

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,980

2  
00:00:01,980 --> 00:00:06,180  
Sorry, Cecilie Klein-Pollack.

3  
00:00:06,180 --> 00:00:07,080  
[INAUDIBLE]

4  
00:00:07,080 --> 00:00:15,530

5  
00:00:15,530 --> 00:00:21,190  
Are there incidents of  
resistance or sabotage

6  
00:00:21,190 --> 00:00:24,220  
that you can recall  
maybe from the times

7  
00:00:24,220 --> 00:00:26,980  
that you were working  
or even from the times

8  
00:00:26,980 --> 00:00:30,080  
in Auschwitz or  
anywhere along the way?

9  
00:00:30,080 --> 00:00:35,620  
In Auschwitz, I did not  
work, but there were--

10  
00:00:35,620 --> 00:00:44,590  
I was not part of it, but there  
was an organized, active group

11  
00:00:44,590 --> 00:00:50,170  
that not only was sabotaging  
but that they were

12  
00:00:50,170 --> 00:00:53,110

connected with the underground.

13

00:00:53,110 --> 00:00:59,650

They collected information,  
and that was mostly possible

14

00:00:59,650 --> 00:01:05,050

by people who worked in--  
they called it Canada, where--

15

00:01:05,050 --> 00:01:08,110

and the ones that were--

16

00:01:08,110 --> 00:01:11,860

when you came, your  
name was registered.

17

00:01:11,860 --> 00:01:13,630

They kept records.

18

00:01:13,630 --> 00:01:20,320

They hid those records,  
and there was also

19

00:01:20,320 --> 00:01:26,020

some that tried to escape,  
which, unfortunately,

20

00:01:26,020 --> 00:01:28,930

were, most of the time, caught.

21

00:01:28,930 --> 00:01:37,390

And my husband, who was  
a survivor, was in Buna,

22

00:01:37,390 --> 00:01:42,820

and he was present at  
many hangings that were--

23

00:01:42,820 --> 00:01:50,860

and those were hangings  
not just for the--

24

00:01:50,860 --> 00:01:57,250  
for other things, not  
just for sabotage but some

25

00:01:57,250 --> 00:02:01,450  
that were caught,  
and they hanged them.

26

00:02:01,450 --> 00:02:08,919  
And the ones that  
worked in Canada--

27

00:02:08,919 --> 00:02:15,730  
they were connected, and  
did all the recording,

28

00:02:15,730 --> 00:02:17,980  
and passed on the information.

29

00:02:17,980 --> 00:02:20,140  
I, personally, myself--

30

00:02:20,140 --> 00:02:24,550  
I cannot say that I was could  
possibly have been involved

31

00:02:24,550 --> 00:02:29,230  
because I was never in this kind  
of capacity that I could have

32

00:02:29,230 --> 00:02:30,385  
had a chance.

33

00:02:30,385 --> 00:02:33,410

34

00:02:33,410 --> 00:02:37,370  
What about spiritual  
resistance of people

35

00:02:37,370 --> 00:02:40,610  
that you saw around

you or that you knew?

36

00:02:40,610 --> 00:02:43,990

37

00:02:43,990 --> 00:02:46,450

Do you mean in a religious way?

38

00:02:46,450 --> 00:02:49,210

In a religious way.

39

00:02:49,210 --> 00:03:02,680

Yes, in a religious way, they would be praying, and even I--

40

00:03:02,680 --> 00:03:06,040

41

00:03:06,040 --> 00:03:12,340

that food was one of the most important sustenance of you

42

00:03:12,340 --> 00:03:13,150

of your life.

43

00:03:13,150 --> 00:03:16,600

And you couldn't give up not even the least little bit.

44

00:03:16,600 --> 00:03:22,060

When it came, I fasted in Auschwitz.

45

00:03:22,060 --> 00:03:24,760

That's practically suicide, but I could not

46

00:03:24,760 --> 00:03:27,310

make myself eat on Yom Kippur.

47

00:03:27,310 --> 00:03:31,120

So I had fasted the whole day.

48  
00:03:31,120 --> 00:03:34,780  
And I didn't have a prayer book.

49  
00:03:34,780 --> 00:03:41,980  
I prayed in my mind to  
God, and what happened

50  
00:03:41,980 --> 00:03:47,740  
was that I could be doubly  
mad at God because that--

51  
00:03:47,740 --> 00:03:52,920  
it's a [NON-ENGLISH],, it's  
called, what the food comes in.

52  
00:03:52,920 --> 00:03:55,870  
The block eldest put  
away for those girls.

53  
00:03:55,870 --> 00:03:58,300  
There wasn't the only one  
because quite a few of us

54  
00:03:58,300 --> 00:04:03,520  
fasted, that we should have  
it when the fast was finished.

55  
00:04:03,520 --> 00:04:06,940  
And then we found  
that it was stolen,

56  
00:04:06,940 --> 00:04:11,380  
and we had nothing to eat.

57  
00:04:11,380 --> 00:04:14,860  
And in the [INAUDIBLE],,  
I was very angry,

58  
00:04:14,860 --> 00:04:24,250  
and I got a very angry  
poem that day in German.

59

00:04:24,250 --> 00:04:25,930

But I did.

60

00:04:25,930 --> 00:04:26,665

I fasted.

61

00:04:26,665 --> 00:04:29,310

62

00:04:29,310 --> 00:04:31,680

When you think  
back, can you think

63

00:04:31,680 --> 00:04:34,380

of some of your  
sensory impressions,

64

00:04:34,380 --> 00:04:36,950

what things meant a lot to  
you, what kinds of sound

65

00:04:36,950 --> 00:04:42,790

do you remember, or maybe things  
visually that were important,

66

00:04:42,790 --> 00:04:45,390

or smells?

67

00:04:45,390 --> 00:04:51,280

Well, unfortunately,  
the smell was

68

00:04:51,280 --> 00:04:55,705

[? most-- ?] was the  
burning of those bodies.

69

00:04:55,705 --> 00:04:58,990

70

00:04:58,990 --> 00:05:04,450

And then it was the people that,  
unfortunately, had dysentery,

71  
00:05:04,450 --> 00:05:07,135  
and it was an awful way to--

72  
00:05:07,135 --> 00:05:09,910

73  
00:05:09,910 --> 00:05:12,710  
certainly us had to smell.

