

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:11,720

2  
00:00:11,720 --> 00:00:15,290  
Wentworth Films Holocaust  
7 60-cycle sync.

3  
00:00:15,290 --> 00:00:20,894  
March 13, 1992.

4  
00:00:20,894 --> 00:00:22,800  
Camera roll 7 is up.

5  
00:00:22,800 --> 00:00:24,810  
Sync take 10 is up.

6  
00:00:24,810 --> 00:00:27,900  
Scottsdale, Arizona.

7  
00:00:27,900 --> 00:00:29,850  
Continuing interview  
with Gerda Klein.

8  
00:00:29,850 --> 00:00:46,120

9  
00:00:46,120 --> 00:00:47,731  
Where do I start?

10  
00:00:47,731 --> 00:00:49,050  
Start with the death march.

11  
00:00:49,050 --> 00:00:52,220  
I don't remember  
where I finished.

12  
00:00:52,220 --> 00:00:53,418  
Just start with the--

13  
00:00:53,418 --> 00:00:54,710

I'm starting getting a little--

14

00:00:54,710 --> 00:00:58,220

15

00:00:58,220 --> 00:01:07,360

Well, the years in camp  
became progressively worse

16

00:01:07,360 --> 00:01:11,230

as raw material was  
running out and also

17

00:01:11,230 --> 00:01:16,330

as it seemed that a war was  
taking a different turn.

18

00:01:16,330 --> 00:01:20,350

We sort of knew that if  
Germany should be victorious

19

00:01:20,350 --> 00:01:24,280

our doom is going to be sealed.

20

00:01:24,280 --> 00:01:31,160

But if for what we prayed for  
that we would be liberated

21

00:01:31,160 --> 00:01:36,410

we were afraid that when things  
start turning bad for them

22

00:01:36,410 --> 00:01:40,100

they are going to let their  
venom and their frustrations

23

00:01:40,100 --> 00:01:40,700

out on us.

24

00:01:40,700 --> 00:01:44,400

So there was really  
a no-win situation.

25

00:01:44,400 --> 00:01:48,170

It became pretty obvious in  
the winter of 1944 as it turned

26

00:01:48,170 --> 00:01:55,190

to '45 when there  
were frequent--

27

00:01:55,190 --> 00:01:59,600

We heard planes coming  
in and production stopped

28

00:01:59,600 --> 00:02:02,000

and things were getting bad.

29

00:02:02,000 --> 00:02:07,030

And then on the  
night of the 28th,

30

00:02:07,030 --> 00:02:09,710

rather the day of the  
28th of January '45,

31

00:02:09,710 --> 00:02:11,000

we did not go to work.

32

00:02:11,000 --> 00:02:13,070

It was a workday and  
we did not go to work.

33

00:02:13,070 --> 00:02:15,260

We were told to stay in camp.

34

00:02:15,260 --> 00:02:18,440

And toward evening we  
heard an enormous commotion

35

00:02:18,440 --> 00:02:22,430

and a transport of 2,000  
girls came from Auschwitz,

36

00:02:22,430 --> 00:02:24,560

mostly Hungarian girls.

37

00:02:24,560 --> 00:02:26,630

They told us they  
had been marching

38

00:02:26,630 --> 00:02:31,430

and that the Russian  
front had moved closer.

39

00:02:31,430 --> 00:02:33,140

Auschwitz was being  
liberated and they

40

00:02:33,140 --> 00:02:37,220

were running away from the  
advancing Russian army.

41

00:02:37,220 --> 00:02:45,270

And so we were going to join  
that march the next morning.

42

00:02:45,270 --> 00:02:46,260

It was bitter cold.

43

00:02:46,260 --> 00:02:48,030

It was in January.

44

00:02:48,030 --> 00:02:49,410

And I was coughing terribly.

45

00:02:49,410 --> 00:02:51,630

I had a very bad cold.

46

00:02:51,630 --> 00:02:56,910

And my three dearest friends,  
Susie Kuntz, Liesl Schteburn,

47

00:02:56,910 --> 00:02:59,250

Ilsa Kleinzeller and  
I, we huddled together

48

00:02:59,250 --> 00:03:00,870  
the four of us.

