

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,850

2
00:00:04,850 --> 00:00:05,570
Changing film.

3
00:00:05,570 --> 00:00:06,320
Camera four is up.

4
00:00:06,320 --> 00:00:07,790
Sync take four is up.

5
00:00:07,790 --> 00:00:12,137

6
00:00:12,137 --> 00:00:15,035
[BEEP]

7
00:00:15,035 --> 00:00:18,910

8
00:00:18,910 --> 00:00:22,750
Can you tell me
about the time when

9
00:00:22,750 --> 00:00:26,050
there were two kids among 180--

10
00:00:26,050 --> 00:00:28,510
I don't know where,
which camp this was--

11
00:00:28,510 --> 00:00:31,770
and how the SS were having
a debate over what to do

12
00:00:31,770 --> 00:00:33,020
with you while you were alive?

13
00:00:33,020 --> 00:00:34,300

Oh.

14

00:00:34,300 --> 00:00:38,980

Well, this particular
incident happened

15

00:00:38,980 --> 00:00:43,480

when we were taken from
Starachowice to the Ostrowiec

16

00:00:43,480 --> 00:00:48,160

Lager And I guess people
from Ostrowiec Lager

17

00:00:48,160 --> 00:00:53,440

needed more workers for
the iron works that they

18

00:00:53,440 --> 00:00:55,580

had in brick factories.

19

00:00:55,580 --> 00:01:01,600

So the people that were
in charge had heard that--

20

00:01:01,600 --> 00:01:04,510

from Botschov people were
taken to Starachowice.

21

00:01:04,510 --> 00:01:07,480

So they were trying
to get their own

22

00:01:07,480 --> 00:01:13,210

from the same town, whatever was
left, back to Ostrowiec Lager.

23

00:01:13,210 --> 00:01:19,060

And they came with
the truck, and they

24

00:01:19,060 --> 00:01:21,340

announced that so

many, so many people

25

00:01:21,340 --> 00:01:23,620

they need to take back
to Ostrowiec Lager.

26

00:01:23,620 --> 00:01:24,895

They need more workers.

27

00:01:24,895 --> 00:01:28,050

28

00:01:28,050 --> 00:01:32,820

So my mother was one
of them on the list.

29

00:01:32,820 --> 00:01:39,480

And there were two
children involved, also.

30

00:01:39,480 --> 00:01:44,490

Myself and another child that
were from Ostrowiec originally,

31

00:01:44,490 --> 00:01:47,440

that were in Starachowice.

32

00:01:47,440 --> 00:01:52,400

So we got on the truck, also.

33

00:01:52,400 --> 00:02:00,080

And for some reason the
camp commander, the German,

34

00:02:00,080 --> 00:02:04,300

counted us as one, because we
were part of this group that

35

00:02:04,300 --> 00:02:07,980

came originally from Botschov.

36

00:02:07,980 --> 00:02:15,500

When we came to Ostrowiec
Lager, the German at that

37
00:02:15,500 --> 00:02:18,020
camp did not want any children.

38
00:02:18,020 --> 00:02:19,292
And he didn't want us two.

39
00:02:19,292 --> 00:02:20,750
And he didn't want
to have anything

40
00:02:20,750 --> 00:02:23,600
to do with counting us
as one, because he felt

41
00:02:23,600 --> 00:02:26,820
that he had enough as it is.

42
00:02:26,820 --> 00:02:29,150
So here we're standing,
the whole transport,

43
00:02:29,150 --> 00:02:33,590
and the two of us are taken to
the side with a German ready

44
00:02:33,590 --> 00:02:36,290
to execute us.

45
00:02:36,290 --> 00:02:42,850
And these two Germans, the one
that brought us and the one

46
00:02:42,850 --> 00:02:45,850
that is supposed to accept us--
you would think we were cattle

47
00:02:45,850 --> 00:02:47,410
or something--

48

00:02:47,410 --> 00:02:51,700
were arguing, should these
two children be shot,

49
00:02:51,700 --> 00:02:54,535
or should we be let into
the camp as one person?

50
00:02:54,535 --> 00:02:58,290

51
00:02:58,290 --> 00:03:00,930
The German that
brought us defended us

52
00:03:00,930 --> 00:03:03,540
by saying, well, in our camp--

53
00:03:03,540 --> 00:03:06,280
which wasn't exactly true--

54
00:03:06,280 --> 00:03:08,640
the children carry messages.

55
00:03:08,640 --> 00:03:09,510
They peel potatoes.

56
00:03:09,510 --> 00:03:13,100

57
00:03:13,100 --> 00:03:15,080
And the one that was
supposed to accept us

58
00:03:15,080 --> 00:03:16,850
said, I have enough children.

59
00:03:16,850 --> 00:03:18,650
I don't need this.

60
00:03:18,650 --> 00:03:22,850
And so it was going back

and forth, until finally,

61

00:03:22,850 --> 00:03:25,460

I guess the one that brought
us one out the argument.

62

00:03:25,460 --> 00:03:27,590

And they decided to
let us into the camp.

63

00:03:27,590 --> 00:03:31,830

64

00:03:31,830 --> 00:03:40,590

It's these kind of situations
that I cannot believe myself

65

00:03:40,590 --> 00:03:45,510

that happened to me and
that I have survived.

66

00:03:45,510 --> 00:03:50,960

I guess the answer
in my mind is that,

67

00:03:50,960 --> 00:03:58,690

because as these incidents
came up, they were in my favor

68

00:03:58,690 --> 00:04:01,730

and I survived.

69

00:04:01,730 --> 00:04:09,710

But how many children had
gone maybe through a hundred

70

00:04:09,710 --> 00:04:13,040

of these situations, and one
of them was not in their favor

71

00:04:13,040 --> 00:04:15,540

and they're not with us anymore?