74  
00:05:12,710 --> 00:05:25,900  
And we watched a lot of those  
people die, and they would be--

75  
00:05:25,900 --> 00:05:27,100  
and this happened.

76  
00:05:27,100 --> 00:05:29,110  
Many were beaten to  
death just for that

77  
00:05:29,110 --> 00:05:34,510  
alone because they could  
not keep their bowels.

78  
00:05:34,510 --> 00:05:39,040  
And they had no way of  
going to a bathroom.

79  
00:05:39,040 --> 00:05:43,150

80  
00:05:43,150 --> 00:05:48,070  
And then that's the  
music that was playing,

81  
00:05:48,070 --> 00:05:49,285  
which was a mockery.

82  
00:05:49,285 --> 00:05:52,330

83

00:05:52,330 --> 00:05:58,840

In a place where they  
were killing daily,

84

00:05:58,840 --> 00:06:02,380

they had this band  
of music consisting

85

00:06:02,380 --> 00:06:09,670

of prisoners that were forced  
to play music as they marched

86

00:06:09,670 --> 00:06:13,120

to work, and from  
work, and bringing back

87

00:06:13,120 --> 00:06:19,120

bodies killed while  
working because they

88

00:06:19,120 --> 00:06:22,570

were beaten to death.

89

00:06:22,570 --> 00:06:28,330

My husband told me--

90

00:06:28,330 --> 00:06:32,200

no, I'll have to describe  
to you just one scene,

91

00:06:32,200 --> 00:06:37,330

and that is my  
brother-in-law in Israel.

92

00:06:37,330 --> 00:06:46,360

This will show the  
brutality and the absolute--

93

00:06:46,360 --> 00:06:51,700

that you have to have even  
imagination to think up

94



00:06:51,700 --> 00:06:56,050  
this kind of punishment.

95  
00:06:56,050 --> 00:06:59,140

96  
00:06:59,140 --> 00:07:03,790  
My brother was terribly  
hungry, and he saw the dog--

97  
00:07:03,790 --> 00:07:08,650  
he was working, and there was  
this dog, had a lot of food,

98  
00:07:08,650 --> 00:07:09,310  
and he ate.

99  
00:07:09,310 --> 00:07:11,230  
And then he walked  
away, and there

100  
00:07:11,230 --> 00:07:16,450  
was left a little piece,  
some food in the dog dish.

101  
00:07:16,450 --> 00:07:19,810  
My brother-in-law was also  
a very courageous person.

102  
00:07:19,810 --> 00:07:22,660  
He always got into  
trouble because of that,

103  
00:07:22,660 --> 00:07:25,670  
but he always tried to--

104  
00:07:25,670 --> 00:07:28,060  
they called it organize,  
organize some food.

105  
00:07:28,060 --> 00:07:32,950  
So he stole himself, and  
he took this piece of food,

106  
00:07:32,950 --> 00:07:35,560  
what the dog had left over.

107  
00:07:35,560 --> 00:07:40,090  
The SS came out with  
this dog, was his dog,

108  
00:07:40,090 --> 00:07:44,560  
and now my brother-in-law knew  
that now he's going to be--

109  
00:07:44,560 --> 00:07:49,670  
because they were trained  
to tear people apart,

110  
00:07:49,670 --> 00:07:53,200  
and some would do it as a sport.

111  
00:07:53,200 --> 00:07:57,580  
And this happened--

112  
00:07:57,580 --> 00:08:01,900  
I didn't witness it, but there  
are people that witnessed it.

113  
00:08:01,900 --> 00:08:06,430  
My present husband had  
witnessed something similar.

114  
00:08:06,430 --> 00:08:11,350  
And anyway, my brother-in-law  
was ordered by this SS--

115  
00:08:11,350 --> 00:08:13,210  
he brings out the  
dog, and he tells

116  
00:08:13,210 --> 00:08:21,070  
him to kneel in front of the dog  
and ask the dog's forgiveness,

117

00:08:21,070 --> 00:08:27,880  
call the dog Herr, like Mister,  
and tells him, you dirty swine,

118  
00:08:27,880 --> 00:08:29,140  
you--

119  
00:08:29,140 --> 00:08:35,110  
all kinds of-- and while  
he is telling him that--

120  
00:08:35,110 --> 00:08:39,250  
so he's telling him that he is  
going to let the dog tear him

121  
00:08:39,250 --> 00:08:43,030  
to pieces and is whipping him.

122  
00:08:43,030 --> 00:08:47,590  
And then the SS  
behind are laughing

123  
00:08:47,590 --> 00:08:54,940  
because they like to see this  
Jew calling a dog Herr, Mister,

124  
00:08:54,940 --> 00:08:57,550  
and tells him to  
beg for his life.

125  
00:08:57,550 --> 00:09:04,060  
And my brother-in-law  
figured first,

126  
00:09:04,060 --> 00:09:05,740  
if he's not going  
to do it, he just

127  
00:09:05,740 --> 00:09:09,460  
wanted to play a little bit  
for time because he was really

128  
00:09:09,460 --> 00:09:11,200

terribly scared.

129  
00:09:11,200 --> 00:09:14,230  
He only wished that he  
could a different death.

130  
00:09:14,230 --> 00:09:19,870  
But luckily, for some reason,  
he just beat him and beat him

131  
00:09:19,870 --> 00:09:25,840  
until he was senseless, and  
then some friends of his

132  
00:09:25,840 --> 00:09:28,700  
were allowed to take  
him away from there.

133  
00:09:28,700 --> 00:09:31,510  
And he wasn't torn to pieces.

134  
00:09:31,510 --> 00:09:37,330  
This is the life that people  
had to endure while they were

135  
00:09:37,330 --> 00:09:49,400  
in camp, and I had watched two  
girls being beaten to death

136  
00:09:49,400 --> 00:09:52,490  
for a few raw potatoes.

137  
00:09:52,490 --> 00:09:54,850  
And that was in Holleischen.

138  
00:09:54,850 --> 00:09:58,120  
They took us to--

139  
00:09:58,120 --> 00:10:02,950  
there was a field, and  
it was on a Sunday.

