

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:19,350

2

00:00:19,350 --> 00:00:25,600

What choices could one make camp
that could help you survive?

3

00:00:25,600 --> 00:00:32,110

4

00:00:32,110 --> 00:00:36,250

I would say that
all those people

5

00:00:36,250 --> 00:00:42,160

with the special talents,
with special professions

6

00:00:42,160 --> 00:00:51,640

had a chance to survive
by working in that field,

7

00:00:51,640 --> 00:00:54,490

in his own field.

8

00:00:54,490 --> 00:00:57,760

Like for example, sports people.

9

00:00:57,760 --> 00:01:01,450

Those who could
play a soccer game

10

00:01:01,450 --> 00:01:06,150

had a good time for survival.

11

00:01:06,150 --> 00:01:09,270

Because they would--
occasionally,

12

00:01:09,270 --> 00:01:13,650

the SS would get tired

of this camp routine

13

00:01:13,650 --> 00:01:16,290

and would say, oh,
let's play a game.

14

00:01:16,290 --> 00:01:18,750

So they would play a game.

15

00:01:18,750 --> 00:01:26,580

In camp Gross-Rosen, where
I was sent later on in 1944,

16

00:01:26,580 --> 00:01:29,340

kommandant of the
camp was a sportsman

17

00:01:29,340 --> 00:01:31,890

and a soccer player himself.

18

00:01:31,890 --> 00:01:39,600

So we had 27 teams of
soccer team, soccer game.

19

00:01:39,600 --> 00:01:45,810

Of course, in Auschwitz a
painter had a place, his place,

20

00:01:45,810 --> 00:01:51,420

in museum where he
could do his thing

21

00:01:51,420 --> 00:01:56,820

and also earn a
little more food.

22

00:01:56,820 --> 00:02:02,820

A musician could survive by
playing in the orchestra.

23

00:02:02,820 --> 00:02:13,630

A good cook would go and cook
for SS people in the SS club.

24
00:02:13,630 --> 00:02:15,400
Things like that, things that--.

25
00:02:15,400 --> 00:02:23,170
But no teacher, no
lawyer, no scientist

26
00:02:23,170 --> 00:02:26,050
would have any
chance of survival.

27
00:02:26,050 --> 00:02:29,950
As a matter of fact,
the higher education

28
00:02:29,950 --> 00:02:33,220
you were, the more
in danger were you

29
00:02:33,220 --> 00:02:36,340
because they would
just kill you.

30
00:02:36,340 --> 00:02:43,480
Because there was a
trend to eliminate

31
00:02:43,480 --> 00:02:47,240
all the intelligentsia.

32
00:02:47,240 --> 00:02:48,260
What about age?

33
00:02:48,260 --> 00:02:53,560
Who was eliminated
from an age standpoint?

34
00:02:53,560 --> 00:02:59,140
Among Jews, children
first and mothers.

35

00:02:59,140 --> 00:03:03,880
All the women and children
were eliminated always first.

36
00:03:03,880 --> 00:03:09,000
They went to the
gas chambers, 100%.

37
00:03:09,000 --> 00:03:12,720
The young Jewish women--

38
00:03:12,720 --> 00:03:16,740
you know, when they are
attractive or educated

39
00:03:16,740 --> 00:03:18,450
or strong enough, you know?

40
00:03:18,450 --> 00:03:23,520
Sometimes they found its
way to the woman's camp.

41
00:03:23,520 --> 00:03:26,640
And they had certain
various function.

42
00:03:26,640 --> 00:03:31,050
In 1944, for example,
as my friends

43
00:03:31,050 --> 00:03:38,295
told me, in most offices,
Jewish women were occupied.

44
00:03:38,295 --> 00:03:46,690

45
00:03:46,690 --> 00:03:50,140
Overall, from each
of the transport that

46
00:03:50,140 --> 00:03:57,880
arrive in Auschwitz, only about

between 10% and 15% of people

47

00:03:57,880 --> 00:04:00,850

were spared of gassing.

48

00:04:00,850 --> 00:04:05,950

And it was always a doctor
who was a functionary.

49

00:04:05,950 --> 00:04:11,140

Whose job was to
pick up those who

50

00:04:11,140 --> 00:04:20,209

were strong enough to do
the physical jobs in camp.

51

00:04:20,209 --> 00:04:24,580

So about, as I say,
about 15% at most,

52

00:04:24,580 --> 00:04:28,720

they went and were mixed
up with other prisoners.

53

00:04:28,720 --> 00:04:33,370

There was no special
camp for Jews only.

54

00:04:33,370 --> 00:04:36,250

There was no special
camp for Poles only.

55

00:04:36,250 --> 00:04:37,060

You know?

56

00:04:37,060 --> 00:04:41,320

The only distinction,
and the only difference

57

00:04:41,320 --> 00:04:43,780

was in the case of Gypsies.

58

00:04:43,780 --> 00:04:47,350

They had their own
camp in Birkenau.

59

00:04:47,350 --> 00:04:52,190

And they were eventually
all destroyed by gas too.

60

00:04:52,190 --> 00:04:55,880

Can you tell me the
story of Palitzsch?