72

00:04:15,540 --> 00:04:22,390

So I consider myself very
fortunate to have survived.

73

00:04:22,390 --> 00:04:26,180

Because out of fate, I suppose.

74

00:04:26,180 --> 00:04:30,200

That's the only way
I can rationalize it

75

00:04:30,200 --> 00:04:32,330

for a reason for surviving.

76

00:04:32,330 --> 00:04:37,450

77

00:04:37,450 --> 00:04:40,120

What were some of the
things that you witnessed

78

00:04:40,120 --> 00:04:43,630

as being in work camps
before you ended up

79

00:04:43,630 --> 00:04:45,400

being transported to Auschwitz?

80

00:04:45,400 --> 00:04:47,950

81

00:04:47,950 --> 00:04:52,065

Well, one particular
incident was--

82

00:04:52,065 --> 00:04:55,470

83

00:04:55,470 --> 00:04:59,940

I have seen a lot of dead
people around all over.

84

00:04:59,940 --> 00:05:01,950

And I guess when
you see so many,

85

00:05:01,950 --> 00:05:05,970

it doesn't really make
that much of an impression.

86

00:05:05,970 --> 00:05:08,580

One of the times
in Ostrowiec Lager,

87

00:05:08,580 --> 00:05:12,480

I was in the outhouse
in the bathroom, which

88

00:05:12,480 --> 00:05:19,230

was on the corner of
the area where-- like,

89

00:05:19,230 --> 00:05:21,450

it was a big area in
the center of the camp.

90

00:05:21,450 --> 00:05:25,170

And then all the barracks
were around it, mostly,

91

00:05:25,170 --> 00:05:28,170

actually, on two sides.

92

00:05:28,170 --> 00:05:32,700

And the outhouse
was at the corner.

93

00:05:32,700 --> 00:05:35,010

And I happened to have
gone into the outhouse.

94

00:05:35,010 --> 00:05:38,130

And all at once,
there was a commotion.

95

00:05:38,130 --> 00:05:41,790

And everybody is rushed
into their barracks,

96

00:05:41,790 --> 00:05:43,930

because that's where
they were supposed to go.

97

00:05:43,930 --> 00:05:48,240

And I got stuck in the bathroom.

98

00:05:48,240 --> 00:05:51,810

Well, I got up on the
seat, and I looked out

99

00:05:51,810 --> 00:05:54,060

of the little window on the top.

100

00:05:54,060 --> 00:05:57,420

And what had happened is
some people tried to escape,

101

00:05:57,420 --> 00:06:00,570

and they were caught.

102

00:06:00,570 --> 00:06:04,010

And I guess they were wounded.

103

00:06:04,010 --> 00:06:05,810

And there was some
shooting going on.

104

00:06:05,810 --> 00:06:10,520

And they got about,
I think, four people

105

00:06:10,520 --> 00:06:15,500

to dig graves just
outside of the wire,

106

00:06:15,500 --> 00:06:18,020

of the fence of the camp.

107
00:06:18,020 --> 00:06:25,460
And they brought these
people that tried to escape,

108
00:06:25,460 --> 00:06:29,030
that were shot already.

109
00:06:29,030 --> 00:06:32,260
But they were not dead.

110
00:06:32,260 --> 00:06:41,510
And they made the other
Jews bury these people that

111
00:06:41,510 --> 00:06:43,340
were not really dead yet.

112
00:06:43,340 --> 00:06:47,300
And they were begging
not to be buried,

113
00:06:47,300 --> 00:06:49,910
that they're still alive.

114
00:06:49,910 --> 00:06:53,100
That they should do
something to kill them.

115
00:06:53,100 --> 00:06:54,310
But they didn't do anything.

116
00:06:54,310 --> 00:06:55,477
They just buried them alive.

117
00:06:55,477 --> 00:06:58,620

118
00:06:58,620 --> 00:07:03,927
And these people had
to do it or else--

119

00:07:03,927 --> 00:07:05,760

these poor people that
were picked to do it,

120

00:07:05,760 --> 00:07:08,460

because otherwise they
themselves would have

121

00:07:08,460 --> 00:07:13,410

wound up dead.

122

00:07:13,410 --> 00:07:19,870

There was a very, very
traumatic experience.

123

00:07:19,870 --> 00:07:21,670

I can still hear them screaming.

124

00:07:21,670 --> 00:07:37,430

125

00:07:37,430 --> 00:07:38,960

Do you want a break now?

126

00:07:38,960 --> 00:07:41,900

No, I'm fine.

127

00:07:41,900 --> 00:07:44,930

I am fine.

128

00:07:44,930 --> 00:07:47,330

Tell me how your parents--

129

00:07:47,330 --> 00:07:51,530

how do you think your
parents had the foresight,

130

00:07:51,530 --> 00:07:56,360

somehow knew and somehow managed
to rescue both their daughters?

131

00:07:56,360 --> 00:08:00,260

132

00:08:00,260 --> 00:08:05,090

My father was a very
protective parent.

133

00:08:05,090 --> 00:08:12,100

And there was a lot
of unrest going on.

134

00:08:12,100 --> 00:08:14,890

Because I heard stories
that actually they

135

00:08:14,890 --> 00:08:17,380

weren't planning of
having me, either, since I

136

00:08:17,380 --> 00:08:21,320

was born in 1935 and there
was already talk of war.

137

00:08:21,320 --> 00:08:24,010

So I wasn't actually
a welcome addition

138

00:08:24,010 --> 00:08:26,750

at this particular time.

139

00:08:26,750 --> 00:08:28,570

But I came, and
they accepted me.

140

00:08:28,570 --> 00:08:34,140

And I think I brought
him a lot of joy.