140

00:10:02,950 --> 00:10:09,940  
And they needed potatoes for  
the kitchen, for the SS kitchen,

141  
00:10:09,940 --> 00:10:15,850  
so they selected a lot of  
girls, and my sister, too, quite

142  
00:10:15,850 --> 00:10:22,120  
a lot of people to dig out  
the potatoes from the field.

143  
00:10:22,120 --> 00:10:24,730  
And as we were digging out--

144  
00:10:24,730 --> 00:10:27,670  
[? Binka ?] had a coat,  
but my coat had a hood.

145  
00:10:27,670 --> 00:10:32,500  
So I took two potatoes, and I  
put it in the tip of my hood.

146  
00:10:32,500 --> 00:10:37,930  
And I put the hood on my head  
because it was still cold.

147  
00:10:37,930 --> 00:10:42,640  
And there were other girls,  
and two sisters were standing.

148  
00:10:42,640 --> 00:10:44,800  
They were also-- and  
they took potatoes,

149  
00:10:44,800 --> 00:10:46,870  
and they put them  
in their pocket,

150  
00:10:46,870 --> 00:10:49,060  
each one maybe two potatoes.

151  
00:10:49,060 --> 00:10:50,500

My sister was  
terribly frightened,

152  
00:10:50,500 --> 00:10:53,530  
so I told her, you know what, we  
are not going to stand together

153  
00:10:53,530 --> 00:10:56,230  
because I was afraid she  
will keep looking at me,

154  
00:10:56,230 --> 00:10:58,540  
looking at me, that  
this would give me away.

155  
00:10:58,540 --> 00:11:02,260  
I told her that she should stand  
behind me because I was afraid

156  
00:11:02,260 --> 00:11:05,440  
if she would stand in front of  
me she should turn her head.

157  
00:11:05,440 --> 00:11:08,470  
I thought of everything  
to bring in those--

158  
00:11:08,470 --> 00:11:11,710  
how to bring in those two  
potatoes, those three potatoes.

159  
00:11:11,710 --> 00:11:13,855  
So I wasn't standing  
with my sister.

160  
00:11:13,855 --> 00:11:14,980  
I stood with somebody else.

161  
00:11:14,980 --> 00:11:17,800  
My sister was  
standing behind me,

162  
00:11:17,800 --> 00:11:19,240

and these were also two sisters.

163  
00:11:19,240 --> 00:11:21,228  
And they were standing  
together, and each

164  
00:11:21,228 --> 00:11:22,270  
had a couple of potatoes.

165  
00:11:22,270 --> 00:11:27,720

166  
00:11:27,720 --> 00:11:32,150  
Why don't you do  
the potato story?

167  
00:11:32,150 --> 00:11:33,620  
From the beginning?

168  
00:11:33,620 --> 00:11:34,880  
Yeah.

169  
00:11:34,880 --> 00:11:39,890  
Do the [INAUDIBLE] take  
the potatoes [INAUDIBLE]..

170  
00:11:39,890 --> 00:11:41,810  
We were a group of girls--

171  
00:11:41,810 --> 00:11:45,560  
among them was my sister,  
myself, and many others--

172  
00:11:45,560 --> 00:11:47,930  
digging out potatoes  
or taken to dig out

173  
00:11:47,930 --> 00:11:51,890  
potatoes for the SS kitchen.

174  
00:11:51,890 --> 00:11:57,140  
On the way back, I

decided to help myself

175  
00:11:57,140 --> 00:11:58,580  
to a couple of potatoes.

176  
00:11:58,580 --> 00:12:02,390  
I had a coat with  
a hood, so I put

177  
00:12:02,390 --> 00:12:05,720  
the two potatoes in my hood.

178  
00:12:05,720 --> 00:12:07,100  
[? Binka ?] was afraid that--

179  
00:12:07,100 --> 00:12:11,480  
my sister was very frightened  
that I should be caught.

180  
00:12:11,480 --> 00:12:14,820  
I told her that she should  
stand with somebody else

181  
00:12:14,820 --> 00:12:17,180  
and she would stand behind  
me because I was afraid,

182  
00:12:17,180 --> 00:12:19,940  
if she'll stand in front  
of me, she will turn back,

183  
00:12:19,940 --> 00:12:21,980  
and that could give me away.

184  
00:12:21,980 --> 00:12:26,030  
And in front of me was standing  
two other sister's side

185  
00:12:26,030 --> 00:12:30,530  
by side, and as we were  
coming back to our block,

186



00:12:30,530 --> 00:12:32,570  
they started to search us.

187  
00:12:32,570 --> 00:12:35,150  
And I never expected  
that they would

188  
00:12:35,150 --> 00:12:40,340  
start searching for a couple  
of potatoes, but they found--

189  
00:12:40,340 --> 00:12:41,540  
nobody else really had.

190  
00:12:41,540 --> 00:12:44,540  
It was only those  
two girls and me.

191  
00:12:44,540 --> 00:12:48,830  
So they found the potatoes  
by those two sisters,

192  
00:12:48,830 --> 00:12:51,200  
and they took out--

193  
00:12:51,200 --> 00:12:56,060  
first of all, they had to throw  
the potatoes to the floor,

194  
00:12:56,060 --> 00:12:59,240  
and then they were beating  
them, and beating them,

195  
00:12:59,240 --> 00:13:00,350  
and beating them.

196  
00:13:00,350 --> 00:13:05,150  
And then they were  
already unconscious.

197  
00:13:05,150 --> 00:13:06,920  
They took four girls.

198

00:13:06,920 --> 00:13:10,323

Each one had to take them, one  
by the head, one by the foot,

199

00:13:10,323 --> 00:13:11,990

and didn't bring them  
back to our block.

200

00:13:11,990 --> 00:13:18,650

But they had to bring  
them into the SS quarters,

201

00:13:18,650 --> 00:13:20,900

and we never saw those  
two sisters again.

202

00:13:20,900 --> 00:13:23,090

That means that  
they killed them.

203

00:13:23,090 --> 00:13:27,410

Now, while I saw how  
they were being beaten,

204

00:13:27,410 --> 00:13:29,000

I saw myself already--

205

00:13:29,000 --> 00:13:30,620

that this is going  
to happen to me.