61

00:04:55,880 --> 00:04:56,960

Palitzsch.

62

00:04:56,960 --> 00:05:00,110

Palitzsch.

63

00:05:00,110 --> 00:05:03,770

Palitzsch was a rapportfuhrer.

64

00:05:03,770 --> 00:05:08,690

It was a rank of sergeant.

65

00:05:08,690 --> 00:05:18,650

His function was to count all
the present at the roll call,

66

00:05:18,650 --> 00:05:25,430

add it up and report it to
the kommandant of the camp.

67

00:05:25,430 --> 00:05:26,960

That was his function.

68

00:05:26,960 --> 00:05:29,570

Besides that, he had
a special function.

69

00:05:29,570 --> 00:05:33,230

He was an official executor.

70

00:05:33,230 --> 00:05:40,100

At the time, the execution
where German were performing

71

00:05:40,100 --> 00:05:46,250

in the courtyard of
block 11, he was the one

72

00:05:46,250 --> 00:05:49,470

who did most of the execution.

73

00:05:49,470 --> 00:05:55,130

The first execution
were by the team,

74

00:05:55,130 --> 00:05:59,820

by the small commander
of German soldier

75

00:05:59,820 --> 00:06:03,980

who had came in with the rifles.

76

00:06:03,980 --> 00:06:10,880

And he was sure it was
just like a military show.

77

00:06:10,880 --> 00:06:17,630

Later on, they discontinued
this because the [INAUDIBLE]

78

00:06:17,630 --> 00:06:22,250

after that execution was so loud
that the people in Auschwitz

79

00:06:22,250 --> 00:06:23,660

heard this.

80

00:06:23,660 --> 00:06:26,120

And then the story
about the execution

81

00:06:26,120 --> 00:06:29,780

went further, to Warsaw
and everywhere else.

82
00:06:29,780 --> 00:06:31,520
So they stopped that.

83
00:06:31,520 --> 00:06:34,460
And instead they
employed Palitzsch.

84
00:06:34,460 --> 00:06:44,330
He would go to the block 11
with a silencer, a small rifle,

85
00:06:44,330 --> 00:06:47,030
small caliber rifle, silencer.

86
00:06:47,030 --> 00:06:54,680
And he would-- while the naked
prisoner would run to the wall

87
00:06:54,680 --> 00:06:57,410
where the execution
were taking place,

88
00:06:57,410 --> 00:07:03,500
he would place that
rifle right at that spot.

89
00:07:03,500 --> 00:07:04,970
And pulled the trigger.

90
00:07:04,970 --> 00:07:08,420
And the man right away was--

91
00:07:08,420 --> 00:07:11,570
the blood burst through
eyes and the mouth

92
00:07:11,570 --> 00:07:13,750
and nose and everything.

93

00:07:13,750 --> 00:07:16,370
And he fell dead immediately.

94
00:07:16,370 --> 00:07:24,790
And at one point, he killed
that way over 350 people in one

95
00:07:24,790 --> 00:07:26,260
sitting.

96
00:07:26,260 --> 00:07:28,570
This was a transport
of intelligentsia

97
00:07:28,570 --> 00:07:31,300
that came from Krakow.

98
00:07:31,300 --> 00:07:35,680
It was arrested in 1942.

99
00:07:35,680 --> 00:07:37,920
And they were in the camp.

100
00:07:37,920 --> 00:07:42,310
Maybe allowed to stay
about maybe two weeks.

101
00:07:42,310 --> 00:07:44,870
And they were all executed.

102
00:07:44,870 --> 00:07:46,510
It was done by Palitzsch.

103
00:07:46,510 --> 00:07:52,840
Palitzsch later on fell in
love with a Jewish woman.

104
00:07:52,840 --> 00:07:58,780
And he was put into that
bunker where he used

105
00:07:58,780 --> 00:08:01,720

to lock a lot of prisoners.

106

00:08:01,720 --> 00:08:04,940

And after that, he
was removed from there

107

00:08:04,940 --> 00:08:11,020

and taken probably
to an east front.

108

00:08:11,020 --> 00:08:13,570

And of course, he
is the only one

109

00:08:13,570 --> 00:08:18,400

and that we don't know
what happened to him.

110

00:08:18,400 --> 00:08:19,630

Really, we don't know.

111

00:08:19,630 --> 00:08:21,760

He's a question
mark until today.

112

00:08:21,760 --> 00:08:27,120

113

00:08:27,120 --> 00:08:29,610

OK, I think I've asked
all the questions.

114

00:08:29,610 --> 00:08:32,980

We just need to get room tone.

115

00:08:32,980 --> 00:08:35,320

Unless you have something
you want to add?

116

00:08:35,320 --> 00:08:36,309

Well, what?

117

00:08:36,309 --> 00:08:42,320

118

00:08:42,320 --> 00:08:49,430

Maybe I will tell
something about the tattoo.

119

00:08:49,430 --> 00:08:57,880

A tattoo that was
placed on the arm

120

00:08:57,880 --> 00:09:02,800

of each prisoner in Auschwitz
was an accident of things.

121

00:09:02,800 --> 00:09:07,900

No where in other camps I saw
any tattoos, only in Auschwitz.

