10,290 --> 00:22:14,270
I was always very
close to my father.

457
00:22:14,270 --> 00:22:18,680
I remember I stood there
and was thinking about that.

458
00:22:18,680 --> 00:22:20,600
My father must have
guessed my thoughts

459
00:22:20,600 --> 00:22:22,070
because he came up to me.

460
00:22:22,070 --> 00:22:25,980
He stood behind me and he
said, what you are thinking

461
00:22:25,980 --> 00:22:29,740
is cowardly and it's wrong.

462
00:22:29,740 --> 00:22:34,090
And he said, promise me that

you're never going to do it.

463

00:22:34,090 --> 00:22:37,500

I didn't answer him.

464

00:22:37,500 --> 00:22:38,220

And he--

465

00:22:38,220 --> 00:22:42,590

466

00:22:42,590 --> 00:22:45,150

Second sticks.

467

00:22:45,150 --> 00:22:45,810

OK.

468

00:22:45,810 --> 00:22:46,310

OK.

469

00:22:46,310 --> 00:22:50,780

470

00:22:50,780 --> 00:22:53,863

Very early in the war while
we were still at home--

471

00:22:53,863 --> 00:22:55,280

as a matter of
fact, we were still

472

00:22:55,280 --> 00:22:58,790

living in our own quarters.

473

00:22:58,790 --> 00:23:02,660

It was shortly after my
brother was taken away.

474

00:23:02,660 --> 00:23:05,330

And my mother was
really gone to pieces.

475

00:23:05,330 --> 00:23:07,460

She was quite ill.

476

00:23:07,460 --> 00:23:11,180

And my father had a reoccurring
thing with his heart.

477

00:23:11,180 --> 00:23:14,030

And we got orders
to leave our home

478

00:23:14,030 --> 00:23:15,770

with 20 pounds of
our belongings.

479

00:23:15,770 --> 00:23:18,140

And my father told me to
sort of pack suitcases.

480

00:23:18,140 --> 00:23:20,600

I had no idea how to do that.

481

00:23:20,600 --> 00:23:24,050

And we had heard of a family
who committed suicide together.

482

00:23:24,050 --> 00:23:27,350

And I really thought
at that point

483

00:23:27,350 --> 00:23:30,380

that it would be
good to do that.

484

00:23:30,380 --> 00:23:34,010

I had hoped my parents
would suggest it.

485

00:23:34,010 --> 00:23:38,100

And I remember standing at
a window and thinking about.

486

00:23:38,100 --> 00:23:42,328
And my father came up
behind me, and he always

487
00:23:42,328 --> 00:23:43,370
knew what I was thinking.

488
00:23:43,370 --> 00:23:46,580
And he said to me, what
you are thinking is wrong.

489
00:23:46,580 --> 00:23:47,900
It's cowardly.

490
00:23:47,900 --> 00:23:49,280
It's terrible.

491
00:23:49,280 --> 00:23:53,020
He said, you promise me never
to do that, no matter what.

492
00:23:53,020 --> 00:23:55,340
And I didn't answer him.

493
00:23:55,340 --> 00:24:01,110
And then he sort of took me,
he took my head like that.

494
00:24:01,110 --> 00:24:04,680
And he turned it toward him, and
he looked at me, and he said,

495
00:24:04,680 --> 00:24:08,340
I want your promise now.

496
00:24:08,340 --> 00:24:11,610
And I said, papa, I promise.

497
00:24:11,610 --> 00:24:15,000
And during those
last days in Merzdorf

498

00:24:15,000 --> 00:24:17,420
that promise became
pretty faint.

499
00:24:17,420 --> 00:24:21,540
I was exhausted.

500
00:24:21,540 --> 00:24:25,170
You know, I don't know anymore
how many days and nights

501
00:24:25,170 --> 00:24:30,930
I was working in that heat
and in the swamp and the coal.

502
00:24:30,930 --> 00:24:32,910
And ever thing swam together.

503
00:24:32,910 --> 00:24:37,150
I really wanted to end it.

504
00:24:37,150 --> 00:24:39,850
And at that precise moment when
I had really almost decided--

505
00:24:39,850 --> 00:24:42,475
I mean, I don't know if I would
have carried it through or not.

