

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:11,370

2
00:00:11,370 --> 00:00:14,230
Camera roll three, camera
roll nine, take nine.

3
00:00:14,230 --> 00:00:17,625
[BEEP]

4
00:00:17,625 --> 00:00:21,990

5
00:00:21,990 --> 00:00:26,200
What kind of choices do
you think that you had

6
00:00:26,200 --> 00:00:30,060
in that life that might have
helped you survive or helped

7
00:00:30,060 --> 00:00:30,685
others survive?

8
00:00:30,685 --> 00:00:40,040

9
00:00:40,040 --> 00:00:42,890
I don't know that I had choices.

10
00:00:42,890 --> 00:00:46,130
I'm trying to think.

11
00:00:46,130 --> 00:00:52,430
I honestly think that
I survived by luck.

12
00:00:52,430 --> 00:00:53,370
I think I was lucky.

13

00:00:53,370 --> 00:00:56,490

14

00:00:56,490 --> 00:01:01,645

I must've been somewhat
optimistic, I think.

15

00:01:01,645 --> 00:01:02,145

Maybe.

16

00:01:02,145 --> 00:01:05,090

17

00:01:05,090 --> 00:01:10,260

I think that the fact that
I protected myself sometimes

18

00:01:10,260 --> 00:01:15,120

may have been helpful.

19

00:01:15,120 --> 00:01:23,560

But I must say that I my
life, at least as I see it,

20

00:01:23,560 --> 00:01:26,320

did not give me any
opportunities for choices.

21

00:01:26,320 --> 00:01:31,340

22

00:01:31,340 --> 00:01:35,300

I tried not to hurt
anybody while I was there.

23

00:01:35,300 --> 00:01:36,255

I don't remember.

24

00:01:36,255 --> 00:01:37,880

I know that there
were things going on.

25

00:01:37,880 --> 00:01:41,330
Not everybody-- we had a
Kapo and this Bergen-Belsen,

26
00:01:41,330 --> 00:01:43,925
where I worked this last
time, who was a real bitch.

27
00:01:43,925 --> 00:01:48,120

28
00:01:48,120 --> 00:01:53,180
I didn't have an opportunity
maybe to do that.

29
00:01:53,180 --> 00:01:56,130
But I don't think I would have.

30
00:01:56,130 --> 00:01:59,910
I never stole anything from
anybody, no matter how hungry

31
00:01:59,910 --> 00:02:05,670
or no matter how
desperate I was.

32
00:02:05,670 --> 00:02:08,250

33
00:02:08,250 --> 00:02:11,710
I did not do certain things.

34
00:02:11,710 --> 00:02:13,340
I think I had a very--

35
00:02:13,340 --> 00:02:17,300
I think I must have
had a good upbringing.

36
00:02:17,300 --> 00:02:19,700
But I don't know that this
necessarily helped me survive.

37

00:02:19,700 --> 00:02:22,830

38

00:02:22,830 --> 00:02:28,260

What kinds of spiritual
resistance did you see?

39

00:02:28,260 --> 00:02:31,290

Or was there none?

40

00:02:31,290 --> 00:02:35,470

Well, in the beginning, I
probably believed in God,

41

00:02:35,470 --> 00:02:37,290

as my father did.

42

00:02:37,290 --> 00:02:43,200

I think that I lost that after
the Auschwitz people came in.

43

00:02:43,200 --> 00:02:46,780

44

00:02:46,780 --> 00:02:48,730

But I think that--

45

00:02:48,730 --> 00:02:54,670

as I said, I think that I
remember that my father said

46

00:02:54,670 --> 00:02:59,080

to me, that last
Yom Kippur at home

47

00:02:59,080 --> 00:03:07,170

during the holidays, that he
said at one point, maybe all

48

00:03:07,170 --> 00:03:11,830

of us won't survive, but
I hope that you will.

49

00:03:11,830 --> 00:03:15,910

I remember he said, and
there'd be somebody left.

50

00:03:15,910 --> 00:03:21,610

I don't know whether that gave
me some feeling that somebody

51

00:03:21,610 --> 00:03:22,937

should be left from our family.

52

00:03:22,937 --> 00:03:24,895

I don't know whether that
gave me the strength.

53

00:03:24,895 --> 00:03:31,450

54

00:03:31,450 --> 00:03:33,640

I think that perhaps
the fact that I

55

00:03:33,640 --> 00:03:37,090

had [? Frida ?] was
very helpful, because we

56

00:03:37,090 --> 00:03:39,550

had each other.

