

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,800

2

00:00:01,800 --> 00:00:06,210

This is an interview for the
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3

00:00:06,210 --> 00:00:11,130

with Jaffa Munk, conducted by
Margaret Garrett on October 8,

4

00:00:11,130 --> 00:00:18,710

1996, in Baltimore,
Maryland, tape 2, side A.

5

00:00:18,710 --> 00:00:21,740

You were talking
about the last words

6

00:00:21,740 --> 00:00:25,850

that your father spoke to you
at the entrance to Auschwitz.

7

00:00:25,850 --> 00:00:26,760

Yes.

8

00:00:26,760 --> 00:00:37,250

Then we were walking, and there
was a huge, tall, beautiful man

9

00:00:37,250 --> 00:00:40,070

in army uniforms.

10

00:00:40,070 --> 00:00:46,970

He had white gloves on his hand,
shiny boots, and a silver stick

11

00:00:46,970 --> 00:00:48,440

in his hand.

12

00:00:48,440 --> 00:00:51,830

When our turn came
to approach him,

13
00:00:51,830 --> 00:00:54,170
he pointed my
mother to the left,

14
00:00:54,170 --> 00:00:57,980
my and my sister, and the two
others sisters, [? Solomon, ?]

15
00:00:57,980 --> 00:01:00,390
from our hometown, to the right.

16
00:01:00,390 --> 00:01:06,170
When I noticed that my mother
was pointed to the left

17
00:01:06,170 --> 00:01:10,020
I grabbed her skirt and
I wanted to pull her.

18
00:01:10,020 --> 00:01:15,750
My mother, who spoke beautiful
German, she said to him,

19
00:01:15,750 --> 00:01:19,560
please mister, I am
capable of working.

20
00:01:19,560 --> 00:01:22,050
I am a young woman.

21
00:01:22,050 --> 00:01:25,690
May I go to the other side?

22
00:01:25,690 --> 00:01:31,140
How she knew that left means
not to go to good side,

23
00:01:31,140 --> 00:01:33,040
I can't tell.

24

00:01:33,040 --> 00:01:37,080

Most probably, she saw
that more young people

25

00:01:37,080 --> 00:01:39,310

are put to the right.

26

00:01:39,310 --> 00:01:43,300

Or she just wanted to
be with her children.

27

00:01:43,300 --> 00:01:46,090

But I remember her
words that she said,

28

00:01:46,090 --> 00:01:48,250

I am capable of working.

29

00:01:48,250 --> 00:01:53,410

And he became so angry that
with his beautiful shiny boots

30

00:01:53,410 --> 00:01:58,750

he beat into my mother and
he threw her to the left.

31

00:01:58,750 --> 00:02:02,770

I still was holding her
skirt and trying to pull,

32

00:02:02,770 --> 00:02:07,450

but he pushed her so
hard that that was

33

00:02:07,450 --> 00:02:10,880

the last time I saw my mother.

34

00:02:10,880 --> 00:02:15,020

As I know, my mother was
gassed that very same day

35

00:02:15,020 --> 00:02:17,120

in Auschwitz.

36
00:02:17,120 --> 00:02:21,440
We were taken to a
big huge place where

37
00:02:21,440 --> 00:02:27,710
there were "beauticians,"
quote unquote, waiting for us.

38
00:02:27,710 --> 00:02:31,350
They shaved our
hair off completely.

39
00:02:31,350 --> 00:02:34,500
They said that we have
to take off our clothing.

40
00:02:34,500 --> 00:02:36,960
We had been traveling
for a long time.

41
00:02:36,960 --> 00:02:39,150
We have to have some shower.

42
00:02:39,150 --> 00:02:43,160
And that we just should
pile up nicely our clothing.

43
00:02:43,160 --> 00:02:45,350
We were taken into a shower.

44
00:02:45,350 --> 00:02:49,150
And when we came back, no
more clothing was waiting.

45
00:02:49,150 --> 00:02:53,430
We then naked, we had to
stand and German soldiers

46
00:02:53,430 --> 00:02:56,900
came to count us--

47

00:02:56,900 --> 00:02:59,630
naked without hair.

48

00:02:59,630 --> 00:03:03,050
I remember screaming,
Esther, Esther.

49

00:03:03,050 --> 00:03:04,670
That's the name--
Judith Esther--

50

00:03:04,670 --> 00:03:05,745
my sister.

51

00:03:05,745 --> 00:03:09,020
And she said, I am
standing next to you.

52

00:03:09,020 --> 00:03:15,550
I couldn't recognize her
without hair, without clothing.

53

00:03:15,550 --> 00:03:18,400
And after they
counted us, then they

54

00:03:18,400 --> 00:03:23,830
threw us, each one, some kind
of an old shoe and an old dress.

55

00:03:23,830 --> 00:03:29,770
Then when we were about
dressed, we had to march again,

56

00:03:29,770 --> 00:03:30,940
five in a row.

57

00:03:30,940 --> 00:03:37,590
And there was a painting lady
who had a red can of red paint,

58

00:03:37,590 --> 00:03:42,790

and she painted in
the back of our dress.

59
00:03:42,790 --> 00:03:48,050
I remember that I felt that
the paint goes into my body.

60
00:03:48,050 --> 00:03:50,690
Why are they painting our dress?

61
00:03:50,690 --> 00:03:54,890
Well, in case we might
in some miraculous way

62
00:03:54,890 --> 00:03:57,150
try to escape from Auschwitz.

63
00:03:57,150 --> 00:04:00,420
We can't because we will
be noticed from far away

64
00:04:00,420 --> 00:04:03,840
that we are inmates
of Auschwitz.

65
00:04:03,840 --> 00:04:09,450
From the bathing house we were
marched into Birkenau, which

66
00:04:09,450 --> 00:04:13,965
was the camp for the womans.

67
00:04:13,965 --> 00:04:17,190
Yeah, that's a
sub-camp of Auschwitz--

68
00:04:17,190 --> 00:04:19,709
Auschwitz-Birkenau.

69
00:04:19,709 --> 00:04:27,720
And we were given to
go into a huge bunk.

70

00:04:27,720 --> 00:04:33,660

It was about the length of 2
times, 3 times, of my living

71

00:04:33,660 --> 00:04:40,050

room, where we had been
pushed in, 1,000 girls.

72

00:04:40,050 --> 00:04:49,220

And no beds, no blankets,
nothing was in that room.

73

00:04:49,220 --> 00:04:55,060

They again called us to
stand for Zählappell,

74

00:04:55,060 --> 00:04:57,870

which is roll call.

75

00:04:57,870 --> 00:05:02,460

And I happened to want
to make, you know.

76

00:05:02,460 --> 00:05:06,670

And I asked the head of
the camp, where can I go.

77

00:05:06,670 --> 00:05:10,800

And she said, in the
back, but do it fast.

78

00:05:10,800 --> 00:05:14,730

So until I find it, and until
I made it, and I came back,

79

00:05:14,730 --> 00:05:17,520

and they were already--
the Germans-- they

80

00:05:17,520 --> 00:05:20,370

were coming again to count us.

81

00:05:20,370 --> 00:05:24,030

She became very angry
and she gave me--

82

00:05:24,030 --> 00:05:30,020

she beat me up in my face,
that I could not see for days.

83

00:05:30,020 --> 00:05:33,510

I got so swollen in
my face, because she

84

00:05:33,510 --> 00:05:40,020

was blamed that there is missing
one person from the counting.

85

00:05:40,020 --> 00:05:43,050

Then I was standing in the
row and they counted again

86

00:05:43,050 --> 00:05:45,510

and everything was OK.

87

00:05:45,510 --> 00:05:48,290

We were given food.

88

00:05:48,290 --> 00:05:51,710

And the food consisted
of black coffee

89

00:05:51,710 --> 00:05:56,690

and a little piece of bread,
the size of half of my palm.

90

00:05:56,690 --> 00:06:00,230

We ate and we asked, where
are we going to sleep.

91

00:06:00,230 --> 00:06:06,080

So the head of the bunk said
to us, what do you think,

92

00:06:06,080 --> 00:06:08,070

you are in Budapest?

93

00:06:08,070 --> 00:06:10,250

What do you mean, "beds."

94

00:06:10,250 --> 00:06:13,520

You go and lay down
on the bare floor.

95

00:06:13,520 --> 00:06:16,670

And she threw, for every
two girl, a blanket.

96

00:06:16,670 --> 00:06:18,440

And she said, that is it.

97

00:06:18,440 --> 00:06:22,160

That's for covering and
whatever you want to do with it.

98

00:06:22,160 --> 00:06:27,680

We were so exhausted from the
trip, from their separation,

99

00:06:27,680 --> 00:06:32,670

from the shaving our
hair, from starvation,

100

00:06:32,670 --> 00:06:39,360

that we all fell asleep with
the blanket, two to one blanket.

101

00:06:39,360 --> 00:06:44,040

The next day, they took
us to a different bunk.

102

00:06:44,040 --> 00:06:48,240

And that bunk had some
kind of bridge beds.

103

00:06:48,240 --> 00:06:52,625

You know, like how you call
children have those kind of--

104
00:06:52,625 --> 00:06:53,250
Like bunk beds?

105
00:06:53,250 --> 00:06:55,260
Bunk beds, that's right.

106
00:06:55,260 --> 00:06:57,720
So we were taken there.

107
00:06:57,720 --> 00:07:02,030
And again, counting-- and
this counting business

108
00:07:02,030 --> 00:07:05,370
meant sometimes three
or four times in a day,

109
00:07:05,370 --> 00:07:09,720
sometimes we had to be standing
outside early in the morning.

110
00:07:09,720 --> 00:07:13,710
And in Auschwitz, even though
it was June when we arrived,

111
00:07:13,710 --> 00:07:16,750
the nights were very cold.

112
00:07:16,750 --> 00:07:20,760
And sometimes we were
standing for four hours,

113
00:07:20,760 --> 00:07:24,900
until the Germans they
arrived and they counted us,

114
00:07:24,900 --> 00:07:29,350
with the dogs
surrounding us, jumping.