141

00:08:34,140 --> 00:08:38,159

Anyways, my father
made arrangements.

142

00:08:38,159 --> 00:08:43,750

For instance, we had an aunt in
Brazil that, if for some reason

143
00:08:43,750 --> 00:08:47,560
we are sent to
parts of the country

144
00:08:47,560 --> 00:08:50,830
and we don't make it back
for one reason or another,

145
00:08:50,830 --> 00:08:55,840
that there was a gentile
left with information

146
00:08:55,840 --> 00:08:57,520
to get in touch with my aunt.

147
00:08:57,520 --> 00:09:01,300
And she would take my
sister, especially,

148
00:09:01,300 --> 00:09:04,930
because she was sure that
my sister would survive.

149
00:09:04,930 --> 00:09:11,540
That my aunt will take my
sister and this particular man

150
00:09:11,540 --> 00:09:18,390
to Brazil as a reward for
getting in touch with my aunt.

151
00:09:18,390 --> 00:09:24,220
If for some reason my father
and mother don't survive,

152
00:09:24,220 --> 00:09:27,670
that was one of the things
that my father arranged.

153
00:09:27,670 --> 00:09:31,930

My father arranged
from my sister's being

154
00:09:31,930 --> 00:09:34,810
with a family that
had a piano and that

155
00:09:34,810 --> 00:09:40,100
made sure that my sister would
get continuous education--

156
00:09:40,100 --> 00:09:42,560
that was his foresight, also.

157
00:09:42,560 --> 00:09:46,340
He wanted to make sure that her
education goes on, because it

158
00:09:46,340 --> 00:09:47,620
was very important to him.

159
00:09:47,620 --> 00:09:51,010

160
00:09:51,010 --> 00:09:56,620
And he was--

161
00:09:56,620 --> 00:09:59,920

162
00:09:59,920 --> 00:10:01,330
I heard a story.

163
00:10:01,330 --> 00:10:03,760
My sister has a
mark on her forehead,

164
00:10:03,760 --> 00:10:06,460
a burn mark on her forehead.

165
00:10:06,460 --> 00:10:08,590
You have to understand

that our homes,

166
00:10:08,590 --> 00:10:13,000
although we lived
very comfortably,

167
00:10:13,000 --> 00:10:14,830
we did not have
any running water.

168
00:10:14,830 --> 00:10:18,130
We had water standing in
the corner of the kitchen.

169
00:10:18,130 --> 00:10:25,090
A wood barrel with water
that a man brought every day

170
00:10:25,090 --> 00:10:27,370
and filled up the water for us.

171
00:10:27,370 --> 00:10:29,800
So eating fruit
without being washed

172
00:10:29,800 --> 00:10:31,510
was unheard of in our house.

173
00:10:31,510 --> 00:10:33,640
And it wasn't just
washed with water,

174
00:10:33,640 --> 00:10:36,010
but it had to be washed
with boiling water.

175
00:10:36,010 --> 00:10:39,700
And my sister wanted
an apple, and my father

176
00:10:39,700 --> 00:10:44,110
went to wash the apple with the
boiling water from the kettle.

177
00:10:44,110 --> 00:10:46,720
And she pulled on his
sleeve, and it spilled

178
00:10:46,720 --> 00:10:48,130
and it burned her.

179
00:10:48,130 --> 00:10:52,360
So even in those days my
father was so protective of us

180
00:10:52,360 --> 00:10:55,210
that he wanted to make
sure that we grow up

181
00:10:55,210 --> 00:10:59,200
healthy and that everything
that we eat is clean

182
00:10:59,200 --> 00:11:01,930
and without any germs.

183
00:11:01,930 --> 00:11:04,960
So he really had a foresight.

184
00:11:04,960 --> 00:11:06,880
He was very, very
protective of us.

185
00:11:06,880 --> 00:11:10,010

186
00:11:10,010 --> 00:11:12,180
We're just about to run out.

187
00:11:12,180 --> 00:11:14,460
I won't make it even
through a question.

188
00:11:14,460 --> 00:11:18,658

189
00:11:18,658 --> 00:11:23,040
[INAUDIBLE]

190
00:11:23,040 --> 00:11:24,889
[INAUDIBLE]

191
00:11:24,889 --> 00:11:27,787
[BEEP]

192
00:11:27,787 --> 00:11:32,140

193
00:11:32,140 --> 00:11:37,060
Can you describe the transport
to Auschwitz and the arrival

194
00:11:37,060 --> 00:11:37,560
there?

195
00:11:37,560 --> 00:11:42,440

196
00:11:42,440 --> 00:11:46,760
I remember being shoved
into cattle cars.

197
00:11:46,760 --> 00:11:50,160

198
00:11:50,160 --> 00:11:53,100
It was very crowded.

199
00:11:53,100 --> 00:11:55,640

200
00:11:55,640 --> 00:12:04,160
And my mother maneuvered me
over to the wall of the car,

201
00:12:04,160 --> 00:12:06,900

because that gave me
a chance to breathe.

202
00:12:06,900 --> 00:12:08,970
You see, being little--

203
00:12:08,970 --> 00:12:13,560
I mean, that was in 1944.

204
00:12:13,560 --> 00:12:19,790
I was about 8, and I was small.

205
00:12:19,790 --> 00:12:22,900
I'm not really that
tall now, but I

206
00:12:22,900 --> 00:12:25,420
was undernourished and skinny.

207
00:12:25,420 --> 00:12:35,580
And so here all I could see was
the people's feet, actually.

208
00:12:35,580 --> 00:12:37,950
So it was a little
bit hard to breathe.

209
00:12:37,950 --> 00:12:42,870
And my mother maneuvered me
over to the wall of the car,

210
00:12:42,870 --> 00:12:47,550
and that's where we stood.

