

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,275  
You could survive.

2  
00:00:01,275 --> 00:00:07,223

3  
00:00:07,223 --> 00:00:08,640  
I'm afraid we're  
going to run in--

4  
00:00:08,640 --> 00:00:11,590

5  
00:00:11,590 --> 00:00:12,432  
am I right?

6  
00:00:12,432 --> 00:00:12,932  
Yes.

7  
00:00:12,932 --> 00:00:15,340  
Do we want to put  
another roll of film?

8  
00:00:15,340 --> 00:00:17,033  
Camera roll four, take five.

9  
00:00:17,033 --> 00:00:19,200  
[BEEP]

10  
00:00:19,200 --> 00:00:24,190  
Now, I want to talk about how  
you came to attempt to escape.

11  
00:00:24,190 --> 00:00:26,520  
And I want to know  
how it ended up

12  
00:00:26,520 --> 00:00:29,490  
that you could drive through  
the main gates of Auschwitz

13

00:00:29,490 --> 00:00:30,540  
on your way to freedom.

14

00:00:30,540 --> 00:00:32,000  
Yeah.

15

00:00:32,000 --> 00:00:35,990  
Well, I have to say,  
at the beginning,

16

00:00:35,990 --> 00:00:41,010  
that it took me one  
year to plan the escape.

17

00:00:41,010 --> 00:00:47,220  
And I really came to Auschwitz  
with the idea of escape.

18

00:00:47,220 --> 00:00:49,830  
And this is why.

19

00:00:49,830 --> 00:00:55,150  
Therefore, I chose  
to a false name.

20

00:00:55,150 --> 00:00:56,790  
I came with a false name.

21

00:00:56,790 --> 00:00:59,680

22

00:00:59,680 --> 00:01:06,460  
But there was no possibility  
of any kind of escape.

23

00:01:06,460 --> 00:01:10,270  
The first possibility  
that I came on

24

00:01:10,270 --> 00:01:21,280  
was when I walk up one day  
with a group of surveyors

25  
00:01:21,280 --> 00:01:26,410  
to the city of Auschwitz  
and beyond into the terrain

26  
00:01:26,410 --> 00:01:29,140  
near the town Auschwitz.

27  
00:01:29,140 --> 00:01:33,610  
And while they were surveying,  
I was painting a landscape

28  
00:01:33,610 --> 00:01:37,960  
for a commander of  
that surveying team who

29  
00:01:37,960 --> 00:01:42,350  
was a German called  
[? Reichwein. ?]

30  
00:01:42,350 --> 00:01:56,010  
And that was my first  
time when I could execute

31  
00:01:56,010 --> 00:01:59,040  
a sort of escape on my own.

32  
00:01:59,040 --> 00:02:08,340  
But this was a time where there  
were persecution for escapes.

33  
00:02:08,340 --> 00:02:14,050  
You know, they were always  
taking 10 people hostages

34  
00:02:14,050 --> 00:02:22,510  
and then usually they were  
found dead after a while.

35  
00:02:22,510 --> 00:02:27,720  
So I couldn't dare  
to put into danger

36

00:02:27,720 --> 00:02:34,260  
my friends in this outfit.

37

00:02:34,260 --> 00:02:40,090  
The next thing, I  
found another fellow

38

00:02:40,090 --> 00:02:46,030  
who had also a false name.

39

00:02:46,030 --> 00:02:49,660  
And at that time, we are  
working in Arbeitseinsatz.

40

00:02:49,660 --> 00:02:57,790  
Arbeitseinsatz is a office  
of labor, labor office.

41

00:02:57,790 --> 00:03:01,290

42

00:03:01,290 --> 00:03:03,330  
He, at that time--

43

00:03:03,330 --> 00:03:06,240

44

00:03:06,240 --> 00:03:12,330  
that fellow who I mentioning,  
he was a good organizer.

45

00:03:12,330 --> 00:03:16,290  
He knew everybody  
in the old prison,

46

00:03:16,290 --> 00:03:19,260  
and he knew most of  
the old timers who

47

00:03:19,260 --> 00:03:22,470  
work in various  
positions around the camp

48  
00:03:22,470 --> 00:03:27,900  
where they could come  
up with the items

49  
00:03:27,900 --> 00:03:33,390  
that the SS would  
like, like money, like,

50  
00:03:33,390 --> 00:03:37,890  
for example, like they play  
things from the Canada.

51  
00:03:37,890 --> 00:03:54,870  
Canada was a name which mean  
anything of value that came

52  
00:03:54,870 --> 00:03:56,940  
from the Jewish transports.