57

00:03:39,550 --> 00:03:41,200

And she did for me, and--

58

00:03:41,200 --> 00:03:43,820

I did everything
I could for her,

59

00:03:43,820 --> 00:03:45,560

and she did everything
could for me.

60

00:03:45,560 --> 00:03:48,370

And maybe that gave us strength.

61

00:03:48,370 --> 00:03:53,990

We got along better than
some sisters did in the camp.

62

00:03:53,990 --> 00:03:57,260

That doesn't mean that they
weren't sisters who got along,

63

00:03:57,260 --> 00:03:59,990

who didn't stay close.

64

00:03:59,990 --> 00:04:03,600

But we really
supported each other.

65

00:04:03,600 --> 00:04:05,085

I think that may
have been helpful.

66

00:04:05,085 --> 00:04:09,060

67

00:04:09,060 --> 00:04:11,220

I can't think of
anything else, really.

68

00:04:11,220 --> 00:04:15,330

69

00:04:15,330 --> 00:04:17,339

Did people pray?

70

00:04:17,339 --> 00:04:19,380

Did they--

71

00:04:19,380 --> 00:04:20,370

Some did.

72

00:04:20,370 --> 00:04:23,190

I think [? Frida ?] always did.

73
00:04:23,190 --> 00:04:25,380
[? Frida ?] was more
of a believer than I.

74
00:04:25,380 --> 00:04:29,730
I think I had a difficult
period for a while there.

75
00:04:29,730 --> 00:04:36,090
But she was more, I think,
steadfast in her belief,

76
00:04:36,090 --> 00:04:36,630
I think.

77
00:04:36,630 --> 00:04:39,520

78
00:04:39,520 --> 00:04:43,950
Can you tell about
when you worked sorting

79
00:04:43,950 --> 00:04:44,950
the panties [INAUDIBLE].

80
00:04:44,950 --> 00:04:45,610
Right.

81
00:04:45,610 --> 00:04:47,650
Right.

82
00:04:47,650 --> 00:04:52,210
That last job of mine I
worked, believe it or not,

83
00:04:52,210 --> 00:04:56,890
the Germans were losing the
war, and they were still--

84
00:04:56,890 --> 00:05:00,505
in Bergen-Belsen, we were

still sorting clothing.

85

00:05:00,505 --> 00:05:03,040

86

00:05:03,040 --> 00:05:04,750

They were taking inventory.

87

00:05:04,750 --> 00:05:08,410

And the work that I
did, which permitted

88

00:05:08,410 --> 00:05:13,780

me to have that bunk and
maybe a little more food

89

00:05:13,780 --> 00:05:17,800

was precisely that kind of work.

90

00:05:17,800 --> 00:05:19,900

But the way I could help
myself, because there

91

00:05:19,900 --> 00:05:22,840

wasn't really that
much to eat, was

92

00:05:22,840 --> 00:05:28,150

that I had a right to
wear a pair of panties,

93

00:05:28,150 --> 00:05:32,890

maybe, and a slip or
a sweater and maybe

94

00:05:32,890 --> 00:05:35,410

a skirt under my uniform.

95

00:05:35,410 --> 00:05:36,940

And stockings.

96

00:05:36,940 --> 00:05:38,980

Now, if I went to
work in the morning--

97
00:05:38,980 --> 00:05:40,810
and it was bitter cold--

98
00:05:40,810 --> 00:05:42,760
and I didn't put on
a pair of panties

99
00:05:42,760 --> 00:05:45,910
or I didn't put on
something under my uniform,

100
00:05:45,910 --> 00:05:51,670
and then during work if I
could slip it on and put it on,

101
00:05:51,670 --> 00:05:53,890
then I would bring it
back to the barrack

102
00:05:53,890 --> 00:06:00,100
and I could barter it, sell
it to somebody for something.

103
00:06:00,100 --> 00:06:03,005
But the Kapo was a real--

104
00:06:03,005 --> 00:06:06,490

105
00:06:06,490 --> 00:06:09,730
she was Jewish, but she
was a bitch, as I said.

106
00:06:09,730 --> 00:06:15,200
And she didn't permit it,
but she didn't like me much,

107
00:06:15,200 --> 00:06:15,700
either.

