

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,920

2
00:00:01,920 --> 00:00:02,850
Changing film.

3
00:00:02,850 --> 00:00:04,650
Camera roll four is up.

4
00:00:04,650 --> 00:00:07,176
Sync take five is up.

5
00:00:07,176 --> 00:00:19,600

6
00:00:19,600 --> 00:00:22,440
Can you tell me
about the transports?

7
00:00:22,440 --> 00:00:23,940
What you saw of them?

8
00:00:23,940 --> 00:00:26,390
What you knew about them?

9
00:00:26,390 --> 00:00:29,180
Who came on them what
happened to them?

10
00:00:29,180 --> 00:00:31,700
The transports in Auschwitz?

11
00:00:31,700 --> 00:00:33,110
Yeah.

12
00:00:33,110 --> 00:00:37,520
Transports were coming in
day and night constantly.

13
00:00:37,520 --> 00:00:42,710

The only thing that I
knew of is of the people

14
00:00:42,710 --> 00:00:44,690
that came into the camp.

15
00:00:44,690 --> 00:00:51,710
Once they were in the
camp, they were safe enough

16
00:00:51,710 --> 00:00:57,050
to live through until they were
transported to another camp.

17
00:00:57,050 --> 00:01:00,860

18
00:01:00,860 --> 00:01:05,239
And each one of them was
directed to different works

19
00:01:05,239 --> 00:01:09,410
to do while they
were in the camp.

20
00:01:09,410 --> 00:01:13,850
Once you had to go to the
left, they were put on a truck.

21
00:01:13,850 --> 00:01:18,830
The children, the old
people, the sick people--

22
00:01:18,830 --> 00:01:21,770
some people, they would whisper.

23
00:01:21,770 --> 00:01:26,480
The inmates who
received us at the dock,

24
00:01:26,480 --> 00:01:29,030
as we came off of
the cattle wagon,

25
00:01:29,030 --> 00:01:34,100
they had taken inmates
to direct us what to do.

26
00:01:34,100 --> 00:01:35,790
Put the packages down.

27
00:01:35,790 --> 00:01:36,710
Stay in line.

28
00:01:36,710 --> 00:01:37,490
Don't cry.

29
00:01:37,490 --> 00:01:39,350
Don't do this, don't do that.

30
00:01:39,350 --> 00:01:41,030
Give your child.

31
00:01:41,030 --> 00:01:43,160
They would say-- they
would whisper to us,

32
00:01:43,160 --> 00:01:44,510
nobody should see.

33
00:01:44,510 --> 00:01:46,220
Give your child to an old lady.

34
00:01:46,220 --> 00:01:49,130
We didn't know what
they were talking about,

35
00:01:49,130 --> 00:01:51,950
and some mothers wouldn't
give up their children.

36
00:01:51,950 --> 00:01:55,430
So Dr. Mengele, who told them
to go to the right and the left,

37

00:01:55,430 --> 00:01:58,280

would tell the mothers with
the children to go to the left.

38

00:01:58,280 --> 00:02:01,860

39

00:02:01,860 --> 00:02:05,820

And this is how they
ended up in the trucks,

40

00:02:05,820 --> 00:02:09,240

and they were sent
to the crematoire.

41

00:02:09,240 --> 00:02:11,760

The crematoire--
there were six of them

42

00:02:11,760 --> 00:02:15,370

that was burning day and night.

43

00:02:15,370 --> 00:02:20,950

And at the end, there was
five, because one was broken.

44

00:02:20,950 --> 00:02:28,860

And when the truck was
filled up with the people,

45

00:02:28,860 --> 00:02:35,530

we had an orchestra with
inmates that they formed.

46

00:02:35,530 --> 00:02:40,290

And the orchestra was
accompanying the trucks

47

00:02:40,290 --> 00:02:45,990

with music while they drove
off so that I presume--

48

00:02:45,990 --> 00:02:49,560

I don't know what the
orchestra was doing there,

49

00:02:49,560 --> 00:02:53,340

but I presume to make
the people not scared,

50

00:02:53,340 --> 00:02:55,910

or they shouldn't panic.

51

00:02:55,910 --> 00:03:01,260

And this is how they went to
their death, with the music,

52

00:03:01,260 --> 00:03:04,590

going to the crematoire,
saying that they

53

00:03:04,590 --> 00:03:10,080

were going to shower and go
into the concentration camp.

54

00:03:10,080 --> 00:03:13,290

They went in thinking they
were going to take a shower

55

00:03:13,290 --> 00:03:18,120

and go to the camp, but they
were gassed and then burned.

56

00:03:18,120 --> 00:03:20,250

And this is what I
found out when I came

57

00:03:20,250 --> 00:03:24,120

into the concentration camp.

58

00:03:24,120 --> 00:03:30,000

Then how I worked there, and
I knew all this was going on.

59

00:03:30,000 --> 00:03:33,990

And one time a transport
of Hungarian people

60
00:03:33,990 --> 00:03:37,200
came, and I understand--

61
00:03:37,200 --> 00:03:41,370
I was told that these people
had no food for two days,

62
00:03:41,370 --> 00:03:46,310
and they put them in two
barracks, and had no food.

63
00:03:46,310 --> 00:03:49,520
And they were going to
send him to the crematoire.

64
00:03:49,520 --> 00:03:54,300
I don't know how
this was told to me,

65
00:03:54,300 --> 00:03:58,730
but that was the word that
went around in the camp.

66
00:03:58,730 --> 00:04:00,650
And they didn't know that.

67
00:04:00,650 --> 00:04:03,130
And I felt so terrible for them.

68
00:04:03,130 --> 00:04:06,740
I felt like I had to
do something to make--

69
00:04:06,740 --> 00:04:10,770
at least they shouldn't
be hungry before they die.

70
00:04:10,770 --> 00:04:12,680
So I made up my mind.

71

00:04:12,680 --> 00:04:14,600

I didn't tell anybody.

72

00:04:14,600 --> 00:04:19,040

I had made up my mind to steal
a bucket of boiled potatoes

73

00:04:19,040 --> 00:04:22,700

because we always cooked
one day in advance.

74

00:04:22,700 --> 00:04:26,120

And I filled that
bucket up with potatoes.

75

00:04:26,120 --> 00:04:29,480

And at night, I risked my life,
because I could have been shot.