53  
00:03:56,940 --> 00:03:58,770  
At that time, the  
Jewish transports

54  
00:03:58,770 --> 00:04:04,150  
were already arriving to the  
Brzezinka, to the gas chambers.

55  
00:04:04,150 --> 00:04:13,290  
So he make a story  
that he would give him

56  
00:04:13,290 --> 00:04:25,040  
that SS man who was our boss  
in the office of Arbeitseinsatz

57  
00:04:25,040 --> 00:04:26,220  
money.

58  
00:04:26,220 --> 00:04:29,370  
Now the boss wanted the  
money because he wanted

59

00:04:29,370 --> 00:04:33,270  
to buy bikes for his children.

60

00:04:33,270 --> 00:04:37,290  
And SS men did not  
earn a lot of money.

61

00:04:37,290 --> 00:04:43,830  
So we came one  
day left the camp,

62

00:04:43,830 --> 00:04:47,670  
went through the  
Auschwitz to a place

63

00:04:47,670 --> 00:04:53,640  
called [PLACE NAME] on  
the outskirts of the camp

64

00:04:53,640 --> 00:05:01,230  
where the underground  
were prepared for us

65

00:05:01,230 --> 00:05:06,190  
a civilian clothes  
and the weapons here.

66

00:05:06,190 --> 00:05:11,430  
And also, they had a car  
waiting for us on the road

67

00:05:11,430 --> 00:05:13,630  
to take us to the mountains.

68

00:05:13,630 --> 00:05:17,805  
Of course, we wanted  
to get rid of that SS

69

00:05:17,805 --> 00:05:20,880  
man who went with us.

70

00:05:20,880 --> 00:05:30,390

And we prepared a whiskey with a  
sleeping pills in it, you know.

71

00:05:30,390 --> 00:05:36,180

So we thought, well, he might  
drink some of this stuff

72

00:05:36,180 --> 00:05:45,570

and then fall asleep and enable  
us to go away, to run away.

73

00:05:45,570 --> 00:05:49,530

Of course, he said no,  
he was not drinking.

74

00:05:49,530 --> 00:05:52,260

It's just unbelievable  
a soldier not drinker.

75

00:05:52,260 --> 00:05:56,190

He says maybe beer or  
two, but not the whiskey.

76

00:05:56,190 --> 00:05:58,470

So we couldn't get rid of him.

77

00:05:58,470 --> 00:06:02,410

We had to come back to the camp.

78

00:06:02,410 --> 00:06:12,990

And then, at that time, we  
realize that we cannot wait

79

00:06:12,990 --> 00:06:22,470

for a situation where a SS  
will be willing to take us out.

80

00:06:22,470 --> 00:06:31,820

That we have to escape  
by our own means.

81

00:06:31,820 --> 00:06:35,630

So we started to organize

the German uniform.

82

00:06:35,630 --> 00:06:44,210

We decided that one of us  
will be dressed as a SS man

83

00:06:44,210 --> 00:06:48,620

and guard us on our escape.

84

00:06:48,620 --> 00:06:54,210

By this time, there were four  
of us already, two other joined.

85

00:06:54,210 --> 00:07:05,010

So the organizing  
of the items that

86

00:07:05,010 --> 00:07:11,010

would eventually became a full  
uniform took a lot of time.

87

00:07:11,010 --> 00:07:14,355

And we had to hide it when  
you have to wear it so

88

00:07:14,355 --> 00:07:21,570

that all the pieces under  
our tunics going to work

89

00:07:21,570 --> 00:07:28,650

and coming back, and risking  
a revision on the gate.

90

00:07:28,650 --> 00:07:31,920

And of course, we  
also knew that we

91

00:07:31,920 --> 00:07:36,690

have to have something tangible,  
some money or something.

92

00:07:36,690 --> 00:07:42,510

So one of us was a dentist.



93  
00:07:42,510 --> 00:07:44,850  
He worked for a while  
in the dentistry,

94  
00:07:44,850 --> 00:07:48,240  
and he knew everybody  
in that department.

95  
00:07:48,240 --> 00:07:54,750  
So he went to his friends,  
and he organized some gold.

96  
00:07:54,750 --> 00:07:57,540  
There were Germans  
were collecting

97  
00:07:57,540 --> 00:08:00,480  
about two or three  
pounds of gold,

98  
00:08:00,480 --> 00:08:06,290  
only removing the gold  
teeth from the dead

99  
00:08:06,290 --> 00:08:08,840  
in that dentistry department.

100  
00:08:08,840 --> 00:08:18,170  
So he melted into one  
piece all the gold he got.