108

00:06:15,700 --> 00:06:19,330

109

00:06:19,330 --> 00:06:20,350

I think she was dumb.

110

00:06:20,350 --> 00:06:22,120

She wasn't very--

111

00:06:22,120 --> 00:06:23,900

I don't think she
knew how to read.

112

00:06:23,900 --> 00:06:27,010

She was she was an illiterate.

113

00:06:27,010 --> 00:06:28,940

Maybe I was too bright for her.

114

00:06:28,940 --> 00:06:30,250

My Polish was too good.

115

00:06:30,250 --> 00:06:32,120

I don't know.

116

00:06:32,120 --> 00:06:35,990

But she really,
she picked on me.

117

00:06:35,990 --> 00:06:37,970

I also looked like a Musselman.

118

00:06:37,970 --> 00:06:40,670

That may have been against me.

119

00:06:40,670 --> 00:06:43,610

In other words, I
looked like a walking--

120

00:06:43,610 --> 00:06:44,975

I was a walking skeleton.

121
00:06:44,975 --> 00:06:48,110

122
00:06:48,110 --> 00:06:51,050
And so she would check me.

123
00:06:51,050 --> 00:06:54,403
And if she saw that I didn't
have a pair of pants on,

124
00:06:54,403 --> 00:06:56,070
I couldn't bring a
pair of panties home.

125
00:06:56,070 --> 00:07:00,600
She would beat me up.

126
00:07:00,600 --> 00:07:05,980
So it wasn't a tremendously
successful thing for me.

127
00:07:05,980 --> 00:07:08,400
And besides which, I didn't
work there very long,

128
00:07:08,400 --> 00:07:10,950
because I got sick again.

129
00:07:10,950 --> 00:07:14,120
And I came down
with paratyphoid.

130
00:07:14,120 --> 00:07:22,220
And these were the
last weeks of the camp.

131
00:07:22,220 --> 00:07:26,990
And if anybody ever tells you
that you cannot survive without

132
00:07:26,990 --> 00:07:29,370

food for a long time--

133

00:07:29,370 --> 00:07:35,070

I don't think that we were
given any food in that camp

134

00:07:35,070 --> 00:07:40,140

towards the end of the
occupation for the last 10

135

00:07:40,140 --> 00:07:40,710

days.

136

00:07:40,710 --> 00:07:42,420

People like I. I'm
not saying there

137

00:07:42,420 --> 00:07:45,900

were some people who were
still able to get around.

138

00:07:45,900 --> 00:07:50,070

I didn't get any food
for close to 10 days.

139

00:07:50,070 --> 00:07:52,880

I rarely had water.

140

00:07:52,880 --> 00:07:56,290

That's why I don't
understand how I survived.

141

00:07:56,290 --> 00:08:00,220

But I made it without
food for all this time.

142

00:08:00,220 --> 00:08:04,930

[? Frida ?] did come when
she could when I was so sick.

143

00:08:04,930 --> 00:08:06,160

And she brought me water.

144

00:08:06,160 --> 00:08:08,200

And she was with me.

145

00:08:08,200 --> 00:08:10,490

I think that this may have
been extremely helpful.

146

00:08:10,490 --> 00:08:14,140

She was with me that last
night before the liberation.

147

00:08:14,140 --> 00:08:15,850

She brought some water.

148

00:08:15,850 --> 00:08:20,710

And I think she may have brought
me an aspirin or something.

149

00:08:20,710 --> 00:08:22,570

I had a very high fever.

150

00:08:22,570 --> 00:08:25,210

And that following
day, the British came

151

00:08:25,210 --> 00:08:26,620

and we were liberated.

152

00:08:26,620 --> 00:08:29,660

153

00:08:29,660 --> 00:08:31,370

Can you talk about--

154

00:08:31,370 --> 00:08:34,760

do you remember older
people being in the camps?

155

00:08:34,760 --> 00:08:36,169

Like your parents age?

156

00:08:36,169 --> 00:08:37,309
Did you know many of them?

157
00:08:37,309 --> 00:08:40,330
Or were there very few of them?

158
00:08:40,330 --> 00:08:43,840
There were not many older
people in Bergen-Belsen.

159
00:08:43,840 --> 00:08:46,750
There were certainly
not many old--

160
00:08:46,750 --> 00:08:51,670
there was one girl, who
I am still friendly with,

161
00:08:51,670 --> 00:08:58,300
who came to [? Graben, ?] to
the labor camp from Auschwitz.