211
00:12:47,550 --> 00:12:51,090
We were squeezed in, and
we were given two pails.

212
00:12:51,090 --> 00:12:53,880
I think one was for
water, and the other one

213

00:12:53,880 --> 00:12:55,610
was for elimination.

214
00:12:55,610 --> 00:13:00,370
I'm not quite sure, but I
just remember those two pails.

215
00:13:00,370 --> 00:13:09,820
And they shut the
door with a bang,

216
00:13:09,820 --> 00:13:11,530
and the train started moving.

217
00:13:11,530 --> 00:13:15,580

218
00:13:15,580 --> 00:13:19,270
And I think we were on the
go for about four days.

219
00:13:19,270 --> 00:13:23,440
I'm not sure how much, but
we did stop on the way.

220
00:13:23,440 --> 00:13:30,770
And I remember either
people leaving the train

221
00:13:30,770 --> 00:13:39,510
and getting water, or Poles
bringing water to the cars,

222
00:13:39,510 --> 00:13:40,640
to the cattle cars.

223
00:13:40,640 --> 00:13:41,870
I don't remember.

224
00:13:41,870 --> 00:13:45,410
But I know that we were given
some water and some bread.

225

00:13:45,410 --> 00:13:48,590

226

00:13:48,590 --> 00:13:53,000

Oh, but when the train
started, then we all

227

00:13:53,000 --> 00:13:54,950

had to sit down
at the same time.

228

00:13:54,950 --> 00:13:59,210

Because one person could
not sit and another stand.

229

00:13:59,210 --> 00:14:00,290

You couldn't breathe.

230

00:14:00,290 --> 00:14:02,630

You were on the floor,
and you had all these mess

231

00:14:02,630 --> 00:14:05,270

of people around you.

232

00:14:05,270 --> 00:14:06,480

So we all sat down.

233

00:14:06,480 --> 00:14:09,180

And then when some people
wanted to stand up,

234

00:14:09,180 --> 00:14:12,350

we all had to stand
up at the same time.

235

00:14:12,350 --> 00:14:15,890

I was little, and I
would be picked up

236

00:14:15,890 --> 00:14:17,880

to look out of the window.

237
00:14:17,880 --> 00:14:21,020
Because there was a little
window in the cattle car

238
00:14:21,020 --> 00:14:24,020
with the steel grates on it.

239
00:14:24,020 --> 00:14:28,220
And they would ask me
to point out landmarks,

240
00:14:28,220 --> 00:14:30,950
because we really didn't
know where we were going.

241
00:14:30,950 --> 00:14:33,920
Being that we were coming
from a working camp,

242
00:14:33,920 --> 00:14:38,240
we were told that we were
going to another working camp.

243
00:14:38,240 --> 00:14:42,680
We really did not, of the
conversation that I remember,

244
00:14:42,680 --> 00:14:44,900
that we were going to Auschwitz.

245
00:14:44,900 --> 00:14:47,240
Not that I knew what
Auschwitz meant.

246
00:14:47,240 --> 00:14:54,160
But the story was at the
time that was going around

247
00:14:54,160 --> 00:14:58,830
is that we were going
to another working camp.

248

00:14:58,830 --> 00:15:03,390

And on the way to
Auschwitz, the train

249

00:15:03,390 --> 00:15:04,920

did stop a couple of times.

250

00:15:04,920 --> 00:15:12,220

And the doors opened and we were
replenished with some water.

251

00:15:12,220 --> 00:15:19,210

And then finally, very
early in the morning--

252

00:15:19,210 --> 00:15:21,310

it was just about dusk--

253

00:15:21,310 --> 00:15:23,840

we arrived in Auschwitz.

254

00:15:23,840 --> 00:15:25,910

And again, I was picked up.

255

00:15:25,910 --> 00:15:33,570

And I was starting to give the
people the landmarks around.

256

00:15:33,570 --> 00:15:37,860

And people started
screaming and crying.

257

00:15:37,860 --> 00:15:41,940

And I suppose they
realized where we were.

258

00:15:41,940 --> 00:15:43,020

I didn't know.

259

00:15:43,020 --> 00:15:44,145

Didn't mean to me anything.

260

00:15:44,145 --> 00:15:46,940

261

00:15:46,940 --> 00:15:50,560

Then finally the
train came to a stop.

262

00:15:50,560 --> 00:15:53,090

The doors opened.

263

00:15:53,090 --> 00:16:00,810

And screaming, raus, raus.

264

00:16:00,810 --> 00:16:03,440

Get out, get out from the train.

265

00:16:03,440 --> 00:16:06,200

266

00:16:06,200 --> 00:16:15,880

When I came to the platform,
it was very, very foggy.

267

00:16:15,880 --> 00:16:17,260

Could hardly see anything.

268

00:16:17,260 --> 00:16:23,860

And slowly, as the fog
lifted was to the left of me

269

00:16:23,860 --> 00:16:26,940

that I saw a fence--

270

00:16:26,940 --> 00:16:33,440

well, straight ahead
of me there were fences

271

00:16:33,440 --> 00:16:36,890

that I've never seen before.

272

00:16:36,890 --> 00:16:39,620

Because they were rounded
off with electric wires.

273
00:16:39,620 --> 00:16:41,210
I didn't know what that meant.

274
00:16:41,210 --> 00:16:44,210
But to the left of me--

275
00:16:44,210 --> 00:16:49,060
in fact, I tried to recollect
it when I was there this spring,

276
00:16:49,060 --> 00:16:51,710
but I couldn't make it out--

277
00:16:51,710 --> 00:16:58,670
I saw this big fence
covered with blankets.

278
00:16:58,670 --> 00:17:05,200
And people would peek out to
see this transfer coming up.