101  
00:08:18,170 --> 00:08:22,010  
And we had a chunk,  
a piece of gold

102  
00:08:22,010 --> 00:08:25,370  
that we had to carry  
in our pockets,

103  
00:08:25,370 --> 00:08:29,300  
again, going back and  
forth through the gate,

104  
00:08:29,300 --> 00:08:37,150  
risking all of this  
and the revision.

105  
00:08:37,150 --> 00:08:40,780  
When this everything  
was ready, there

106  
00:08:40,780 --> 00:08:49,900  
was a question of providing the  
necessary documents for the SS

107  
00:08:49,900 --> 00:08:54,550  
who is going to be  
accompany us on the escape.

108  
00:08:54,550 --> 00:09:01,390  
Now, one who was  
supposed to be a SS man,

109  
00:09:01,390 --> 00:09:04,510  
he went to the  
Effektenkammer, which

110  
00:09:04,510 --> 00:09:08,980  
is the storage of the  
civilian clothing.

111  
00:09:08,980 --> 00:09:14,330  
And he found in his  
bag a old photograph

112  
00:09:14,330 --> 00:09:16,580  
that he brought from home.

113  
00:09:16,580 --> 00:09:21,080  
We sent this photograph  
outside to Auschwitz,

114  
00:09:21,080 --> 00:09:22,310  
to the underground.

115

00:09:22,310 --> 00:09:25,460

116

00:09:25,460 --> 00:09:29,210

They made it an  
enlargement necessary

117

00:09:29,210 --> 00:09:32,240

for the identification card.

118

00:09:32,240 --> 00:09:33,890

It came back.

119

00:09:33,890 --> 00:09:37,280

And I painted on that  
photograph a uniform

120

00:09:37,280 --> 00:09:40,560

and a hat and everything,  
all the distinction.

121

00:09:40,560 --> 00:09:46,370

And again, it went  
out, and it came a Mr.

122

00:09:46,370 --> 00:09:50,180

[? Kudjabara, ?] who  
was the friend of mine

123

00:09:50,180 --> 00:09:56,840

who was supposed to be the SS,  
already looking like an SS man.

124

00:09:56,840 --> 00:10:13,070

And in the printing shop  
in Auschwitz, in the camp,

125

00:10:13,070 --> 00:10:18,080

I had, again, a lot of friends  
who supplied me with the forms

126

00:10:18,080 --> 00:10:19,940

for identification.

127

00:10:19,940 --> 00:10:21,840

So the rest was easy.

128

00:10:21,840 --> 00:10:24,110

I had to make the  
stamp and everything.

129

00:10:24,110 --> 00:10:32,180

Everything was copied  
on original documents

130

00:10:32,180 --> 00:10:38,610

that SS would have to  
have with him in case

131

00:10:38,610 --> 00:10:45,920

if we are stopped on the gate  
and he has to show a document.

132

00:10:45,920 --> 00:10:52,430

On the top of that, there  
was a question of the order

133

00:10:52,430 --> 00:10:58,850

that we have to go as a  
group, as a commander,

134

00:10:58,850 --> 00:11:01,940

outside doing something.

135

00:11:01,940 --> 00:11:06,140

And with a SS man,  
this was always

136

00:11:06,140 --> 00:11:12,185

issued by the labor  
officer night before.

137

00:11:12,185 --> 00:11:14,720

138

00:11:14,720 --> 00:11:18,950

Because we all work in  
Arbeitseinsatz which

139

00:11:18,950 --> 00:11:21,050

was preparing these documents--

140

00:11:21,050 --> 00:11:22,275

We have to reload now.

141

00:11:22,275 --> 00:11:22,775

Right.

142

00:11:22,775 --> 00:11:25,310

143

00:11:25,310 --> 00:11:27,080

Camera roll five, take six.

144

00:11:27,080 --> 00:11:29,918

[BEEP]

145

00:11:29,918 --> 00:11:33,240

146

00:11:33,240 --> 00:11:33,750

OK.

147

00:11:33,750 --> 00:11:36,233

So now, you have just  
about everything.

148

00:11:36,233 --> 00:11:36,900

Can you pick up?

149

00:11:36,900 --> 00:11:45,480

Yeah, I had-- the document was  
signed by a SS man in charge.

150

00:11:45,480 --> 00:11:48,360

And we had it in our

pocket next morning.

151

00:11:48,360 --> 00:11:53,452

Next morning was 29 of December.

152

00:11:53,452 --> 00:11:56,790

153

00:11:56,790 --> 00:12:05,340

And that day, I did not go to  
the office in a normal way,

154

00:12:05,340 --> 00:12:08,530

only behind the  
backs of the SS man.

155

00:12:08,530 --> 00:12:14,460

So my number was not  
registered I did this in order

156

00:12:14,460 --> 00:12:20,590

to create some confusion  
because at the end of the day,

157

00:12:20,590 --> 00:12:22,860

there was always a roll call.