162
00:08:58,300 --> 00:09:01,900
And she was from my husband's
city, from [? Lodz. ?]

163
00:09:01,900 --> 00:09:05,050
And her name is actually--

164
00:09:05,050 --> 00:09:06,910
she's alive, the girl is alive.

165
00:09:06,910 --> 00:09:09,790
Her name's [? Lucia ?]
[? Karow. ?] And she came with

166
00:09:09,790 --> 00:09:13,810
her mother to our camp,
and this was a novelty.

167
00:09:13,810 --> 00:09:17,770
There was a girl who came
to camp with her mother.

168
00:09:17,770 --> 00:09:22,190
Now, she buried her
mother in Bergen-Belsen.

169
00:09:22,190 --> 00:09:25,820
But her mother was with
her in [? Graben. ?]

170
00:09:25,820 --> 00:09:28,880
This was the only
woman that I remember

171
00:09:28,880 --> 00:09:31,480
who was my mother's age.

172
00:09:31,480 --> 00:09:38,620
And my mother was 43 when she
died, when she was killed.

173
00:09:38,620 --> 00:09:43,850
So this woman may have been
maybe in her early 40s.

174
00:09:43,850 --> 00:09:45,305
And that was old.

175
00:09:45,305 --> 00:09:48,510

176
00:09:48,510 --> 00:09:54,670
In our camp, she was
the only one that age.

177
00:09:54,670 --> 00:09:56,790
And I don't remember
many in Bergen-Belsen.

178
00:09:56,790 --> 00:10:02,090
Now, there were some
Russian women in our camp.

179

00:10:02,090 --> 00:10:03,950
And some of them
may have been older.

180
00:10:03,950 --> 00:10:06,430
But again, not that much older.

181
00:10:06,430 --> 00:10:10,540

182
00:10:10,540 --> 00:10:15,540
So in general, who lived
and who didn't live?

183
00:10:15,540 --> 00:10:18,650
Did we just run out?

184
00:10:18,650 --> 00:10:19,890
We have one minute.

185
00:10:19,890 --> 00:10:20,600
OK.

186
00:10:20,600 --> 00:10:22,580
Well, that's hard to tell.

187
00:10:22,580 --> 00:10:26,240
After the war, I suppose,
there are some statistics.

188
00:10:26,240 --> 00:10:27,860
There are some
people who survived.

189
00:10:27,860 --> 00:10:31,880
I had one cousin who
survived with his two sons.

190
00:10:31,880 --> 00:10:34,490
And he must have
been in his 40s.

191

00:10:34,490 --> 00:10:36,540
But that was rare.

192
00:10:36,540 --> 00:10:40,340
I think the very
young didn't make it.

193
00:10:40,340 --> 00:10:43,880
And not just the very
old, but people--

194
00:10:43,880 --> 00:10:48,110
often, perhaps, mothers
didn't make it because--

195
00:10:48,110 --> 00:10:50,480
my mother was a
very pretty woman,

196
00:10:50,480 --> 00:10:53,930
and she probably
looked quite young.

197
00:10:53,930 --> 00:10:56,450
But she went-- I'm
sure that she didn't

198
00:10:56,450 --> 00:10:58,550
want to be separated
from her two,

199
00:10:58,550 --> 00:11:02,020
from my sister and my
brother, who were children.

200
00:11:02,020 --> 00:11:06,970
So often women who were
older, older meaning

201
00:11:06,970 --> 00:11:09,700
who had children, if they
were in their late 30s

202

00:11:09,700 --> 00:11:11,968
or even if they were
in their early 30s,

203
00:11:11,968 --> 00:11:14,135
if they had children, they
went with their children.

204
00:11:14,135 --> 00:11:16,640

205
00:11:16,640 --> 00:11:21,960
And if they were older,
they didn't have a chance.

206
00:11:21,960 --> 00:11:23,029
[INAUDIBLE]

207
00:11:23,029 --> 00:11:26,382

208
00:11:26,382 --> 00:11:29,735
[BEEP]

209
00:11:29,735 --> 00:11:31,660

210
00:11:31,660 --> 00:11:33,490
I just want to go
back and finish

211
00:11:33,490 --> 00:11:36,580
that thought about who
had a chance to live

212
00:11:36,580 --> 00:11:40,020
and who didn't from
an age standpoint.