279
00:17:05,200 --> 00:17:13,819
And as the fog lifted a little
more, we saw the chimneys.

280
00:17:13,819 --> 00:17:19,960
These huge, enormous
chimneys with the smoke

281
00:17:19,960 --> 00:17:23,575
billowing from them.

282
00:17:23,575 --> 00:17:29,230
That was my first
glimpse of Auschwitz.

283
00:17:29,230 --> 00:17:32,990

284

00:17:32,990 --> 00:17:39,790

We were taken off the
cars, the cattle cars.

285

00:17:39,790 --> 00:17:45,480

And we stood on the platform,
or sat down on the platform

286

00:17:45,480 --> 00:17:51,620

with our little bundle of
clothes, whatever we had left.

287

00:17:51,620 --> 00:17:57,260

As we arrived, for 24
hours without any bread,

288

00:17:57,260 --> 00:18:01,280

without any water,
without any anything.

289

00:18:01,280 --> 00:18:04,520

It was in the summer, 1944.

290

00:18:04,520 --> 00:18:06,980

I guess they didn't
quite know what

291

00:18:06,980 --> 00:18:09,500

to do with us at this point.

292

00:18:09,500 --> 00:18:13,790

Should we go straight into the
crematoriums, into the ovens?

293

00:18:13,790 --> 00:18:17,440

Or if we should be
let into the camp.

294

00:18:17,440 --> 00:18:22,150

Because we did come what
they call an iron paper.

295

00:18:22,150 --> 00:18:25,150

We're from a working
camp, so we should not

296
00:18:25,150 --> 00:18:28,360
have gone through a selection.

297
00:18:28,360 --> 00:18:35,100
And also, Mengele was sick
or had a cold or something,

298
00:18:35,100 --> 00:18:39,930
so he wasn't available to
do his usual selections.

299
00:18:39,930 --> 00:18:41,910
So we were waiting for 24 hours.

300
00:18:41,910 --> 00:18:44,430

301
00:18:44,430 --> 00:18:47,050
And then finally, the
decision was made.

302
00:18:47,050 --> 00:18:50,910
There wasn't too
many transfers that

303
00:18:50,910 --> 00:18:53,810
came in without a selection.

304
00:18:53,810 --> 00:18:56,930
We were one of them.

305
00:18:56,930 --> 00:19:01,850
I'm saying that only from what
I have seen after I came in

306
00:19:01,850 --> 00:19:05,360
and I saw what was happening
to all other transports

307

00:19:05,360 --> 00:19:06,170
that I'm saying it.

308
00:19:06,170 --> 00:19:12,020
I have no history or
information of actually

309
00:19:12,020 --> 00:19:15,189
what had happened before
I came to Auschwitz.

310
00:19:15,189 --> 00:19:21,620

311
00:19:21,620 --> 00:19:26,540
The decision was made for us to
be allowed to go into the camp,

312
00:19:26,540 --> 00:19:32,360
and we were given
then something to eat.

313
00:19:32,360 --> 00:19:35,960
And they gave us the number.

314
00:19:35,960 --> 00:19:39,510
We were all given numbers.

315
00:19:39,510 --> 00:19:47,350
And the people that were
peeking through the blankets

316
00:19:47,350 --> 00:19:52,860
from that area, and
what we called Kanada--

317
00:19:52,860 --> 00:20:01,020
the people that came to help the
transports get off the trains,

318
00:20:01,020 --> 00:20:06,390
get off the cattle cars
and help with the selection

319
00:20:06,390 --> 00:20:08,380
and take all the clothes
and everything else

320
00:20:08,380 --> 00:20:09,690
or tell us what to do.

321
00:20:09,690 --> 00:20:12,200

322
00:20:12,200 --> 00:20:16,130
We were very surprised
that the few children--

323
00:20:16,130 --> 00:20:18,800
there weren't many
of us, but the few

324
00:20:18,800 --> 00:20:21,470
that did come with the
transport were given numbers

325
00:20:21,470 --> 00:20:25,760
and were allowed to
get into the camp.

326
00:20:25,760 --> 00:20:28,570
So that's how we
got into Auschwitz.

327
00:20:28,570 --> 00:20:31,820
The men were separated
from the women.

328
00:20:31,820 --> 00:20:38,390
And my mother and I were
taken to [NON-ENGLISH] we used

329
00:20:38,390 --> 00:20:39,020
to call it.

330

00:20:39,020 --> 00:20:42,410
It's BIIB Lager.

331
00:20:42,410 --> 00:20:46,150
And we stayed there
for a few months.

332
00:20:46,150 --> 00:20:47,300
Oh, wait a minute.

333
00:20:47,300 --> 00:20:53,660
Before we went in, we were taken
in to be showered and bathed.

334
00:20:53,660 --> 00:20:58,450
Because we were, I guess,
full of lice and dirt.

335
00:20:58,450 --> 00:21:02,810
So the clothes, everything
was taken away from us.

336
00:21:02,810 --> 00:21:09,540
We were taken into a big hall.

337
00:21:09,540 --> 00:21:15,030
And in a row, kind of
moved on completely naked.

338
00:21:15,030 --> 00:21:18,530

339
00:21:18,530 --> 00:21:21,020
And this was actually
the first time

340
00:21:21,020 --> 00:21:24,050
that I have seen my
mother completely naked.

341
00:21:24,050 --> 00:21:25,370
And all the other women.

342

00:21:25,370 --> 00:21:26,960

I've never seen it.

343

00:21:26,960 --> 00:21:29,660

And they were just
standing there and kind

344

00:21:29,660 --> 00:21:31,640
of holding their hands together.