115
00:07:29,350 --> 00:07:33,000

If they saw somebody look to
them too pale or too skinny,

116
00:07:33,000 --> 00:07:34,620
they would call out.

117
00:07:34,620 --> 00:07:37,035
At that time, we
didn't understand

118
00:07:37,035 --> 00:07:40,560
where they are taking them.

119
00:07:40,560 --> 00:07:43,650
And each day, we
were less and less.

120
00:07:43,650 --> 00:07:48,315
This was a camp that is called
Vernichtungslager, which word

121
00:07:48,315 --> 00:07:52,110
means that an elimination camp.

122
00:07:52,110 --> 00:07:53,880
Nobody was working.

123
00:07:53,880 --> 00:07:56,700
Nobody was doing nothing.

124
00:07:56,700 --> 00:08:00,300
Every day less and less
people remained in the camp.

125
00:08:00,300 --> 00:08:07,460
Opposite of our bunk was
a so-called hospital.

126
00:08:07,460 --> 00:08:11,870
And if somebody was sick
and did go to that hospital,

127

00:08:11,870 --> 00:08:14,330
never returned back from there.

128
00:08:14,330 --> 00:08:16,940
My best friend from
my childhood, her name

129
00:08:16,940 --> 00:08:21,620
[? Anniko ?] Weiss, who
came down with scarlet fever

130
00:08:21,620 --> 00:08:24,860
after a few days we
were in Auschwitz.

131
00:08:24,860 --> 00:08:26,500
We tried to hide her.

132
00:08:26,500 --> 00:08:28,460
We tried to hold her.

133
00:08:28,460 --> 00:08:30,620
We tried to massage her.

134
00:08:30,620 --> 00:08:34,309
We tried to give up our
little bit of warm stew

135
00:08:34,309 --> 00:08:38,390
that we were given, just to
make sure that she should not

136
00:08:38,390 --> 00:08:39,914
go to the hospital.

137
00:08:39,914 --> 00:08:41,270
But nothing helped.

138
00:08:41,270 --> 00:08:43,789
One day she collapsed
from the high fever

139

00:08:43,789 --> 00:08:46,220
and she went over
to the hospital.

140
00:08:46,220 --> 00:08:50,750
But luckily, there
was one German nurse

141
00:08:50,750 --> 00:08:52,470
who had pity on her.

142
00:08:52,470 --> 00:08:55,940
She was a very
beautiful 13-year-old,

143
00:08:55,940 --> 00:09:02,390
cheerful little girl whose
mother happened to be with us.

144
00:09:02,390 --> 00:09:07,520
And she told her, you
are enough good, go back.

145
00:09:07,520 --> 00:09:09,750
Don't stay here in the hospital.

146
00:09:09,750 --> 00:09:12,470
We used to see trucks coming.

147
00:09:12,470 --> 00:09:16,160
And they would pile on
the truck sick people.

148
00:09:16,160 --> 00:09:20,100
Well, they used to ask,
where are they taking them?

149
00:09:20,100 --> 00:09:22,490
The answer used to be
that they are taking them

150
00:09:22,490 --> 00:09:23,950
to the hospital.

151
00:09:23,950 --> 00:09:26,340
But they never came back.

152
00:09:26,340 --> 00:09:30,920
So we understood that it
couldn't be the hospital.

153
00:09:30,920 --> 00:09:33,920
After we have been
maybe two or three weeks

154
00:09:33,920 --> 00:09:37,060
in the concentration camp--

155
00:09:37,060 --> 00:09:42,110
Lager B3, Birkenau--
they announced

156
00:09:42,110 --> 00:09:48,490
that all those children who are
under the age of 16, from age

157
00:09:48,490 --> 00:09:53,270
whatever, remained alive,
they should be lining up.

158
00:09:53,270 --> 00:09:55,820
They will be united
with their parents.

159
00:09:55,820 --> 00:09:58,100
They will be given better food.

160
00:09:58,100 --> 00:10:03,930
They are going to have
milk and cake and bread.

161
00:10:03,930 --> 00:10:06,720
Who didn't want that-- to be
united with their parents?

162

00:10:06,720 --> 00:10:11,040
We did not know yet, you know,
that nobody from our parents

163
00:10:11,040 --> 00:10:12,930
is any more alive.

164
00:10:12,930 --> 00:10:17,460
Or even, if it's alive, we
will not be united with them.

165
00:10:17,460 --> 00:10:19,310
We lined up happily.

166
00:10:19,310 --> 00:10:21,040
We going to a better place.

167
00:10:21,040 --> 00:10:23,370
Now, was Esther under 16 also?

168
00:10:23,370 --> 00:10:23,910
Yes.

169
00:10:23,910 --> 00:10:26,970
Esther is two years
older than I am.

170
00:10:26,970 --> 00:10:29,230
So we lined up.

171
00:10:29,230 --> 00:10:32,320
And the two other sisters--

172
00:10:32,320 --> 00:10:34,480
the [? Solomon ?]
sisters, who were members

173
00:10:34,480 --> 00:10:37,000
of my father's congregation--

174
00:10:37,000 --> 00:10:39,490
they said, oh,

you're going away,

175

00:10:39,490 --> 00:10:41,260

you know, we will remain here.

176

00:10:41,260 --> 00:10:42,970

Because they were older.

177

00:10:42,970 --> 00:10:45,220

One of them was already married.

178

00:10:45,220 --> 00:10:49,240

And the other one

was 22, 23 years old.

179

00:10:49,240 --> 00:10:52,330

And they said, oh, we

will miss you so much.

180

00:10:52,330 --> 00:10:53,740

Why are you going?

181

00:10:53,740 --> 00:10:56,890

But we said, you know, we

will be united with the family

182

00:10:56,890 --> 00:10:58,940

and we are going to

be served better food.

183

00:10:58,940 --> 00:11:00,310

So we lined up.

184

00:11:00,310 --> 00:11:03,370

Here we are lining up,

5 again in the row.

185

00:11:03,370 --> 00:11:05,110

They're again counting us.

186

00:11:05,110 --> 00:11:09,610

Around us all the time, SS

soldiers with huge, big dogs

187

00:11:09,610 --> 00:11:15,520

that, God forbidden, we can't
move now any more from the row.

188

00:11:15,520 --> 00:11:21,000

As we are standing
and they are counting,

189

00:11:21,000 --> 00:11:27,660

I hear a voice saying go back,
don't go with this group.

190

00:11:27,660 --> 00:11:31,930

And I was looking,
who is talking to me?

191

00:11:31,930 --> 00:11:36,600

I believe that the
German lady soldier,

192

00:11:36,600 --> 00:11:39,580

she would be saying this to me.

193

00:11:39,580 --> 00:11:41,630

Why is she saying this to me?

194

00:11:41,630 --> 00:11:43,870

Now, until this
day, I don't know

195

00:11:43,870 --> 00:11:47,470

if she was the one
who was talking

196

00:11:47,470 --> 00:11:52,600

or it was an inner
voice, instinct,

197

00:11:52,600 --> 00:11:56,220

or the soul of my mother.

198

00:11:56,220 --> 00:12:01,190

The end of the story is
that I grabbed my sister.

199

00:12:01,190 --> 00:12:04,440

And she was very annoyed--
why, we should be going,

200

00:12:04,440 --> 00:12:06,810

we will have good.

201

00:12:06,810 --> 00:12:10,790

And when I heard this voice
three times, saying to me,

202

00:12:10,790 --> 00:12:14,240

just get out from
this, I took her.

203

00:12:14,240 --> 00:12:19,190

And the German soldier,
the lady, with her dog,

204

00:12:19,190 --> 00:12:20,500

did not interfere.

205

00:12:20,500 --> 00:12:23,510

She let us go out from the row.

206

00:12:23,510 --> 00:12:27,260

And we walked back to our bunk.

207

00:12:27,260 --> 00:12:31,620

And the whole group was taken.

208

00:12:31,620 --> 00:12:34,980

Not to be united with their
parents in this world,

209

00:12:34,980 --> 00:12:37,230

but to the gas chamber.

210

00:12:37,230 --> 00:12:40,170

And many times, you know,
until this day, sometimes

211

00:12:40,170 --> 00:12:41,040

I feel guilty.

212

00:12:41,040 --> 00:12:45,230

Why I have been the
one who was told,

213

00:12:45,230 --> 00:12:50,010

if it was by this German soldier
or by the soul of my mother

214

00:12:50,010 --> 00:12:52,830

or an angel or
whatever, you know,

215

00:12:52,830 --> 00:12:55,890

why the other girls had
to go to their death?

216

00:12:55,890 --> 00:12:57,420

But that's fate, you know.

217

00:12:57,420 --> 00:13:01,530

And perhaps God had
a special reason

218

00:13:01,530 --> 00:13:07,200

to save us from that
time, from the death.

219

00:13:07,200 --> 00:13:14,430

So a lot of miracle things
happened in Auschwitz.

220

00:13:14,430 --> 00:13:17,940

After a while, we were
taken over in the same camp

221

00:13:17,940 --> 00:13:21,660
to a different headquarters.

222
00:13:21,660 --> 00:13:24,700
And one night, I
will never forget it,

223
00:13:24,700 --> 00:13:27,910
we heard tremendous screaming.

224
00:13:27,910 --> 00:13:31,060
And there were no windows.

225
00:13:31,060 --> 00:13:34,630
Only through the cracks
of the wooden bunk

226
00:13:34,630 --> 00:13:36,880
we could be looking out.

227
00:13:36,880 --> 00:13:42,730
And we saw a lot of fires
and a lot of smoke going.

228
00:13:42,730 --> 00:13:48,380
All the Gypsies who had
been also taken to Auschwitz

229
00:13:48,380 --> 00:13:51,290
have been gassed that night.

230
00:13:51,290 --> 00:13:56,220
And the Gypsies were very
defiant in that matter.

231
00:13:56,220 --> 00:14:00,000
The Jewish people, when they
were taken to the gas chambers,

232
00:14:00,000 --> 00:14:03,540
they were singing Shema Yisrael.

233

00:14:03,540 --> 00:14:06,240
They were saying their prayer.