206

00:13:30,620 --> 00:13:34,220

And my feet was just--

207

00:13:34,220 --> 00:13:38,390

I was just shaking inside,  
but I was very lucky.

208

00:13:38,390 --> 00:13:41,720

They searched my  
pockets, and they never

209

00:13:41,720 --> 00:13:45,980  
thought of searching my hood.

210  
00:13:45,980 --> 00:13:48,740  
So I brought in those potatoes.

211  
00:13:48,740 --> 00:13:52,970  
And those potatoes left  
such an impression on me,

212  
00:13:52,970 --> 00:13:55,310  
that this I will have  
to-- because it really

213  
00:13:55,310 --> 00:13:58,330  
has a psychological impact.

214  
00:13:58,330 --> 00:14:01,430  
First of all, when I was  
eating these potatoes,

215  
00:14:01,430 --> 00:14:03,560  
I told my sister,  
they taste like nuts.

216  
00:14:03,560 --> 00:14:05,840  
My sister said, they  
taste like apple.

217  
00:14:05,840 --> 00:14:08,790  
We couldn't understand  
why in our lives, when

218  
00:14:08,790 --> 00:14:14,090  
we were outside and free, how  
come we never ate raw potatoes.

219  
00:14:14,090 --> 00:14:16,070  
I made up my mind that,  
as long as I live,

220  
00:14:16,070 --> 00:14:19,220  
I'm going to eat raw potatoes

because there is nothing

221

00:14:19,220 --> 00:14:22,310

more tasty than raw potatoes.

222

00:14:22,310 --> 00:14:28,640

I also shared it with the girls  
that was on my block, on my bed

223

00:14:28,640 --> 00:14:32,090

because I couldn't  
be that selfish.

224

00:14:32,090 --> 00:14:37,160

But then, when we  
were liberated--

225

00:14:37,160 --> 00:14:40,430

my first trip, when  
everybody was running,

226

00:14:40,430 --> 00:14:47,280

and they opened up the  
ladders, and they opened up

227

00:14:47,280 --> 00:14:51,170

where they had the salamis  
in the storage places,

228

00:14:51,170 --> 00:14:55,280

my first trip was  
to run to the field.

229

00:14:55,280 --> 00:14:58,655

I was digging feverishly.

230

00:14:58,655 --> 00:15:01,160

I dug up loads of potatoes.

231

00:15:01,160 --> 00:15:02,840

My sister first  
didn't know where

232

00:15:02,840 --> 00:15:05,070

I am because she was  
smart enough to go

233

00:15:05,070 --> 00:15:09,380

and came brandishing  
bread with salami,

234

00:15:09,380 --> 00:15:10,670

and she couldn't find me.

235

00:15:10,670 --> 00:15:12,620

Then it occurred to her  
to come to the field,

236

00:15:12,620 --> 00:15:15,050

and I wouldn't budge  
from those potatoes

237

00:15:15,050 --> 00:15:17,510

until I didn't bring  
them into the block.

238

00:15:17,510 --> 00:15:20,690

And I was the only one that  
didn't bring bread or salami

239

00:15:20,690 --> 00:15:23,150

because it was all gone by  
the time I had lugged in all

240

00:15:23,150 --> 00:15:29,120

those potatoes because this  
is what these potatoes meant

241

00:15:29,120 --> 00:15:30,380

to me at that time.

242

00:15:30,380 --> 00:15:33,000

243

00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:36,980

You and your sister  
rescued each other.

244  
00:15:36,980 --> 00:15:39,260  
Can you talk about  
that kind of rescue

245  
00:15:39,260 --> 00:15:43,080  
as a common thing, and also,  
was there the opposite of that?

246  
00:15:43,080 --> 00:15:46,490  
I could have never  
survived and my sister

247  
00:15:46,490 --> 00:15:50,540  
could have never survived  
without each other.

248  
00:15:50,540 --> 00:15:54,230  
My whole focus and  
life became my sister,

249  
00:15:54,230 --> 00:16:02,240  
and I could only fight to live  
as long as my sister lived.

250  
00:16:02,240 --> 00:16:06,690  
And this was vice versa  
because eventually my sister

251  
00:16:06,690 --> 00:16:10,160  
in Nuremburg-- when this  
happened to me in the train,

252  
00:16:10,160 --> 00:16:12,245  
my sister became more--

253  
00:16:12,245 --> 00:16:15,050

254  
00:16:15,050 --> 00:16:16,430  
she became better.

255

00:16:16,430 --> 00:16:26,510  
She somehow recuperated enough  
to help me and not think

256

00:16:26,510 --> 00:16:28,830  
so much anymore of suicide.

257

00:16:28,830 --> 00:16:31,510

258

00:16:31,510 --> 00:16:37,730  
And she was a great  
help already in that way

259

00:16:37,730 --> 00:16:41,150  
that I could already--

260

00:16:41,150 --> 00:16:44,810  
let's say, if I had  
to fight for the food

261

00:16:44,810 --> 00:16:48,200  
or to get something  
additional, that I

262

00:16:48,200 --> 00:16:50,660  
didn't have to worry that my  
sister is, in the meantime,

263

00:16:50,660 --> 00:16:52,550  
going to kill herself.

264

00:16:52,550 --> 00:16:54,410  
And there is nobody--

265

00:16:54,410 --> 00:16:57,680  
everybody had to have  
somebody in order to survive.

266

00:16:57,680 --> 00:17:04,250  
For instance, my late

husband, who was alone--

267

00:17:04,250 --> 00:17:05,329  
they were like brothers.

268

00:17:05,329 --> 00:17:10,490  
He adopted like one friend, that  
they took care of each other.

269

00:17:10,490 --> 00:17:14,420  
Then one of the  
brothers wanted, also--

270

00:17:14,420 --> 00:17:20,390  
because one of the brothers  
died, and he was so despondent.

271

00:17:20,390 --> 00:17:24,440  
He wanted to run to  
the electric wires.

272

00:17:24,440 --> 00:17:28,460  
My husband saved him,  
wouldn't let him go.