345

00:21:31,640 --> 00:21:33,860
And the Germans were
walking back and forth

346

00:21:33,860 --> 00:21:40,100
with their little
whatever you call it

347

00:21:40,100 --> 00:21:42,180
that they were hitting with--

348

00:21:42,180 --> 00:21:47,130
a leather strip-- if you
didn't move fast enough.

349

00:21:47,130 --> 00:21:51,120
And we kept on
moving down the line.

350

00:21:51,120 --> 00:21:53,580
The only thing that was
left for us was the shoes.

351

00:21:53,580 --> 00:21:55,170
We were allowed
to keep our shoes.

352

00:21:55,170 --> 00:21:59,920
But the shoes we had to immerse
in some kind of a liquid

353

00:21:59,920 --> 00:22:06,040

and go on into a huge
room where water came down

354
00:22:06,040 --> 00:22:08,550
from the ceiling.

355
00:22:08,550 --> 00:22:09,510
It was the shower.

356
00:22:09,510 --> 00:22:12,420
We were shaved completely.

357
00:22:12,420 --> 00:22:14,550
Hair shaved off.

358
00:22:14,550 --> 00:22:17,658
And we came out on the
other side of the building.

359
00:22:17,658 --> 00:22:19,200
At least, that's
what it seemed like.

360
00:22:19,200 --> 00:22:19,800
I don't know.

361
00:22:19,800 --> 00:22:21,090
Maybe we went in a circle.

362
00:22:21,090 --> 00:22:22,380
I don't know.

363
00:22:22,380 --> 00:22:28,070
It's not standing anymore, so
I couldn't find out exactly.

364
00:22:28,070 --> 00:22:32,380
And we were each thrown
a piece of cloth.

365
00:22:32,380 --> 00:22:36,190
And it seemed that it worked

out that the tall woman--

366
00:22:36,190 --> 00:22:40,090
Let's stop and reload.

367
00:22:40,090 --> 00:22:41,220
We just ran out.

368
00:22:41,220 --> 00:22:45,531

369
00:22:45,531 --> 00:22:47,926
[BEEP]

370
00:22:47,926 --> 00:22:49,370

371
00:22:49,370 --> 00:22:50,000
OK.

372
00:22:50,000 --> 00:22:52,400
Why don't you
describe registration

373
00:22:52,400 --> 00:22:54,620
and what that involved.

374
00:22:54,620 --> 00:22:59,240
Registration was that
first, after the 24 hours,

375
00:22:59,240 --> 00:23:05,480
they decided to let us in to
the camp without a selection.

376
00:23:05,480 --> 00:23:10,040
And we were all
given the numbers.

377
00:23:10,040 --> 00:23:12,110
And the few children
that came also

378
00:23:12,110 --> 00:23:17,140
were given the numbers,
which was very unusual.

379
00:23:17,140 --> 00:23:26,150
And we were shown or told
to go into a huge building

380
00:23:26,150 --> 00:23:31,840
where we were undressed,
completely undressed.

381
00:23:31,840 --> 00:23:34,720
And we were allowed
to keep our shoes.

382
00:23:34,720 --> 00:23:36,250
That was the only thing.

383
00:23:36,250 --> 00:23:41,450
We were completely
shaved and kept

384
00:23:41,450 --> 00:23:45,770
moving in line towards
that I later found out

385
00:23:45,770 --> 00:23:48,050
was the showers.

386
00:23:48,050 --> 00:23:50,840
There was a lot of
crying from the people

387
00:23:50,840 --> 00:23:57,510
because I guess they knew that
it might not be just a shower.

388
00:23:57,510 --> 00:24:02,520
For me, I was shocked to
have seen for the first time

389

00:24:02,520 --> 00:24:05,600

my mother completely naked.

390

00:24:05,600 --> 00:24:08,540

And everybody else around me.

391

00:24:08,540 --> 00:24:15,200

And they were kind of trying
to hide from all these Germans

392

00:24:15,200 --> 00:24:19,370

that were walking back
and forth and disregarded

393

00:24:19,370 --> 00:24:22,850

all this mass of women
completely naked.

394

00:24:22,850 --> 00:24:28,540

395

00:24:28,540 --> 00:24:38,280

We were encouraged or pushed
into going into this room where

396

00:24:38,280 --> 00:24:43,920

there was shower heads in the
ceiling, and water came down.

397

00:24:43,920 --> 00:24:47,810

And we got our showers.

398

00:24:47,810 --> 00:24:51,800

And then it seems to me--

399

00:24:51,800 --> 00:24:53,480

I don't know if I'm
right-- we came out

400

00:24:53,480 --> 00:24:57,240

on the other side
of the building.

401
00:24:57,240 --> 00:24:59,930
We had to dip our shoes
in some kind of a liquid

402
00:24:59,930 --> 00:25:01,280
to disinfect that, too.

403
00:25:01,280 --> 00:25:05,330
So we were pretty clean
once we got out of there.

404
00:25:05,330 --> 00:25:07,700
At the other end,
we each received

405
00:25:07,700 --> 00:25:12,290
a piece of clothes, a dress.

406
00:25:12,290 --> 00:25:18,200
And it was as if it was set
up that a tall woman would

407
00:25:18,200 --> 00:25:21,950
get a real short dress,
and a little woman

408
00:25:21,950 --> 00:25:23,420
would get a long dress.

409
00:25:23,420 --> 00:25:27,380
And they weren't willing to
switch, because obviously it

410
00:25:27,380 --> 00:25:30,440
was more favorable to
have a longer dress,

411
00:25:30,440 --> 00:25:32,510
because it was more protective.

412
00:25:32,510 --> 00:25:43,240

And with everybody feeling so
upset going into the building

413
00:25:43,240 --> 00:25:47,770
and crying and not knowing
what is waiting for us all,

414
00:25:47,770 --> 00:25:51,640
when this group came
out at the other end,

415
00:25:51,640 --> 00:25:53,080
everybody started laughing.