76

00:04:29,480 --> 00:04:32,330

We're not supposed to be
out of the barracks at night

77

00:04:32,330 --> 00:04:34,950

after a certain hour.

78

00:04:34,950 --> 00:04:37,250

And I went into one of--

79

00:04:37,250 --> 00:04:40,670

I snuck into one to
one of those barracks,

80

00:04:40,670 --> 00:04:45,740

and quietly I gave a potato to
each inmate in the beginning

81

00:04:45,740 --> 00:04:50,360

of the bunks as I came in.

82

00:04:50,360 --> 00:04:58,250

And not realizing, I started

a terrible commotion,

83

00:04:58,250 --> 00:05:02,480

because all of a sudden, they
found a potato in their hand.

84

00:05:02,480 --> 00:05:06,800

And so people started
screaming and ripping me apart.

85

00:05:06,800 --> 00:05:08,390

They wanted a
potato because they

86

00:05:08,390 --> 00:05:11,080

hadn't had food for so long.

87

00:05:11,080 --> 00:05:17,750

And when I was almost half
empty with the potato pail,

88

00:05:17,750 --> 00:05:20,030

the lights all of
a sudden turned on.

89

00:05:20,030 --> 00:05:23,630

And the Blockalteste,
which is the--

90

00:05:23,630 --> 00:05:28,520

I mentioned before-- the person
in charge of that barrack.

91

00:05:28,520 --> 00:05:31,560

She says, what are
you doing here?

92

00:05:31,560 --> 00:05:33,440

And I got caught.

93

00:05:33,440 --> 00:05:38,090

So I said, I'm giving some
potatoes away to the people.

94

00:05:38,090 --> 00:05:39,530

She says, give me that pail.

95

00:05:39,530 --> 00:05:42,710

Do you know I could
have you shot right now?

96

00:05:42,710 --> 00:05:45,110

She says, and get
back to your barracks.

97

00:05:45,110 --> 00:05:49,370

So she took the
potatoes away from me.

98

00:05:49,370 --> 00:05:52,100

And I had to naturally
leave, and I was lucky

99

00:05:52,100 --> 00:05:54,320

that she didn't turn
me over to the Germans,

100

00:05:54,320 --> 00:05:57,380

because I would have
been terribly punished.

101

00:05:57,380 --> 00:05:59,930

God knows what would have
happened to me for what

102

00:05:59,930 --> 00:06:04,070

I did, not realizing how I
could have really risked my life

103

00:06:04,070 --> 00:06:05,850

to do something like this.

104

00:06:05,850 --> 00:06:09,320

But I felt so terrible knowing
what was going to happen--

105

00:06:09,320 --> 00:06:10,820

that these people
were condemned,

106

00:06:10,820 --> 00:06:12,410

and that they were
going to die--

107

00:06:12,410 --> 00:06:17,660

that I wanted to do something
to help a little bit,

108

00:06:17,660 --> 00:06:19,550

to do something.

109

00:06:19,550 --> 00:06:24,480

And the next day, when
I got up in the morning,

110

00:06:24,480 --> 00:06:28,820

the two barracks was
empty, and they were gone.

111

00:06:28,820 --> 00:06:31,970

And that was a terrible
experience for me.

112

00:06:31,970 --> 00:06:36,080

The Gypsies went right
away from the transport.

113

00:06:36,080 --> 00:06:37,760

They didn't even
go into the camp.

114

00:06:37,760 --> 00:06:39,920

They sent them
right to the oven.

115

00:06:39,920 --> 00:06:43,430

And the old people, like
I said, and children.

116

00:06:43,430 --> 00:06:47,810

I understand afterwards
that children up to 16 years

117

00:06:47,810 --> 00:06:49,320

were sent away.

118

00:06:49,320 --> 00:06:52,490

Luckily, when I
arrived in the camp,

119

00:06:52,490 --> 00:06:56,510

I always looked a little bit
older, because I was tall,

120

00:06:56,510 --> 00:06:57,890

and I was developed.

121

00:06:57,890 --> 00:07:02,240

And evidently, Dr. Mengele
made a mistake with my age

122

00:07:02,240 --> 00:07:05,060

because he probably
thought I was older.

123

00:07:05,060 --> 00:07:07,880

Otherwise, I would have
gone to the ovens, too.

124

00:07:07,880 --> 00:07:13,170

And God was with me
that I survived that.

125

00:07:13,170 --> 00:07:19,940

126

00:07:19,940 --> 00:07:23,150

Talk about the suicides
of those who gave up,

127

00:07:23,150 --> 00:07:26,140

and how you felt yourself,
and what you used to do?

128
00:07:26,140 --> 00:07:30,280

129
00:07:30,280 --> 00:07:31,990
Every once in a while--

130
00:07:31,990 --> 00:07:34,000
we were human beings.

131
00:07:34,000 --> 00:07:36,880
We have ups and down feelings.

132
00:07:36,880 --> 00:07:40,780
As much as we fought them, and
we try to keep our morale up,

133
00:07:40,780 --> 00:07:42,250
but there were
times where it was

134
00:07:42,250 --> 00:07:45,760
so low that we
couldn't bear anymore,

135
00:07:45,760 --> 00:07:47,950
and we would break down.

136
00:07:47,950 --> 00:07:52,570
And being that we stuck together
with the Belgian girls--

137
00:07:52,570 --> 00:07:56,020
there were so many different
nationalities in the camp.

138
00:07:56,020 --> 00:07:57,700
It was a melting pot.

139
00:07:57,700 --> 00:08:02,350

There were Russian, and Poles,
and Belgium, and France,

140
00:08:02,350 --> 00:08:06,850
and Holland, and German
people, and Czechoslovakian,

141
00:08:06,850 --> 00:08:07,810
and Hungarian.

142
00:08:07,810 --> 00:08:10,040
We were all mixed together.

143
00:08:10,040 --> 00:08:15,970
But each one of these different
nations, whoever they were,

144
00:08:15,970 --> 00:08:20,410
formed little groups, and they
were like little families.

145
00:08:20,410 --> 00:08:23,500
And this is what gave us
the strength to go on,

146
00:08:23,500 --> 00:08:27,100
and to push, and to
live, to survive.