234
00:14:06,240 --> 00:14:09,740
The Gypsy people have
no religion, you know.

235
00:14:09,740 --> 00:14:12,540
They are very primitive people.

236
00:14:12,540 --> 00:14:15,900
They were trying to fight.

237
00:14:15,900 --> 00:14:23,310
They were trying to take their
nails and attack the soldiers.

238
00:14:23,310 --> 00:14:30,060
It was such a night that it's
still ringing in my ear--

239
00:14:30,060 --> 00:14:33,510
the screaming of
the Gypsy people

240
00:14:33,510 --> 00:14:35,680
who were gassed that night.

241
00:14:35,680 --> 00:14:38,820
And then the fire that
we saw was their body

242
00:14:38,820 --> 00:14:41,220
was burned to ashes.

243
00:14:41,220 --> 00:14:44,730
That was the very first
time that we really

244
00:14:44,730 --> 00:14:51,160
saw with all our own eyes
that there is a gas chamber

245

00:14:51,160 --> 00:14:53,930
and that there is fire.

246

00:14:53,930 --> 00:14:57,890
And from that day on,
we knew that if you

247

00:14:57,890 --> 00:15:06,490
are taken from this camp you
are taken to the gas chamber

248

00:15:06,490 --> 00:15:10,020
and you are being burned.

249

00:15:10,020 --> 00:15:16,840
So we were very much aware
what is going on in Auschwitz

250

00:15:16,840 --> 00:15:24,010
In about end of August,
beginning of September--

251

00:15:24,010 --> 00:15:26,980
because the dates are
not so clear, you know--

252

00:15:26,980 --> 00:15:30,610
except that through
some miraculous way,

253

00:15:30,610 --> 00:15:35,140
we were aware that when
is our holiday coming.

254

00:15:35,140 --> 00:15:38,950
There was always
one girl, or one--

255

00:15:38,950 --> 00:15:44,500
[INAUDIBLE] marching, they
used to take us to the bath,

256

00:15:44,500 --> 00:15:46,350
to the collective bath.

257
00:15:46,350 --> 00:15:50,430
We would march near
to the men's camp.

258
00:15:50,430 --> 00:15:54,660
They always used
to scream names.

259
00:15:54,660 --> 00:15:56,370
Maybe that is my relative.

260
00:15:56,370 --> 00:15:57,390
Did you see this?

261
00:15:57,390 --> 00:15:58,815
Did you see that, you know?

262
00:15:58,815 --> 00:16:01,230
They also would
scream to us, do you

263
00:16:01,230 --> 00:16:03,410
know that tomorrow is Shabbat?

264
00:16:03,410 --> 00:16:07,250
Or do you know that
tomorrow is the New Year?

265
00:16:07,250 --> 00:16:10,110

266
00:16:10,110 --> 00:16:16,460
One day we were marching, and
one of my uncle was screaming.

267
00:16:16,460 --> 00:16:20,570
And he was asking if
we saw his wife, Olga.

268

00:16:20,570 --> 00:16:23,960

So we knew that
he is still alive.

269

00:16:23,960 --> 00:16:28,370

The mens were
mainly in Auschwitz.

270

00:16:28,370 --> 00:16:31,520

And they have been a
little bit working.

271

00:16:31,520 --> 00:16:34,950

What their work was exactly,
it's hard for me to know.

272

00:16:34,950 --> 00:16:36,670

What?

273

00:16:36,670 --> 00:16:38,420

Do you want to stop
and rest your voice?

274

00:16:38,420 --> 00:16:39,360

Just for a minute.

275

00:16:39,360 --> 00:16:39,860

OK.

276

00:16:39,860 --> 00:16:46,440

277

00:16:46,440 --> 00:16:51,580

In about beginning
of September, they

278

00:16:51,580 --> 00:16:57,600

called again that they need
some workers for a factory.

279

00:16:57,600 --> 00:17:06,369

But the entire camp has to
line up in a very empty field.

280
00:17:06,369 --> 00:17:11,680
And they are going to
choose some people for work.

281
00:17:11,680 --> 00:17:16,390
I had no choice, because
this time not age, not group,

282
00:17:16,390 --> 00:17:20,589
or not one part of the
camp, but the entire camp,

283
00:17:20,589 --> 00:17:25,060
had to be naked, stand.

284
00:17:25,060 --> 00:17:28,870
And the German soldiers,
and the head of them,

285
00:17:28,870 --> 00:17:34,810
Dr. Mengele, that we called him
The Angel of Death, he came.

286
00:17:34,810 --> 00:17:36,940
And he started to count.

287
00:17:36,940 --> 00:17:42,070
And after he was counting
the entire camp--

288
00:17:42,070 --> 00:17:44,620
that was a few thousand girls--

289
00:17:44,620 --> 00:17:49,450
he started to point to the
right, again, and to the left.

290
00:17:49,450 --> 00:17:52,330
How did you know that
it was Dr. Mengele?

291

00:17:52,330 --> 00:17:57,520
We know it because when we
arrived the striped soldiers--

292
00:17:57,520 --> 00:18:00,580
the striped inmates--
they told us

293
00:18:00,580 --> 00:18:04,300
that there is a doctor
whose name is Dr. Mengele.

294
00:18:04,300 --> 00:18:08,020
And then later on,
the head of the camp,

295
00:18:08,020 --> 00:18:11,410
who happened to be
a Jewish girl who

296
00:18:11,410 --> 00:18:16,010
was working for the Germans,
she used to throw this,

297
00:18:16,010 --> 00:18:18,520
oh wait till you
meet Dr. Mengele.

298
00:18:18,520 --> 00:18:22,390
So we knew it, that that
was Dr. Josef Mengele.

299
00:18:22,390 --> 00:18:23,740
And he came.

300
00:18:23,740 --> 00:18:26,500
And he started to point people.

301
00:18:26,500 --> 00:18:30,400
But this time the left meant
that you remained still

302
00:18:30,400 --> 00:18:31,450

in Auschwitz.

303

00:18:31,450 --> 00:18:36,460

And right is the group that
is going to leave the camp

304

00:18:36,460 --> 00:18:40,060

and is going to be taken to
some kind of a factory to work.

305

00:18:40,060 --> 00:18:43,720

They said that the soldiers
are very busy on the front,

306

00:18:43,720 --> 00:18:44,620

you know.

307

00:18:44,620 --> 00:18:46,210

They are fighting the war.

308

00:18:46,210 --> 00:18:49,570

And there are no
more able people

309

00:18:49,570 --> 00:18:51,920

working in the factories.

310

00:18:51,920 --> 00:18:56,200

So my sister has been
chosen to go to the work,

311

00:18:56,200 --> 00:18:59,420

and I to remain in the camp.

312

00:18:59,420 --> 00:19:02,650

I didn't want to get
separated from my sister.

313

00:19:02,650 --> 00:19:07,060

And somehow I felt that
if I remain alone here,

314

00:19:07,060 --> 00:19:09,790

I won't be able
to endure anymore.

315

00:19:09,790 --> 00:19:14,550

Being together gave strength,
each one of us strengthening

316

00:19:14,550 --> 00:19:15,760

the other, you know.

317

00:19:15,760 --> 00:19:20,460

We were, at least,
giving each of us

318

00:19:20,460 --> 00:19:26,450

faith and strength to continue.

319

00:19:26,450 --> 00:19:28,240

So what should I do?

320

00:19:28,240 --> 00:19:32,780

I started to crawl on my
stomach towards the group that

321

00:19:32,780 --> 00:19:34,700

has been chosen.

322

00:19:34,700 --> 00:19:37,460

And one of the SS
soldiers noticed me

323

00:19:37,460 --> 00:19:42,690

and beat with his bayonet on
my back, which there is still

324

00:19:42,690 --> 00:19:44,390

a mark of it.

325

00:19:44,390 --> 00:19:46,830

And he said, in
German, [GERMAN]..

326

00:19:46,830 --> 00:19:50,370

327

00:19:50,370 --> 00:19:52,950

You devil Jew, you
will anyway die.

328

00:19:52,950 --> 00:19:54,980

Go where you want to go.

329

00:19:54,980 --> 00:19:57,410

And I crawled into that group.

330

00:19:57,410 --> 00:20:01,010

And then, again, they started
to count and count and count,

331

00:20:01,010 --> 00:20:02,000

you know.

332

00:20:02,000 --> 00:20:05,690

And somehow I was
very lucky that,

333

00:20:05,690 --> 00:20:09,260

even though that they counted
again and again, that there has

334

00:20:09,260 --> 00:20:12,290

to be only 300 in the group.

335

00:20:12,290 --> 00:20:17,000

How it happened, it was
300 with me together.

336

00:20:17,000 --> 00:20:20,180

Now if somebody left
because her sister was--

337

00:20:20,180 --> 00:20:22,130

I can't tell you.

338

00:20:22,130 --> 00:20:27,920

And at that time they took us to
a train and we left Auschwitz.

339

00:20:27,920 --> 00:20:31,890

They planned to then take
us, really, to a factory,

340

00:20:31,890 --> 00:20:36,430

but the Allies were,
by that time, bombing.

341

00:20:36,430 --> 00:20:41,570

American and British soldiers
were already heavily fighting.

342

00:20:41,570 --> 00:20:45,850

And I remember that the train
was going back and forth

343

00:20:45,850 --> 00:20:47,140

and back and forth.

344

00:20:47,140 --> 00:20:48,700

They couldn't really go--

345

00:20:48,700 --> 00:20:52,360

advance-- because each
time when the bombing was,

346

00:20:52,360 --> 00:20:54,910

they would ship the train
backwards to Auschwitz.

347

00:20:54,910 --> 00:20:59,500

So we didn't know, is this
a new method of killing us?

348

00:20:59,500 --> 00:21:02,350

Because in the train we,
again, didn't have air.

349

00:21:02,350 --> 00:21:04,620
We didn't have food.

350
00:21:04,620 --> 00:21:06,880
And we thought that
we are going to die.

351
00:21:06,880 --> 00:21:09,760
And no one will ever
know what happened to us

352
00:21:09,760 --> 00:21:12,400
because we are in the train.