213
00:11:40,020 --> 00:11:44,190
Well, then my feeling
is that only people

214

00:11:44,190 --> 00:11:48,210
who were able to go to work.

215

00:11:48,210 --> 00:11:54,620
And even then, it depended very
much on what the demand was.

216

00:11:54,620 --> 00:11:57,110
In Auschwitz, there
were times when

217

00:11:57,110 --> 00:12:00,740
they sent the whole
transport into the ovens

218

00:12:00,740 --> 00:12:03,210
without any selection.

219

00:12:03,210 --> 00:12:07,070
In other words, there was
no demand for workers,

220

00:12:07,070 --> 00:12:09,230
and they would just be sent in.

221

00:12:09,230 --> 00:12:13,740

222

00:12:13,740 --> 00:12:15,770
For instance, when I
think about the man,

223

00:12:15,770 --> 00:12:19,670
the head of our ghetto, about
whom many bad things can

224

00:12:19,670 --> 00:12:22,010
be said-- after all,
we can say that he

225

00:12:22,010 --> 00:12:23,430
collaborated with the Nazis.

226
00:12:23,430 --> 00:12:25,140
In other words, he
worked with them.

227
00:12:25,140 --> 00:12:28,600
But I think that I am alive--

228
00:12:28,600 --> 00:12:31,120
now, if this is not a choice.

229
00:12:31,120 --> 00:12:35,290
But he did see to it that
a lot of young people

230
00:12:35,290 --> 00:12:40,330
from our ghetto, from our area,
that they were sent to Germany

231
00:12:40,330 --> 00:12:42,190
to work.

232
00:12:42,190 --> 00:12:44,140
And so I didn't go
through Auschwitz.

233
00:12:44,140 --> 00:12:48,490
I may not have made it
through the selection.

234
00:12:48,490 --> 00:12:51,190
And I went to a labor camp.

235
00:12:51,190 --> 00:12:54,640
Now, many of us didn't survive
the labor camps, either,

236
00:12:54,640 --> 00:12:58,600
because of the death march
and the concentration camps.

237
00:12:58,600 --> 00:13:01,930

But there was that chance given.

238

00:13:01,930 --> 00:13:05,410

And I always feel
that this [? Marin, ?]

239

00:13:05,410 --> 00:13:09,970

who had such dirty
hands, may have saved

240

00:13:09,970 --> 00:13:12,730

some kids, some young people.

241

00:13:12,730 --> 00:13:16,520

242

00:13:16,520 --> 00:13:18,350

Now, I hate to ask you this.

243

00:13:18,350 --> 00:13:21,940

And you can just tell me you
won't do it if you can't.

244

00:13:21,940 --> 00:13:25,780

But we ran out
before you finished

245

00:13:25,780 --> 00:13:29,100

telling about
[? Hela. ?] And I would

246

00:13:29,100 --> 00:13:33,640

like you to tell that
story again if you can.

247

00:13:33,640 --> 00:13:34,140

Sure.

248

00:13:34,140 --> 00:13:35,400

Sure.

249

00:13:35,400 --> 00:13:37,390

I'll try not to cry.

250
00:13:37,390 --> 00:13:37,890
OK.

251
00:13:37,890 --> 00:13:41,920

252
00:13:41,920 --> 00:13:44,470
I had a bunk.

253
00:13:44,470 --> 00:13:46,540
I told you I started
to work, so I

254
00:13:46,540 --> 00:13:52,080
had a bunk which I
shared with another girl.

255
00:13:52,080 --> 00:13:58,550
And I had typhus and typhoid.

256
00:13:58,550 --> 00:14:01,550
And I was at this point well.

257
00:14:01,550 --> 00:14:04,920
I had gotten over both.

258
00:14:04,920 --> 00:14:12,980
And one evening, my friend
[? Hela ?] came to see me.

259
00:14:12,980 --> 00:14:14,480
[? Hela ?] was her name.

260
00:14:14,480 --> 00:14:16,700
Helen in English.

261
00:14:16,700 --> 00:14:19,927
[? Hela ?] was not as close to
me as [? Frida, ?] but she was

262

00:14:19,927 --> 00:14:20,510

a good friend.

263

00:14:20,510 --> 00:14:30,080

264

00:14:30,080 --> 00:14:33,580

She was a good friend of mine.

265

00:14:33,580 --> 00:14:40,760

And she was a very
lovely, gentle girl.

266

00:14:40,760 --> 00:14:42,080

Really lovely.