122

00:09:07,900 --> 00:09:13,540

And the reason for it was that
when the women arrive and they

123

00:09:13,540 --> 00:09:17,680

live in such a horrible
sanitary condition,

124

00:09:17,680 --> 00:09:22,350

that they accumulate
a lot of dirt

125

00:09:22,350 --> 00:09:27,070

on the hands and the chest
where the number was written.

126

00:09:27,070 --> 00:09:30,100

Because they are in
the special pencil.

127

00:09:30,100 --> 00:09:36,160

When the woman died and they
tried to wash that place

128

00:09:36,160 --> 00:09:39,010
and count that
number, they couldn't.

129
00:09:39,010 --> 00:09:42,790
The number was
washed with the dirt.

130
00:09:42,790 --> 00:09:47,830
And by the number, we were
all registered in the books,

131
00:09:47,830 --> 00:09:49,540
not by the name.

132
00:09:49,540 --> 00:09:53,230
So the number was
utmost important.

133
00:09:53,230 --> 00:09:57,970
So somebody came an idea,
how about making a tattoo?

134
00:09:57,970 --> 00:10:01,480
And they did the tattoo
to all the women.

135
00:10:01,480 --> 00:10:04,780
Later on, they found out
this is a fantastic thing.

136
00:10:04,780 --> 00:10:08,800
Because it makes it more
difficult to escape.

137
00:10:08,800 --> 00:10:12,040
And they did it to all
the men in Auschwitz.

138
00:10:12,040 --> 00:10:14,136
But only in Auschwitz.

139
00:10:14,136 --> 00:10:21,050

140
00:10:21,050 --> 00:10:21,710
Good.

141
00:10:21,710 --> 00:10:24,600
Thank you.

142
00:10:24,600 --> 00:10:28,470
When I came a second time,
also under false name,

143
00:10:28,470 --> 00:10:31,680
a different one--

144
00:10:31,680 --> 00:10:33,550
the second or the third already.

145
00:10:33,550 --> 00:10:34,050
You know?

146
00:10:34,050 --> 00:10:38,920
So I came and they made
this tattoo in Birkenau.

147
00:10:38,920 --> 00:10:41,200
And I stayed in Birkenau.

148
00:10:41,200 --> 00:10:43,300
When this tattoo,
I was transferred

149
00:10:43,300 --> 00:10:47,590
to the camp of Buchenwald.

150
00:10:47,590 --> 00:10:50,010
And the reason why
I have only that,

151
00:10:50,010 --> 00:10:55,540
because I escaped before the
order came to tattoo everybody

152
00:10:55,540 --> 00:10:58,760
in Auschwitz, the oldtimers.

153
00:10:58,760 --> 00:11:02,330
You know, so I didn't have that.

154
00:11:02,330 --> 00:11:05,760
Did you know a man
named Sam Bankhalter?

155
00:11:05,760 --> 00:11:09,060
He was at Auschwitz for a long--

156
00:11:09,060 --> 00:11:10,980
No, no, no.

157
00:11:10,980 --> 00:11:11,550
I didn't.

158
00:11:11,550 --> 00:11:21,710

159
00:11:21,710 --> 00:11:24,670
This is a room tone without the
background construction sound.

160
00:11:24,670 --> 00:11:39,940

161
00:11:39,940 --> 00:11:43,190
--think they knew what
was going on around them?

162
00:11:43,190 --> 00:11:44,630
In most cases, not.

163
00:11:44,630 --> 00:11:47,760

164
00:11:47,760 --> 00:11:54,090

And this is why so
many died before they

165
00:11:54,090 --> 00:11:56,730
could realize where they were.

166
00:11:56,730 --> 00:11:58,620
Because they didn't know.

167
00:11:58,620 --> 00:12:01,360
They were shocked, first
of all, by beating.

168
00:12:01,360 --> 00:12:01,860
You know?

169
00:12:01,860 --> 00:12:04,620
By the reception
that they received.

170
00:12:04,620 --> 00:12:09,060
The reception was so ugly,
so terrifying that they

171
00:12:09,060 --> 00:12:10,070
forgot to eat.

172
00:12:10,070 --> 00:12:13,680
That they forgot to
stand in line for food.

173
00:12:13,680 --> 00:12:16,490
Therefore, they were
immediately hungry.

174
00:12:16,490 --> 00:12:20,010
A lot of people didn't like
the food that they were giving.

175
00:12:20,010 --> 00:12:22,140
So they refused to
eat at the beginning.

176

00:12:22,140 --> 00:12:25,740

They was still
full of good things

177

00:12:25,740 --> 00:12:28,935

from Warsaw or
Krakow or somewhere.

178

00:12:28,935 --> 00:12:30,930

You know, good restaurants.

179

00:12:30,930 --> 00:12:32,310

So they refused.

180

00:12:32,310 --> 00:12:38,920

And if they kept on refusing
more than one week, they died.

181

00:12:38,920 --> 00:12:44,050

Because they finally, you
know, became so hungry

182

00:12:44,050 --> 00:12:47,020

that from hunger, they died.