416
00:25:53,080 --> 00:25:54,820
Because they looked
at each other,

417
00:25:54,820 --> 00:25:56,500
and they saw what
they looked like

418
00:25:56,500 --> 00:26:02,230
with the shaved heads and the
pieces of cloth over them.

419
00:26:02,230 --> 00:26:05,440
It was so comical, in spite
of all this horror that

420
00:26:05,440 --> 00:26:08,410
was going around us, that
the women started laughing.

421
00:26:08,410 --> 00:26:12,260

422
00:26:12,260 --> 00:26:17,520
And that really was comical.

423
00:26:17,520 --> 00:26:24,130
And then we were
told to go into a--

424
00:26:24,130 --> 00:26:29,860
we were led to a
barrack in Lager B.

425
00:26:29,860 --> 00:26:33,830
It was called [NON-ENGLISH]
which is actually BIIb.

426
00:26:33,830 --> 00:26:39,970
But I guess either in German
or Yiddish it is [NON-ENGLISH]

427
00:26:39,970 --> 00:26:41,950
And I had tried to
ask my mother what

428
00:26:41,950 --> 00:26:46,910
block we were in when I went
to Auschwitz this spring,

429
00:26:46,910 --> 00:26:51,620
but she said she wasn't quite
sure if it was 16 or 17.

430
00:26:51,620 --> 00:26:53,180
But it really didn't matter.

431
00:26:53,180 --> 00:26:56,750
Nothing much is left of it.

432
00:26:56,750 --> 00:27:03,960
We were a few months
together in that block.

433
00:27:03,960 --> 00:27:08,920
I contracted the measles--

434
00:27:08,920 --> 00:27:12,595
child's disease-- and I
was taken to the hospital.

435

00:27:12,595 --> 00:27:15,210

436

00:27:15,210 --> 00:27:18,380

It was a rather severe case.

437

00:27:18,380 --> 00:27:20,360

My mother came to
visit me every day.

438

00:27:20,360 --> 00:27:27,590

And I was on the higher
perch of the bunk beds.

439

00:27:27,590 --> 00:27:30,710

And like always,
she was always there

440

00:27:30,710 --> 00:27:36,170

throwing up-- because there was
an opening between the ceiling

441

00:27:36,170 --> 00:27:37,340

and the wall.

442

00:27:37,340 --> 00:27:39,860

When it came down like
this, there was an opening.

443

00:27:39,860 --> 00:27:43,980

And she would throw
bread up to me.

444

00:27:43,980 --> 00:27:46,200

I guess I kind of
expected it from her.

445

00:27:46,200 --> 00:27:49,110

446

00:27:49,110 --> 00:27:54,760

So I don't know how long
I was in the hospital,

447
00:27:54,760 --> 00:27:58,290
but not long enough.

448
00:27:58,290 --> 00:28:02,880
Because when the
nurse in the hospital

449
00:28:02,880 --> 00:28:06,630
heard that there was going to
be a selection in the hospital,

450
00:28:06,630 --> 00:28:10,680
she discharged whoever
was able to possibly walk.

451
00:28:10,680 --> 00:28:16,340
I still had all my
spots on me, and I had,

452
00:28:16,340 --> 00:28:19,520
I guess was still
running a fever.

453
00:28:19,520 --> 00:28:21,590
But she discharged me.

454
00:28:21,590 --> 00:28:27,650
And the procedure was that
you left the hospital, which

455
00:28:27,650 --> 00:28:29,810
was at one end of the camp--

456
00:28:29,810 --> 00:28:31,920
and that was in the winter--

457
00:28:31,920 --> 00:28:38,150
and you would go down
the center of the camp,

458
00:28:38,150 --> 00:28:43,820

and they would let off
whichever block you came out of

459
00:28:43,820 --> 00:28:47,550
to go into the hospital.

460
00:28:47,550 --> 00:28:53,300
Well, mine was pretty much
at the other end of the camp.

461
00:28:53,300 --> 00:28:59,690
When I finally made it into the
barrack and some of our friends

462
00:28:59,690 --> 00:29:04,930
and my mother took
one look at me,

463
00:29:04,930 --> 00:29:07,240
hear me they couldn't,
because I've lost my voice.

464
00:29:07,240 --> 00:29:09,130
So I couldn't talk at all.

465
00:29:09,130 --> 00:29:12,280
And according to
the people, they--

466
00:29:12,280 --> 00:29:14,470
it's their favorite
story to talk about me,

467
00:29:14,470 --> 00:29:16,480
how I looked at the time--

468
00:29:16,480 --> 00:29:22,270
I was green, and
I couldn't speak.

469
00:29:22,270 --> 00:29:26,485
And none of them believed
that I was going to survive.

470
00:29:26,485 --> 00:29:29,350

471
00:29:29,350 --> 00:29:31,630
Well, I came into
care into the barracks

472
00:29:31,630 --> 00:29:34,060
and stayed a couple of days.

473
00:29:34,060 --> 00:29:35,440
And there was another selection.

474
00:29:35,440 --> 00:29:37,930
There was a selection for--

475
00:29:37,930 --> 00:29:41,500
they kept us very clean
and very healthy--

476
00:29:41,500 --> 00:29:43,750
for a skin disease.

477
00:29:43,750 --> 00:29:46,178
It was called
[POLISH] in Polish.

478
00:29:46,178 --> 00:29:47,470
I really don't know what it is.

479
00:29:47,470 --> 00:29:49,570
Some kind of enzyme.

480
00:29:49,570 --> 00:29:52,390
And they had a special
block for that, too.

481
00:29:52,390 --> 00:29:58,780
So they mistook-- and that
would come up on the wrists

482

00:29:58,780 --> 00:30:01,660

and under the arms,
little pimples,

483

00:30:01,660 --> 00:30:03,490

and they had a special
medication for that.