267

00:14:42,080 --> 00:14:45,440

Very sweet, and I
was very fond of her.

268

00:14:45,440 --> 00:14:47,350

And she was in this death--

269

00:14:47,350 --> 00:14:50,900

Let's just wait until he
comes down, because he's

270

00:14:50,900 --> 00:14:53,346

going to walk through the back.

271

00:14:53,346 --> 00:14:55,318

[BEEP]

272

00:14:55,318 --> 00:14:56,800

273

00:14:56,800 --> 00:15:00,700

And [? Hela ?] was
really a friend of mine,

274

00:15:00,700 --> 00:15:02,440

and I was extremely fond of her.

275

00:15:02,440 --> 00:15:06,100

And she was really
sweet and gentle.

276

00:15:06,100 --> 00:15:10,530

She came over that evening,
and I could see she was sick.

277

00:15:10,530 --> 00:15:12,710

She was feverish.

278

00:15:12,710 --> 00:15:16,070

And she said to me,
Bella, would you

279

00:15:16,070 --> 00:15:21,320

let me sleep on
your bunk tonight?

280

00:15:21,320 --> 00:15:22,750

I'm really sick.

281

00:15:22,750 --> 00:15:29,060

I don't feel well, and I
would like to sleep on a bed.

282

00:15:29,060 --> 00:15:32,900

Would you please let
me sleep with you?

283

00:15:32,900 --> 00:15:38,970

And I looked at [? Hela, ?]
and she looked very sick to me.

284

00:15:38,970 --> 00:15:39,990

And I was very scared.

285

00:15:39,990 --> 00:15:43,000

286

00:15:43,000 --> 00:15:44,970
And I was afraid that
I'm going to get sick.

287
00:15:44,970 --> 00:15:48,100

288
00:15:48,100 --> 00:15:52,790
And I said to her,
[? Hela, ?] I am sorry,

289
00:15:52,790 --> 00:15:59,640
but I can't let you sleep on
my bunk because I get sick.

290
00:15:59,640 --> 00:16:02,760
And I said to her,
please forgive me.

291
00:16:02,760 --> 00:16:05,010
I can't let you do it.

292
00:16:05,010 --> 00:16:06,610
And she said to me--

293
00:16:06,610 --> 00:16:07,650
she was very lovely.

294
00:16:07,650 --> 00:16:12,010
She really was a nice,
decent human being.

295
00:16:12,010 --> 00:16:17,060
She said to me, it's
OK, Bella, I understand.

296
00:16:17,060 --> 00:16:19,670
She just walked away.

297
00:16:19,670 --> 00:16:22,070
And she just walked away.

298

00:16:22,070 --> 00:16:27,520
I know that she died that night.

299
00:16:27,520 --> 00:16:32,060
And I know now that maybe
she knew she was dying.

300
00:16:32,060 --> 00:16:34,610
I don't know.

301
00:16:34,610 --> 00:16:41,600
She wanted to die with dignity
maybe, and I didn't let her.

302
00:16:41,600 --> 00:16:43,910
And I never forgave
myself for it.

303
00:16:43,910 --> 00:16:44,900
I never did.

304
00:16:44,900 --> 00:16:54,180

305
00:16:54,180 --> 00:17:02,740
And you talked about liberation,
the sugar and the socks.

306
00:17:02,740 --> 00:17:04,418
Yeah, OK.

307
00:17:04,418 --> 00:17:04,960
That's right.

308
00:17:04,960 --> 00:17:07,380
It's nice to end on
a more cheerful note.

309
00:17:07,380 --> 00:17:09,569
Well, I remember a few
things about liberation,

310

00:17:09,569 --> 00:17:10,470
which was wonderful.

311
00:17:10,470 --> 00:17:12,210
I remember I was sick.

312
00:17:12,210 --> 00:17:15,329
They took the sick people first.

313
00:17:15,329 --> 00:17:16,790
They took us to hospitals.

314
00:17:16,790 --> 00:17:19,050
They quarantined us,
because they were afraid

315
00:17:19,050 --> 00:17:22,660
that we would
spread the disease.

316
00:17:22,660 --> 00:17:24,839
But I was lucky.

317
00:17:24,839 --> 00:17:27,119
First of all, because
I was so sick--

318
00:17:27,119 --> 00:17:30,810
the British felt
sorry for the inmates.