183

00:12:47,020 --> 00:12:58,450

And it is only those
who immediately realized

184

00:12:58,450 --> 00:13:03,620

that they have to be on guard
physically and emotionally,

185

00:13:03,620 --> 00:13:05,050

psychologically.

186

00:13:05,050 --> 00:13:15,280

That they cannot show
anything that would register

187

00:13:15,280 --> 00:13:22,030

as a rejection or something

that they didn't like.

188
00:13:22,030 --> 00:13:27,370
Because there were
specialists who only

189
00:13:27,370 --> 00:13:28,930
look for this kind of thing.

190
00:13:28,930 --> 00:13:31,630
And they will teach you
a lesson immediately.

191
00:13:31,630 --> 00:13:37,420
And therefore, beating was
the most tragic thing that

192
00:13:37,420 --> 00:13:39,280
happened to almost everybody.

193
00:13:39,280 --> 00:13:44,650
And a common prisoner, when he
came and live in a common block

194
00:13:44,650 --> 00:13:48,790
and performed that low job.

195
00:13:48,790 --> 00:13:52,870
That means he was going to
work with the wheelbarrow

196
00:13:52,870 --> 00:13:54,670
and a spade.

197
00:13:54,670 --> 00:14:03,130
He was subjected to
the heat and the cold,

198
00:14:03,130 --> 00:14:07,390
during rain and during
snow for 16 hours.

199

00:14:07,390 --> 00:14:10,090

Who could not
sleep because there

200

00:14:10,090 --> 00:14:14,020

was such overcrowding
that six people sometimes

201

00:14:14,020 --> 00:14:15,610

slept in one bed.

202

00:14:15,610 --> 00:14:20,740

That means that they
didn't could lie down.

203

00:14:20,740 --> 00:14:24,800

They were just sitting right
there in that bed, you know?

204

00:14:24,800 --> 00:14:33,700

So instead of resting, he got in
this situation during a night.

205

00:14:33,700 --> 00:14:39,460

And then he had to go
and work 16 hours a day.

206

00:14:39,460 --> 00:14:45,430

And at the end, even
when the work was over,

207

00:14:45,430 --> 00:14:50,440

he still had to march on the
parade before the kommandant.

208

00:14:50,440 --> 00:14:53,200

When he entered the camp,
before the kommandant.

209

00:14:53,200 --> 00:14:56,440

And the orchestra, they
were playing tangos.

210

00:14:56,440 --> 00:14:58,420
You know?

211
00:14:58,420 --> 00:15:04,630
And then he had to
encounter a roll call, which

212
00:15:04,630 --> 00:15:07,350
sometimes lasted two hours.

213
00:15:07,350 --> 00:15:12,930
Suppose somebody was escaped
and they were looking for him.

214
00:15:12,930 --> 00:15:21,540
So until they found him, dead
or alive, the rest of the camp

215
00:15:21,540 --> 00:15:26,500
has to stand and still stand
and wait for that to happen.

216
00:15:26,500 --> 00:15:29,850

217
00:15:29,850 --> 00:15:35,250
So the whole atmosphere in the
camp was designed in such a way

218
00:15:35,250 --> 00:15:42,900
to make you immediately
so low and so despair

219
00:15:42,900 --> 00:15:47,190
that sometimes a
death that came, there

220
00:15:47,190 --> 00:15:52,450
was a salvation, really,
for many, many people.

221
00:15:52,450 --> 00:15:55,700
Tell me about the U-- the umlaut

222
00:15:55,700 --> 00:15:58,000
Oh, yeah.

223
00:15:58,000 --> 00:16:03,370
I work with the files.

224
00:16:03,370 --> 00:16:05,230
You know, I had two files.

225
00:16:05,230 --> 00:16:10,060
And besides working or
doing artwork in the office,

226
00:16:10,060 --> 00:16:12,040
I had also files.

227
00:16:12,040 --> 00:16:16,030
And I had to go out and
register newcomers too.

228
00:16:16,030 --> 00:16:27,310
So I had to do some filing
and pulling out the files when

229
00:16:27,310 --> 00:16:34,210
the list came from the Gestapo
announcing so-and-so many dead,

230
00:16:34,210 --> 00:16:37,960
the whole list from when--

231
00:16:37,960 --> 00:16:41,230
that came once and for 24 hours.

232
00:16:41,230 --> 00:16:45,790
So we had to, first of all, pull
out all the files of the dead,

233
00:16:45,790 --> 00:16:48,400
put it in a special compartment.

234

00:16:48,400 --> 00:16:52,780

And in the book, in the main
book where there was a name,

235

00:16:52,780 --> 00:16:55,930

there was just one
book with the name.

236

00:16:55,930 --> 00:16:59,740

You know, we have to
put by the dead person

237

00:16:59,740 --> 00:17:01,660

a cross, a red cross.

238

00:17:01,660 --> 00:17:04,660

This was the sign
that he is dead.

239

00:17:04,660 --> 00:17:10,450

In other instances, everywhere
else in all the files,

240

00:17:10,450 --> 00:17:15,130

in the whole
business of the camp,

241

00:17:15,130 --> 00:17:20,710

the dead was hidden
under this "U"

242

00:17:20,710 --> 00:17:25,210

character which indicated
[? Äœberstelt ?]..