158

00:12:22,860 --> 00:12:28,890

On that roll call, all  
the numbers had to fit

159

00:12:28,890 --> 00:12:32,910

and if somebody  
was missing, they

160

00:12:32,910 --> 00:12:39,000

would immediately know the  
number which was missing.

161

00:12:39,000 --> 00:12:43,110

In this case, in my  
case, they did not know,

162

00:12:43,110 --> 00:12:48,900

and it took them several  
hours before they found out

163

00:12:48,900 --> 00:12:50,730

that I was missing.

164

00:12:50,730 --> 00:12:55,020

Because there was a situation  
that a prisoner was missing,

165

00:12:55,020 --> 00:12:57,870

but there were no number of his.

166

00:12:57,870 --> 00:13:00,970

167

00:13:00,970 --> 00:13:09,040

And we did that in order to  
confuse them and delay a rescue

168

00:13:09,040 --> 00:13:15,110

operation that was always  
immediately followed

169

00:13:15,110 --> 00:13:17,400

the escape.

170

00:13:17,400 --> 00:13:23,850

Because we wanted to have  
a time to hide in between.

171

00:13:23,850 --> 00:13:35,010

So on the 29 of December,  
I went to the office

172

00:13:35,010 --> 00:13:44,190

on the-- unrecognized  
and two of ours escapees,

173

00:13:44,190 --> 00:13:55,170

they went to the place

called Landwirtschaft.

174  
00:13:55,170 --> 00:14:05,490  
Landwirtschaft was a office  
for all the activities

175  
00:14:05,490 --> 00:14:09,000  
having to do with agriculture.

176  
00:14:09,000 --> 00:14:19,380  
And they rent a pair of horses  
and a platform in exchange

177  
00:14:19,380 --> 00:14:23,820  
for bringing the  
director of that office

178  
00:14:23,820 --> 00:14:31,500  
to cabins, office cabins.

179  
00:14:31,500 --> 00:14:34,410

180  
00:14:34,410 --> 00:14:40,250  
With that empty platform,  
prisoner by the name Otto

181  
00:14:40,250 --> 00:14:43,290  
[? Kieser, ?] he was a  
German, we took a German.

182  
00:14:43,290 --> 00:14:44,730  
He was number two.

183  
00:14:44,730 --> 00:14:48,780  
He was one of the first  
couples who arrived

184  
00:14:48,780 --> 00:14:50,980  
from the camp of Sachsenhausen.

185  
00:14:50,980 --> 00:14:55,530



He also had a green  
triangle, that

186  
00:14:55,530 --> 00:14:59,790  
means he was a  
professional criminal,

187  
00:14:59,790 --> 00:15:08,760  
but he was extremely  
nice fellow.

188  
00:15:08,760 --> 00:15:11,190  
And he never hit anybody.

189  
00:15:11,190 --> 00:15:15,280  
And he always liked  
Poles in Auschwitz.

190  
00:15:15,280 --> 00:15:18,570  
So we thought we  
have a friend in him.

191  
00:15:18,570 --> 00:15:24,600  
We took him because he  
had this possibility

192  
00:15:24,600 --> 00:15:29,220  
of organizing many  
things that we needed

193  
00:15:29,220 --> 00:15:32,800  
to make that escape successful.

194  
00:15:32,800 --> 00:15:38,190  
So he drove into the camp  
with that platform and horses

195  
00:15:38,190 --> 00:15:43,260  
and ordered people who were  
roaming around in that area

196  
00:15:43,260 --> 00:16:00,820  
to bring four the cabins, the

four cabins from the block 24,

197

00:16:00,820 --> 00:16:03,820  
which is not far from the gate.

198

00:16:03,820 --> 00:16:05,410  
He loaded on that platform.

199

00:16:05,410 --> 00:16:09,031  
He drove out of the gate.

200

00:16:09,031 --> 00:16:11,920  
Gate in Auschwitz,  
the main gate,

201

00:16:11,920 --> 00:16:18,040  
was not guarded during a  
day because during the day,

202

00:16:18,040 --> 00:16:24,130  
guards were stationed around  
the large area of the camp

203

00:16:24,130 --> 00:16:30,380  
where the prisoners  
were doing the work.

204

00:16:30,380 --> 00:16:36,710  
So he drove out of that gate  
with the inscription "Arbeit

205

00:16:36,710 --> 00:16:38,240  
macht frei."

206

00:16:38,240 --> 00:16:40,610  
He drove to the Landwirtschaft.