147
00:08:27,100 --> 00:08:33,010
So naturally, every once in a
while, when somebody could not

148
00:08:33,010 --> 00:08:36,669
make it, we would get up in
the morning, and we would find

149
00:08:36,669 --> 00:08:41,080
one or two people who would
end their life at the wires

150
00:08:41,080 --> 00:08:43,700
because the wires

were electrocuted.

151

00:08:43,700 --> 00:08:47,560

It wasn't too often, but I
did see about three or four

152

00:08:47,560 --> 00:08:52,210

in the time that I was in
concentration camp in Auschwitz

153

00:08:52,210 --> 00:08:56,290

that I did see about three
or four dead people that

154

00:08:56,290 --> 00:08:59,500

were clung to the wires
because they could not stand it

155

00:08:59,500 --> 00:09:03,900

anymore, and they had
to end their lives.

156

00:09:03,900 --> 00:09:08,050

And one of those
times it was my turn,

157

00:09:08,050 --> 00:09:11,050

where I almost wanted
to end my life,

158

00:09:11,050 --> 00:09:17,890

because I was for hours
standing in Appell that day.

159

00:09:17,890 --> 00:09:22,810

Appell means "roll call,"
like you do in the army.

160

00:09:22,810 --> 00:09:25,960

And being that it was
wintertime in Auschwitz,

161

00:09:25,960 --> 00:09:28,750

it was a terrible cold.

162
00:09:28,750 --> 00:09:30,700
I don't know what
the degree was,

163
00:09:30,700 --> 00:09:37,570
but we were in constant
cold, terrible weather,

164
00:09:37,570 --> 00:09:39,880
and everything was icy.

165
00:09:39,880 --> 00:09:42,790
And we were always
in mud in Auschwitz,

166
00:09:42,790 --> 00:09:46,840
but that particular day,
we were standing on ice.

167
00:09:46,840 --> 00:09:50,080
And we were standing
for hours in Appell

168
00:09:50,080 --> 00:09:55,120
because there was one
person that was missing,

169
00:09:55,120 --> 00:09:57,730
and not until they
had the right count

170
00:09:57,730 --> 00:10:00,190
could we go into the barracks.

171
00:10:00,190 --> 00:10:03,440
And I don't know what happened.

172
00:10:03,440 --> 00:10:06,310
We were standing there
for hours in roll call,

173

00:10:06,310 --> 00:10:08,170
and I was turning blue.

174

00:10:08,170 --> 00:10:12,200
And I couldn't-- the cold
got to me, to my heart.

175

00:10:12,200 --> 00:10:16,660
And finally, after they
let us go, I passed out.

176

00:10:16,660 --> 00:10:20,650
The girls were holding me
while I was passed out,

177

00:10:20,650 --> 00:10:22,810
because if I would
have fallen down,

178

00:10:22,810 --> 00:10:24,520
that would have
been the end of me.

179

00:10:24,520 --> 00:10:26,560
They would have
dragged me away, and I

180

00:10:26,560 --> 00:10:29,980
would have gone on the
wagon, out from the camp,

181

00:10:29,980 --> 00:10:31,540
and into the oven.

182

00:10:31,540 --> 00:10:33,880
So they held me up.

183

00:10:33,880 --> 00:10:36,700
And when I came to,
I was in the barrack.

184

00:10:36,700 --> 00:10:37,850

I was frozen.

185
00:10:37,850 --> 00:10:40,600
I was blue.

186
00:10:40,600 --> 00:10:43,900
They were working
on me to massage me.

187
00:10:43,900 --> 00:10:51,570
We happened to be mixed with
some Polish Christian people

188
00:10:51,570 --> 00:10:55,070
in the same barrack when I
was working in the kitchen.

189
00:10:55,070 --> 00:10:58,900
Those people were at the end,
and they had the better spots

190
00:10:58,900 --> 00:11:01,960
in the barrack.

191
00:11:01,960 --> 00:11:05,080
They used to sit around
the oven because there

192
00:11:05,080 --> 00:11:09,160
was one long brick chimney.

193
00:11:09,160 --> 00:11:10,470
I don't know how to call it.

194
00:11:10,470 --> 00:11:12,070
There was a long one.

195
00:11:12,070 --> 00:11:13,990
And at the end, there
was a little oven.

196
00:11:13,990 --> 00:11:16,570

That was supposed to
heat the whole barrack,

197
00:11:16,570 --> 00:11:19,090
but they only had it on
for maybe a half an hour

198
00:11:19,090 --> 00:11:19,780
in the morning.

199
00:11:19,780 --> 00:11:22,540
And the rest of the
day, it was cold.

200
00:11:22,540 --> 00:11:25,282
But the Polish people--

201
00:11:25,282 --> 00:11:26,758
We're going to reload.

202
00:11:26,758 --> 00:11:31,678

203
00:11:31,678 --> 00:11:32,180
OK.

204
00:11:32,180 --> 00:11:34,670
The Polish people
were also inmates,

205
00:11:34,670 --> 00:11:37,745
just like we were,
but they had better--

206
00:11:37,745 --> 00:11:40,850

207
00:11:40,850 --> 00:11:44,510
they were not treated like
the Jewish people were.

208
00:11:44,510 --> 00:11:48,830

And they resented us
there, because in a way,

209
00:11:48,830 --> 00:11:51,740
they were antisemitic, too.

210
00:11:51,740 --> 00:11:53,570
They didn't like
the Jews either,

211
00:11:53,570 --> 00:11:57,380
so they were knocking us
around in the barracks.

212
00:11:57,380 --> 00:12:00,710
And they always hovered
over that tiny little oven.

213
00:12:00,710 --> 00:12:04,040
There was always
fighting going on

214
00:12:04,040 --> 00:12:07,820
because we wanted to
warm ourselves, also,

215
00:12:07,820 --> 00:12:09,840
and they would push us away.

216
00:12:09,840 --> 00:12:11,930
But when they brought
me in, as much

217
00:12:11,930 --> 00:12:15,680
as they didn't like the
Jews, for some reason,

218
00:12:15,680 --> 00:12:18,230
they made room for me.

219
00:12:18,230 --> 00:12:23,360
And they let me go near the
oven so I should warm up.

220
00:12:23,360 --> 00:12:28,830
And they were working
on me and massaging me.

221
00:12:28,830 --> 00:12:34,550
So when I came to, I don't
know what came over me.