243

00:17:25,210 --> 00:17:31,240

Means transferred dead
or alive from this camp

244

00:17:31,240 --> 00:17:37,450

to another or on to another
life, if you believe in it.

245

00:17:37,450 --> 00:17:40,270

Because as a matter of
fact, this was the end.

246

00:17:40,270 --> 00:17:47,830

This was the common
thing in every camp.

247

00:17:47,830 --> 00:17:49,360

They proceed.

248

00:17:49,360 --> 00:17:53,335

When the transport, for
example, was sent from Auschwitz

249

00:17:53,335 --> 00:17:58,330
to another camp, we used to pull
out all the cards and put that

250

00:17:58,330 --> 00:18:02,810

[? Äœberstelt ?] mark
on every one of them.

251

00:18:02,810 --> 00:18:06,985

When people were executed,
the same thing happened.

252

00:18:06,985 --> 00:18:09,910

253

00:18:09,910 --> 00:18:17,500

When somebody escape,
his file was pulled

254

00:18:17,500 --> 00:18:19,630

to a separate compartment.

255

00:18:19,630 --> 00:18:23,830

But in the book was registered
as [? Äœberstelt ?] too.

256

00:18:23,830 --> 00:18:31,720

They always kept it secret
what happened to the people.

257
00:18:31,720 --> 00:18:34,990
Talk about your anger.

258
00:18:34,990 --> 00:18:39,770
Oh, I was angry from
the very beginning.

259
00:18:39,770 --> 00:18:46,380
I was angry that I allowed
myself to be arrested.

260
00:18:46,380 --> 00:18:48,630
Therefore, at the
very beginning, still

261
00:18:48,630 --> 00:18:53,130
and I in the
Slovakian territory,

262
00:18:53,130 --> 00:18:59,550
I gave my false name,
registered false name.

263
00:18:59,550 --> 00:19:02,550
And with that name,
I came to Auschwitz.

264
00:19:02,550 --> 00:19:06,990
Of course, it was very
inconvenient and dangerous too,

265
00:19:06,990 --> 00:19:09,390
because they are looking for--

266
00:19:09,390 --> 00:19:14,040
because under every
name of that kind,

267
00:19:14,040 --> 00:19:17,880
there was always a secret

story that the Gestapo

268

00:19:17,880 --> 00:19:19,590
wanted to know.

269

00:19:19,590 --> 00:19:23,610
So even to the
friends, you did not

270

00:19:23,610 --> 00:19:26,760
say to anybody--
absolutely to anybody

271

00:19:26,760 --> 00:19:29,340
--that you have a false name.

272

00:19:29,340 --> 00:19:34,530
And what happened when you
ran in that person that you?

273

00:19:34,530 --> 00:19:39,350
And it happened to me very
often, that the people knew me.

274

00:19:39,350 --> 00:19:43,950
In a certain point,
to Auschwitz was

275

00:19:43,950 --> 00:19:48,390
brought one of my professors
from the Academy of Art.

276

00:19:48,390 --> 00:19:53,250
Professor Dunikowski,
the sculptor.

277

00:19:53,250 --> 00:19:56,670
And here I am with
the name of Baras.

278

00:19:56,670 --> 00:19:59,760
And he knew me in the school.

279

00:19:59,760 --> 00:20:02,440

So it was a--

280

00:20:02,440 --> 00:20:08,730

I think that you have to be
always on guard and always

281

00:20:08,730 --> 00:20:15,220

creating lies about yourself
and about the circumstances.

282

00:20:15,220 --> 00:20:21,230

And the second thing
that make me so mad

283

00:20:21,230 --> 00:20:26,510

was that I had to take the hat
off in front of every SS man,

284

00:20:26,510 --> 00:20:28,880

even the common soldier.

285

00:20:28,880 --> 00:20:30,170

This was a rule.

286

00:20:30,170 --> 00:20:35,225

For not taking a hat and
standing still in front of him

287

00:20:35,225 --> 00:20:37,160

when you talk, when
he spoke to you,

288

00:20:37,160 --> 00:20:46,880

this was a punishment of 25
on your behind, at least.

289

00:20:46,880 --> 00:20:55,760

Or sometimes it was a hanging
three hours on a stake.

290

00:20:55,760 --> 00:20:58,280

I hung that way three
hours on a stake.

291
00:20:58,280 --> 00:21:04,640
And until today, this is finger
is always numb for 50 years.

292
00:21:04,640 --> 00:21:09,230
So sometimes I
wander a half a mile

293
00:21:09,230 --> 00:21:16,820
away when I saw an SS
man so I could escape

294
00:21:16,820 --> 00:21:24,650
marching in front him and
having this burden of taking

295
00:21:24,650 --> 00:21:27,240
the hat off.

296
00:21:27,240 --> 00:21:30,840
So everything
accumulated to the point

297
00:21:30,840 --> 00:21:33,240
that I couldn't stand anymore.

298
00:21:33,240 --> 00:21:41,520
And all those execution,
this was a terrifying thing

299
00:21:41,520 --> 00:21:44,070
and nerve-breaking situation.