319
00:17:30,810 --> 00:17:34,140
We were hungry and
walking skeletons,

320
00:17:34,140 --> 00:17:37,170
and they gave us
their food rations.

321
00:17:37,170 --> 00:17:39,390
And I don't know whether
this is recorded,

322

00:17:39,390 --> 00:17:43,380
but this is the truth that a
very high percentage of inmates

323

00:17:43,380 --> 00:17:47,610
in Bergen-Belsen died because
they were given food that they

324

00:17:47,610 --> 00:17:48,930
had no business eating.

325

00:17:48,930 --> 00:17:51,450
There was dysentery.

326

00:17:51,450 --> 00:17:54,150
Apparently, because
the food was so rich.

327

00:17:54,150 --> 00:17:55,590
Well, I couldn't eat it.

328

00:17:55,590 --> 00:17:57,600
So that was lucky.

329

00:17:57,600 --> 00:17:59,550
I was taken out of the camp.

330

00:17:59,550 --> 00:18:02,880
And I do remember a few
things that were so memorable.

331

00:18:02,880 --> 00:18:10,140
I remember, sick as I was, that
as the truck on which I was--

332

00:18:10,140 --> 00:18:12,210
I don't know, these
were not ambulances--

333

00:18:12,210 --> 00:18:15,810
but I was comfortable.

334

00:18:15,810 --> 00:18:22,270

As it was leaving Bergen-Belsen,
I could smell the fresh air.

335

00:18:22,270 --> 00:18:26,520

There was such a difference
between the horrible stench

336

00:18:26,520 --> 00:18:29,070

of Bergen-Belsen,
that I remember

337

00:18:29,070 --> 00:18:32,010

that I just took a deep breath.

338

00:18:32,010 --> 00:18:35,610

In was such a wonderful feeling.

339

00:18:35,610 --> 00:18:37,970

And I also remember
something else.

340

00:18:37,970 --> 00:18:40,730

Because DDT is not
allowed anymore.

341

00:18:40,730 --> 00:18:44,630

But they sprayed me with
DDT, and it was just great.

342

00:18:44,630 --> 00:18:49,060

Because all the movement,
all the itching, all the--

343

00:18:49,060 --> 00:18:50,260

stopped.

344

00:18:50,260 --> 00:18:55,720

All the lice that were
killing me, that were biting.

345

00:18:55,720 --> 00:19:00,500

All of it stopped,
and I was at peace.

346
00:19:00,500 --> 00:19:02,040
It was a wonderful feeling.

347
00:19:02,040 --> 00:19:05,970
I am forever grateful to DDT.

348
00:19:05,970 --> 00:19:09,120
And then I remember I
was in the hospital.

349
00:19:09,120 --> 00:19:10,890
I don't remember how
long I was there.

350
00:19:10,890 --> 00:19:15,150
I remember that I do remember
being pretty upset when

351
00:19:15,150 --> 00:19:20,380
I took a look at myself,
because I really was a skeleton.

352
00:19:20,380 --> 00:19:25,720
But one of the soldiers, who
must have carried me maybe

353
00:19:25,720 --> 00:19:29,050
from the barracks or
something, remembered me.

354
00:19:29,050 --> 00:19:33,280
Or maybe he came to
see who survived.

355
00:19:33,280 --> 00:19:35,930
Some of us didn't survive
even the hospital.

356
00:19:35,930 --> 00:19:37,750
But he came to visit me.

357
00:19:37,750 --> 00:19:40,450
And I think that
he may have been

358
00:19:40,450 --> 00:19:45,770
a German Jew, because I
remember speaking to him German.

359
00:19:45,770 --> 00:19:47,660
And that was possible.

360
00:19:47,660 --> 00:19:49,730
He may have been in
England and volunteered

361
00:19:49,730 --> 00:19:53,060
or was taken to the army
and fought in Germany.

362
00:19:53,060 --> 00:19:54,350
So anyway he brought me.

363
00:19:54,350 --> 00:19:57,890
But he was a British soldier,
so he came in the first time,

364
00:19:57,890 --> 00:19:59,748
I think, to see that I'm alive.

365
00:19:59,748 --> 00:20:00,540
He was glad to see.

366
00:20:00,540 --> 00:20:02,450
And he asked me what I want.

367
00:20:02,450 --> 00:20:04,280
And I remember I
asked for two things.

368
00:20:04,280 --> 00:20:09,140
I wanted warm socks, because

it was May, and I was freezing.