222
00:12:34,550 --> 00:12:36,140
I was exhausted.

223
00:12:36,140 --> 00:12:36,980
I was cold.

224
00:12:36,980 --> 00:12:41,990
I was frozen, and I wanted to
give up right there and then.

225
00:12:41,990 --> 00:12:47,130
I was terribly emotionally
upset, and I started to cry.

226
00:12:47,130 --> 00:12:49,150
I couldn't stop.

227
00:12:49,150 --> 00:12:51,350
And I wanted to
end it right there.

228
00:12:51,350 --> 00:12:54,560
And I screamed that I was
going to run to the wires,

229
00:12:54,560 --> 00:12:57,360
and naturally
everybody stopped me.

230
00:12:57,360 --> 00:13:02,620
And the next day I
felt much better.

231

00:13:02,620 --> 00:13:07,820
And this is how we made it
in the camp of Auschwitz,

232
00:13:07,820 --> 00:13:12,740
Because when you were
down, your friends tried

233
00:13:12,740 --> 00:13:15,320
to pick you and lift you up.

234
00:13:15,320 --> 00:13:18,500
And the next day, it
was my friend's turn.

235
00:13:18,500 --> 00:13:20,990
And then I worked
on her, and tried,

236
00:13:20,990 --> 00:13:23,990
and helped her to
bring her morale up.

237
00:13:23,990 --> 00:13:25,550
And this is how we survived.

238
00:13:25,550 --> 00:13:27,590
We played it day by day.

239
00:13:27,590 --> 00:13:30,470
We could never-- we never
knew what the next moment

240
00:13:30,470 --> 00:13:31,800
was going to bring.

241
00:13:31,800 --> 00:13:35,960
And we never knew if the
next day or next hour we

242
00:13:35,960 --> 00:13:39,320
were going to be whisked away
by the trucks with the Germans

243
00:13:39,320 --> 00:13:42,980
and the dogs that would come in,
and chase us on those trucks,

244
00:13:42,980 --> 00:13:45,440
and sent to the ovens.

245
00:13:45,440 --> 00:13:48,920
And that's how we lived there.

246
00:13:48,920 --> 00:13:52,610
The four or five months that
we lived there wasn't months.

247
00:13:52,610 --> 00:13:55,010
To us, it was 5, 10 years.

248
00:13:55,010 --> 00:13:59,700
To us, every day was a
year that we lived through

249
00:13:59,700 --> 00:14:04,390
in Auschwitz and in the camp.

250
00:14:04,390 --> 00:14:06,790
Did any of you--

251
00:14:06,790 --> 00:14:11,380
or did you see any
acts of resistance

252
00:14:11,380 --> 00:14:14,130
of any sort or sabotage?

253
00:14:14,130 --> 00:14:15,480
No.

254
00:14:15,480 --> 00:14:23,020
I did not see any of that, but
I will answer your question.

255

00:14:23,020 --> 00:14:30,250

It was impossible for us to do
this because we had no weapons.

256

00:14:30,250 --> 00:14:32,660

They had the weapons.

257

00:14:32,660 --> 00:14:36,470

They would shoot us
like we were dogs.

258

00:14:36,470 --> 00:14:39,830

And we had no weapons.

259

00:14:39,830 --> 00:14:46,370

We were weak, and you couldn't
fight an army with bare hands.

260

00:14:46,370 --> 00:14:52,640

But I feel that every day that
we lived in concentration camp

261

00:14:52,640 --> 00:15:00,010

and we survived it, to
me, was heroism by itself.

262

00:15:00,010 --> 00:15:04,450

Because we made it, and we
survived this terrible life

263

00:15:04,450 --> 00:15:06,420

we had there.

264

00:15:06,420 --> 00:15:10,000

By this, we resisted
Hitler to show him

265

00:15:10,000 --> 00:15:14,620

that we are here to stay,
and he could not finish

266

00:15:14,620 --> 00:15:17,330

the race of the Jewish people.

267

00:15:17,330 --> 00:15:20,980

And I feel, by
that, we resisted,

268

00:15:20,980 --> 00:15:26,410

and it was very heroism
right there and then.

269

00:15:26,410 --> 00:15:30,740

With our bare hands, we
tried to fight for our lives.

270

00:15:30,740 --> 00:15:36,340

And I think that is
your answer right there.

271

00:15:36,340 --> 00:15:40,290

What about religious resistance?

272

00:15:40,290 --> 00:15:42,270

Was there religious
resistance in the camp?

273

00:15:42,270 --> 00:15:44,460

Well, some people
were religious,

274

00:15:44,460 --> 00:15:49,940

and there was no way
we could say prayers,

275

00:15:49,940 --> 00:15:54,750

so we said it to ourselves,
whoever was religious.

276

00:15:54,750 --> 00:15:59,610

The food was only a
piece of dry bread,

277

00:15:59,610 --> 00:16:03,090

and the soup, and the water

that we could drink there,

278

00:16:03,090 --> 00:16:04,800

which was nothing
but rust anyhow

279

00:16:04,800 --> 00:16:07,440

that came out of the spigot.

280

00:16:07,440 --> 00:16:12,180

But if anybody wanted to
pray, so he said to himself,

281

00:16:12,180 --> 00:16:18,210

or they laid in bed in the
bunks, and they prayed.

282

00:16:18,210 --> 00:16:26,840

I myself-- I questioned God,
because I was very religious

283

00:16:26,840 --> 00:16:31,590

until I came into the camp,
because my grandmother raised

284

00:16:31,590 --> 00:16:34,920

me, and she was an
Orthodox old lady.

285

00:16:34,920 --> 00:16:39,100

And she made me say the
prayers every morning.

286

00:16:39,100 --> 00:16:46,410

And when I came to camp,
and I saw what was going on,

287

00:16:46,410 --> 00:16:52,490

and I saw I was living in
hell, I said, where is heaven?

288

00:16:52,490 --> 00:16:54,710

And where is God?

289
00:16:54,710 --> 00:17:01,370
Well, how can he see what goes
on here in this terrible hell

290
00:17:01,370 --> 00:17:03,030
and let it happen?

291
00:17:03,030 --> 00:17:06,829
So I questioned God,
as young as I was.