49  
00:03:00,870 --> 00:03:03,090  
And they were very  
concerned about me.

50  
00:03:03,090 --> 00:03:06,210  
They said, if you can only  
pull through that terrible cold

51  
00:03:06,210 --> 00:03:10,140  
and that terrible cough, might  
be pneumonia, what have you.

52  
00:03:10,140 --> 00:03:12,960  
And in the morning very  
early the doors opened,

53  
00:03:12,960 --> 00:03:15,210  
not to the type of  
freedom we had hoped

54  
00:03:15,210 --> 00:03:20,100  
but it opened to an  
incredible picture.

55  
00:03:20,100 --> 00:03:23,330  
There was freshly  
fallen snow for as far

56  
00:03:23,330 --> 00:03:24,830  
as the eye could see.

57  
00:03:24,830 --> 00:03:25,910  
An enormous surface.

58  
00:03:25,910 --> 00:03:27,830  
It was a plateau  
and then came up

59  
00:03:27,830 --> 00:03:31,040  
to a gentle hill that was

just covered with snow.

60

00:03:31,040 --> 00:03:36,260

It was gray, it was  
snowing, and we were

61

00:03:36,260 --> 00:03:40,460

told to assemble four abreast.

62

00:03:40,460 --> 00:03:45,740

So of course there was the  
four of us, and we held hands

63

00:03:45,740 --> 00:03:48,050

and we took the first step.

64

00:03:48,050 --> 00:03:49,610

And I guess we  
all knew that this

65

00:03:49,610 --> 00:03:53,375

is going to be the first step  
to the end of the road-- is it

66

00:03:53,375 --> 00:03:55,930

to liberation or to doom?

67

00:03:55,930 --> 00:03:58,880

68

00:03:58,880 --> 00:04:04,370

And in front of us stretched  
this incredible line.

69

00:04:04,370 --> 00:04:11,030

And people looked, with gray  
camp blankets over them,

70

00:04:11,030 --> 00:04:12,710

they looked like winged death.

71

00:04:12,710 --> 00:04:17,089

All you could see way,  
way ahead, 4,000 girls.

72  
00:04:17,089 --> 00:04:19,910  
And on the side were  
SS men and SS women,

73  
00:04:19,910 --> 00:04:22,940  
and they lifted their  
whips and they said,

74  
00:04:22,940 --> 00:04:26,630  
forward march and  
we started to march.

75  
00:04:26,630 --> 00:04:32,080

76  
00:04:32,080 --> 00:04:33,120  
We started to march.

77  
00:04:33,120 --> 00:04:35,985  
It was the 29th of January.

78  
00:04:35,985 --> 00:04:38,880

79  
00:04:38,880 --> 00:04:46,387  
We left a lot of girls  
back in the snow.

80  
00:04:46,387 --> 00:04:47,095  
Many were killed.

81  
00:04:47,095 --> 00:04:52,930

82  
00:04:52,930 --> 00:04:56,750  
That was something one  
can really not describe.

83  
00:04:56,750 --> 00:04:59,360

My father had asked  
me when I last

84  
00:04:59,360 --> 00:05:02,720  
saw him in June,  
the very last day,

85  
00:05:02,720 --> 00:05:06,440  
practically in the last  
moment before he left,

86  
00:05:06,440 --> 00:05:08,370  
he said to me, where  
are your skiing boots?

87  
00:05:08,370 --> 00:05:10,008  
I said, why?

88  
00:05:10,008 --> 00:05:11,800  
And he said, I want  
you to wear them today.

89  
00:05:11,800 --> 00:05:14,330  
I said, Papa, skiing  
shoes in June?

90  
00:05:14,330 --> 00:05:16,160  
He said, I want  
you to wear them.

91  
00:05:16,160 --> 00:05:20,030  
One didn't argue with one's  
father, so I put on those boots

92  
00:05:20,030 --> 00:05:22,430  
and I wore them  
throughout my entire stay

93  
00:05:22,430 --> 00:05:24,590  
in the camps for three years.

94  
00:05:24,590 --> 00:05:26,540  
And in them I had



also hid the pictures

95

00:05:26,540 --> 00:05:30,460  
of my parents and my brother.