484

00:30:03,490 --> 00:30:05,560

But you had to go to that block.

485

00:30:05,560 --> 00:30:11,410

Well, they mistook my spots from
the measles for that disease.

486

00:30:11,410 --> 00:30:16,560

And they yanked me
to go to that block.

487

00:30:16,560 --> 00:30:21,630

And every time you were
selected into a certain area,

488

00:30:21,630 --> 00:30:25,470

these were the areas that
had the selections to go

489

00:30:25,470 --> 00:30:31,020

into the gas chambers if they
didn't have enough people that

490

00:30:31,020 --> 00:30:32,640

were coming in in a transport.

491

00:30:32,640 --> 00:30:36,760

I mean, these were the
first that were selected.

492

00:30:36,760 --> 00:30:43,210

So when you went anywhere out
of the ordinary, it was bad.

493

00:30:43,210 --> 00:30:47,250
So when I was going to be taken
to the [NON-ENGLISH] block,

494
00:30:47,250 --> 00:30:49,050
my mother wouldn't
let me go by myself,

495
00:30:49,050 --> 00:30:51,220
so she came along with me.

496
00:30:51,220 --> 00:30:59,040
So again, she endangered her own
life for a maybe of saving mine

497
00:30:59,040 --> 00:31:01,530
if any way there
was a possibility.

498
00:31:01,530 --> 00:31:03,480
Because at this
point, really, it

499
00:31:03,480 --> 00:31:07,020
didn't really matter if she
was there with me or not.

500
00:31:07,020 --> 00:31:09,480
She would just be
one more person that

501
00:31:09,480 --> 00:31:10,950
would be in the same situation.

502
00:31:10,950 --> 00:31:12,090
But she went along with me.

503
00:31:12,090 --> 00:31:16,310

504
00:31:16,310 --> 00:31:19,580
We had difficulty getting
out of that block,

505

00:31:19,580 --> 00:31:24,530
because instead of
the spots going away

506

00:31:24,530 --> 00:31:31,850
with this medication, it spread
because it became infected.

507

00:31:31,850 --> 00:31:36,770
And on top of it, I caught
pneumonia, so I was coughing.

508

00:31:36,770 --> 00:31:42,640
And through some miracle,
I got through a selection

509

00:31:42,640 --> 00:31:45,760
by holding whatever
dress I had--

510

00:31:45,760 --> 00:31:48,130
we had to parade in
front of the doctor

511

00:31:48,130 --> 00:31:49,840
to see that we have
no more spots on us,

512

00:31:49,840 --> 00:31:52,210
and I had a whole
infection under my arm.

513

00:31:52,210 --> 00:31:55,990
So I would put that
dress over this shoulder

514

00:31:55,990 --> 00:31:58,300
and squeeze through.

515

00:31:58,300 --> 00:32:02,090
And I got out of that
block with my mother.

516
00:32:02,090 --> 00:32:06,820
We came back to our regular
block for a short time.

517
00:32:06,820 --> 00:32:13,880
And we were separated.

518
00:32:13,880 --> 00:32:15,920
I was taken into the
children's block.

519
00:32:15,920 --> 00:32:18,650

520
00:32:18,650 --> 00:32:21,620
Now, during the time that
I was with my mother--

521
00:32:21,620 --> 00:32:24,170
and every morning
at 4 o'clock we

522
00:32:24,170 --> 00:32:26,930
were still standing
for the Appell,

523
00:32:26,930 --> 00:32:29,960
where we had to be
counted till about 9:00,

524
00:32:29,960 --> 00:32:31,220
when the sun came out.

525
00:32:31,220 --> 00:32:35,640
And then we were, again,
put into the block.

526
00:32:35,640 --> 00:32:38,310
Occasionally the
Blockalteste, the woman

527

00:32:38,310 --> 00:32:40,620
that was in charge of
the block, felt sorry

528
00:32:40,620 --> 00:32:43,560
for the couple of
kids that were there,

529
00:32:43,560 --> 00:32:50,790
and she would allow us
to wait inside the block

530
00:32:50,790 --> 00:32:54,600
and come out as the Germans got
closer, as Mengele got closer

531
00:32:54,600 --> 00:32:57,550
to count us.

532
00:32:57,550 --> 00:32:59,800
Occasionally, there were
rumors, for instance,

533
00:32:59,800 --> 00:33:07,440
that they were needing more
people for the crematoriums,

534
00:33:07,440 --> 00:33:09,400
because it was getting slow.

535
00:33:09,400 --> 00:33:11,210
The transports were
coming in slow.

536
00:33:11,210 --> 00:33:14,300

537
00:33:14,300 --> 00:33:20,590
So what was on our mind, what
we shared with the children--

538
00:33:20,590 --> 00:33:22,330
I didn't share that

with my mother--

539

00:33:22,330 --> 00:33:25,480

was finding places
where to hide.

540

00:33:25,480 --> 00:33:27,190

In Auschwitz, where to hide.

541

00:33:27,190 --> 00:33:28,810

Under a blanket?

542

00:33:28,810 --> 00:33:31,060

They would find it, because
they would strip the beds.

543

00:33:31,060 --> 00:33:34,660

544

00:33:34,660 --> 00:33:37,660

There was nowhere to
hide in the barracks.

545

00:33:37,660 --> 00:33:43,000

But the barracks-- the barrack
that was next to ours was

546

00:33:43,000 --> 00:33:44,866

a place where--

547

00:33:44,866 --> 00:33:46,550

Wait, let's-- We have to reload.

548

00:33:46,550 --> 00:33:48,750

Boy, that was quick.

549

00:33:48,750 --> 00:33:51,000