292
00:17:06,829 --> 00:17:11,240
And I was terribly hurt, and I
said, there must not be a God.

293
00:17:11,240 --> 00:17:12,680
Otherwise, that wouldn't happen.

294
00:17:12,680 --> 00:17:15,829

295
00:17:15,829 --> 00:17:22,619
I would sneak out of the
barracks at night in Auschwitz.

296
00:17:22,619 --> 00:17:24,569
And I was risking
my life by doing

297
00:17:24,569 --> 00:17:28,620
that because we had
watchtowers with the Germans

298
00:17:28,620 --> 00:17:31,050
with the rifles, and if
they would see something

299
00:17:31,050 --> 00:17:33,700
in a shadow, they
would shoot right away.

300

00:17:33,700 --> 00:17:36,720
But yet, there were times
where I had to be all by myself

301
00:17:36,720 --> 00:17:39,720
and be with my own thoughts.

302
00:17:39,720 --> 00:17:43,020
And I would sneak out of the
barracks when nobody knew

303
00:17:43,020 --> 00:17:45,870
and I thought
everybody was sleeping.

304
00:17:45,870 --> 00:17:48,450
And I would go all the way
in the back of the camp,

305
00:17:48,450 --> 00:17:50,310
and it seemed that--

306
00:17:50,310 --> 00:17:53,260
I liked that very
much, to be by myself.

307
00:17:53,260 --> 00:17:55,260
And I would look up
at the sky, because I

308
00:17:55,260 --> 00:17:59,550
would feel that was
the only free thing I

309
00:17:59,550 --> 00:18:05,160
could look at that was out
in the open, above the wires.

310
00:18:05,160 --> 00:18:07,020
And I would talk to the stars.

311
00:18:07,020 --> 00:18:11,080
And I would say, where is God?

312
00:18:11,080 --> 00:18:14,260
Why is he punishing
us like that?

313
00:18:14,260 --> 00:18:16,900
And how long will that go on?

314
00:18:16,900 --> 00:18:18,460
And I would talk to the stars.

315
00:18:18,460 --> 00:18:23,830
And I would say, the stars are
looking down at us in the camp,

316
00:18:23,830 --> 00:18:25,900
and they see what is happening.

317
00:18:25,900 --> 00:18:30,820
And the same stars are
shining to the outside world

318
00:18:30,820 --> 00:18:34,640
where people are
free, and they can

319
00:18:34,640 --> 00:18:38,300
do what they want to do,
and be happy, and live

320
00:18:38,300 --> 00:18:41,870
a wonderful life, and
we live here in a hell.

321
00:18:41,870 --> 00:18:43,880
And we don't know
from moment to moment

322
00:18:43,880 --> 00:18:49,250
if we're going to live or die,
and not to be human beings--

323

00:18:49,250 --> 00:18:51,350
worse than animals.

324
00:18:51,350 --> 00:18:55,100
A dog is taken better
care of than we are.

325
00:18:55,100 --> 00:18:58,970
And how come the free
world is allowing all this

326
00:18:58,970 --> 00:19:03,440
and is not stopping this
terrible thing that goes on

327
00:19:03,440 --> 00:19:08,100
at this time in civilization?

328
00:19:08,100 --> 00:19:13,330
And then naturally the answers
were never answered to me.

329
00:19:13,330 --> 00:19:15,810
And after I cried
myself out real good,

330
00:19:15,810 --> 00:19:18,450
I would sneak back
into the barracks.

331
00:19:18,450 --> 00:19:20,670
And life would
start all over again

332
00:19:20,670 --> 00:19:24,710
in the morning with
the terrible work

333
00:19:24,710 --> 00:19:27,305
that I had to face and hunger.

334
00:19:27,305 --> 00:19:37,430

335
00:19:37,430 --> 00:19:41,366
I don't know if we have time
to start the death march.

336
00:19:41,366 --> 00:19:43,840
Tell me about the death
march out of Auschwitz.

337
00:19:43,840 --> 00:19:50,050
When Russia was coming
close to Auschwitz,

338
00:19:50,050 --> 00:19:54,130
word came that we were
going to be evacuated.

339
00:19:54,130 --> 00:19:57,580
And that is-- at that
time, we were separated

340
00:19:57,580 --> 00:20:00,100
from the Belgian girls.

341
00:20:00,100 --> 00:20:02,890
There only was one
young lady, which

342
00:20:02,890 --> 00:20:04,810
was one year younger from me.

343
00:20:04,810 --> 00:20:06,650
Her name was Christiane.

344
00:20:06,650 --> 00:20:08,930
She was the only one
that stayed with me,

345
00:20:08,930 --> 00:20:10,600
and I promised the
rest of the girls

346

00:20:10,600 --> 00:20:15,110
that I was going to
watch out for her.

347
00:20:15,110 --> 00:20:18,140
And that's how we
left the concentration

348
00:20:18,140 --> 00:20:20,030
camp of Auschwitz.

349
00:20:20,030 --> 00:20:25,100
And we started marching,
and we marched for days.

350
00:20:25,100 --> 00:20:29,780
And I have no idea how
many days we marched.

351
00:20:29,780 --> 00:20:34,190
Also, a couple of times we
went into wagon cars again.

352
00:20:34,190 --> 00:20:38,900
And then we had to get off of
them and start walking again.

353
00:20:38,900 --> 00:20:40,970
And it seemed that
to each camp we

354
00:20:40,970 --> 00:20:45,530
arrived, they were already
overfilled with people,

355
00:20:45,530 --> 00:20:48,980
because they condensed the
camps as the Russians were

356
00:20:48,980 --> 00:20:50,660
coming closer.

357
00:20:50,660 --> 00:20:55,160

And there was no room,
and we were just exhausted

358
00:20:55,160 --> 00:20:58,850
on the road, because we
had very little food,

359
00:20:58,850 --> 00:21:02,300
and we were just
exhausted from walking.

360
00:21:02,300 --> 00:21:05,000
And a lot of people--

361
00:21:05,000 --> 00:21:11,180
while we were walking through
Poland, we tried to escape,

362
00:21:11,180 --> 00:21:14,000
thinking that they
could speak the language

363
00:21:14,000 --> 00:21:17,100
the Polish language,
and they would run away.

364
00:21:17,100 --> 00:21:20,870
But we used to hear shots
all through the marching

365
00:21:20,870 --> 00:21:22,500
as we were walking.