96

00:05:30,460 --> 00:05:33,160  
I didn't know, and I don't know  
how my father could have known

97

00:05:33,160 --> 00:05:35,680  
that those boots were really  
instrumental in saving

98

00:05:35,680 --> 00:05:36,670  
my life on that march.

99

00:05:36,670 --> 00:05:38,290  
I had ski shoes.

100

00:05:38,290 --> 00:05:41,940  
Some girls had sandals.

101

00:05:41,940 --> 00:05:43,140  
We slept outside.

102

00:05:43,140 --> 00:05:46,155  
The frost I saw girls breaking  
off their toes like twigs.

103

00:05:46,155 --> 00:05:49,870

104

00:05:49,870 --> 00:05:51,070  
I had my ski boots.

105

00:05:51,070 --> 00:05:57,970

106

00:05:57,970 --> 00:06:08,410  
On the 29th of April, or  
rather I should say the 28th,

107

00:06:08,410 --> 00:06:09,750

Ilsa wasn't well at all.

108

00:06:09,750 --> 00:06:15,200

109

00:06:15,200 --> 00:06:17,780

She was sort of hallucinating.

110

00:06:17,780 --> 00:06:22,910

She was saying things which  
I didn't know what she meant.

111

00:06:22,910 --> 00:06:29,240

And when we stopped for  
the night, a lot of girls

112

00:06:29,240 --> 00:06:32,220

died [INAUDIBLE]  
the girls who died,

113

00:06:32,220 --> 00:06:34,410

and I dragged away from there.

114

00:06:34,410 --> 00:06:38,600

And she didn't seem to  
know what was going on.

115

00:06:38,600 --> 00:06:40,280

But then she became  
totally lucid.

116

00:06:40,280 --> 00:06:44,820

117

00:06:44,820 --> 00:06:47,130

And one of the most  
shocking things

118

00:06:47,130 --> 00:06:49,440

was that one of  
our other friends

119  
00:06:49,440 --> 00:06:52,850  
had somehow found two potatoes.

120  
00:06:52,850 --> 00:06:53,990  
And she gave them to me.

121  
00:06:53,990 --> 00:06:56,980  
She said for you and for Ilsa.

122  
00:06:56,980 --> 00:07:01,450  
I gave Ilsa a potato and  
she said she wasn't hungry.

123  
00:07:01,450 --> 00:07:05,040  
That was the most incredible  
statement not to be hungry.

124  
00:07:05,040 --> 00:07:08,860  
And she said to me, you eat it.

125  
00:07:08,860 --> 00:07:09,790  
And then she said--

126  
00:07:09,790 --> 00:07:16,530

127  
00:07:16,530 --> 00:07:20,810  
She said, I'm angry  
at no one and I

128  
00:07:20,810 --> 00:07:22,330  
hope nobody's angry at me.

129  
00:07:22,330 --> 00:07:26,250

130  
00:07:26,250 --> 00:07:28,440  
And then she said, if my  
parents and Kitty Kitty--

131

00:07:28,440 --> 00:07:31,000  
was her little sister--

132  
00:07:31,000 --> 00:07:33,870  
she said, if they survive,  
don't tell him how I died.

133  
00:07:33,870 --> 00:07:36,600

134  
00:07:36,600 --> 00:07:43,952  
And she said to me,  
you'll be along,

135  
00:07:43,952 --> 00:07:45,660  
she said, but you have  
always been lucky.

136  
00:07:45,660 --> 00:07:50,240

137  
00:07:50,240 --> 00:07:53,880  
I begged her not to  
say it but she did.

138  
00:07:53,880 --> 00:07:57,780  
And she said she  
wanted some water

139  
00:07:57,780 --> 00:08:00,570  
and there was a little  
brook nearby so I got up

140  
00:08:00,570 --> 00:08:02,220  
and I wanted to get it.

141  
00:08:02,220 --> 00:08:05,160  
An SS man came and  
he shoved me and I

142  
00:08:05,160 --> 00:08:09,660  
begged him to let me have water  
for her and he kicked her head.

143  
00:08:09,660 --> 00:08:18,840

144  
00:08:18,840 --> 00:08:22,150  
So it was raining.