273

00:17:28,460 --> 00:17:32,060  
And then when my husband  
was on the train,

274

00:17:32,060 --> 00:17:36,890  
it was those open trains  
where they took them

275

00:17:36,890 --> 00:17:40,730  
after death marches.

276

00:17:40,730 --> 00:17:45,080  
But this was like a death match  
because it was in the winter,

277

00:17:45,080 --> 00:17:47,750  
and you were traveling  
without food, without water.



278

00:17:47,750 --> 00:17:54,080  
And it was snowing and freezing,  
and my husband lost for a while

279

00:17:54,080 --> 00:17:55,110  
his mind.

280

00:17:55,110 --> 00:17:58,100  
And he was trying to  
jump off the train,

281

00:17:58,100 --> 00:18:03,530  
so his friend and his brother,  
the one that eventually died,

282

00:18:03,530 --> 00:18:04,820  
sat on him.

283

00:18:04,820 --> 00:18:08,130  
They sat on him that  
he shouldn't jump.

284

00:18:08,130 --> 00:18:10,640  
So you always had  
to have somebody

285

00:18:10,640 --> 00:18:13,250  
that would help you survive.

286

00:18:13,250 --> 00:18:18,140  
If you were alone, you were  
never interested any further

287

00:18:18,140 --> 00:18:19,160  
than the next person.

288

00:18:19,160 --> 00:18:25,820  
You couldn't because you became  
so completely absorbed only

289

00:18:25,820 --> 00:18:34,550

in your day-to-day survival that  
you could not get any further.

290  
00:18:34,550 --> 00:18:37,940  
Nobody knew your name.

291  
00:18:37,940 --> 00:18:43,160  
We were called the Two  
Good Sisters because we

292  
00:18:43,160 --> 00:18:47,510  
wouldn't-- because it came to  
a point that even sisters would

293  
00:18:47,510 --> 00:18:49,250  
take away each other's food.

294  
00:18:49,250 --> 00:18:51,260  
And with us, it  
was that we would

295  
00:18:51,260 --> 00:18:55,310  
fight only that the next  
one should take a bite more

296  
00:18:55,310 --> 00:18:56,690  
or she should have more.

297  
00:18:56,690 --> 00:18:59,960  
She would cry why  
I didn't eat up

298  
00:18:59,960 --> 00:19:03,140  
my bread because I was afraid--

299  
00:19:03,140 --> 00:19:05,270  
after we didn't eat  
like for three days

300  
00:19:05,270 --> 00:19:06,650  
and we had that  
experience, I was

301

00:19:06,650 --> 00:19:09,210

trying to save up a  
piece of bread in case

302

00:19:09,210 --> 00:19:11,000

we are not going to  
have the next day

303

00:19:11,000 --> 00:19:15,150

And then, if there  
was a search--

304

00:19:15,150 --> 00:19:16,730

so they were not  
allowed to find.

305

00:19:16,730 --> 00:19:19,250

If they would find the bread,  
they would take it away,

306

00:19:19,250 --> 00:19:20,720

and they would still beat me up.

307

00:19:20,720 --> 00:19:23,110

So I would beg my  
sister, help me eat.

308

00:19:23,110 --> 00:19:23,610

Help me eat.

309

00:19:23,610 --> 00:19:25,970

They're going to beat me  
up if they find bread.

310

00:19:25,970 --> 00:19:28,070

So she would cry why  
she has to-- that she's

311

00:19:28,070 --> 00:19:31,560

eating my bread, and I  
will have that much less,

312

00:19:31,560 --> 00:19:37,560  
and I may die sooner, or I  
won't survive, or I'll get sick.

313  
00:19:37,560 --> 00:19:39,170  
Yes, we could only--

314  
00:19:39,170 --> 00:19:41,690  
and everybody had  
to have somebody,

315  
00:19:41,690 --> 00:19:45,380  
and if you didn't, then you  
didn't survive, no matter

316  
00:19:45,380 --> 00:19:50,270  
how strong you were, unless had  
some kind of a choice position

317  
00:19:50,270 --> 00:19:54,740  
like block eldest, or  
stubenalteste, or kapo.

318  
00:19:54,740 --> 00:19:56,630  
Then you could survive.

319  
00:19:56,630 --> 00:20:00,310  
Otherwise, it was not possible.

320  
00:20:00,310 --> 00:20:02,610  
Define kapo for me.

321  
00:20:02,610 --> 00:20:06,790  
I've never heard of a  
kapo, [? let's say. ?]

322  
00:20:06,790 --> 00:20:16,930  
A kapo was in charge of all the  
blocks, not only of one block.

323  
00:20:16,930 --> 00:20:22,330  
Block eldest, was who was in  
charge of the block itself.

324  
00:20:22,330 --> 00:20:27,730  
She was responsible to  
the kapo or to the SS.

325  
00:20:27,730 --> 00:20:31,870  
The couple was  
responsible to the SS.

326  
00:20:31,870 --> 00:20:33,310  
We were called [NON-ENGLISH].

327  
00:20:33,310 --> 00:20:39,190  
[NON-ENGLISH] is slaves, but  
we were less than slaves.

328  
00:20:39,190 --> 00:20:44,940  
So we could never  
approach or talk to an SS.

329  
00:20:44,940 --> 00:20:45,940  
There was no such thing.

330  
00:20:45,940 --> 00:20:47,950  
You would be killed  
if you would.

331  
00:20:47,950 --> 00:20:52,630  
That's why I was so upset  
that my sister spoke directly

332  
00:20:52,630 --> 00:20:53,320  
to this SS.

333  
00:20:53,320 --> 00:20:56,410

334  
00:20:56,410 --> 00:21:02,090  
So a kapo was over the  
whole camp responsible.

335  
00:21:02,090 --> 00:21:06,190

The block eldest  
was over each block,

336  
00:21:06,190 --> 00:21:12,130  
and the stubenalteste  
was over the--

337  
00:21:12,130 --> 00:21:13,700  
you should make your bed.

338  
00:21:13,700 --> 00:21:15,820  
It should be clean.

339  
00:21:15,820 --> 00:21:17,200  
You had to make your bed.

340  
00:21:17,200 --> 00:21:22,240  
And she would sweep out, and  
she would distribute the food.