506
00:24:42,475 --> 00:24:44,310
But I have a feeling
that I was pretty much

507
00:24:44,310 --> 00:24:46,090
at the end of my rope.

508
00:24:46,090 --> 00:24:47,950
And I knew that the
train was going to come.

509
00:24:47,950 --> 00:24:50,800
And I figured, oh,
I'm going to jump.

510
00:24:50,800 --> 00:24:54,910
Suddenly I felt a very
sharp pain in my neck.

511
00:24:54,910 --> 00:24:57,170
And the promise came back.

512
00:24:57,170 --> 00:24:59,560
And obviously I didn't.

513
00:24:59,560 --> 00:25:02,980
The strangest thing is that
the following day everything

514
00:25:02,980 --> 00:25:04,760
changed.

515
00:25:04,760 --> 00:25:07,090
The following day
as we were working

516
00:25:07,090 --> 00:25:11,770
in the swamp, that Aufsicht--

517
00:25:11,770 --> 00:25:15,760
that fury came running and
had a list in her hand.

518
00:25:15,760 --> 00:25:18,520
And asked the people who had
the following numbers to come

519
00:25:18,520 --> 00:25:19,880
forward.

520
00:25:19,880 --> 00:25:21,460
And I think my mind
must have been so

521
00:25:21,460 --> 00:25:24,190
muddled I wasn't even thinking.

522

00:25:24,190 --> 00:25:25,840

And Ilse's number was called.

523

00:25:25,840 --> 00:25:27,640

She was working with me.

524

00:25:27,640 --> 00:25:30,820

Ilse was not working nights.

525

00:25:30,820 --> 00:25:32,890

That was sort of
directed more against me

526

00:25:32,890 --> 00:25:34,840

or a few other people.

527

00:25:34,840 --> 00:25:38,405

And he called Ilse's number,
and nobody raised their hands.

528

00:25:38,405 --> 00:25:40,030

And she says, well
who had that number?

529

00:25:40,030 --> 00:25:42,880

And Ilse took my hand,
and she said, she did.

530

00:25:42,880 --> 00:25:45,390

I wasn't even aware
of what she was doing.

531

00:25:45,390 --> 00:25:48,790

She obviously was substituting
her number for mine.

532

00:25:48,790 --> 00:25:51,130

She wanted to save
me from something.

533

00:25:51,130 --> 00:25:52,840

And I was led away.

534

00:25:52,840 --> 00:25:54,242

And Ilse jumped
out of the swamp,

535

00:25:54,242 --> 00:25:55,450

and she also started running.

536

00:25:55,450 --> 00:25:58,480

And as we came to the
courtyard of the camp,

537

00:25:58,480 --> 00:26:02,590

there stood the director of
the factory of Bolkenhain.

538

00:26:02,590 --> 00:26:06,280

And Ilse literally threw
herself at his feet.

539

00:26:06,280 --> 00:26:08,877

And she said, I want
to go with my sister.

540

00:26:08,877 --> 00:26:10,210

So he said, what is your number?

541

00:26:10,210 --> 00:26:11,810

And she gave her
correct number and mine.

542

00:26:11,810 --> 00:26:13,560

So he said, well you
both are on the list.

543

00:26:13,560 --> 00:26:15,400

So he said, you run, wash up.

544

00:26:15,400 --> 00:26:17,830

You both look like pigs.

545

00:26:17,830 --> 00:26:19,840

And actually what
was happening is

546

00:26:19,840 --> 00:26:21,940

they needed more
people for weaving.

547

00:26:21,940 --> 00:26:25,450

And he came to collect from this
particular camp, which was not

548

00:26:25,450 --> 00:26:27,520

a weaving factory,
to an adjacent one

549

00:26:27,520 --> 00:26:30,100

called Landeshut, which
was also under the auspices

550

00:26:30,100 --> 00:26:31,000

of Bolkenhain.

551

00:26:31,000 --> 00:26:35,330

552

00:26:35,330 --> 00:26:36,830

Again we were loaded on a truck.