353
00:21:12,400 --> 00:21:14,860
However, after
three or four days

354
00:21:14,860 --> 00:21:19,470
of being shifting back and back
and forth, we arrived to a camp

355
00:21:19,470 --> 00:21:21,690
in Bergen-Belsen.

356
00:21:21,690 --> 00:21:23,670
And when we arrived
to Bergen-Belsen,

357
00:21:23,670 --> 00:21:28,710
it was exactly a day
before our most holy day

358
00:21:28,710 --> 00:21:31,900
of the year, Yom Kippur.

359
00:21:31,900 --> 00:21:35,870
Yom Kippur is the atonement
of the Jewish people.

360
00:21:35,870 --> 00:21:40,520
And we made that decision
that we are going to fast.

361
00:21:40,520 --> 00:21:42,410
You and Esther decided.

362
00:21:42,410 --> 00:21:44,660
That's right, and
a few other friends

363
00:21:44,660 --> 00:21:49,070
who were with us in the camp.

364
00:21:49,070 --> 00:21:54,380
And the German people
there in Bergen-Belsen,

365
00:21:54,380 --> 00:21:57,540
they didn't do really
nothing with us--

366
00:21:57,540 --> 00:22:04,590
no working, not so much
roll calls, you know.

367
00:22:04,590 --> 00:22:08,670
But in Bergen-Belsen
the other problem

368
00:22:08,670 --> 00:22:14,700
existed that a lot of people
came down with typhoid fever,

369
00:22:14,700 --> 00:22:15,380
dysentery.

370
00:22:15,380 --> 00:22:18,180

371
00:22:18,180 --> 00:22:23,480
The food was tiny bit maybe
even better than in Auschwitz.

372
00:22:23,480 --> 00:22:26,780

That day we requested
that we want to fast.

373
00:22:26,780 --> 00:22:30,410
Would they give us two portions?

374
00:22:30,410 --> 00:22:31,850
They said, what, are you crazy?

375
00:22:31,850 --> 00:22:33,590
What you think where you are?

376
00:22:33,590 --> 00:22:36,520
You are back in Hungary?

377
00:22:36,520 --> 00:22:38,950
However, we fasted.

378
00:22:38,950 --> 00:22:43,540
And we were in
Bergen-Belsen sleeping

379
00:22:43,540 --> 00:22:49,150
on the bare floor, a little
bit of straw, somehow,

380
00:22:49,150 --> 00:22:51,120
we collected.

381
00:22:51,120 --> 00:22:57,200
And I remember that I came down
with the infection of my gums.

382
00:22:57,200 --> 00:22:59,780
My whole face was
swollen from it.

383
00:22:59,780 --> 00:23:03,320
Yet I would not dare
to go to the infirmary

384
00:23:03,320 --> 00:23:06,560

because, by that time,
we had enough knowledge

385
00:23:06,560 --> 00:23:10,340
that if you do go
to the infirmary,

386
00:23:10,340 --> 00:23:12,320
that's the end of you.

387
00:23:12,320 --> 00:23:13,910
Back to Yom Kippur.

388
00:23:13,910 --> 00:23:17,950
So you and Esther and
some friends fasted.

389
00:23:17,950 --> 00:23:21,020
And did you observe in any
other way than the fasting?

390
00:23:21,020 --> 00:23:21,980
No, we couldn't.

391
00:23:21,980 --> 00:23:25,370
Except that a few prayers
that we remembered.

392
00:23:25,370 --> 00:23:29,830
Some older girls who remembered
a little part of the prayer,

393
00:23:29,830 --> 00:23:35,122
we would be singing
together or saying together.

394
00:23:35,122 --> 00:23:36,080
This was on Yom Kippur.

395
00:23:36,080 --> 00:23:38,040
On Yom Kippur.

396

00:23:38,040 --> 00:23:43,980

And we remained in Bergen-Belsen
for a couple weeks.

397

00:23:43,980 --> 00:23:48,260

And then, at last, we
were taken to another camp

398

00:23:48,260 --> 00:23:52,610

called Rochlitz, where
there was really a factory.

399

00:23:52,610 --> 00:23:56,120

And it amazes me until
this day that-- not only

400

00:23:56,120 --> 00:24:00,440

that they took us
to work, but they

401

00:24:00,440 --> 00:24:04,602

were teaching us certain
technical measurements.

402

00:24:04,602 --> 00:24:06,940

We were schooled.

403

00:24:06,940 --> 00:24:09,880

They were hoping-- the Germans--

404

00:24:09,880 --> 00:24:14,090

that the war will
take such a long time,

405

00:24:14,090 --> 00:24:19,610

or that they will be enslaving
us for such a duration of time,

406

00:24:19,610 --> 00:24:23,420

or just, this is the
way of the Germans,

407

00:24:23,420 --> 00:24:26,300

to educate all the time.

408
00:24:26,300 --> 00:24:27,950
It was amazing.

409
00:24:27,950 --> 00:24:34,250
Every evening we were taken
to a school for two weeks.

410
00:24:34,250 --> 00:24:38,360
And we were learning
special kind of measurements

411
00:24:38,360 --> 00:24:41,660
of aeroplane little appliances.

412
00:24:41,660 --> 00:24:44,670
The factory where
we have been working

413
00:24:44,670 --> 00:24:50,210
was doing all kind of
little tools and gadgets

414
00:24:50,210 --> 00:24:53,200
for aeroplanes.

415
00:24:53,200 --> 00:24:58,390
In that factory, we
worked three shifts.

416
00:24:58,390 --> 00:25:00,550
Each time, eight hours--

417
00:25:00,550 --> 00:25:03,070
sometimes in the night,
sometimes in the day,

418
00:25:03,070 --> 00:25:05,260
sometimes in the evening.

419
00:25:05,260 --> 00:25:09,550

And the foreman, who happened
to be a German fellow,

420
00:25:09,550 --> 00:25:12,400
was having such a pity on me.

421
00:25:12,400 --> 00:25:16,650
And I am, until this day, very
thankful, in a way, for him.

422
00:25:16,650 --> 00:25:22,510
And he used to call me in, into
his office, and close the door

423
00:25:22,510 --> 00:25:25,650
and gave me a little
bit of his farina.

424
00:25:25,650 --> 00:25:29,660
He was always eating cooked
farina in the morning.

425
00:25:29,660 --> 00:25:32,470
So I always looked
forward to the shift

426
00:25:32,470 --> 00:25:36,670
when I worked in the
morning because that day I

427
00:25:36,670 --> 00:25:41,050
know that I am going to have
something in my stomach.

428
00:25:41,050 --> 00:25:44,270
One day, while I was
in his office eating

429
00:25:44,270 --> 00:25:50,780
the farina, the German soldiers
who came once in a while

430
00:25:50,780 --> 00:25:54,980

to observe if we are working,
if we are producing, if we

431
00:25:54,980 --> 00:25:57,300
are doing our job [INAUDIBLE].

432
00:25:57,300 --> 00:25:58,840
And she sees me inside.

433
00:25:58,840 --> 00:26:03,020
He quickly grabbed the
plate and threw it down.

434
00:26:03,020 --> 00:26:05,690
And he's started
to scream at me,

435
00:26:05,690 --> 00:26:07,550
so tomorrow you'll
know better how

436
00:26:07,550 --> 00:26:12,360
to measure the alliance
that you have to do.

437
00:26:12,360 --> 00:26:14,720
I understood that
that was a cover-up.

438
00:26:14,720 --> 00:26:19,910
He himself could be in
trouble favoring or doing

439
00:26:19,910 --> 00:26:22,490
anything for me.

440
00:26:22,490 --> 00:26:26,950
While we were in that camp,
it came our holiday, Hanukkah,

441
00:26:26,950 --> 00:26:33,040
the holiday of
lighting the menorah.

442
00:26:33,040 --> 00:26:38,980
And we wanted so much to
light because they were so

443
00:26:38,980 --> 00:26:44,060
broken by then-- spiritually,
mentally, emotionally,

444
00:26:44,060 --> 00:26:45,280
physically.

445
00:26:45,280 --> 00:26:47,650
We thought maybe that
would cheer us up.

446
00:26:47,650 --> 00:26:50,650
Maybe that would give
us some kind of a hope,

447
00:26:50,650 --> 00:26:56,200
thinking how the war between
the Greeks and the Jewish people

448
00:26:56,200 --> 00:26:58,570
many years ago took place.

449
00:26:58,570 --> 00:27:01,600
Maybe that light would
bring in some kind of warm.

450
00:27:01,600 --> 00:27:03,550
But where do we have--

451
00:27:03,550 --> 00:27:05,050
where do we have a menorah?

452
00:27:05,050 --> 00:27:06,970
Where do we have oil?

453
00:27:06,970 --> 00:27:08,230
What can we do?

454

00:27:08,230 --> 00:27:13,030

So there were girls
who were working

455

00:27:13,030 --> 00:27:17,860

in the kitchen, that was cooking
for us that little bit of food.

456

00:27:17,860 --> 00:27:19,880

And one of the girls
said, you know what,

457

00:27:19,880 --> 00:27:21,700

girls, let's not talk about it.

458

00:27:21,700 --> 00:27:24,310

I'm going to bring
home some potato.

459

00:27:24,310 --> 00:27:30,190

We will cut the potato and
carve it, and make from it

460

00:27:30,190 --> 00:27:32,090

like a menorah.

461

00:27:32,090 --> 00:27:36,580

Lo and behold, every
evening she put one potato,

462

00:27:36,580 --> 00:27:39,040

until she had four potatoes.

463

00:27:39,040 --> 00:27:42,460

Cut it in half,
we scooped it out.

464

00:27:42,460 --> 00:27:46,820

I don't know how we
did it, but we did it.

465

00:27:46,820 --> 00:27:50,800
And now is the problem where we
could get some kind of an oil

466
00:27:50,800 --> 00:27:54,110
to light the menorah.

467
00:27:54,110 --> 00:27:57,010
So the other girl, who
was working, she said,

468
00:27:57,010 --> 00:27:58,570
just don't talk about it.

469
00:27:58,570 --> 00:28:00,350
I'm going to find something.