341  
00:21:22,240 --> 00:21:25,960  
And these were the  
functions and--

342  
00:21:25,960 --> 00:21:29,650  
How did you-- how could  
one become one of those?

343  
00:21:29,650 --> 00:21:39,430  
It was appointed by the SS,  
but the kapo, let's say,

344  
00:21:39,430 --> 00:21:41,770  
could appoint a block  
eldest, or the SS

345  
00:21:41,770 --> 00:21:43,330  
could appoint the block eldest.

346  
00:21:43,330 --> 00:21:49,360  
But stubenalteste was  
appointed by the block eldest,

347

00:21:49,360 --> 00:21:55,797

and they had the same  
power and the same--

348

00:21:55,797 --> 00:21:56,630

they could kill you.

349

00:21:56,630 --> 00:21:58,280

They could beat you up.

350

00:21:58,280 --> 00:22:02,390

They didn't have to account  
to anybody into anything,

351

00:22:02,390 --> 00:22:05,690

and some became very vicious.

352

00:22:05,690 --> 00:22:08,330

And I don't even--

353

00:22:08,330 --> 00:22:13,700

I know that some  
of the prisoners

354

00:22:13,700 --> 00:22:19,550

then killed these kapos when  
they had a chance or some,

355

00:22:19,550 --> 00:22:21,290

even, block eldest.

356

00:22:21,290 --> 00:22:25,490

But I, myself, cannot--

357

00:22:25,490 --> 00:22:28,130

not that I condone it, but I  
cannot blame them that much

358

00:22:28,130 --> 00:22:30,290

because whatever they were--

359

00:22:30,290 --> 00:22:36,260  
whatever they were  
they became because

360  
00:22:36,260 --> 00:22:40,130  
of the treatments that they--

361  
00:22:40,130 --> 00:22:44,040  
Let's just talk a  
little more about kapos.

362  
00:22:44,040 --> 00:22:48,990  
Could kapos have a good effect?

363  
00:22:48,990 --> 00:22:52,830  
Could they be good  
kapos or bad kapos?

364  
00:22:52,830 --> 00:22:56,970  
In some of your experiences,  
the block eldests helped.

365  
00:22:56,970 --> 00:23:02,160  
For instance, my block  
eldest helped me,

366  
00:23:02,160 --> 00:23:06,240  
but I'm sure that many  
probably hated her

367  
00:23:06,240 --> 00:23:11,160  
because when my sister,  
who lives in Israel,

368  
00:23:11,160 --> 00:23:15,210  
had seen her once and  
recognized her in Hadassah.

369  
00:23:15,210 --> 00:23:17,650  
She was dressed as a nurse.

370  
00:23:17,650 --> 00:23:18,870  
She was working there.



371  
00:23:18,870 --> 00:23:24,000  
And my sister wanted to run  
over to her to thank her

372  
00:23:24,000 --> 00:23:29,060  
because she really saved us,  
but when she called [? Vela ?],,

373  
00:23:29,060 --> 00:23:31,560  
she said [? Vela ?], she said,  
I'm not [? Vela ?], I'm not

374  
00:23:31,560 --> 00:23:32,060  
[? Vela ?].

375  
00:23:32,060 --> 00:23:34,080  
She so scared--  
and she ran away--

376  
00:23:34,080 --> 00:23:37,755  
that my sister thought  
she'll do her a favor then.

377  
00:23:37,755 --> 00:23:41,520  
If she doesn't want  
to be recognized,

378  
00:23:41,520 --> 00:23:44,350  
then she should not pursue it.

379  
00:23:44,350 --> 00:23:52,320  
So apparently she must have felt  
that there was also in her life

380  
00:23:52,320 --> 00:23:53,700  
that she did--

381  
00:23:53,700 --> 00:23:59,820  
but I definitely know that  
she could not help it because,

382

00:23:59,820 --> 00:24:06,840  
as I said, if you have to be--  
when you have 1,000 people,

383  
00:24:06,840 --> 00:24:12,930  
and you have to keep order, you  
have to see that they should

384  
00:24:12,930 --> 00:24:18,150  
stand straight, and in line,  
and nobody should ever take out

385  
00:24:18,150 --> 00:24:21,630  
a blanket, and nobody  
should to ever be missing,

386  
00:24:21,630 --> 00:24:26,790  
and nobody should ever go  
without your permission

387  
00:24:26,790 --> 00:24:28,800  
to a bathroom, how  
can you control

388  
00:24:28,800 --> 00:24:35,290  
unless with fear and unless  
with beating and yelling.

389  
00:24:35,290 --> 00:24:36,410  
And this is what they did.

390  
00:24:36,410 --> 00:24:39,000

391  
00:24:39,000 --> 00:24:42,570  
As I said, I could  
never be one because I

392  
00:24:42,570 --> 00:24:44,880  
would be killed much before  
because I could never

393  
00:24:44,880 --> 00:24:46,220

be brutal.

394

00:24:46,220 --> 00:24:53,400

My husband was a very gentle and very wonderful and kind person.

395

00:24:53,400 --> 00:24:57,090

He couldn't do this job, so he didn't except.

396

00:24:57,090 --> 00:25:04,930

He would rather die than be brutal to other people

397

00:25:04,930 --> 00:25:07,230

or hard on other people.

398

00:25:07,230 --> 00:25:11,460

And yet my present husband, who was--

399

00:25:11,460 --> 00:25:14,670

he was the longest prison.

400

00:25:14,670 --> 00:25:19,350

He was on Buchenwald for five and a half years.

401

00:25:19,350 --> 00:25:24,610

He told me that they were very brutal

402

00:25:24,610 --> 00:25:28,950

but that then there were a kapo that they would be very mean,

403

00:25:28,950 --> 00:25:32,110

and hit, and do everything when the SS was around,

404

00:25:32,110 --> 00:25:35,160

but when the SS left, he would--

405

00:25:35,160 --> 00:25:36,540  
and they worked very hard.

406

00:25:36,540 --> 00:25:39,660

407

00:25:39,660 --> 00:25:43,620  
They worked in the  
mines, and I don't

408

00:25:43,620 --> 00:25:47,340  
know whether coal mines or salt  
mines, that they had to bring--

409

00:25:47,340 --> 00:25:49,860  
I don't know-- some  
very heavy stuff up.