145  
00:08:22,150 --> 00:08:28,790  
so I got some water in my  
hands and I gave it to her.

146  
00:08:28,790 --> 00:08:30,850  
And I held her and  
we both fell asleep.

147  
00:08:30,850 --> 00:08:34,799

148  
00:08:34,799 --> 00:08:35,570  
I woke up.

149  
00:08:35,570 --> 00:08:36,270  
But she didn't.

150  
00:08:36,270 --> 00:08:44,450

151  
00:08:44,450 --> 00:08:46,730  
Did she make you  
promise to hold out?

152  
00:08:46,730 --> 00:08:51,950

153  
00:08:51,950 --> 00:08:53,560  
Give me a break.

154  
00:08:53,560 --> 00:08:54,242  
Let's cut.

155  
00:08:54,242 --> 00:09:02,120

156  
00:09:02,120 --> 00:09:06,240  
She asked me to  
promise her two things.

157  
00:09:06,240 --> 00:09:09,120  
One, that if her  
parents and Kitty

158  
00:09:09,120 --> 00:09:14,290  
survive not to tell  
them how she died.

159  
00:09:14,290 --> 00:09:17,890  
And the second problem  
is concerned me.

160  
00:09:17,890 --> 00:09:21,580  
She asked me to promise her  
to go on for one more week.

161  
00:09:21,580 --> 00:09:24,530  
She said, you have  
to promise me.

162  
00:09:24,530 --> 00:09:26,960  
No matter what you will  
hang on for another week.

163  
00:09:26,960 --> 00:09:31,630

164  
00:09:31,630 --> 00:09:34,810  
Little did I know that a week  
later, exactly to the day,

165  
00:09:34,810 --> 00:09:37,900  
maybe even to the hour of  
her death, we were liberated.

166  
00:09:37,900 --> 00:09:44,960

167  
00:09:44,960 --> 00:09:49,550  
Tell me how the four  
of you pretended things

168  
00:09:49,550 --> 00:09:52,920  
on the death march.

169  
00:09:52,920 --> 00:09:54,390  
Well, not so much on the march.

170  
00:09:54,390 --> 00:09:55,170  
It was before.

171  
00:09:55,170 --> 00:10:01,380  
We had, particularly  
Liesl and I. Susie

172  
00:10:01,380 --> 00:10:03,420  
faced things much more.

173  
00:10:03,420 --> 00:10:06,820  
It was Susie who said, we  
probably won't have a chance.

174  
00:10:06,820 --> 00:10:08,610  
They will kill us first.

175  
00:10:08,610 --> 00:10:12,900  
But Liesl and I, we  
had a wonderful game.

176  
00:10:12,900 --> 00:10:16,170  
We could play a game and  
just fall into the game

177  
00:10:16,170 --> 00:10:17,820  
while we were still in camp.

178  
00:10:17,820 --> 00:10:19,830  
And we worked on the night  
shift at one stretch.

179

00:10:19,830 --> 00:10:22,590

We worked for nine months  
on the night shift.

180

00:10:22,590 --> 00:10:27,870

And I remember waking  
up and it was raining.

181

00:10:27,870 --> 00:10:33,210

The camp had overhead  
was like a factory.

182

00:10:33,210 --> 00:10:35,220

The windows were  
on top and we could

183

00:10:35,220 --> 00:10:37,350

hear the patter of the rain.

184

00:10:37,350 --> 00:10:41,400

And we must have woken  
up at the same time

185

00:10:41,400 --> 00:10:44,010

and she said, oh,  
it's a rainy day.

186

00:10:44,010 --> 00:10:45,960

And I said, yeah, but  
we have got to get up.

187

00:10:45,960 --> 00:10:47,380

We have an appointment.

188

00:10:47,380 --> 00:10:49,140

And she said, I  
have an appointment

189

00:10:49,140 --> 00:10:50,970

with the dressmaker.

190



00:10:50,970 --> 00:10:51,510

I said, yes.

191

00:10:51,510 --> 00:10:53,677

But she said, I've got to  
go first out of the garden

192

00:10:53,677 --> 00:10:55,080

and pick up some green apples.

193

00:10:55,080 --> 00:10:57,690

They taste wonderful  
after the rain.