470
00:28:00,350 --> 00:28:03,070
And she find a old bottle.

471
00:28:03,070 --> 00:28:05,520
She filled it in a
little bit of oil

472
00:28:05,520 --> 00:28:08,030
that was used for the cooking.

473
00:28:08,030 --> 00:28:11,780
So now we have potato and oil
but we don't have the wax.

474
00:28:11,780 --> 00:28:14,390
What we are going to do?

475
00:28:14,390 --> 00:28:17,590
So we tore from our
one dress that we had.

476
00:28:17,590 --> 00:28:19,180
We had no underwear.

477
00:28:19,180 --> 00:28:21,580

We tore and we made
wicks, you know.

478
00:28:21,580 --> 00:28:24,490
And put it in the
oil, dipped it in.

479
00:28:24,490 --> 00:28:26,650
We have no matches.

480
00:28:26,650 --> 00:28:30,370
And was one soldier
who, every evening,

481
00:28:30,370 --> 00:28:33,970
used to come and just
go by the little houses.

482
00:28:33,970 --> 00:28:37,750
At that time, we were put
up four to a little house.

483
00:28:37,750 --> 00:28:41,740
This was a camp
that was taken away,

484
00:28:41,740 --> 00:28:47,310
working, for a summer camp
or some sort of thing.

485
00:28:47,310 --> 00:28:50,380
It had small, tiny, little
houses and four girls

486
00:28:50,380 --> 00:28:53,350
to each little house.

487
00:28:53,350 --> 00:28:55,510
And the soldier
used to come to see

488
00:28:55,510 --> 00:29:01,060
if it's quiet, if everybody is

doing what they supposed to do.

489

00:29:01,060 --> 00:29:04,660

And I went out and I
said to the soldier,

490

00:29:04,660 --> 00:29:10,150

you know what, I need
desperately just one match,

491

00:29:10,150 --> 00:29:11,140

if you would give me.

492

00:29:11,140 --> 00:29:13,330

He says, for what.

493

00:29:13,330 --> 00:29:15,660

I said, well, don't
ask too many questions.

494

00:29:15,660 --> 00:29:17,740

Could you give me one match?

495

00:29:17,740 --> 00:29:19,000

And he threw his match.

496

00:29:19,000 --> 00:29:22,310

497

00:29:22,310 --> 00:29:25,990

We lit the Hanukkah
candle the next evening.

498

00:29:25,990 --> 00:29:28,570

And we were all crying.

499

00:29:28,570 --> 00:29:32,290

And the whole camp
came to that one house.

500

00:29:32,290 --> 00:29:34,510

And they said, how

did you got this?

501

00:29:34,510 --> 00:29:36,310

How did you made it?

502

00:29:36,310 --> 00:29:38,710

And we remembered
one Hanukkah song.

503

00:29:38,710 --> 00:29:41,290

And we were singing
the Hanukkah song.

504

00:29:41,290 --> 00:29:43,360

And that gave us strength.

505

00:29:43,360 --> 00:29:45,160

We are human.

506

00:29:45,160 --> 00:29:47,620

We celebrating a holiday.

507

00:29:47,620 --> 00:29:50,990

We are not completely oppressed.

508

00:29:50,990 --> 00:29:55,530

And the soldiers who came
to check this evening

509

00:29:55,530 --> 00:29:58,080

was a different one.

510

00:29:58,080 --> 00:30:02,130

He was himself, that
a few came and started

511

00:30:02,130 --> 00:30:04,110

to knock on the door.

512

00:30:04,110 --> 00:30:05,430

What are you doing?

513

00:30:05,430 --> 00:30:08,010

What do you think where you are?

514

00:30:08,010 --> 00:30:09,870

You are inmates.

515

00:30:09,870 --> 00:30:13,140

This is an N-O. You can't do it.

516

00:30:13,140 --> 00:30:15,990

You can't have Hanukkah candle.

517

00:30:15,990 --> 00:30:17,520

They didn't say Hanukkah candle.

518

00:30:17,520 --> 00:30:21,030

They said, you know, you can't
have fire in your house--

519

00:30:21,030 --> 00:30:22,710

out, out.

520

00:30:22,710 --> 00:30:27,510

And we had to kneel on our knee
for four hours as punishment

521

00:30:27,510 --> 00:30:28,920

that we dared.

522

00:30:28,920 --> 00:30:31,960

But we were all
smiling to each other.

523

00:30:31,960 --> 00:30:33,720

Never mind this kneeling.

524

00:30:33,720 --> 00:30:35,080

But we did.

525

00:30:35,080 --> 00:30:39,000

We shout to the Germans that

we are still human beings

526

00:30:39,000 --> 00:30:42,900

and what they are aiming to
completely destroy in us--

527

00:30:42,900 --> 00:30:45,810

our emotions, our spirit--

528

00:30:45,810 --> 00:30:48,930

they did not succeed at.

529

00:30:48,930 --> 00:30:51,010

Many times, you know,
when I am asked,

530

00:30:51,010 --> 00:30:54,390

how did you revolt,
why didn't you revolt--

531

00:30:54,390 --> 00:30:58,950

our main revolt was
showing that we are human.

532

00:30:58,950 --> 00:31:00,590

Physically, we couldn't.

533

00:31:00,590 --> 00:31:05,370

We were surrounded with barbed
wires, with electric wires.

534

00:31:05,370 --> 00:31:07,950

We could never escape.

535

00:31:07,950 --> 00:31:13,350

But we always tried to remain
human, to help each other,

536

00:31:13,350 --> 00:31:17,660

to try to celebrate here
and there a certain holiday.

537

00:31:17,660 --> 00:31:19,140
This way we revolted.

538
00:31:19,140 --> 00:31:23,810
We show to them that as much
you would like to destroy us,

539
00:31:23,810 --> 00:31:28,510
you can't completely
destroy our spirit.

540
00:31:28,510 --> 00:31:32,130
So your religion really
helped you to keep going.

541
00:31:32,130 --> 00:31:33,890
A lot.

542
00:31:33,890 --> 00:31:34,870
Let's stop here.

543
00:31:34,870 --> 00:31:50,620

544
00:31:50,620 --> 00:31:58,610
Tape 2, side B. You were talking
about how important religion

545
00:31:58,610 --> 00:32:02,740
had been as helping
you to survive.

546
00:32:02,740 --> 00:32:05,350

547
00:32:05,350 --> 00:32:10,070
All the time that we
have been in the camp,

548
00:32:10,070 --> 00:32:14,780
religion gave us
a lot of strength.

549

00:32:14,780 --> 00:32:19,490

And the devotion
to keep religion,

550

00:32:19,490 --> 00:32:24,320

and the devotion to each
other, the helpfulness of one

551

00:32:24,320 --> 00:32:27,030

to another, gave strength.

552

00:32:27,030 --> 00:32:33,570

And that ever we could observe
any of the customs or holidays,

553

00:32:33,570 --> 00:32:37,560

I think that spiritually,
mentally, and emotionally gave

554

00:32:37,560 --> 00:32:41,460

us always uplift and strength.

555

00:32:41,460 --> 00:32:46,800

I remember in Bergen-Belsen,
there was a girl with us

556

00:32:46,800 --> 00:32:50,430

who remained from the
Holocaust, lives in Israel,

557

00:32:50,430 --> 00:32:57,630

in Jerusalem, who would collect
in a old broken can some rain

558

00:32:57,630 --> 00:33:00,000

water, in order
that she can wash

559

00:33:00,000 --> 00:33:05,010

her hand to that little
ration, tiny bit of bread,

560

00:33:05,010 --> 00:33:07,980
and bless over it,
so she can thank God

561
00:33:07,980 --> 00:33:14,010
for sustaining her life
and giving her food.

562
00:33:14,010 --> 00:33:19,980
I remember celebrating
in Auschwitz the day

563
00:33:19,980 --> 00:33:21,660
that we called Tisha B'Av.

564
00:33:21,660 --> 00:33:26,250
And we are remembering the
destruction of the Holy

565
00:33:26,250 --> 00:33:29,280
Temple in Jerusalem, we fasted.

566
00:33:29,280 --> 00:33:33,390
And being able to
do all these things

567
00:33:33,390 --> 00:33:37,530
gave us a lot of emotional
strength as well as

568
00:33:37,530 --> 00:33:39,480
spiritual strength.

569
00:33:39,480 --> 00:33:43,230
I would say that most
of the people who

570
00:33:43,230 --> 00:33:48,060
had faith, who had
religion, who tried

571
00:33:48,060 --> 00:33:51,870
to say a certain prayers

that they remember,

572

00:33:51,870 --> 00:33:57,070

or, here and there, smuggled
people in a prayer book.

573

00:33:57,070 --> 00:34:00,180

And we were, at
least once in a week,

574

00:34:00,180 --> 00:34:02,550

saying some kind of a prayer.

575

00:34:02,550 --> 00:34:08,550

They were the ones who
could take the suffering.

576

00:34:08,550 --> 00:34:11,850

And they are the ones
who were able to overcome

577

00:34:11,850 --> 00:34:13,980

a lot of the hardship.

578

00:34:13,980 --> 00:34:17,100

I would say that people
who had no faith,

579

00:34:17,100 --> 00:34:22,500

and mainly people who came
from very spoiled backgrounds,

580

00:34:22,500 --> 00:34:28,080

very well-to-do people who
never knew any kind of hardship,

581

00:34:28,080 --> 00:34:33,449

they were the first one, at
least from my own experience.

582

00:34:33,449 --> 00:34:36,695

The ones who came from
Miskolc or from Onã³d.

583

00:34:36,695 --> 00:34:42,770
If I look and I see who remained
from the Holocaust, definitely

584

00:34:42,770 --> 00:34:45,070
from my hometown,
all the girls who

585

00:34:45,070 --> 00:34:48,880
came from very well-to-do
families, no one of them

586

00:34:48,880 --> 00:34:49,860
came back.

587

00:34:49,860 --> 00:34:53,570
And even though that I come
from a middle class family,

588

00:34:53,570 --> 00:34:55,810
and we had a maid,
my mother always

589

00:34:55,810 --> 00:35:00,880
made sure that we have some kind
of job, such as making beds,

590

00:35:00,880 --> 00:35:03,316
washing the dishes.