410

00:25:49,860 --> 00:25:55,470  
And they had to run with it,  
and both sides would be SS.

411

00:25:55,470 --> 00:25:57,660  
And while they were running,  
they would hit them,

412

00:25:57,660 --> 00:26:02,700  
and a lot of them just died,  
never got back to their camp

413

00:26:02,700 --> 00:26:04,440  
again.

414

00:26:04,440 --> 00:26:07,890  
But if the SS were  
not around, this kapo

415

00:26:07,890 --> 00:26:12,530  
would say, OK, relax, don't  
have to work now so hard.

416

00:26:12,530 --> 00:26:16,260

But as soon as he would see  
the SS, you would scream,

417  
00:26:16,260 --> 00:26:22,270  
you filthy dog, get on with your  
work, you better do it faster,

418  
00:26:22,270 --> 00:26:25,480  
and scream, and carry on,  
and make a lot of noise.

419  
00:26:25,480 --> 00:26:29,610  
So you had two kinds of kapo.

420  
00:26:29,610 --> 00:26:34,090  
But most of them  
were not very good.

421  
00:26:34,090 --> 00:26:35,580  
They couldn't be good.

422  
00:26:35,580 --> 00:26:40,920  
I know somebody that is, in  
fact, from my late husband's

423  
00:26:40,920 --> 00:26:42,360  
town.

424  
00:26:42,360 --> 00:26:45,930  
He's a brilliant man.

425  
00:26:45,930 --> 00:26:49,380  
He is a doctor of  
philosophy, and he

426  
00:26:49,380 --> 00:26:52,560  
was a very religious man.

427  
00:26:52,560 --> 00:26:55,920  
And he was a kapo, and he  
had to hide for many months.

428

00:26:55,920 --> 00:26:58,770  
People wanted to kill him  
because he was so brutal.

429  
00:26:58,770 --> 00:27:02,362

430  
00:27:02,362 --> 00:27:07,110  
In all your experiences, did  
you do anything for relief?

431  
00:27:07,110 --> 00:27:08,280  
Could you ever laugh?

432  
00:27:08,280 --> 00:27:10,620  
Was there ever-- did you--

433  
00:27:10,620 --> 00:27:11,670  
While I was there?

434  
00:27:11,670 --> 00:27:12,300  
Yeah.

435  
00:27:12,300 --> 00:27:14,510  
While I was there?

436  
00:27:14,510 --> 00:27:16,313  
Nobody, not only me.

437  
00:27:16,313 --> 00:27:17,230  
There was no laughter.

438  
00:27:17,230 --> 00:27:20,130

439  
00:27:20,130 --> 00:27:22,920  
You couldn't even-- but you  
couldn't afford to cry either

440  
00:27:22,920 --> 00:27:30,670  
because if you let yourself  
really believe and think that

441  
00:27:30,670 --> 00:27:34,660  
this is what happened,  
you pushed away--

442  
00:27:34,660 --> 00:27:37,360  
I just was not going--

443  
00:27:37,360 --> 00:27:39,490  
I used to dream a  
lot about my mother,

444  
00:27:39,490 --> 00:27:41,020  
but I would force myself--

445  
00:27:41,020 --> 00:27:42,580  
I was very attached  
to my mother,

446  
00:27:42,580 --> 00:27:46,480  
but I would force myself  
not to think about it.

447  
00:27:46,480 --> 00:27:50,050  
I would think about  
anything, always what I'm

448  
00:27:50,050 --> 00:27:54,920  
going to do after I get out.

449  
00:27:54,920 --> 00:27:59,200  
I never wanted to think  
that I'm going to die there.

450  
00:27:59,200 --> 00:28:07,690  
I would constantly--  
like I would say a poem.

451  
00:28:07,690 --> 00:28:12,010  
This is how I would repeat  
the two addresses in Palestine

452

00:28:12,010 --> 00:28:13,553  
because that time  
it was Palestine--

453  
00:28:13,553 --> 00:28:14,470  
now it's-- thank God--

454  
00:28:14,470 --> 00:28:18,540  
Israel-- my brother's address  
and my sister's address.

455  
00:28:18,540 --> 00:28:23,020  
This was all I was thinking,  
that I shouldn't forget

456  
00:28:23,020 --> 00:28:26,440  
their addresses  
because when I survive,

457  
00:28:26,440 --> 00:28:29,080  
I want to send them a cable  
that they should know,

458  
00:28:29,080 --> 00:28:35,500  
and I will go to join  
them with my sister.

459  
00:28:35,500 --> 00:28:38,050  
And I never let  
myself think what

460  
00:28:38,050 --> 00:28:40,570  
happened to my sister, what  
happened to my brother, what

461  
00:28:40,570 --> 00:28:41,620  
happened to--

462  
00:28:41,620 --> 00:28:45,280  
I just was thinking--  
besides, you were always

463  
00:28:45,280 --> 00:28:47,470



so hungry and starving.

464

00:28:47,470 --> 00:28:50,530

You could think of two things,  
either what you're going to do,

465

00:28:50,530 --> 00:28:53,800

or what you would  
like to eat, or what--

466

00:28:53,800 --> 00:28:56,140

or I remember what my  
mother used to cook

467

00:28:56,140 --> 00:28:59,570

and how I would love  
to have it, or I would

468

00:28:59,570 --> 00:29:00,910

to talk to my sister about.

469

00:29:00,910 --> 00:29:01,690

You remember this?

470

00:29:01,690 --> 00:29:02,290

You remember?

471

00:29:02,290 --> 00:29:03,582

This is what we're going to do.

472

00:29:03,582 --> 00:29:10,400

And this is all that I  
allowed myself to do.

473

00:29:10,400 --> 00:29:13,010

If not, I couldn't have--

474

00:29:13,010 --> 00:29:17,480

nobody could, under those  
circumstances, survive.

475

00:29:17,480 --> 00:29:20,450

476  
00:29:20,450 --> 00:29:24,740  
And we almost didn't survive  
because it was everything

477  
00:29:24,740 --> 00:29:27,260  
prepared in Holleischen,  
that they were

478  
00:29:27,260 --> 00:29:31,580  
going to burn down our camp.