553

00:26:36,830 --> 00:26:40,070

And I couldn't wait for the
gates to open-- to get out.

554

00:26:40,070 --> 00:26:43,670

And I didn't know how
to thank Ilse for it.

555

00:26:43,670 --> 00:26:45,660

But I remember that
night I just said to her,

556

00:26:45,660 --> 00:26:47,920

I'm glad I didn't jump.

557

00:26:47,920 --> 00:26:50,500
And she says, what did you say?

558

00:26:50,500 --> 00:26:52,390
I said, I'll tell you someday.

559

00:26:52,390 --> 00:26:53,756
I never told her.

560

00:26:53,756 --> 00:26:58,520

561

00:26:58,520 --> 00:27:01,250
Why did that lagerfÃ¼hrer
have it in for you?

562

00:27:01,250 --> 00:27:04,930

563

00:27:04,930 --> 00:27:07,900
I can only surmise.

564

00:27:07,900 --> 00:27:11,560
I was cleaning some small
component in the camp,

565

00:27:11,560 --> 00:27:12,920
and he came up.

566

00:27:12,920 --> 00:27:14,320
He wasn't a lagerfÃ¼hrer.

567

00:27:14,320 --> 00:27:18,020
He was sort of a
supervisor there.

568

00:27:18,020 --> 00:27:21,760
And he said to me,
how would you like

569

00:27:21,760 --> 00:27:23,830
some hot soup or some bread?

570
00:27:23,830 --> 00:27:25,440
You know, which was sort of--

571
00:27:25,440 --> 00:27:27,580
I said to myself, why
is he saying that to me.

572
00:27:27,580 --> 00:27:29,560
If he wanted to help me
why doesn't he give me

573
00:27:29,560 --> 00:27:31,180
a piece of bread, you know?

574
00:27:31,180 --> 00:27:33,910
So I sort of said,
well, I eat in camp,

575
00:27:33,910 --> 00:27:38,620
which I felt was stating the
truth without accusing them

576
00:27:38,620 --> 00:27:40,990
that they're not giving
us enough to eat,

577
00:27:40,990 --> 00:27:42,260
but not saying anything.

578
00:27:42,260 --> 00:27:48,460
And so I gathered that he had
maybe certain designs on me

579
00:27:48,460 --> 00:27:49,870
or maybe just
wanting to test me.

580
00:27:49,870 --> 00:27:52,010
I don't know.

581

00:27:52,010 --> 00:27:56,050

That incidentally, in our camp,
was not much of a problem.

582

00:27:56,050 --> 00:27:58,630

There were very few men around--

583

00:27:58,630 --> 00:28:00,640

working in the camps
were mostly old.

584

00:28:00,640 --> 00:28:02,900

And there were a lot of
young pretty German girls

585

00:28:02,900 --> 00:28:04,820

there, so that
was not a problem.

586

00:28:04,820 --> 00:28:05,900

I don't know.

587

00:28:05,900 --> 00:28:10,480

In any event, I think just the
type of defiance that I showed,

588

00:28:10,480 --> 00:28:14,840

he decided to sort of break
my spirit-- maybe out of sport

589

00:28:14,840 --> 00:28:16,390

or just to show his things.

590

00:28:16,390 --> 00:28:22,010

And this is why I was picked
for every type of hard work.

591

00:28:22,010 --> 00:28:25,540

But I think it's a
terribly important lesson.

592

00:28:25,540 --> 00:28:28,840

One should never,
ever, ever give up.

593
00:28:28,840 --> 00:28:32,800
No matter how difficult
the thing is, giving up

594
00:28:32,800 --> 00:28:36,580
is a final solution to
a temporary problem.

595
00:28:36,580 --> 00:28:38,560
Our problem wasn't so temporary.

596
00:28:38,560 --> 00:28:41,170
Nevertheless, it did pass.

597
00:28:41,170 --> 00:28:45,580
But one was keenly aware
of the preciousness of life

598
00:28:45,580 --> 00:28:47,740
and to hold onto it for
as long as possible.

599
00:28:47,740 --> 00:28:50,570
And to me this was really
the most important thing.