591

00:35:03,316 --> 00:35:07,820
And we always used to ask her,
but why not Mariska, our maid?

592

00:35:07,820 --> 00:35:09,100
Why do we have to do?

593

00:35:09,100 --> 00:35:12,820
Mother said, you never
know when you will need it.

594

00:35:12,820 --> 00:35:17,680
And I am very thankful for
her having this foresight.

595
00:35:17,680 --> 00:35:21,800
If it was for Auschwitz or for
my life later on, you know.

596
00:35:21,800 --> 00:35:28,310
I think that it was very
beneficial and very special.

597
00:35:28,310 --> 00:35:33,530
And I thankful my parents,
that they raised me

598
00:35:33,530 --> 00:35:36,230
to have faith in God, you know.

599
00:35:36,230 --> 00:35:39,380
And whenever anything
very bad happened,

600
00:35:39,380 --> 00:35:42,080
I know always to whom to turn.

601
00:35:42,080 --> 00:35:45,430
It was my God.

602
00:35:45,430 --> 00:35:48,730
And now I am going to
go back to the camp

603
00:35:48,730 --> 00:35:52,240
where I have been
working in that factory,

604
00:35:52,240 --> 00:35:55,600
and where we
celebrated Hanukkah.

605
00:35:55,600 --> 00:36:00,340
And around middle

of January, one day

606

00:36:00,340 --> 00:36:04,160

we were just roaming
around in the camp.

607

00:36:04,160 --> 00:36:07,540

The group that was in the
factory was in the factory.

608

00:36:07,540 --> 00:36:11,230

That girls were
working in the kitchen.

609

00:36:11,230 --> 00:36:15,460

And the group that was off,
we were just roaming outside,

610

00:36:15,460 --> 00:36:18,210

trying to breathe
a little fresh air.

611

00:36:18,210 --> 00:36:24,000

Suddenly from far away, we
see a column of mens marching.

612

00:36:24,000 --> 00:36:31,470

And they were very,
very tired, very weak.

613

00:36:31,470 --> 00:36:33,930

Some of them in
striped clothing.

614

00:36:33,930 --> 00:36:37,590

And they were screaming,
the war is over.

615

00:36:37,590 --> 00:36:39,790

We they thought that they crazy.

616

00:36:39,790 --> 00:36:44,280

Why is the war over if

we are still in a camp

617
00:36:44,280 --> 00:36:46,820
and they are marching?

618
00:36:46,820 --> 00:36:50,420
But they probably had
some kind of knowledge

619
00:36:50,420 --> 00:36:54,640
that the Allies are advancing.

620
00:36:54,640 --> 00:36:56,110
They passed by.

621
00:36:56,110 --> 00:37:00,460
We didn't know nothing
what their fate was.

622
00:37:00,460 --> 00:37:02,290
We continued to work.

623
00:37:02,290 --> 00:37:06,060
However, about two
or three weeks later,

624
00:37:06,060 --> 00:37:10,690
we were told that we
have to empty this camp.

625
00:37:10,690 --> 00:37:16,170
And we are going to be taken
to a new concentration camp.

626
00:37:16,170 --> 00:37:18,370
We were taken to a
new concentration

627
00:37:18,370 --> 00:37:22,420
camp called Graslitz.

628
00:37:22,420 --> 00:37:25,360

Graslitz was
actually not a camp.

629
00:37:25,360 --> 00:37:27,710
It was a jailhouse.

630
00:37:27,710 --> 00:37:30,350
We were put up,
how they emptied,

631
00:37:30,350 --> 00:37:32,910
or it was an old jailhouse.

632
00:37:32,910 --> 00:37:33,920
I do not know.

633
00:37:33,920 --> 00:37:40,940
But we were 1,800 girls
put up in a jailhouse.

634
00:37:40,940 --> 00:37:43,280
They had bunk beds.

635
00:37:43,280 --> 00:37:50,690
We were given very meager food
there, only twice in the day.

636
00:37:50,690 --> 00:37:53,590
The German soldiers
kept on saying,

637
00:37:53,590 --> 00:37:55,900
we don't have any
more food, either,

638
00:37:55,900 --> 00:37:59,670
so we can't provide for you.

639
00:37:59,670 --> 00:38:02,700
Every morning,
they would march us

640

00:38:02,700 --> 00:38:06,150
few kilometer away
from the jailhouse,

641
00:38:06,150 --> 00:38:11,040
under the supervision the
guard of the SS soldiers,

642
00:38:11,040 --> 00:38:13,460
to a huge mountain.

643
00:38:13,460 --> 00:38:18,080
We had to chain line from
the top of the mountain

644
00:38:18,080 --> 00:38:20,720
to the bottom of the mountain.

645
00:38:20,720 --> 00:38:25,910
On the top of the mountain
was a huge pile of stones.

646
00:38:25,910 --> 00:38:30,080
We had to take
those stones down.

647
00:38:30,080 --> 00:38:31,340
But how?

648
00:38:31,340 --> 00:38:34,240
One was throwing it
to the other person.

649
00:38:34,240 --> 00:38:39,635
And if you dropped it,
you were beaten up.

650
00:38:39,635 --> 00:38:42,840
Well, we thought, at
least we are instrumental.

651
00:38:42,840 --> 00:38:45,560
We are going to have

to build something.

652

00:38:45,560 --> 00:38:48,580

That's why we are
taking the stones down.

653

00:38:48,580 --> 00:38:53,440

But the next day
came our surprise.

654

00:38:53,440 --> 00:38:57,510

We have to pile the stones
and take from the bottom

655

00:38:57,510 --> 00:38:59,310

up to the top of the mountain.

656

00:38:59,310 --> 00:39:02,670

And this went on
for couple of weeks.

657

00:39:02,670 --> 00:39:05,460

It was just to destroy us.

658

00:39:05,460 --> 00:39:09,450

Because even if you are
enslaved and you work, and you

659

00:39:09,450 --> 00:39:12,690

see that something is growing
from it, that something

660

00:39:12,690 --> 00:39:15,660

is built from it, you
have a certain kind

661

00:39:15,660 --> 00:39:20,640

of meaning, satisfaction, you
feel that you are instrumental.

662

00:39:20,640 --> 00:39:27,040

But just to work to make
fun of us, to belittle us,

663
00:39:27,040 --> 00:39:33,390
to make a mockery of us,
was very bad for our morale.

664
00:39:33,390 --> 00:39:36,090
And some of the
girls, they just said,

665
00:39:36,090 --> 00:39:38,040
I wish I collapse already.

666
00:39:38,040 --> 00:39:40,420
Who wants to live anymore?

667
00:39:40,420 --> 00:39:42,180
There is no end to this.

668
00:39:42,180 --> 00:39:43,830
We are not going to make it.

669
00:39:43,830 --> 00:39:46,920
We have no family anymore.

670
00:39:46,920 --> 00:39:52,070
We have been in that
camp and doing this work.

671
00:39:52,070 --> 00:39:59,220
About middle of
March, end of March,

672
00:39:59,220 --> 00:40:07,320
one day the SS group
of soldiers comes in.

673
00:40:07,320 --> 00:40:11,580
And they said, stand
up next to your bed.

674
00:40:11,580 --> 00:40:15,390
We have to have a serious talk.

675

00:40:15,390 --> 00:40:17,480

We thought that they
are going to shoot us.

676

00:40:17,480 --> 00:40:18,420

What do they want?

677

00:40:18,420 --> 00:40:21,600

Or why they don't take
us to work anymore?

678

00:40:21,600 --> 00:40:26,230

They said, well, we have to
tell you, you have a choice.

679

00:40:26,230 --> 00:40:29,070

Either you stay
in this jailhouse,

680

00:40:29,070 --> 00:40:31,980

but we leaving the
building, and we do not

681

00:40:31,980 --> 00:40:34,050

provide you with
any food and not

682

00:40:34,050 --> 00:40:36,150

with guarding you, anything.

683

00:40:36,150 --> 00:40:39,540

What will happen to
you will happen to you.

684

00:40:39,540 --> 00:40:45,420

Or you line up, five in a
column, and you march with us.

685

00:40:45,420 --> 00:40:48,100

We have to leave this place.

686

00:40:48,100 --> 00:40:52,730
We didn't understand why
they have to leave the place

687
00:40:52,730 --> 00:40:56,170
and why they are offering
for us that we can stay.

688
00:40:56,170 --> 00:41:00,400
No one of us dared to
remain because we thought,

689
00:41:00,400 --> 00:41:02,860
who is going to provide us food.

690
00:41:02,860 --> 00:41:04,210
They might lock the door.

691
00:41:04,210 --> 00:41:06,730
We won't be able ever to go out.

692
00:41:06,730 --> 00:41:12,590
The windows had iron bars.

693
00:41:12,590 --> 00:41:14,945
The door had iron bars.

694
00:41:14,945 --> 00:41:18,110
If they close us, we
will suffocate there.

695
00:41:18,110 --> 00:41:22,730
So everybody marched
out, 1,800 girls.

696
00:41:22,730 --> 00:41:26,310
And they were marching with
us, which one is called

697
00:41:26,310 --> 00:41:30,850
the Death March, for six weeks.

698

00:41:30,850 --> 00:41:35,250

Marching every single day,
sometimes 40 kilometers,

699

00:41:35,250 --> 00:41:38,710

sometimes 35 kilometer.

700

00:41:38,710 --> 00:41:45,230

And we were sometimes sleeping
outside on the bare ground.

701

00:41:45,230 --> 00:41:48,170

Sometimes, I remember,
this was SÃdddeutschland,

702

00:41:48,170 --> 00:41:52,820

where it's cold still in March
and in April, fairly heavy.

703

00:41:52,820 --> 00:41:57,080

Sometimes on the top of
the snow we went to sleep.

704

00:41:57,080 --> 00:41:59,300

We were licking the
snow because we were not

705

00:41:59,300 --> 00:42:01,850

given any kind of drink.

706

00:42:01,850 --> 00:42:02,870

No food.