479  
00:29:31,580 --> 00:29:34,160

480  
00:29:34,160 --> 00:29:36,650  
Can you talk a little  
bit about the age

481  
00:29:36,650 --> 00:29:39,590  
of the people who survived?

482  
00:29:39,590 --> 00:29:42,050  
Were you pretty much  
doomed if you were a child

483  
00:29:42,050 --> 00:29:45,630  
and doomed if you were--

484  
00:29:45,630 --> 00:29:46,240  
Yes.

485  
00:29:46,240 --> 00:29:50,400  
In a real basic way, as  
though I'm new to this.

486  
00:29:50,400 --> 00:29:53,750

487  
00:29:53,750 --> 00:29:57,080  
Children had no

chance to survive.

488

00:29:57,080 --> 00:30:01,490

I would say, yeah,  
unless they were--

489

00:30:01,490 --> 00:30:02,810

they had their [NON-ENGLISH].

490

00:30:02,810 --> 00:30:08,385

That means-- there would be,  
let's say, a block eldest or--

491

00:30:08,385 --> 00:30:12,830

492

00:30:12,830 --> 00:30:13,580

a messenger.

493

00:30:13,580 --> 00:30:17,330

They would keep a little, very  
young girl as a messenger,

494

00:30:17,330 --> 00:30:21,200

and everybody would love  
her because she's so cute.

495

00:30:21,200 --> 00:30:24,170

And so she would be  
like protected by the--

496

00:30:24,170 --> 00:30:27,500

so a girl like that would  
have a chance to survive.

497

00:30:27,500 --> 00:30:30,170

498

00:30:30,170 --> 00:30:37,700

Otherwise, from very young  
age, like from one year

499

00:30:37,700 --> 00:30:45,870  
up to 14, 15, they had  
no chance to survive

500  
00:30:45,870 --> 00:30:49,040  
unless they were in different  
camps, but not where I was.

501  
00:30:49,040 --> 00:30:50,980  
And what about adults?

502  
00:30:50,980 --> 00:30:58,320  
Adults had slim chances,  
but still, as you see,

503  
00:30:58,320 --> 00:30:59,880  
some survived.

504  
00:30:59,880 --> 00:31:04,500  
And it would be  
only the ones that--

505  
00:31:04,500 --> 00:31:07,010

506  
00:31:07,010 --> 00:31:13,460  
the ones that had spirit,  
that really wanted to live,

507  
00:31:13,460 --> 00:31:14,840  
that didn't want to give in.

508  
00:31:14,840 --> 00:31:17,900  
Otherwise, it had  
nothing to do with age,

509  
00:31:17,900 --> 00:31:21,650  
and it had to do,  
also, with luck.

510  
00:31:21,650 --> 00:31:29,380  
For instance, my  
late husband always

511  
00:31:29,380 --> 00:31:34,060  
remembered one  
young man that was--

512  
00:31:34,060 --> 00:31:37,597  
he had a lot of  
willpower to live,

513  
00:31:37,597 --> 00:31:38,680  
and he was very religious.

514  
00:31:38,680 --> 00:31:41,110  
And he deeply believed  
in God, and he even

515  
00:31:41,110 --> 00:31:44,980  
believed that, whatever  
is happening now,

516  
00:31:44,980 --> 00:31:47,380  
he didn't blame nothing on--

517  
00:31:47,380 --> 00:31:49,490  
because God has a purpose.

518  
00:31:49,490 --> 00:31:52,300  
He believed that there is  
a purpose in everything.

519  
00:31:52,300 --> 00:31:57,550  
And he was with my husband on  
this death march, train march,

520  
00:31:57,550 --> 00:31:59,140  
whatever.

521  
00:31:59,140 --> 00:32:04,330  
When the train would pull in,  
they would chase them out.

522  
00:32:04,330 --> 00:32:07,330

And they would sit  
in the snow to rest,

523  
00:32:07,330 --> 00:32:09,265  
and then they didn't  
have any more--

524  
00:32:09,265 --> 00:32:12,050

525  
00:32:12,050 --> 00:32:21,130  
no, they were-- they expected  
to get some buses or something,

526  
00:32:21,130 --> 00:32:26,310  
but then they decided that these  
trains are going to continue.

527  
00:32:26,310 --> 00:32:27,880  
So they started.

528  
00:32:27,880 --> 00:32:30,750  
They told them they  
should run, and whoever

529  
00:32:30,750 --> 00:32:34,020  
can run into the train  
is going to live.

530  
00:32:34,020 --> 00:32:37,290  
And this religious man--

531  
00:32:37,290 --> 00:32:39,690  
my husband made it,  
and who didn't make

532  
00:32:39,690 --> 00:32:44,400  
it was shot on the spot so  
that they had less people.

533  
00:32:44,400 --> 00:32:47,640  
And he was already by the train.

534

00:32:47,640 --> 00:32:52,470

My husband already gave him  
the hand to pull him in,

535

00:32:52,470 --> 00:32:55,950

but because he didn't make it  
on the train, he was killed.

536

00:32:55,950 --> 00:32:57,270

They shot him.

537

00:32:57,270 --> 00:33:00,780

And my husband always  
would light a candle

538

00:33:00,780 --> 00:33:05,250

for this man because he-- you  
never know who has family left

539

00:33:05,250 --> 00:33:12,000

or who didn't because families  
were wiped out to the last.

540

00:33:12,000 --> 00:33:17,400

So my husband-- my husband  
wasn't religious after this,

541

00:33:17,400 --> 00:33:19,990

and he always told me about it.

542

00:33:19,990 --> 00:33:24,210

And he always remembered this  
young man with so much spirit,

543

00:33:24,210 --> 00:33:28,080

and with so much hope, and with  
so much belief, and he died.

544

00:33:28,080 --> 00:33:32,580

It was really, very, very  
shortly before the liberation.

545

00:33:32,580 --> 00:33:35,310

546

00:33:35,310 --> 00:33:36,510

We're about to run out.

547

00:33:36,510 --> 00:33:38,290

We should re-load.

548

00:33:38,290 --> 00:33:46,000