207

00:16:40,610 --> 00:16:45,470  
He left over there  
two cabins, and he

208

00:16:45,470 --> 00:16:50,360

drove to the [GERMAN],,  
that unfinished camp

209  
00:16:50,360 --> 00:16:56,880  
near the station where  
that prisoner who

210  
00:16:56,880 --> 00:17:03,620  
was supposed to be a guard and  
I, we were waiting for him.

211  
00:17:03,620 --> 00:17:07,790  
He dressed already in  
the prisoner's uniform.

212  
00:17:07,790 --> 00:17:12,109  
And when they arrived,  
two of them, we jumped on

213  
00:17:12,109 --> 00:17:20,990  
and we had a guardian, SS  
man, and us three prisoners.

214  
00:17:20,990 --> 00:17:29,510  
And we started toward the gate,  
main gate near the architect

215  
00:17:29,510 --> 00:17:40,380  
office at the point at the road  
toward Auschwitz near the Sola

216  
00:17:40,380 --> 00:17:40,880  
River.

217  
00:17:40,880 --> 00:17:44,620

218  
00:17:44,620 --> 00:17:46,056  
It went very well.

219  
00:17:46,056 --> 00:17:50,790

220

00:17:50,790 --> 00:17:53,490

Or in between,  
something happened

221

00:17:53,490 --> 00:18:00,990

because as we were driving,  
riding toward that gate, all

222

00:18:00,990 --> 00:18:10,170

of a sudden, from nowhere, we  
cited a commander, [? Fritz ?],,

223

00:18:10,170 --> 00:18:14,790

and he knew all of us because  
we worked in the same barracks

224

00:18:14,790 --> 00:18:16,920

where he had his office.

225

00:18:16,920 --> 00:18:21,570

So he stopped for a while  
and he thought that he

226

00:18:21,570 --> 00:18:25,290

will see what we are up to.

227

00:18:25,290 --> 00:18:28,410

And then he just made  
a motion with the hand

228

00:18:28,410 --> 00:18:31,320

like that, say he went away.

229

00:18:31,320 --> 00:18:32,630

This was enough.

230

00:18:32,630 --> 00:18:35,730

It was a signal  
for us to hurry up.

231

00:18:35,730 --> 00:18:38,540

And we drove by the gate.

232  
00:18:38,540 --> 00:18:43,350  
The SS raised their  
head, said Heil Hitler.

233  
00:18:43,350 --> 00:18:45,750  
He had a response, Heil Hitler.

234  
00:18:45,750 --> 00:18:54,220  
The gate was raised up,  
and we drove on the road.

235  
00:18:54,220 --> 00:18:57,280  
And that's it.

236  
00:18:57,280 --> 00:18:58,260  
That was the beginning.

237  
00:18:58,260 --> 00:19:01,255  
So who was in the wagon  
when you drove through?

238  
00:19:01,255 --> 00:19:04,660  
It was three prisoners  
and one guard.

239  
00:19:04,660 --> 00:19:08,180

240  
00:19:08,180 --> 00:19:13,580  
There was a driver and  
his assistant and myself

241  
00:19:13,580 --> 00:19:18,140  
and a guard sitting on  
the cabins in the back.

242  
00:19:18,140 --> 00:19:25,130  
We also had, I had under  
my care, the documents

243  
00:19:25,130 --> 00:19:28,490

that we have stolen  
in our office

244  
00:19:28,490 --> 00:19:36,500  
and in the hospital  
area, hospital office.

245  
00:19:36,500 --> 00:19:39,440  
That especially, those  
in hospital, these

246  
00:19:39,440 --> 00:19:45,650  
were very, very important  
documents because this

247  
00:19:45,650 --> 00:19:53,300  
was the list of people  
who were supposed to be

248  
00:19:53,300 --> 00:20:03,140  
or were already executed with  
original signature of a SS

249  
00:20:03,140 --> 00:20:04,820  
doctor.

250  
00:20:04,820 --> 00:20:13,850  
In our office, I took  
some 40,000 names of dead

251  
00:20:13,850 --> 00:20:17,190  
from the files in there.

252  
00:20:17,190 --> 00:20:21,240  
So when we arrive in  
our place of hiding,

253  
00:20:21,240 --> 00:20:34,200  
which was in [PLACE NAME],, these  
documents were taken from us

254  
00:20:34,200 --> 00:20:38,550  
and traveled to Warsaw

to the main headquarters

255

00:20:38,550 --> 00:20:42,570  
of the Underground organization.

256

00:20:42,570 --> 00:20:47,190  
And were you worried about  
people being killed after they

257

00:20:47,190 --> 00:20:49,620  
discovered you escaped?