707

00:42:02,870 --> 00:42:07,840

We were collecting some
of the grass, eating.

708

00:42:07,840 --> 00:42:12,550

Once in a while, they
would take us to a big barn

709

00:42:12,550 --> 00:42:15,642

where we were given some straw.

710
00:42:15,642 --> 00:42:20,240
The animals in one side
and we on the other.

711
00:42:20,240 --> 00:42:24,460
And I don't have to describe to
you what smells we had there.

712
00:42:24,460 --> 00:42:25,820
And we went to sleep.

713
00:42:25,820 --> 00:42:33,560
We collapsed-- hungry, wet
sometimes from rain or snow,

714
00:42:33,560 --> 00:42:35,510
without food.

715
00:42:35,510 --> 00:42:38,540
In the morning, many
times I wanted to get up

716
00:42:38,540 --> 00:42:41,760
when they called us to line up.

717
00:42:41,760 --> 00:42:46,130
And I couldn't move,
people laying on me.

718
00:42:46,130 --> 00:42:48,260
I would call, please,
would you get up.

719
00:42:48,260 --> 00:42:48,990
Would you move?

720
00:42:48,990 --> 00:42:50,390
We have to line up.

721
00:42:50,390 --> 00:42:51,230
They don't move.

722
00:42:51,230 --> 00:42:54,260
They are dead.

723
00:42:54,260 --> 00:42:58,040
Each day, less and
less of us remained.

724
00:42:58,040 --> 00:43:00,270
My sister, who was older--

725
00:43:00,270 --> 00:43:04,550
two years-- than I am, she just
asked me, please leave me here.

726
00:43:04,550 --> 00:43:06,890
I don't want to go anymore.

727
00:43:06,890 --> 00:43:10,100
Her leg was all swollen.

728
00:43:10,100 --> 00:43:12,410
She lost her shoe.

729
00:43:12,410 --> 00:43:14,220
She had swollen legs.

730
00:43:14,220 --> 00:43:16,610
She had pus in her leg.

731
00:43:16,610 --> 00:43:18,750
She couldn't move anymore.

732
00:43:18,750 --> 00:43:20,520
I used to grab her.

733
00:43:20,520 --> 00:43:25,310
I, the young one, the skinny
one, but very determined.

734
00:43:25,310 --> 00:43:29,360

My personality, I am very
active until this day.

735
00:43:29,360 --> 00:43:33,200
I used to put her on my shoulder
and a little bit carry her.

736
00:43:33,200 --> 00:43:35,520
And then I would say to
her, I can't carry you more,

737
00:43:35,520 --> 00:43:39,110
but you have to go,
because we will go back

738
00:43:39,110 --> 00:43:42,140
and we will tell the story,
and we will remain in life.

739
00:43:42,140 --> 00:43:44,650
And God is with us.

740
00:43:44,650 --> 00:43:49,020
And, again, going
and going and going.

741
00:43:49,020 --> 00:43:52,030
And this repeated
every single day.

742
00:43:52,030 --> 00:43:55,430
If we were lucky,
once in a while,

743
00:43:55,430 --> 00:44:00,470
they would be able to ask the
farmer, the German soldiers,

744
00:44:00,470 --> 00:44:02,870
if they have some
leftover potato

745
00:44:02,870 --> 00:44:06,540

that they cooked for the pigs.

746

00:44:06,540 --> 00:44:08,400

And we would be jumping on it.

747

00:44:08,400 --> 00:44:11,190

And that would be

a feast for us.

748

00:44:11,190 --> 00:44:14,430

Many times we were

given some flour.

749

00:44:14,430 --> 00:44:15,845

And we would just

lick the flour.

750

00:44:15,845 --> 00:44:18,650

751

00:44:18,650 --> 00:44:22,580

Once, I remember we

were going marching,

752

00:44:22,580 --> 00:44:27,380

and by the roads in

Germany, in SÄ°ddeutschland,

753

00:44:27,380 --> 00:44:31,800

there are ditch

next to the road.

754

00:44:31,800 --> 00:44:34,300

And we would find

some rotten apple.

755

00:44:34,300 --> 00:44:37,650

We would pick up and we

would be just eating.

756

00:44:37,650 --> 00:44:40,200

Sometimes if the

Germans, they noticed

757

00:44:40,200 --> 00:44:44,220
that you went off from the road
even for that one single minute

758

00:44:44,220 --> 00:44:45,420
to grasp--

759

00:44:45,420 --> 00:44:49,950
grab-- an apple, they
would shoot the person.

760

00:44:49,950 --> 00:44:54,030
If some people couldn't walk
anymore, they couldn't march,

761

00:44:54,030 --> 00:44:57,550
they would be
shooting the people.

762

00:44:57,550 --> 00:45:01,660
One evening we
arrived to a farm,

763

00:45:01,660 --> 00:45:06,640
and before we were even
given an opportunity

764

00:45:06,640 --> 00:45:11,170
to go to sleep in the barn,
one of those German soldiers--

765

00:45:11,170 --> 00:45:14,590
and the rest, somehow,
they were not there.

766

00:45:14,590 --> 00:45:21,160
One of the soldiers-- a
very handsome young fellow--

767

00:45:21,160 --> 00:45:22,900
he starts to talk to us.

768

00:45:22,900 --> 00:45:24,190

Before, they wouldn't talk.

769

00:45:24,190 --> 00:45:26,050

We were like dogs in their eyes.

770

00:45:26,050 --> 00:45:29,280

Even to the dog they were
talking better than to us.

771

00:45:29,280 --> 00:45:32,620

But this time, he
comes over and he says,

772

00:45:32,620 --> 00:45:35,390

I have to tell you a big secret.

773

00:45:35,390 --> 00:45:36,940

I am actually Jew.

774

00:45:36,940 --> 00:45:39,430

My mother was a Jewish person.

775

00:45:39,430 --> 00:45:41,950

My father was a German.

776

00:45:41,950 --> 00:45:46,670

And I enlisted to the SS in
order that I can help you.

777

00:45:46,670 --> 00:45:49,160

We were shocked, you know.

778

00:45:49,160 --> 00:45:49,890

You help us?

779

00:45:49,890 --> 00:45:51,750

You used to beat us up.

780

00:45:51,750 --> 00:45:54,730

You used to shoot the

girls who were standing,

781
00:45:54,730 --> 00:45:56,848
who could not move anymore.

782
00:45:56,848 --> 00:45:58,390
And now you are
telling us that you--

783
00:45:58,390 --> 00:46:02,300
what is the reason that
you want so much to find

784
00:46:02,300 --> 00:46:04,430
favor in our eyes?

785
00:46:04,430 --> 00:46:09,850
But we could not think
any more clearly.

786
00:46:09,850 --> 00:46:15,160
And he said, but I am going to
get for you tonight also food.

787
00:46:15,160 --> 00:46:16,480
And I am good, right?

788
00:46:16,480 --> 00:46:18,130
I am good to you.

789
00:46:18,130 --> 00:46:21,580
So we were not responding to it.

790
00:46:21,580 --> 00:46:25,000
We just wait, and if he really
is going to give us food.

791
00:46:25,000 --> 00:46:28,660
At that moment, the only
thing that we wanted

792
00:46:28,660 --> 00:46:31,990

was to drink something, to eat
something, and be able to go

793
00:46:31,990 --> 00:46:34,090
to sleep a little bit.

794
00:46:34,090 --> 00:46:37,300
So, lo and behold,
he brought us, again,

795
00:46:37,300 --> 00:46:40,900
some kind of cooked potato
that was half rotten, that

796
00:46:40,900 --> 00:46:43,660
was cooked always.

797
00:46:43,660 --> 00:46:47,810
Those days, that's what
they fed, usually, the pigs.

798
00:46:47,810 --> 00:46:50,530
We ate and we went to sleep.

799
00:46:50,530 --> 00:46:53,290
The next day, we were marching.

800
00:46:53,290 --> 00:46:58,340
And in the morning, we left that
barn and we went by a bridge.

801
00:46:58,340 --> 00:47:00,900
There was a little river there.

802
00:47:00,900 --> 00:47:03,270
And we looked how
beautiful that water,

803
00:47:03,270 --> 00:47:05,730
and how lovely it would
be just to go down

804

00:47:05,730 --> 00:47:08,220
and to wash our face.

805
00:47:08,220 --> 00:47:10,590
We are full with lice.

806
00:47:10,590 --> 00:47:14,180
Our clothing is full with lice.

807
00:47:14,180 --> 00:47:15,430
We are dirty.

808
00:47:15,430 --> 00:47:17,110
We haven't been drinking.

809
00:47:17,110 --> 00:47:21,240
We haven't been washing
our self for weeks already.

810
00:47:21,240 --> 00:47:23,960
Could we go down just?

811
00:47:23,960 --> 00:47:27,530
No, the German soldiers
are surrounding us

812
00:47:27,530 --> 00:47:28,880
with their huge dogs.

813
00:47:28,880 --> 00:47:33,620
And they are keeping
us, telling us go fast,

814
00:47:33,620 --> 00:47:34,930
you know, you have to march.

815
00:47:34,930 --> 00:47:37,620
We have to get to a place.

816
00:47:37,620 --> 00:47:39,200
We are marching.

817

00:47:39,200 --> 00:47:41,090

And then two of
us, that evening,

818

00:47:41,090 --> 00:47:44,850

we see that we are back
in that very same place.

819

00:47:44,850 --> 00:47:48,830

And this went on a few days
that they surrounded us

820

00:47:48,830 --> 00:47:53,510

in that very small spot,
maybe two, three little towns.

821

00:47:53,510 --> 00:47:56,300

But each time, we are
back to the same spot.

822

00:47:56,300 --> 00:48:01,850

So we started to think it must
be something going on that they

823

00:48:01,850 --> 00:48:05,770

can't take us further away.

824

00:48:05,770 --> 00:48:11,425

But still we didn't believe that
the end of the war is coming.

825

00:48:11,425 --> 00:48:15,590

826

00:48:15,590 --> 00:48:24,340

That time, I think we were
already left maybe 400 girls.