194

00:10:57,690 --> 00:11:02,620

And she would say, I need a new  
raincoat and I have to do this.

195

00:11:02,620 --> 00:11:06,690

And then my mother expects  
me to clean up my room.

196

00:11:06,690 --> 00:11:10,470

And we would get used the  
ordinary which suddenly became

197

00:11:10,470 --> 00:11:14,370

extraordinary but we could  
go on like this for hours,

198

00:11:14,370 --> 00:11:17,790

spinning the sort of tales  
which totally blocked out

199

00:11:17,790 --> 00:11:25,480

reality and made the horror  
around us in a way disappear.

200

00:11:25,480 --> 00:11:29,040

And I think it was  
those things which

201

00:11:29,040 --> 00:11:32,190

helped enormously survival.

202

00:11:32,190 --> 00:11:36,030

You know you dredged them up  
sometimes from the recesses

203

00:11:36,030 --> 00:11:39,330

of whatever of your  
mind and the other thing

204

00:11:39,330 --> 00:11:40,575

became the abnormal.

205

00:11:40,575 --> 00:11:43,390

206

00:11:43,390 --> 00:11:45,060

We were right back to--

207

00:11:45,060 --> 00:11:47,110

we blocked everything else out.

208

00:11:47,110 --> 00:11:53,260

And it also was, I mean,  
there was some humor.

209

00:11:53,260 --> 00:11:54,670

There was some laughter.

210

00:11:54,670 --> 00:11:55,690

All right, wait.

211

00:11:55,690 --> 00:11:57,620

I want to do that one again.

212

00:11:57,620 --> 00:12:01,770

213

00:12:01,770 --> 00:12:07,200

So tell about the  
humor and the laughter.

214

00:12:07,200 --> 00:12:08,100

There was laughter.

215

00:12:08,100 --> 00:12:11,350

There was some innocent fun.

216

00:12:11,350 --> 00:12:16,690

Don't forget we were a  
group of young girls,

217

00:12:16,690 --> 00:12:23,830

and we could play games  
of pretend I think we

218

00:12:23,830 --> 00:12:25,690

honed to a certain perfection.

219

00:12:25,690 --> 00:12:28,850

We could just go  
on and on and on.

220

00:12:28,850 --> 00:12:31,360

221

00:12:31,360 --> 00:12:32,300

This is a bad plane.

222

00:12:32,300 --> 00:12:40,870

Let's just-- Tell me  
about the laughter.

223

00:12:40,870 --> 00:12:43,150

There was laughter in the camps.

224

00:12:43,150 --> 00:12:45,730

There was joking.

225

00:12:45,730 --> 00:12:47,210

There were funny stories.

226

00:12:47,210 --> 00:12:50,050

There were things that  
lightened our burden.

227  
00:12:50,050 --> 00:12:53,400  
You do not live for years  
like that without that.

228  
00:12:53,400 --> 00:12:57,310  
It was gallows humor,  
but humor nevertheless.

229  
00:12:57,310 --> 00:13:03,340  
And we played the  
games of pretending.

230  
00:13:03,340 --> 00:13:06,490  
We did it very well--  
some better than others.

231  
00:13:06,490 --> 00:13:09,675  
Some people wouldn't have a part  
of it and said, you're crazy.

232  
00:13:09,675 --> 00:13:10,300  
You are insane.

233  
00:13:10,300 --> 00:13:16,430  
But we did it, mostly Liesl and  
I. Ilse was much more serious.

234  
00:13:16,430 --> 00:13:17,360  
Ilse was a musician.

235  
00:13:17,360 --> 00:13:19,120  
She was a very fine pianist.

236  
00:13:19,120 --> 00:13:21,040  
At a very early age  
she was sent to Vienna

237  
00:13:21,040 --> 00:13:23,380  
to study at the  
Conservatory of Music.

238

00:13:23,380 --> 00:13:27,250

She really showed enormous  
promise as a pianist.

239

00:13:27,250 --> 00:13:30,100

Susie was by far the most  
intellectual of the group

240

00:13:30,100 --> 00:13:33,530

and probably the most mature.

241

00:13:33,530 --> 00:13:36,970

She had lost her mother  
when she was a baby

242

00:13:36,970 --> 00:13:42,130

and I think she was  
much more serious.