600
00:28:50,570 --> 00:28:54,340
And I would say that
during the entire time

601
00:28:54,340 --> 00:28:56,410
that I was in the camp--

602
00:28:56,410 --> 00:28:58,390
I mean except for the
beginning of the war,

603
00:28:58,390 --> 00:29:01,960
when I really did not know and
only heard that the family had

604
00:29:01,960 --> 00:29:04,070
chosen-- they pass together--

605
00:29:04,070 --> 00:29:05,950
this was the only
incident that I

606
00:29:05,950 --> 00:29:08,950
remember through all
the years that I really

607
00:29:08,950 --> 00:29:11,560
came close to calling it quits.

608
00:29:11,560 --> 00:29:14,850

609
00:29:14,850 --> 00:29:17,370
That's why I love to
say to young people

610
00:29:17,370 --> 00:29:19,920
never, ever, ever give up.

611
00:29:19,920 --> 00:29:23,310
The darker the night,
the brighter the dawn.

612
00:29:23,310 --> 00:29:25,140
And it sure was bright.

613
00:29:25,140 --> 00:29:26,340
And it sure was dark.

614
00:29:26,340 --> 00:29:30,970

615
00:29:30,970 --> 00:29:35,790
I want to jump back into
your 18th birthday--

616

00:29:35,790 --> 00:29:37,570

what your mother did.

617

00:29:37,570 --> 00:29:42,070

618

00:29:42,070 --> 00:29:47,320

My 18th birthday was
literally a few weeks--

619

00:29:47,320 --> 00:29:49,120

my birthday's May 8th--

620

00:29:49,120 --> 00:29:54,880

and on the 28th and 28th
of January-- on the 29th

621

00:29:54,880 --> 00:29:56,980

I was separated from
my mother on the 28th.

622

00:29:56,980 --> 00:29:59,490

It's my father that was
about five weeks before.

623

00:29:59,490 --> 00:30:01,600

So that was my last birthday.

624

00:30:01,600 --> 00:30:04,570

And my mother decided
to have a party.

625

00:30:04,570 --> 00:30:06,460

She invited the
number of my friends.

626

00:30:06,460 --> 00:30:10,060

And she somehow had gotten
some oatmeal and baked

627

00:30:10,060 --> 00:30:13,240

some cookies, which we all

swore tasted marvelously well,

628

00:30:13,240 --> 00:30:15,130

like almonds.

629

00:30:15,130 --> 00:30:20,170

And my parents gave me
an incredible present.

630

00:30:20,170 --> 00:30:21,790

They gave me an orange.

631

00:30:21,790 --> 00:30:23,980

I've always loved oranges.

632

00:30:23,980 --> 00:30:26,110

And of course, to obtain
an orange in the ghetto

633

00:30:26,110 --> 00:30:29,510

was almost impossible.

634

00:30:29,510 --> 00:30:31,030

I later learned
that my mother had

635

00:30:31,030 --> 00:30:35,980

given a very treasured and very
valuable ring for that orange.

636

00:30:35,980 --> 00:30:40,070

And that was the last present
I got from my parents.

637

00:30:40,070 --> 00:30:45,980

638

00:30:45,980 --> 00:30:49,268

Tell me about your
brother and the stone.

639

00:30:49,268 --> 00:30:54,420

640
00:30:54,420 --> 00:30:57,930
My brother was almost 4
1/2 years older than I.

641
00:30:57,930 --> 00:31:02,670
And he was really my hero.

642
00:31:02,670 --> 00:31:06,378
My brother was
very good looking.

643
00:31:06,378 --> 00:31:07,920
My mother was a very
beautiful woman.

644
00:31:07,920 --> 00:31:10,110
People used to
say, it's a shame.

645
00:31:10,110 --> 00:31:13,140
She is such a beautiful mother,
and she looks like her father.

646
00:31:13,140 --> 00:31:15,090
But the boy looks so
much like the mother.

647
00:31:15,090 --> 00:31:16,632
So you know, I always
sort of grew up

648
00:31:16,632 --> 00:31:20,100
in the shadow of my brother
who was extremely good looking

649
00:31:20,100 --> 00:31:21,270
and very accomplished.