366
00:21:22,500 --> 00:21:25,490
We heard shots, and we
heard people being shot,

367
00:21:25,490 --> 00:21:29,280
and we saw how the
people were falling in

368
00:21:29,280 --> 00:21:36,060
the ravines, in the ditches,

behind trees, behind shrubs,

369

00:21:36,060 --> 00:21:37,410
on hills.

370

00:21:37,410 --> 00:21:42,990
It was like a war zone with
wounded people and dead people

371

00:21:42,990 --> 00:21:45,810
all over on both
sides of the roads.

372

00:21:45,810 --> 00:21:48,270
There were dead
people who were trying

373

00:21:48,270 --> 00:21:51,060
to escape, and also for
people who couldn't keep up

374

00:21:51,060 --> 00:21:55,680
with the March, because as we
walked, and we got exhausted,

375

00:21:55,680 --> 00:22:00,630
and our feet were killing us,
and people were falling behind,

376

00:22:00,630 --> 00:22:03,930
and the Germans were shooting
everybody who couldn't keep up

377

00:22:03,930 --> 00:22:05,340
with the death march.

378

00:22:05,340 --> 00:22:09,930
And this is the reason why
they call that the death march,

379

00:22:09,930 --> 00:22:14,100
because so many people
died on that road

380
00:22:14,100 --> 00:22:17,440
before they arrived into
a concentration camp.

381
00:22:17,440 --> 00:22:21,640
And this is how I arrived in
Bergen-Belsen, from that death

382
00:22:21,640 --> 00:22:22,140
march.

383
00:22:22,140 --> 00:22:25,730

384
00:22:25,730 --> 00:22:27,930
We have 11 seconds to run out.

385
00:22:27,930 --> 00:22:36,930

386
00:22:36,930 --> 00:22:37,710
Change film.

387
00:22:37,710 --> 00:22:39,450
Camera roll six is up.

388
00:22:39,450 --> 00:22:40,528
Sync take seven is up.

389
00:22:40,528 --> 00:22:43,670

390
00:22:43,670 --> 00:22:48,470
I want you to talk to me
now about your friendship

391
00:22:48,470 --> 00:22:52,940
and your caring for Christiane,
and what that gave you,

392

00:22:52,940 --> 00:22:54,440
and what it gave her.

393
00:22:54,440 --> 00:22:58,250
I just want you to think back on
how important that relationship

394
00:22:58,250 --> 00:23:04,770
was and how it helped you,
or hurt you, whatever it did.

395
00:23:04,770 --> 00:23:12,700
Christiane was a very sweet,
young, naive little girl,

396
00:23:12,700 --> 00:23:21,100
and I actually grew close
to her because of her--

397
00:23:21,100 --> 00:23:23,440
to me, she was a young child.

398
00:23:23,440 --> 00:23:27,220
As young as I was, but I
felt that she was a baby,

399
00:23:27,220 --> 00:23:31,110
and I worried over her.

400
00:23:31,110 --> 00:23:36,190
And she was my sister I
didn't have that I lost.

401
00:23:36,190 --> 00:23:42,310
And she does not know
why she was taken.

402
00:23:42,310 --> 00:23:43,360
I'll be very honest.

403
00:23:43,360 --> 00:23:45,610
I think they made
a mistake with her.

404
00:23:45,610 --> 00:23:47,320
She didn't even
have a Jewish name.

405
00:23:47,320 --> 00:23:50,440
I mean, Christiane-- I
don't know of any family--

406
00:23:50,440 --> 00:23:57,100
of any Jewish family would
name a girl by that name

407
00:23:57,100 --> 00:23:59,180
because it's a Gentile name.

408
00:23:59,180 --> 00:24:01,060
It's not a Jewish name.

409
00:24:01,060 --> 00:24:03,640
Anyhow, Christiane
does not know-- did not

410
00:24:03,640 --> 00:24:05,050
know why she was caught.

411
00:24:05,050 --> 00:24:10,330
She was picked up in the
street, and she didn't

412
00:24:10,330 --> 00:24:12,040
know why she was in camp.

413
00:24:12,040 --> 00:24:16,510
And she came from France,
so we spoke French always.

414
00:24:16,510 --> 00:24:19,570
And she was very--

415
00:24:19,570 --> 00:24:24,400
she was helpless, and I was the

strong one-- supposed to be.

416

00:24:24,400 --> 00:24:27,710

So I took care of Christiane
as much as I could.

417

00:24:27,710 --> 00:24:29,500

I watched over her.

418

00:24:29,500 --> 00:24:32,920

I urged her where she had
to go to work with me,

419

00:24:32,920 --> 00:24:36,400

and I was her mother.

420

00:24:36,400 --> 00:24:39,610

And maybe that, in turn,
gave me the strength

421

00:24:39,610 --> 00:24:43,180

to go on, because
I worried over her.

422

00:24:43,180 --> 00:24:46,960

I kind of realized
that afterwards.

423

00:24:46,960 --> 00:24:50,860

I didn't see it at that time,
and I didn't understand it,

424

00:24:50,860 --> 00:24:53,410

but afterwards I put
kind of two and two

425

00:24:53,410 --> 00:24:57,070

together, thinking that,
because I worried over her,

426

00:24:57,070 --> 00:24:59,950

I had to be strong
to watch over her.

427
00:24:59,950 --> 00:25:05,700
And that gave us the chance to
survive as long as we could.

428
00:25:05,700 --> 00:25:10,010
And so that's how we
were in Bergen-Belsen.

429
00:25:10,010 --> 00:25:12,390
I watched over her
over the march,

430
00:25:12,390 --> 00:25:14,970
and urged her on to keep
on walking because she

431
00:25:14,970 --> 00:25:16,800
wanted to fall behind.

432
00:25:16,800 --> 00:25:20,370
And I knew she would be
shot, so I kept pushing her.

433
00:25:20,370 --> 00:25:23,490
There were times where I
was angry and scolded her.

434
00:25:23,490 --> 00:25:26,310
And that's how she kept up.

435
00:25:26,310 --> 00:25:29,550
But then at the end, towards
the end of the liberation,

436
00:25:29,550 --> 00:25:34,500
before that, Christiane got
sick, because Auschwitz--

437
00:25:34,500 --> 00:25:37,440
I mean, Bergen-Belsen
was just terrible.