243

00:13:42,130 --> 00:13:45,310

Liesl and I both  
had older brothers

244

00:13:45,310 --> 00:13:47,930

and were younger sisters.

245

00:13:47,930 --> 00:13:50,800

And I think we had  
more of a sense of fun.

246

00:13:50,800 --> 00:13:54,730

And incidentally she  
was just beautiful.

247

00:13:54,730 --> 00:13:59,060

She was probably one of the most  
beautiful girls I'd ever seen.

248

00:13:59,060 --> 00:14:02,290

Susie was a redhead, green eyes.

249

00:14:02,290 --> 00:14:06,700  
Liesl was dark with enormous  
dark eyes as did Ilsa.

250  
00:14:06,700 --> 00:14:10,090  
And I was the ugly  
one in the group.

251  
00:14:10,090 --> 00:14:13,840  
All three, they were  
just beautiful girls.

252  
00:14:13,840 --> 00:14:16,300  
In a way we had much  
in common and we

253  
00:14:16,300 --> 00:14:18,280  
sort of supported each other.

254  
00:14:18,280 --> 00:14:22,150  
We made a lot of fun of each  
other as well and of others,

255  
00:14:22,150 --> 00:14:25,500  
the truth must be told,  
but it was all part of it.

256  
00:14:25,500 --> 00:14:27,790  
It established a  
certain normalcy.

257  
00:14:27,790 --> 00:14:31,330

258  
00:14:31,330 --> 00:14:33,770  
Did you make fun of your guards?

259  
00:14:33,770 --> 00:14:34,270  
Of course.

260  
00:14:34,270 --> 00:14:36,810  
Tell me some of the you said.

261

00:14:36,810 --> 00:14:39,530

There were wonderful  
ways of cursing them.

262

00:14:39,530 --> 00:14:43,390

For instance, one of it was  
he should become an onion.

263

00:14:43,390 --> 00:14:44,140

Was it an onion?

264

00:14:44,140 --> 00:14:46,510

Yeah, I guess so.

265

00:14:46,510 --> 00:14:50,470

With the head  
buried in the ground

266

00:14:50,470 --> 00:14:53,650

and I don't remember  
some of the things.

267

00:14:53,650 --> 00:14:58,330

Or one of the favorite things  
was we called him a lamp.

268

00:14:58,330 --> 00:15:01,090

And it was a lamp because  
during the day he should hang

269

00:15:01,090 --> 00:15:03,760

and at night he should burn.

270

00:15:03,760 --> 00:15:04,700

Things like that.

271

00:15:04,700 --> 00:15:08,200

It was not particularly  
attractive, but

272

00:15:08,200 --> 00:15:09,070

all kinds of things.

273

00:15:09,070 --> 00:15:15,430

And we mostly did caricatures  
of them, of what he looked like.

274

00:15:15,430 --> 00:15:19,600

And we gave them certain names.

275

00:15:19,600 --> 00:15:23,230

I don't recall some  
of the names anymore.

276

00:15:23,230 --> 00:15:25,180

Imagine them in  
different settings.

277

00:15:25,180 --> 00:15:31,750

And we didn't think  
highly of them to be sure.

278

00:15:31,750 --> 00:15:35,680

The ones which were  
most threatening

279

00:15:35,680 --> 00:15:38,860

were the others like  
Meister [? Zimmer ?]

280

00:15:38,860 --> 00:15:40,970

and so on who had a  
different approach to it.

281

00:15:40,970 --> 00:15:45,820

You know, the ones who  
regarded us as complete idiots

282

00:15:45,820 --> 00:15:49,990

and talked down to us as  
if we didn't know the most

283

00:15:49,990 --> 00:15:51,230

elementary things.



284

00:15:51,230 --> 00:15:55,900

That was much easier to take  
because we looked down on them.

285

00:15:55,900 --> 00:15:58,180

The others who had  
much higher intellect

286

00:15:58,180 --> 00:16:02,380

and who knew exactly where to  
hurt and what type of things

287

00:16:02,380 --> 00:16:04,870

to say, that was more  
difficult to take.

288

00:16:04,870 --> 00:16:08,950

But by and large, I think  
we were able to do that.