369

00:20:09,140 --> 00:20:11,030

My feet were always cold.

370

00:20:11,030 --> 00:20:13,070

And I wanted sugar.

371

00:20:13,070 --> 00:20:15,500

So he came the following
day or two days later

372

00:20:15,500 --> 00:20:18,110

and brought me a pair
of knee-length socks

373

00:20:18,110 --> 00:20:19,640

and a little bag of sugar.

374

00:20:19,640 --> 00:20:21,920

Maybe it was a quarter
pound, maybe less.

375

00:20:21,920 --> 00:20:25,220

And I do remember two
things I put on the socks,

376

00:20:25,220 --> 00:20:26,760

and I was very unhappy.

377

00:20:26,760 --> 00:20:29,510

I was crying because I
didn't have any calves.

378

00:20:29,510 --> 00:20:32,600

And the knee-length
socks wouldn't hold.

379

00:20:32,600 --> 00:20:35,360

There was nothing
to hold them up.

380

00:20:35,360 --> 00:20:38,030

And then I took the
sugar, and I literally

381

00:20:38,030 --> 00:20:40,040

poured it into my mouth.

382

00:20:40,040 --> 00:20:43,280

And he got so upset that
he went to see the nurse

383

00:20:43,280 --> 00:20:48,060

to ask, you know, whether I
didn't do myself some harm.

384

00:20:48,060 --> 00:20:51,650

And I think the nurse told him
that I was just craving sugar.

385

00:20:51,650 --> 00:20:54,580

And so that was it.

386

00:20:54,580 --> 00:20:58,160

387

00:20:58,160 --> 00:21:01,480

I think I asked you everything.

388

00:21:01,480 --> 00:21:04,100

Thank you very much.

389

00:21:04,100 --> 00:21:10,130

About God, and if you want me
to, I can tell you that I did

390

00:21:10,130 --> 00:21:14,000

have a bit of a [? Din ?]
[? Torah, ?] which means like

391

00:21:14,000 --> 00:21:17,240

a case with my God.

392

00:21:17,240 --> 00:21:20,720
And for a long time
I really didn't

393
00:21:20,720 --> 00:21:23,330
want to have anything
to do with religion.

394
00:21:23,330 --> 00:21:27,720
I was Jewish because I
had survived as a Jew.

395
00:21:27,720 --> 00:21:34,810
But I went to see my sister in
1959 and I walked the streets

396
00:21:34,810 --> 00:21:39,400
of [NON-ENGLISH] and went
to the kibbutzim and went

397
00:21:39,400 --> 00:21:44,300
into a synagogue in Jerusalem,
I came back and I started

398
00:21:44,300 --> 00:21:45,530
to study.

399
00:21:45,530 --> 00:21:47,270
I started to learn Hebrew again.

400
00:21:47,270 --> 00:21:51,620
Which I had Hebrew before
the war and during the war.

401
00:21:51,620 --> 00:21:55,820
And I studied the Torah, and
I studied Jewish history.

402
00:21:55,820 --> 00:21:56,780
And I really became--

403
00:21:56,780 --> 00:21:58,280
I switched.

404
00:21:58,280 --> 00:22:00,320
I was thinking of maybe
becoming an accountant.

405
00:22:00,320 --> 00:22:02,510
I was also good with numbers.

406
00:22:02,510 --> 00:22:06,500
But I decided to go
into Jewish education.

407
00:22:06,500 --> 00:22:09,650
And I made peace with God.

408
00:22:09,650 --> 00:22:16,970
Because I decided that God was
not responsible for Auschwitz,

409
00:22:16,970 --> 00:22:21,640
that we are free to
make our choices.

410
00:22:21,640 --> 00:22:23,470
That's what man is.

411
00:22:23,470 --> 00:22:28,100
Man is free to do the right
thing and do the wrong thing.

412
00:22:28,100 --> 00:22:31,510
We were taught what is
right and what is wrong.

413
00:22:31,510 --> 00:22:37,110
And Auschwitz was the
creation of evil men.

414
00:22:37,110 --> 00:22:42,050
And I don't think God is
responsible for Auschwitz.

415

00:22:42,050 --> 00:22:43,010

Men is.

416

00:22:43,010 --> 00:22:44,660

Let's put on that [INAUDIBLE].

417

00:22:44,660 --> 00:22:46,810

[INAUDIBLE]