258

00:20:49,620 --> 00:20:55,200  
No, not at that time  
because so many SS

259

00:20:55,200 --> 00:21:00,770  
were involved in it  
to a degree that we

260

00:21:00,770 --> 00:21:08,430  
knew that they will try to  
find excuse for themselves

261

00:21:08,430 --> 00:21:16,040  
rather than persecute and make  
that whole episode very famous.

262

00:21:16,040 --> 00:21:21,410  
So there was not a lot of fame  
attached to it, at that time.

263

00:21:21,410 --> 00:21:25,830  
I remember only that  
only one man went.

264

00:21:25,830 --> 00:21:29,840  
I mean, I know that from the  
report that I heard about

265

00:21:29,840 --> 00:21:33,320  
later on, it was a German.

266

00:21:33,320 --> 00:21:36,410

He was a lagerfuhrer.

267

00:21:36,410 --> 00:21:39,605

He was the oldest  
in the camp, it

268

00:21:39,605 --> 00:21:44,750

was a office of the  
elders of the camp.

269

00:21:44,750 --> 00:21:50,510

270

00:21:50,510 --> 00:21:52,970

His name was  
[PERSONAL NAME],, Polish name,

271

00:21:52,970 --> 00:21:55,500

but he was a German.

272

00:21:55,500 --> 00:22:01,940

And he was accused  
of being helpful

273

00:22:01,940 --> 00:22:06,110

to that fellow,  
Otto [? Kieser, ?]

274

00:22:06,110 --> 00:22:17,240

who was number two, also German,  
in that group that arrived once

275

00:22:17,240 --> 00:22:21,510

from the Oranienburg.

276

00:22:21,510 --> 00:22:25,110

So this is the  
only one who really

277

00:22:25,110 --> 00:22:28,110

was demoted and later on.



278  
00:22:28,110 --> 00:22:36,190  
And he spent time in a bunker,  
but he was such an ugly fellow

279  
00:22:36,190 --> 00:22:37,260  
anyway.

280  
00:22:37,260 --> 00:22:38,130  
He was such a--

281  
00:22:38,130 --> 00:22:42,809

282  
00:22:42,809 --> 00:22:48,100  
In your time in the camps,  
what kind different kinds

283  
00:22:48,100 --> 00:22:49,870  
of resistance did you see?

284  
00:22:49,870 --> 00:22:52,630  
Did you see  
spiritual resistance?

285  
00:22:52,630 --> 00:22:55,180  
Yeah, I did.

286  
00:22:55,180 --> 00:23:00,190  
There were a lot of  
priests at the beginning.

287  
00:23:00,190 --> 00:23:04,540  
Preachers, there were  
Protestant preachers.

288  
00:23:04,540 --> 00:23:09,070  
There were Jews who were  
praying constantly that I know.

289  
00:23:09,070 --> 00:23:16,090  
There was a mass even took

place in one of the blocks

290  
00:23:16,090 --> 00:23:18,850  
in my time, which  
I didn't attend,

291  
00:23:18,850 --> 00:23:25,520  
because in camp, you didn't  
believe the people whom

292  
00:23:25,520 --> 00:23:28,740  
you did not know personally.

293  
00:23:28,740 --> 00:23:31,900  
As a matter of  
fact, even father,

294  
00:23:31,900 --> 00:23:36,730  
if he happen to be together  
with his son in the camp

295  
00:23:36,730 --> 00:23:46,000  
would not really trust  
his son because people,

296  
00:23:46,000 --> 00:23:50,920  
the denouncement, the  
revealing of this kind

297  
00:23:50,920 --> 00:23:59,760  
of a personal story to  
the SS were very common.

298  
00:23:59,760 --> 00:24:02,600  
So there were a lot  
of things happening

299  
00:24:02,600 --> 00:24:08,630  
that a common prisoner did  
not know nothing about it.

300  
00:24:08,630 --> 00:24:15,340  
I would say that most prisoners,

they went to Auschwitz,

301

00:24:15,340 --> 00:24:19,480

if they don't die and  
they really survive,

302

00:24:19,480 --> 00:24:25,380

they only know their own  
account what happened to them.

303

00:24:25,380 --> 00:24:27,930

Otherwise, they  
did not know where

304

00:24:27,930 --> 00:24:32,520

they were, how the camps is  
operated, who is responsible,

305

00:24:32,520 --> 00:24:37,020

how many people are dying.

306

00:24:37,020 --> 00:24:40,140

People generally did  
not know in Auschwitz

307

00:24:40,140 --> 00:24:45,390

that the gas chambers are  
in operation until the time

308

00:24:45,390 --> 00:24:52,470

that they have so many bodies  
and the stench from these ovens

309

00:24:52,470 --> 00:24:57,900

indicated that something very  
fishy is going on in Birkenau.