289

00:16:08,950 --> 00:16:11,500

And that could only be done  
sort of with a support system.

290

00:16:11,500 --> 00:16:16,690

One talked to the other about  
it and say, well, this idiot

291

00:16:16,690 --> 00:16:17,950

give us some talking-to today.

292

00:16:17,950 --> 00:16:19,600

Listen to that one.

293

00:16:19,600 --> 00:16:21,550

Things like that.

294

00:16:21,550 --> 00:16:25,500

It was pretty  
bitter by and large.

295

00:16:25,500 --> 00:16:27,730

But in a way we  
could laugh it away.

296  
00:16:27,730 --> 00:16:32,980  
And of course the  
constant radio broadcasts

297  
00:16:32,980 --> 00:16:34,810  
which were broadcast  
through the camp which

298  
00:16:34,810 --> 00:16:37,660  
usually started with a melody.

299  
00:16:37,660 --> 00:16:40,870  
We knew when that started  
and it went [SPEAKING GERMAN]

300  
00:16:40,870 --> 00:16:43,600  
"We are going against England."

301  
00:16:43,600 --> 00:16:48,100  
And following that little  
musical interlude always

302  
00:16:48,100 --> 00:16:51,460  
came an announcement of  
the incredible victories

303  
00:16:51,460 --> 00:16:53,140  
which they had won.

304  
00:16:53,140 --> 00:16:56,410  
And that was pretty  
hard to take.

305  
00:16:56,410 --> 00:16:58,850  
Did you get news  
from the outside?

306  
00:16:58,850 --> 00:17:02,890  
No, nothing at all.

307

00:17:02,890 --> 00:17:05,385

Did you do any sabotage?

308

00:17:05,385 --> 00:17:06,760

No, that would  
have been foolish.

309

00:17:06,760 --> 00:17:09,550

I mean, what type of  
sabotage can you do?

310

00:17:09,550 --> 00:17:13,880

Make a hole in one of the  
cloths and be killed for that

311

00:17:13,880 --> 00:17:15,109

so they throw the cloth away?

312

00:17:15,109 --> 00:17:19,420

I mean-- I mean,  
for that we were

313

00:17:19,420 --> 00:17:22,650

too realistic to see that there  
was very little that we could

314

00:17:22,650 --> 00:17:23,150

do.

315

00:17:23,150 --> 00:17:26,050

We were totally in their  
hands, totally dependent

316

00:17:26,050 --> 00:17:26,950

on their whims.

317

00:17:26,950 --> 00:17:32,060

Every one held to power of  
life and death over you.

318

00:17:32,060 --> 00:17:35,128

Were they following orders?

319  
00:17:35,128 --> 00:17:35,670  
I don't know.

320  
00:17:35,670 --> 00:17:37,380  
Orders from where, from what?

321  
00:17:37,380 --> 00:17:39,690  
Mrs. Kugler showed  
that orders could be

322  
00:17:39,690 --> 00:17:42,610  
interpreted in a different way.

323  
00:17:42,610 --> 00:17:44,700  
But I think it was the  
individual cruelty which

324  
00:17:44,700 --> 00:17:47,880  
hurt so much because  
it was so unnecessary.

325  
00:17:47,880 --> 00:17:53,280

326  
00:17:53,280 --> 00:17:56,982  
Retell as though you didn't tell  
it before your bet with Susie

327  
00:17:56,982 --> 00:17:57,690  
at the beginning.

328  
00:17:57,690 --> 00:18:00,390  
Give a little description  
of her and the bet

329  
00:18:00,390 --> 00:18:03,660  
you had for the quart  
of strawberries.

330  
00:18:03,660 --> 00:18:04,410  
Tell it again?

331  
00:18:04,410 --> 00:18:05,100  
Tell it again.

332  
00:18:05,100 --> 00:18:07,185  
We ran out actually  
before you were finished.

333  
00:18:07,185 --> 00:18:09,860

334  
00:18:09,860 --> 00:18:14,960  
It was on the way from the  
transit camp in Sosnowiec

335  
00:18:14,960 --> 00:18:18,350  
to the first camp in Bolkenhain  
when we were on a train.