300
00:21:44,070 --> 00:21:48,360
When you stand in the line
and the Rapportfuhrer.

301
00:21:48,360 --> 00:21:51,420
Palitzsch is calling
the numbers--

302
00:21:51,420 --> 00:21:53,760
this one and that
one and that one.

303
00:21:53,760 --> 00:21:58,620
Your friend next to you might
be called or somebody else you

304
00:21:58,620 --> 00:21:59,760
know.

305
00:21:59,760 --> 00:22:02,160
And they have to--
and immediately they

306
00:22:02,160 --> 00:22:05,670
are taking out to block 11.

307
00:22:05,670 --> 00:22:10,920
And nobody knew
whether next time--

308
00:22:10,920 --> 00:22:14,640
you never were sure
that the next time you

309
00:22:14,640 --> 00:22:17,940
will not be the one
that will be called too.

310
00:22:17,940 --> 00:22:24,300
Because we all were, all
the secrets about our crimes

311
00:22:24,300 --> 00:22:30,360
that were written in our
files in Gestapo were never--

312
00:22:30,360 --> 00:22:32,280
it was always in--

313

00:22:32,280 --> 00:22:36,570

314

00:22:36,570 --> 00:22:40,050

Can you tell me about some of
the differences between camps?

315

00:22:40,050 --> 00:22:42,600

And how Auschwitz
related to other camps?

316

00:22:42,600 --> 00:22:45,980

317

00:22:45,980 --> 00:22:52,500

As I mentioned before,
Auschwitz had two industries.

318

00:22:52,500 --> 00:22:59,310

One, the main industry of
Auschwitz was a death industry.

319

00:22:59,310 --> 00:23:03,120

The people were brought by
thousands, tens of thousands,

320

00:23:03,120 --> 00:23:07,440

every day in order to die.

321

00:23:07,440 --> 00:23:09,900

And they were
brought as civilians.

322

00:23:09,900 --> 00:23:13,620

They were not
considered prisoners.

323

00:23:13,620 --> 00:23:16,860

All those who went
to the gas chambers

324

00:23:16,860 --> 00:23:22,920

came direct, straight from the

car, from the railroad car.

325

00:23:22,920 --> 00:23:28,860

And there were no
lists made of records.

326

00:23:28,860 --> 00:23:32,790

Any records made of
how many of them were.

327

00:23:32,790 --> 00:23:37,740

The only records
that were made was

328

00:23:37,740 --> 00:23:43,420

of those who were chosen
to become prisoners.

329

00:23:43,420 --> 00:23:49,740

And that's generally about
10% to 15% of each transport

330

00:23:49,740 --> 00:23:59,190

were saved that way because the
Germans needed the people there

331

00:23:59,190 --> 00:24:01,410

to do the killing.

332

00:24:01,410 --> 00:24:10,830

You know, the Germans, SS, was
never using a gun officially.

333

00:24:10,830 --> 00:24:15,540

They were never assisting
a death officially.

334

00:24:15,540 --> 00:24:19,440

There was always a
prisoner who did it.

335

00:24:19,440 --> 00:24:23,730

A prisoner who was

burning that corpse

336

00:24:23,730 --> 00:24:28,110

in the oven or the
prisoner who was

337

00:24:28,110 --> 00:24:32,550

loading the cars
with the corpses

338

00:24:32,550 --> 00:24:36,750

from the gas chamber that
went from gas chamber

339

00:24:36,750 --> 00:24:39,790

to the crematorium and so forth.

340

00:24:39,790 --> 00:24:44,670

There were always prisoners who
assisted killing the people.

341

00:24:44,670 --> 00:24:48,900

And they, in turn, were
killed later on too.

342

00:24:48,900 --> 00:24:52,650

Because sometimes
the transport--

343

00:24:52,650 --> 00:24:55,980

I know of some transport that
was called [GERMAN] kommando.

344

00:24:55,980 --> 00:24:58,440

They were called
different names.

345

00:24:58,440 --> 00:25:04,290

They consisted of some
500, 600 men, strong men,

346

00:25:04,290 --> 00:25:09,180

who lived in the special

quarters, isolated

347

00:25:09,180 --> 00:25:11,040
from the rest of the camp.

348

00:25:11,040 --> 00:25:14,970
Who had enough food, who had
everything what they needed,

349

00:25:14,970 --> 00:25:18,750
who were half-drunk in
order to do the job.

350

00:25:18,750 --> 00:25:23,220
But whose life was very short,
sometimes only one month.

351

00:25:23,220 --> 00:25:26,200

352

00:25:26,200 --> 00:25:33,340
They, too, later on became
those who were gassed.

353

00:25:33,340 --> 00:25:38,020
Because the Germans, that
way, wanted to get rid

354

00:25:38,020 --> 00:25:40,780
of all the witnesses.

355

00:25:40,780 --> 00:25:46,590

356

00:25:46,590 --> 00:25:50,100
Did you or did
you see others try

357

00:25:50,100 --> 00:25:52,590
to warn people what was
happening when they came in?