310

00:24:57,900 --> 00:25:02,160

Because they think where the  
gas chambers were located

311

00:25:02,160 --> 00:25:03,450

was camouflaged.

312  
00:25:03,450 --> 00:25:07,980  
Nobody has an access to it  
except those who work there.

313  
00:25:07,980 --> 00:25:11,640  
So the average prisoner  
did not know much.

314  
00:25:11,640 --> 00:25:19,710  
So it goes for any  
resistance movement.

315  
00:25:19,710 --> 00:25:25,990  
The first resistance movement  
was at the very beginning

316  
00:25:25,990 --> 00:25:32,300  
to go out, if it's  
possible, and carry

317  
00:25:32,300 --> 00:25:37,550  
the names of imprisoned  
people to the outside world.

318  
00:25:37,550 --> 00:25:41,680  
There were ladies and  
there were voluntary groups

319  
00:25:41,680 --> 00:25:45,850  
of people young and old  
all around Auschwitz

320  
00:25:45,850 --> 00:25:49,230  
and in Auschwitz itself  
who would volunteer

321  
00:25:49,230 --> 00:25:55,810  
and to take all those  
addresses and then get

322  
00:25:55,810 --> 00:25:58,690  
in contact with the families.

323  
00:25:58,690 --> 00:26:01,480  
You have to remember  
that at the beginning,

324  
00:26:01,480 --> 00:26:04,150  
the reading and  
writing of letter

325  
00:26:04,150 --> 00:26:07,550  
was not allowed  
for about one year.

326  
00:26:07,550 --> 00:26:12,430  
So the people who once  
were in the prison,

327  
00:26:12,430 --> 00:26:15,730  
they disappeared  
and the families

328  
00:26:15,730 --> 00:26:17,890  
did not know where they were.

329  
00:26:17,890 --> 00:26:22,570  
So this was a very  
important function

330  
00:26:22,570 --> 00:26:28,930  
to organize, to make a contact  
between the families and those

331  
00:26:28,930 --> 00:26:31,300  
who were in the camp.

332  
00:26:31,300 --> 00:26:39,730  
Now, this by the same way  
found the way to the camp

333  
00:26:39,730 --> 00:26:44,800  
all the medicine  
and an extra food.

334

00:26:44,800 --> 00:26:51,220

And the group of surveyors,  
I work with them very often,

335

00:26:51,220 --> 00:26:53,620

were very eager to do this.

336

00:26:53,620 --> 00:26:56,270

337

00:26:56,270 --> 00:27:00,975

They always brought medicine  
and food to the camps.

338

00:27:00,975 --> 00:27:04,100

339

00:27:04,100 --> 00:27:12,650

We prisoners, we were working  
on drawing maps of the defenses

340

00:27:12,650 --> 00:27:19,160

of the Auschwitz, of the  
position of the guards

341

00:27:19,160 --> 00:27:26,540

and the machine guns which the  
Underground wanted from us.

342

00:27:26,540 --> 00:27:39,740

They were always making us  
believe that one day they

343

00:27:39,740 --> 00:27:48,800

will come to the camp and  
destroy all the guards, all

344

00:27:48,800 --> 00:27:51,920

the defenses and free us.

345

00:27:51,920 --> 00:27:53,285

Of course, this never happened.

346  
00:27:53,285 --> 00:27:57,200

347  
00:27:57,200 --> 00:28:06,470  
But it did happen several  
times that the uprising

348  
00:28:06,470 --> 00:28:13,700  
had taken place in Birkenau in  
the area of the gas chambers.

349  
00:28:13,700 --> 00:28:16,340

350  
00:28:16,340 --> 00:28:20,360  
Of course, I know this only  
from other people telling me

351  
00:28:20,360 --> 00:28:24,470  
that because, at that time,  
I was already in other camps.

352  
00:28:24,470 --> 00:28:31,340  
But I understand that there's  
some two or three times

353  
00:28:31,340 --> 00:28:38,270  
there was a revolt in  
the crematorium area

354  
00:28:38,270 --> 00:28:44,420  
with the use of weapons and  
some people were killed.

355  
00:28:44,420 --> 00:28:48,720  
Because of that, some  
were able to escape.

356  
00:28:48,720 --> 00:28:55,550  
I know of one name, a man who  
escaped and went eventually

357

00:28:55,550 --> 00:29:01,280  
to Czechoslovakia,  
and he wrote the book.

358

00:29:01,280 --> 00:29:03,980  
I have that book right here.