336  
00:18:18,350 --> 00:18:21,470  
And this is actually  
where I met Susie.

337  
00:18:21,470 --> 00:18:23,190  
She introduced herself.

338  
00:18:23,190 --> 00:18:27,800  
She was a tall, very pretty  
girl with auburn hair,

339  
00:18:27,800 --> 00:18:32,900  
a few freckles on her  
nose, very open face.

340  
00:18:32,900 --> 00:18:35,960  
And she introduced  
herself as Susie Kuntz.

341  
00:18:35,960 --> 00:18:38,300  
She had come from Vienna.

342  
00:18:38,300 --> 00:18:40,440

Her mother had died  
when she was a baby.

343  
00:18:40,440 --> 00:18:43,190  
Her grandmother lived  
in Czechoslovakia

344  
00:18:43,190 --> 00:18:46,758  
and she spent a great  
deal of her life

345  
00:18:46,758 --> 00:18:48,050  
in the care of her grandmother.

346  
00:18:48,050 --> 00:18:52,490  
That's where she was when  
the war started in the fall.

347  
00:18:52,490 --> 00:18:57,630  
And I said something  
to the effect,

348  
00:18:57,630 --> 00:19:00,650  
won't it be wonderful when  
we make that journey back?

349  
00:19:00,650 --> 00:19:03,170  
And she said, we'll never  
make the journey back.

350  
00:19:03,170 --> 00:19:05,900  
And I said, of course we will.

351  
00:19:05,900 --> 00:19:07,890  
She said, that war  
will drag on forever.

352  
00:19:07,890 --> 00:19:11,540  
And I said, that war is going  
to be over in less than a year.

353  
00:19:11,540 --> 00:19:14,270  
So she said something

to the effect,

354

00:19:14,270 --> 00:19:17,510

that is a very stupid or very  
hopeful, something like that.

355

00:19:17,510 --> 00:19:19,160

So I said, well let's  
make a bet then.

356

00:19:19,160 --> 00:19:20,900

And she said, OK.

357

00:19:20,900 --> 00:19:27,580

And so we made a bet for a  
quart of wild strawberries

358

00:19:27,580 --> 00:19:34,130

[NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE] we  
would call and whipped cream.

359

00:19:34,130 --> 00:19:35,060

I lost the bet.

360

00:19:35,060 --> 00:19:37,590

361

00:19:37,590 --> 00:19:42,550

I never paid it because Ilsa  
died on liberation morning.

362

00:19:42,550 --> 00:19:46,190

363

00:19:46,190 --> 00:19:50,490

I found her that I didn't know  
if she knew that we were free

364

00:19:50,490 --> 00:19:50,990

or not.

365

00:19:50,990 --> 00:19:54,020

366  
00:19:54,020 --> 00:19:55,310  
She was an incredible girl.

367  
00:19:55,310 --> 00:20:04,430

368  
00:20:04,430 --> 00:20:10,660  
Now tell me again the  
story of the raspberry

369  
00:20:10,660 --> 00:20:18,490  
and Ilsa in the context  
of human spirit.

370  
00:20:18,490 --> 00:20:21,130  
[OFFSCREEN] May I say something?

371  
00:20:21,130 --> 00:20:22,000  
I know about it.

372  
00:20:22,000 --> 00:20:23,290  
I know about it.

373  
00:20:23,290 --> 00:20:24,985  
Just--

374  
00:20:24,985 --> 00:20:27,070  
Is there anything Kurt?

375  
00:20:27,070 --> 00:20:29,560  
Yeah, you said Ilsa  
died instead of Susie.

376  
00:20:29,560 --> 00:20:32,220

377  
00:20:32,220 --> 00:20:34,320  
No, I said-- No, I said Ilsa.

378



00:20:34,320 --> 00:20:35,370

I said Ilsa died?

379

00:20:35,370 --> 00:20:36,284

You said Ilsa.

380

00:20:36,284 --> 00:20:38,950

381

00:20:38,950 --> 00:20:40,420

Unfortunately they both did.

382

00:20:40,420 --> 00:20:43,530

383

00:20:43,530 --> 00:20:46,190

What did you want me to say now?

384

00:20:46,190 --> 00:20:47,000