650
00:31:21,270 --> 00:31:24,090
And everything he touched, he
seemed to be able to do well.

651
00:31:24,090 --> 00:31:27,270
And we fought at times,
but by and large, he

652
00:31:27,270 --> 00:31:28,390
was a wonderful brother.

653
00:31:28,390 --> 00:31:30,450
He always protected me.

654
00:31:30,450 --> 00:31:32,700
And of course, he had his
friends coming to the house,

655
00:31:32,700 --> 00:31:33,810
so they were boys around.

656
00:31:33,810 --> 00:31:37,020
And I started to get
interested in boys.

657
00:31:37,020 --> 00:31:41,040
And a lot of my friends
were seeking my friendship

658
00:31:41,040 --> 00:31:42,840
because of my brother.

659
00:31:42,840 --> 00:31:49,700
And the first day when
the Nazis came in,

660
00:31:49,700 --> 00:31:53,840
they rounded up people they
would find and put them

661
00:31:53,840 --> 00:31:56,550
in the temple, and set
the temple on fire.

662
00:31:56,550 --> 00:32:01,190

That was really the first
deed, the first horror

663
00:32:01,190 --> 00:32:05,510
which was inflicted upon
the citizens of the town.

664
00:32:05,510 --> 00:32:08,570
And it was shortly before
my brother was taken away,

665
00:32:08,570 --> 00:32:11,210
when he had to go
to register at what

666
00:32:11,210 --> 00:32:14,870
was like the community
center, which was not too far

667
00:32:14,870 --> 00:32:15,760
from the temple.

668
00:32:15,760 --> 00:32:19,820
The temple had been
destroyed of course.

669
00:32:19,820 --> 00:32:21,802
And I went with my brother.

670
00:32:21,802 --> 00:32:23,510
I don't remember if
it was now on the way

671
00:32:23,510 --> 00:32:25,940
to where he had to register
or on the way back.

672
00:32:25,940 --> 00:32:27,870
I think it was on the way back.

673
00:32:27,870 --> 00:32:31,730
We passed by the temple, and
we climbed over the debris.

674
00:32:31,730 --> 00:32:35,750
And we were sitting
there talking.

675
00:32:35,750 --> 00:32:38,210
He talked to me very
seriously, you know.

676
00:32:38,210 --> 00:32:40,850
Usually he talked
down to me a bit.

677
00:32:40,850 --> 00:32:46,000
But it was more like an equal.

678
00:32:46,000 --> 00:32:54,270
And it was one pillar
of the temple-- it

679
00:32:54,270 --> 00:32:56,640
stood amid all the destruction.

680
00:32:56,640 --> 00:32:59,010
And he said to me,
look at that one.

681
00:32:59,010 --> 00:33:01,570
He said, it survived, and
we are going to survive.

682
00:33:01,570 --> 00:33:02,550
They can't do it to us.

683
00:33:02,550 --> 00:33:06,840
And then he picked up a
couple of little stones

684
00:33:06,840 --> 00:33:08,400
which were charred.

685
00:33:08,400 --> 00:33:10,857

And he put one in his
pocket, and he gave me one.

686
00:33:10,857 --> 00:33:12,690
And he said, I want you
to carry it with you

687
00:33:12,690 --> 00:33:16,710
all the time to
remind you of this--

688
00:33:16,710 --> 00:33:18,480
the temple and of
our conversation.

689
00:33:18,480 --> 00:33:21,280

690
00:33:21,280 --> 00:33:23,040
And I carried it with me.

691
00:33:23,040 --> 00:33:28,000
But later on the death march
I must have lost it someplace.

692
00:33:28,000 --> 00:33:30,460
I carried it in a little sack--

693
00:33:30,460 --> 00:33:31,690
it's own little sack.

694
00:33:31,690 --> 00:33:35,520
I carried it on my
neck on a string.

695
00:33:35,520 --> 00:33:36,890
I lost it.

696
00:33:36,890 --> 00:33:40,890

697
00:33:40,890 --> 00:33:43,490

We're about to run out.

698

00:33:43,490 --> 00:33:45,880

We're about to run out.

699

00:33:45,880 --> 00:33:51,000