438

00:25:37,440 --> 00:25:40,290

It was just the
opposite of Auschwitz.

439

00:25:40,290 --> 00:25:43,600

In Auschwitz, we had to
work in order to survive,

440

00:25:43,600 --> 00:25:45,750

and in Bergen-Belsen,
we were sitting idle.

441

00:25:45,750 --> 00:25:47,850

There was no work there.

442

00:25:47,850 --> 00:25:50,400

And the decay of the
camp was terrible.

443

00:25:50,400 --> 00:25:55,950

The whole camp stunk, and was
dirty, and was full of decay,

444

00:25:55,950 --> 00:25:57,990

and typhus.

445

00:25:57,990 --> 00:26:01,650

And this is how Christiane
got sick, and got the typhus,

446

00:26:01,650 --> 00:26:04,080

and got delirious.

447

00:26:04,080 --> 00:26:11,040

And one night, she was so
delirious she saw her parents

448

00:26:11,040 --> 00:26:14,340

in front of her eyes, and she
jumped up from the ground,

449

00:26:14,340 --> 00:26:17,040

because we were sleeping
on the bare floors.

450
00:26:17,040 --> 00:26:21,040
And she saw her family, and she
started running to her family,

451
00:26:21,040 --> 00:26:21,900
she thought.

452
00:26:21,900 --> 00:26:24,900
And she only was stepping
on the sleeping people

453
00:26:24,900 --> 00:26:27,580
and made a whole big commotion.

454
00:26:27,580 --> 00:26:30,280
And I naturally tried
to calm her down,

455
00:26:30,280 --> 00:26:34,020
and while I was trying
to calm her down,

456
00:26:34,020 --> 00:26:39,940
the woman in charge of the
barrack came and, with a stick,

457
00:26:39,940 --> 00:26:43,380
started beating on me because
I was making a commotion.

458
00:26:43,380 --> 00:26:45,330
We were not supposed
to be speaking.

459
00:26:45,330 --> 00:26:47,670
It was supposed to
be quiet at night.

460
00:26:47,670 --> 00:26:52,530
And she hit me so hard

until the stick was broken.

461

00:26:52,530 --> 00:26:55,200

And actually, I couldn't
budge for two days.

462

00:26:55,200 --> 00:26:57,990

I was all broken up and bruised.

463

00:26:57,990 --> 00:27:00,180

And as sick as
Christiane-- she knew

464

00:27:00,180 --> 00:27:03,330

something was wrong,
because she did not give me

465

00:27:03,330 --> 00:27:06,750

any problems those few days.

466

00:27:06,750 --> 00:27:10,350

And naturally, Christiane
got worse and worse.

467

00:27:10,350 --> 00:27:16,870

And Christiane died
of typhus in my arms.

468

00:27:16,870 --> 00:27:24,360

I was trying to nurse her with
a teaspoon of black coffee

469

00:27:24,360 --> 00:27:29,850

that I had gotten after standing
for hours at the kitchen.

470

00:27:29,850 --> 00:27:33,930

Maybe somebody would take pity
on me and give me some coffee.

471

00:27:33,930 --> 00:27:38,910

I was hoping somebody would
recognize me in the kitchen,

472
00:27:38,910 --> 00:27:41,790
because I worked in a
kitchen in Auschwitz.

473
00:27:41,790 --> 00:27:45,210
And it happened twice
where somebody gave me

474
00:27:45,210 --> 00:27:46,980
a little bit of soup,
and then one time,

475
00:27:46,980 --> 00:27:48,360
a little bit of coffee.

476
00:27:48,360 --> 00:27:50,370
And I would run
back to the barracks

477
00:27:50,370 --> 00:27:55,290
and feed it to Christiane, but
Christiane could not make it.

478
00:27:55,290 --> 00:28:00,010
She failed me, and
she died in my arms.

479
00:28:00,010 --> 00:28:04,940
And when she died,
I put her down,

480
00:28:04,940 --> 00:28:06,750
and I pretended she was asleep.

481
00:28:06,750 --> 00:28:10,930
And I covered her up, because
people knew that she was sick.

482
00:28:10,930 --> 00:28:15,010
And I did not tell that she
was dead for after two days,

483

00:28:15,010 --> 00:28:19,700

because I wanted to have
her ration and her food.

484

00:28:19,700 --> 00:28:22,260

And I pretended she was asleep.

485

00:28:22,260 --> 00:28:23,840

And then I was afraid
that they would

486

00:28:23,840 --> 00:28:27,650

discover that she was dead and
that she would start smelling.

487

00:28:27,650 --> 00:28:33,260

And I told the Blockalteste,
the lady in charge,

488

00:28:33,260 --> 00:28:38,480

that Christiane died,
and they took her away.

489

00:28:38,480 --> 00:28:41,110

They took her away.

490

00:28:41,110 --> 00:28:44,110

In Bergen-Belsen, they
did not take the people

491

00:28:44,110 --> 00:28:48,990

and burn them or bury them.

492

00:28:48,990 --> 00:28:52,590

They just piled them up
outside of the barracks

493

00:28:52,590 --> 00:28:54,480

in front of our door.

494

00:28:54,480 --> 00:28:59,790

And the pile was as high as

six or seven feet of corpses

495

00:28:59,790 --> 00:29:01,660
in front of each barracks.

496

00:29:01,660 --> 00:29:04,290
We lived with the
dead people, and this

497

00:29:04,290 --> 00:29:06,540
is where Christiane was.

498

00:29:06,540 --> 00:29:08,970
And for days, I could
not look at Christiane,

499

00:29:08,970 --> 00:29:11,770
because I knew she
was laying there.

500

00:29:11,770 --> 00:29:14,400
And one day, my guilt
was bothering me

501

00:29:14,400 --> 00:29:16,950
so because I knew she was there,
and I wouldn't look at her.

502

00:29:16,950 --> 00:29:20,200
I decided to go see her.

503

00:29:20,200 --> 00:29:24,300
And when I looked up at
her, I saw Christiane,

504

00:29:24,300 --> 00:29:27,390
but something worried
me and puzzled me.

505

00:29:27,390 --> 00:29:28,930
And I didn't know
what was wrong.