359

00:29:03,980 --> 00:29:09,350  
And he notified the Jewish  
authorities over there

360

00:29:09,350 --> 00:29:14,120  
what's happening in Auschwitz,  
but he was not believed.

361

00:29:14,120 --> 00:29:16,160  
That's what he  
reveals in his book.

362

00:29:16,160 --> 00:29:19,430  
He will not reveal that  
he's telling the true story.

363

00:29:19,430 --> 00:29:26,690  
Nobody could believe  
in the outside world

364

00:29:26,690 --> 00:29:35,060  
that this what is happening  
behind the barbed wire

365

00:29:35,060 --> 00:29:36,740  
in Auschwitz.

366

00:29:36,740 --> 00:29:42,800  
Because this was unhuman  
story that everybody

367

00:29:42,800 --> 00:29:44,285  
will tell you about.

368

00:29:44,285 --> 00:29:48,340



369

00:29:48,340 --> 00:29:53,780

So besides that,  
there were attempts

370

00:29:53,780 --> 00:30:03,880

to steal documents and then send  
these documents, the originals,

371

00:30:03,880 --> 00:30:13,430

out into the outside  
world to the organization,

372

00:30:13,430 --> 00:30:19,480

especially to the Underground  
resistance movement.

373

00:30:19,480 --> 00:30:21,880

And one of the  
successful ones who

374

00:30:21,880 --> 00:30:24,800

were stealing a book of bunker.

375

00:30:24,800 --> 00:30:28,450

376

00:30:28,450 --> 00:30:33,940

I was in bunker once,  
and I got a book

377

00:30:33,940 --> 00:30:40,390

with the list of all those  
imprisoned in the bunker.

378

00:30:40,390 --> 00:30:43,420

And my name is over there, too.

379

00:30:43,420 --> 00:30:49,180

That book-- bunker  
was in Auschwitz

380

00:30:49,180 --> 00:30:56,800

was an extra prison in  
the basement of block 11

381

00:30:56,800 --> 00:31:07,150

where the people were kept  
in there in the dark rooms

382

00:31:07,150 --> 00:31:09,340

and awaiting execution.

383

00:31:09,340 --> 00:31:16,030

Or they were brought from a  
civilian life as a civilians

384

00:31:16,030 --> 00:31:25,550

and face the special court  
that once or twice a week

385

00:31:25,550 --> 00:31:29,710

would function in block 11.

386

00:31:29,710 --> 00:31:34,000

And then they were executed  
on the courtyard of block 11.

387

00:31:34,000 --> 00:31:42,400

So the stealing of that book  
was a very important thing

388

00:31:42,400 --> 00:31:50,140

in our mind because it was  
a very important document.

389

00:31:50,140 --> 00:32:00,160

There were  
organizations who tried

390

00:32:00,160 --> 00:32:05,220

to save the lives  
of famous people

391

00:32:05,220 --> 00:32:11,730  
or known politicians, of  
the people like actors,

392  
00:32:11,730 --> 00:32:16,800  
like writers,  
painters by finding

393  
00:32:16,800 --> 00:32:21,150  
them a suitable job,  
a job on the roof

394  
00:32:21,150 --> 00:32:25,950  
where they would, for  
example, peel the potatoes

395  
00:32:25,950 --> 00:32:30,705  
or instead of going out and  
face the rain and snow and cold.

396  
00:32:30,705 --> 00:32:33,450

397  
00:32:33,450 --> 00:32:45,360  
There were attempts made to hide  
the people who were in danger

398  
00:32:45,360 --> 00:32:48,470  
of being called for execution.

399  
00:32:48,470 --> 00:32:52,260  
Several times, this  
was a successful.

400  
00:32:52,260 --> 00:33:01,640  
For example, in my case, when I  
came second time to Auschwitz,

401  
00:33:01,640 --> 00:33:06,050  
I was immediately,  
not knowing even

402  
00:33:06,050 --> 00:33:15,490

about it, taken care of by a  
group of people, organization.

403

00:33:15,490 --> 00:33:32,240

They saved me from being  
taken and being dressed

404

00:33:32,240 --> 00:33:37,700

into the prisoner's  
guard right in the place

405

00:33:37,700 --> 00:33:40,370

in the old Oswiecim--

406

00:33:40,370 --> 00:33:42,430

Auschwitz.

407

00:33:42,430 --> 00:33:46,670

They took me to  
Birkenau instead where

408

00:33:46,670 --> 00:33:49,430

nobody knew me at that time.

409

00:33:49,430 --> 00:33:58,150

And I received a number which  
was a completely different

410

00:33:58,150 --> 00:34:01,340

number from my first  
number, and then they

411

00:34:01,340 --> 00:34:04,000

sent me to another camp.