358

00:25:52,590 --> 00:25:55,680

359

00:25:55,680 --> 00:26:02,570

No, because of those who
assisted the transport

360

00:26:02,570 --> 00:26:07,880

were part of that special
group who assisted

361

00:26:07,880 --> 00:26:10,070

the death of the people.

362

00:26:10,070 --> 00:26:18,110

So they had no opportunity
even to tell because there

363

00:26:18,110 --> 00:26:20,270

were always SS around.

364

00:26:20,270 --> 00:26:25,550

And if a person tried
to warn somebody,

365

00:26:25,550 --> 00:26:28,520

he would be thrown
into that pack

366

00:26:28,520 --> 00:26:32,330

immediately and executed
immediately, you know?

367

00:26:32,330 --> 00:26:37,230

So just simply, there was
no occasion to do that.

368

00:26:37,230 --> 00:26:40,100

But, as I say, there
were some revolts

369

00:26:40,100 --> 00:26:45,620

of those who knew what was

going to happen to them.

370

00:26:45,620 --> 00:26:47,360

And some were successful.

371

00:26:47,360 --> 00:26:48,500

Most of them not.

372

00:26:48,500 --> 00:26:50,720

A few, probably, escaped.

373

00:26:50,720 --> 00:26:52,010

But not many.

374

00:26:52,010 --> 00:26:55,280

Because this was

under constant guard.

375

00:26:55,280 --> 00:26:59,480

And there was hundreds of SS
who were guarding the area.

376

00:26:59,480 --> 00:27:02,090

The area was

completely isolated.

377

00:27:02,090 --> 00:27:08,860

A common prisoner did not know
where the gas chambers are.

378

00:27:08,860 --> 00:27:11,810

The chambers were camouflaged.

379

00:27:11,810 --> 00:27:19,340

There were twig growing
around this area.

380

00:27:19,340 --> 00:27:22,460

Most of the buildings
were underground.

381

00:27:22,460 --> 00:27:27,650

All those areas were--

382
00:27:27,650 --> 00:27:33,950
the gas chamber was, where
the gassing was executed,

383
00:27:33,950 --> 00:27:39,830
was done primarily
underground in those rooms.

384
00:27:39,830 --> 00:27:42,230
Of course, nothing survived.

385
00:27:42,230 --> 00:27:46,070
Because German,
before they retreated,

386
00:27:46,070 --> 00:27:48,140
they destroyed everything.

387
00:27:48,140 --> 00:27:53,900
We only know how the
gas chambers and all

388
00:27:53,900 --> 00:27:56,210
those crematoriums
look like because there

389
00:27:56,210 --> 00:27:58,160
are some photographs
that survive

390
00:27:58,160 --> 00:28:01,610
in the files in this
architect's office.

391
00:28:01,610 --> 00:28:04,070
They were all
designed in Auschwitz.

392
00:28:04,070 --> 00:28:09,140
I even know name of
those who designed them.

393

00:28:09,140 --> 00:28:12,910

There were two officers.

394

00:28:12,910 --> 00:28:15,070

One name was [PERSONAL NAME].

395

00:28:15,070 --> 00:28:16,660

Another was [PERSONAL NAME].

396

00:28:16,660 --> 00:28:23,470

They were both from

Austria, you know?

397

00:28:23,470 --> 00:28:25,390

And got SS.

398

00:28:25,390 --> 00:28:30,100

And they were the leading
architects in Auschwitz.

399

00:28:30,100 --> 00:28:32,050

They built everything.

400

00:28:32,050 --> 00:28:37,030

And more important things
were built by the--

401

00:28:37,030 --> 00:28:39,630

in Germany by
various industries.

402

00:28:39,630 --> 00:28:41,770

You know, the ovens for example.

403

00:28:41,770 --> 00:28:42,730

We know that.

404

00:28:42,730 --> 00:28:44,660

They are in file, the names.

405

00:28:44,660 --> 00:28:47,060
I don't know them, but.

406
00:28:47,060 --> 00:28:50,560
What happened to
families in Auschwitz?

407
00:28:50,560 --> 00:28:51,343
Families?

408
00:28:51,343 --> 00:28:52,260
Families in Auschwitz.

409
00:28:52,260 --> 00:28:55,840
Families, as prisoners?

410
00:28:55,840 --> 00:28:59,080
No, when they arrived?

411
00:28:59,080 --> 00:29:03,650
Tell what it was like to be a
family arriving in Auschwitz?

412
00:29:03,650 --> 00:29:08,550
Well, you mean a family
arriving as prisoners?

413
00:29:08,550 --> 00:29:09,540
That's what you mean?

414
00:29:09,540 --> 00:29:11,580
No, as a transport.

415
00:29:11,580 --> 00:29:14,210
And some maybe would
become prisoners.

416
00:29:14,210 --> 00:29:17,870
Oh, well, they were
separated immediately.

417
00:29:17,870 --> 00:29:21,260

418

00:29:21,260 --> 00:29:26,780
Mothers and children and all the
women were kept in one group,

419

00:29:26,780 --> 00:29:29,460
and men separately
in another group.

420

00:29:29,460 --> 00:29:33,120
And they never saw each other.