506

00:29:28,930 --> 00:29:32,370

And I said, somebody
stole her skirt.

507

00:29:32,370 --> 00:29:38,310

And she was lying from waist
down naked as a skeleton, which

508

00:29:38,310 --> 00:29:42,930

they called in Bergen-Belsen
was a Muselmann, which

509

00:29:42,930 --> 00:29:46,440

meant, before you died,
you were skin and bones.

510

00:29:46,440 --> 00:29:49,710

You looked like a Muselmann,
which was skeleton.

511

00:29:49,710 --> 00:29:52,170

And she was a
skeleton laying there.

512

00:29:52,170 --> 00:29:55,890

And she had a navy blue jacket,
but the navy blue jacket

513

00:29:55,890 --> 00:29:57,270

wasn't blue.

514

00:29:57,270 --> 00:29:59,700

It was grayish or white.

515

00:29:59,700 --> 00:30:00,810

And it puzzled me.

516

00:30:00,810 --> 00:30:03,300

I said, why would
somebody steal a skirt

517

00:30:03,300 --> 00:30:08,040

and change a jacket from
a blue one to a white one,

518
00:30:08,040 --> 00:30:10,860
and not take everything,
and just leave it there?

519
00:30:10,860 --> 00:30:16,290
So I leaned over closer to
the pile of the dead people,

520
00:30:16,290 --> 00:30:21,150
and there I saw that
Christiane's blue jacket

521
00:30:21,150 --> 00:30:25,290
was covered with terrible lice.

522
00:30:25,290 --> 00:30:27,660
The lice was as big
as the black ants

523
00:30:27,660 --> 00:30:30,150
that you see sometimes
on the ground.

524
00:30:30,150 --> 00:30:35,190
And they were just crawling
all over Christiane's body

525
00:30:35,190 --> 00:30:43,200
and the jacket, and that made
that blue navy jacket white.

526
00:30:43,200 --> 00:30:44,850
And I couldn't take it anymore.

527
00:30:44,850 --> 00:30:49,230
I almost fell on the dead people
myself, I was in such shock.

528
00:30:49,230 --> 00:30:53,890
And I just ran away because

I was in terrible shock.

529
00:30:53,890 --> 00:30:57,730
I saw the terrible
lice eating her up,

530
00:30:57,730 --> 00:31:01,540
and it was just too
much for me to take.

531
00:31:01,540 --> 00:31:04,160
And I never looked
at Christiane again.

532
00:31:04,160 --> 00:31:06,010
And I was so
disillusioned, and I

533
00:31:06,010 --> 00:31:11,530
was so despaired to see that
beautiful young girl who never

534
00:31:11,530 --> 00:31:15,820
even knew if she was Jewish
ended up in concentration camp

535
00:31:15,820 --> 00:31:19,250
and dying like that.

536
00:31:19,250 --> 00:31:22,670
And then I think
that's when I gave up

537
00:31:22,670 --> 00:31:27,125
trying to fight for my life,
and I came down with the typhus.

538
00:31:27,125 --> 00:31:32,210

539
00:31:32,210 --> 00:31:34,730
And I was very, very sick.

540

00:31:34,730 --> 00:31:39,530

Besides being sick with typhus,
I had a terrible accident

541

00:31:39,530 --> 00:31:46,100

in the barracks at the end, and
I was bruised on my leg here.

542

00:31:46,100 --> 00:31:52,340

And my leg was on fire, because
it was like a terrible big bump

543

00:31:52,340 --> 00:31:53,810

that I had there.

544

00:31:53,810 --> 00:31:56,150

And my foot was on fire.

545

00:31:56,150 --> 00:32:02,000

Between my foot, and the typhus,
and the fever, I almost died.

546

00:32:02,000 --> 00:32:05,120

547

00:32:05,120 --> 00:32:08,150

And this is how the camp
was liberated from that--

548

00:32:08,150 --> 00:32:10,760

549

00:32:10,760 --> 00:32:12,170

at that time.

550

00:32:12,170 --> 00:32:20,010

And they picked me up and
wrapped me up in a blanket.

551

00:32:20,010 --> 00:32:25,320

And they took me into the
showers, and the inmate--

552

00:32:25,320 --> 00:32:28,080

the Germans that
they caught, they

553

00:32:28,080 --> 00:32:32,700

made them put white
uniforms on, and they

554

00:32:32,700 --> 00:32:36,810

took care of the inmates
who were very, very sick,

555

00:32:36,810 --> 00:32:39,090

who needed care right away.

556

00:32:39,090 --> 00:32:46,920

And they had built a hospital
outside of Bergen-Belsen to put

557

00:32:46,920 --> 00:32:49,260

those terrible sick people--

558

00:32:49,260 --> 00:32:52,600

to help them to bring
them back to health.

559

00:32:52,600 --> 00:32:55,140

And this is how they
wrapped me up in a blanket,

560

00:32:55,140 --> 00:32:58,470

and showered me, and cleaned me.

561

00:32:58,470 --> 00:33:04,440

The German SS did that, and then
brought me into that hospital.

562

00:33:04,440 --> 00:33:13,270

And I understand a Canadian
doctor who looked at my leg--

563

00:33:13,270 --> 00:33:17,410
and I could see in his face
that my leg was terrible.

564
00:33:17,410 --> 00:33:20,290
And he said-- he
had a translator.

565
00:33:20,290 --> 00:33:22,810
And in French, they
told me they were

566
00:33:22,810 --> 00:33:25,030
going to try and save my leg.

567
00:33:25,030 --> 00:33:30,320
And afterwards, I found out
that I had gangrene in my leg.

568
00:33:30,320 --> 00:33:33,070
And he almost
amputated that leg.

569
00:33:33,070 --> 00:33:36,460
And I was still fighting for
two months in that hospital

570
00:33:36,460 --> 00:33:39,170
because I still had the typhus.

571
00:33:39,170 --> 00:33:43,880
And this is in the conditions
that they found me.

572
00:33:43,880 --> 00:33:47,600
I don't know if I weighed 65
pounds when I was liberated.

573
00:33:47,600 --> 00:33:51,590
I was more dead than alive,
and maybe another week I

574
00:33:51,590 --> 00:33:55,840

would have been gone, and I
would have never survived it.

575

00:33:55,840 --> 00:34:02,000