421

00:29:33,120 --> 00:29:37,010
Maybe there were some
instances if they

422

00:29:37,010 --> 00:29:42,050
happen both members
of the family

423

00:29:42,050 --> 00:29:46,220
if they have survived and
lived in the camp later on,

424

00:29:46,220 --> 00:29:49,740
probably they were trying
to find each other.

425

00:29:49,740 --> 00:29:52,830
Maybe there was a
situation like that.

426

00:29:52,830 --> 00:29:57,290
But the Birkenau area
consisted of several camps.

427

00:29:57,290 --> 00:30:08,600
Each camp was had its own set of
barbed wire, electrified fence.

428

00:30:08,600 --> 00:30:12,920
And visiting and

such was nonexistent.

429

00:30:12,920 --> 00:30:19,160

So there were situations-- like,
for example, I had a friend.

430

00:30:19,160 --> 00:30:24,800

He worked in the same room
where I was, in the [INAUDIBLE]..

431

00:30:24,800 --> 00:30:26,300

He was in Auschwitz.

432

00:30:26,300 --> 00:30:29,390

His wife was in Ravensbruck.

433

00:30:29,390 --> 00:30:32,150

Both survived, happily.

434

00:30:32,150 --> 00:30:37,340

But there were other instances
where one of them died,

435

00:30:37,340 --> 00:30:39,080

you know?

436

00:30:39,080 --> 00:30:48,070

But as I indicated before,
and I always say it,

437

00:30:48,070 --> 00:30:49,880

it was up to the Gestapo.

438

00:30:49,880 --> 00:30:55,100

The Gestapo, local Gestapo,
the arresting Gestapo,

439

00:30:55,100 --> 00:31:02,210

was the organization
that directed a prisoner

440

00:31:02,210 --> 00:31:07,480

to a certain place in a certain
time with a certain purpose.

441
00:31:07,480 --> 00:31:10,760
A lot of prisoners went
in with this description

442
00:31:10,760 --> 00:31:20,120
that his or hers return
is not-- unwelcome.

443
00:31:20,120 --> 00:31:25,280
They would say it this way,
[SPEAKING GERMAN],, for example.

444
00:31:25,280 --> 00:31:29,270
And this annotation
would be in the file.

445
00:31:29,270 --> 00:31:33,110
This was an indication that
that person sooner or later will

446
00:31:33,110 --> 00:31:42,710
be called out on the roll call
and would go to the block 11

447
00:31:42,710 --> 00:31:48,650
in Auschwitz or to the area
where the gas chambers were

448
00:31:48,650 --> 00:31:51,140
in Birkenau and will
be finished with.

449
00:31:51,140 --> 00:31:53,700

450
00:31:53,700 --> 00:31:55,560
So you had no control over--

451
00:31:55,560 --> 00:31:57,220
No control, no.

452
00:31:57,220 --> 00:31:57,720
No.

453
00:31:57,720 --> 00:32:00,620
You live from day to day.

454
00:32:00,620 --> 00:32:04,190
You were happy to
have lived one day.

455
00:32:04,190 --> 00:32:08,720
Especially even so more
happy if you are not beaten,

456
00:32:08,720 --> 00:32:11,460
if you were not
hit during a day.

457
00:32:11,460 --> 00:32:15,200
Because this seldom happens too.

458
00:32:15,200 --> 00:32:26,060
Especially, if you worked with
the wheelbarrow and spade.

459
00:32:26,060 --> 00:32:29,780
They were always hurrying
you, rushing you.

460
00:32:29,780 --> 00:32:31,070
You know, slow, slow, slow.

461
00:32:31,070 --> 00:32:32,660
They were always telling that.

462
00:32:32,660 --> 00:32:35,210
And it was not SS.

463
00:32:35,210 --> 00:32:38,120
Because the SS was a
commander of the group.

464

00:32:38,120 --> 00:32:44,180

It was a German kapo
with the green triangle.

465

00:32:44,180 --> 00:32:51,770

Professional criminal
who was your boss.

466

00:32:51,770 --> 00:32:58,220

And each kapo had at least
100 people under him.

467

00:32:58,220 --> 00:33:00,920

Some kapos who are
called oberkapo

468

00:33:00,920 --> 00:33:06,440

had even thousands of
prisoners under them.

469

00:33:06,440 --> 00:33:08,660

And they were
directing them to work.

470

00:33:08,660 --> 00:33:11,060

Although, they
didn't know nothing

471

00:33:11,060 --> 00:33:14,810

about the characteristic
of that work.

472

00:33:14,810 --> 00:33:19,310

But just standing there
and shouting and beating

473

00:33:19,310 --> 00:33:20,990

the prisoner or killing them.

474

00:33:20,990 --> 00:33:29,390

Because sometimes a
killing was a prescription

475

00:33:29,390 --> 00:33:40,550

for how the kommando
should look like after they

476

00:33:40,550 --> 00:33:42,110

returned to the camp.

477

00:33:42,110 --> 00:33:46,850

Sometimes it was said
beforehand that they

478

00:33:46,850 --> 00:33:49,190

have to leave five or six.

479

00:33:49,190 --> 00:33:51,884

Bring them dead.

480

00:33:51,884 --> 00:33:52,384