827

00:48:24,340 --> 00:48:28,640

The rest either collapsed, died
during the night in the barns,

828

00:48:28,640 --> 00:48:30,140
or were shot by the Germans.

829
00:48:30,140 --> 00:48:31,700
Esther was still with you?

830
00:48:31,700 --> 00:48:34,610
Esther was all the time,
and the two sisters.

831
00:48:34,610 --> 00:48:39,290
That what I think, you
know, gave a lot of strength

832
00:48:39,290 --> 00:48:43,130
to each other, that we remained
all the time, from day one

833
00:48:43,130 --> 00:48:45,880
till the end of
the war, together.

834
00:48:45,880 --> 00:48:51,120
As we are walking, and each
one of us fears that any minute

835
00:48:51,120 --> 00:48:52,460
we are going to collapse.

836
00:48:52,460 --> 00:48:54,140
And what will be the collapse?

837
00:48:54,140 --> 00:48:57,620
We will be shot or we
will expire anyway,

838
00:48:57,620 --> 00:49:01,190
from no food, no
strength, nothing.

839
00:49:01,190 --> 00:49:03,500
One of the
[? Solomon ?] sisters--

840
00:49:03,500 --> 00:49:07,820
the older one,
[? Mende-- ?] she said,

841
00:49:07,820 --> 00:49:11,840
I am going to sit
down in the ditch.

842
00:49:11,840 --> 00:49:15,150
If they kill me, they kill me.

843
00:49:15,150 --> 00:49:17,030
I have been married already.

844
00:49:17,030 --> 00:49:20,580
I tasted life already.

845
00:49:20,580 --> 00:49:26,630
But if they don't shoot, then
you all come and join me later.

846
00:49:26,630 --> 00:49:29,590
So she sits down in the ditch.

847
00:49:29,590 --> 00:49:35,980
And no German soldier is coming
back or shooting or counting

848
00:49:35,980 --> 00:49:38,940
or seeing who is here.

849
00:49:38,940 --> 00:49:40,960
And we don't see
the German soldiers.

850
00:49:40,960 --> 00:49:43,750
They went ahead of the column.

851
00:49:43,750 --> 00:49:44,820
So we went back.

852

00:49:44,820 --> 00:49:47,790

853

00:49:47,790 --> 00:49:50,460

And we sat down with her.

854

00:49:50,460 --> 00:49:56,100

And we sitting, all four of us,
in the ditch next to the road.

855

00:49:56,100 --> 00:50:00,240

We hear some shooting
and we got very scared.

856

00:50:00,240 --> 00:50:02,670

We thought, oh, this is a trick.

857

00:50:02,670 --> 00:50:06,120

They just left us to sit,
but they will return back

858

00:50:06,120 --> 00:50:09,250

and they are going to kill us.

859

00:50:09,250 --> 00:50:10,990

So we look around.

860

00:50:10,990 --> 00:50:13,390

Where can we go?

861

00:50:13,390 --> 00:50:15,330

Who will take us?

862

00:50:15,330 --> 00:50:17,250

There are no houses.

863

00:50:17,250 --> 00:50:21,450

Opposite of the road
we see a little forest.

864

00:50:21,450 --> 00:50:24,920

We said, let's go into
the forest and hide there.

865
00:50:24,920 --> 00:50:26,960
We go over the road.

866
00:50:26,960 --> 00:50:29,580
We go into the forest.

867
00:50:29,580 --> 00:50:32,740
And we are hiding in the forest.

868
00:50:32,740 --> 00:50:40,220
This is late afternoon,
May the 7th, 1945.

869
00:50:40,220 --> 00:50:45,090
We are sitting there
and we are starved.

870
00:50:45,090 --> 00:50:48,780
What will happen to us if we
are not going to have any food?

871
00:50:48,780 --> 00:50:50,990
That will be our end.

872
00:50:50,990 --> 00:50:53,900
But the first thing, we
look at in the forest.

873
00:50:53,900 --> 00:51:00,100
Maybe we find something-- a
grass, a apple, a garbage.

874
00:51:00,100 --> 00:51:01,280
Nothing we find.

875
00:51:01,280 --> 00:51:08,660
We shake out our blanket,
which one was full with lice.

876

00:51:08,660 --> 00:51:10,380
And let's sit
down, because if we

877
00:51:10,380 --> 00:51:12,690
are going to stand
or walk around,

878
00:51:12,690 --> 00:51:15,670
we wasting the little
strength we have.

879
00:51:15,670 --> 00:51:20,040
We sitting down and then we
hear some kind of little noise.

880
00:51:20,040 --> 00:51:24,510
So we walk around and
we see a little creek.

881
00:51:24,510 --> 00:51:27,310
We went, we drank
from that water.

882
00:51:27,310 --> 00:51:29,190
We washed our face.

883
00:51:29,190 --> 00:51:32,280
We started to say
a little prayer,

884
00:51:32,280 --> 00:51:34,620
but we remembered by heart.

885
00:51:34,620 --> 00:51:37,900
We sat down and
we started to cry.

886
00:51:37,900 --> 00:51:39,510
What will be our fate?

887
00:51:39,510 --> 00:51:41,900
What will happen to us?

888
00:51:41,900 --> 00:51:46,710
As we are sitting and we are
quiet, holding each other hand,

889
00:51:46,710 --> 00:51:49,500
suddenly we hear a rooster.

890
00:51:49,500 --> 00:51:52,510
And then a mooing of a cow.

891
00:51:52,510 --> 00:51:55,340
So my sister said,
listen, girls,

892
00:51:55,340 --> 00:51:57,870
we must be close to a farm.

893
00:51:57,870 --> 00:52:01,770
If we hear so vividly,
so clearly, a rooster,

894
00:52:01,770 --> 00:52:05,490
we must be close to a house.

895
00:52:05,490 --> 00:52:07,330
I am going to go there.

896
00:52:07,330 --> 00:52:08,940
Suddenly, she's strong.

897
00:52:08,940 --> 00:52:10,590
Suddenly, she's willing.

898
00:52:10,590 --> 00:52:12,000
Suddenly, she's able.

899
00:52:12,000 --> 00:52:14,100
Suddenly, she wants to do.

900
00:52:14,100 --> 00:52:16,520

I'm going to beg for food.

901

00:52:16,520 --> 00:52:18,520

So we said, are you crazy.

902

00:52:18,520 --> 00:52:19,570

They German.

903

00:52:19,570 --> 00:52:21,100

They are also
going to shoot you.

904

00:52:21,100 --> 00:52:23,230

She said, I am
not going to tell.

905

00:52:23,230 --> 00:52:25,550

I'm going to tell that I am--

906

00:52:25,550 --> 00:52:28,210

we spoke very well, German--

907

00:52:28,210 --> 00:52:31,660

I'm going to tell
that I am a refugee.

908

00:52:31,660 --> 00:52:33,370

My house has been bombed.

909

00:52:33,370 --> 00:52:35,290

My parents died.

910

00:52:35,290 --> 00:52:37,070

I happened to be outside.

911

00:52:37,070 --> 00:52:38,560

I remained in life.

912

00:52:38,560 --> 00:52:39,460

I have nobody.

913

00:52:39,460 --> 00:52:40,300

I am an orphan.

914

00:52:40,300 --> 00:52:42,550

Would you give me some food?

915

00:52:42,550 --> 00:52:44,170

So one of the

[? Solomon ?] sisters

916

00:52:44,170 --> 00:52:46,240

said, I don't let

you to go alone.

917

00:52:46,240 --> 00:52:47,760

I go with you.

918

00:52:47,760 --> 00:52:51,520

But how we will find back

the way to the forest?

919

00:52:51,520 --> 00:52:55,930

So like in the story

of Hansel and Gretel,

920

00:52:55,930 --> 00:53:00,160

we tore from our dress,

tied to a few bushes.

921

00:53:00,160 --> 00:53:02,520

And we were in the

beginning of the forest.

922

00:53:02,520 --> 00:53:05,680

We were not going

in deep, you know.

923

00:53:05,680 --> 00:53:09,630

And they walked according

to the noise of the cow.

924

00:53:09,630 --> 00:53:11,890

And they got-- it

was not far, really.

925

00:53:11,890 --> 00:53:16,370

It was at the edge of the
forest, a little farm.

926

00:53:16,370 --> 00:53:18,610

And they went and
they begged, and they

927

00:53:18,610 --> 00:53:21,240

got some mashed potato.

928

00:53:21,240 --> 00:53:24,540

And in a little jar,
a little bit of milk.

929

00:53:24,540 --> 00:53:26,360

They came back.

930

00:53:26,360 --> 00:53:28,210

We had a feast.

931

00:53:28,210 --> 00:53:30,310

We sat down and we ate.

932

00:53:30,310 --> 00:53:33,790

And then we made
the decision that we

933

00:53:33,790 --> 00:53:37,120

can't sleep all in one
time, because just in case

934

00:53:37,120 --> 00:53:39,550

we hear that the
Germans are coming back,

935

00:53:39,550 --> 00:53:41,020

we have to go more deep.

936

00:53:41,020 --> 00:53:44,060

Maybe we have to hide, whatever.

937

00:53:44,060 --> 00:53:46,120

Two, each time, were sleeping.

938

00:53:46,120 --> 00:53:48,920

Two were sitting and waiting.

939

00:53:48,920 --> 00:53:50,650

We rotated.

940

00:53:50,650 --> 00:53:53,920

It was early in the
morning, about 4:30,

941

00:53:53,920 --> 00:53:55,870

5 o'clock in the morning.

942

00:53:55,870 --> 00:53:59,020

It was still dark outside.

943

00:53:59,020 --> 00:54:04,450

Suddenly we hear a tremendous
noise between the trees.

944

00:54:04,450 --> 00:54:08,140

We held each one
the hand and said

945

00:54:08,140 --> 00:54:13,690

our little prayer, God, please,
just now, keep us still.

946

00:54:13,690 --> 00:54:17,290

And suddenly we thought,
this is our end,

947

00:54:17,290 --> 00:54:20,290

Maybe a beast, maybe a lion--

948

00:54:20,290 --> 00:54:24,940

who knows what is in the

back of the forest and he

949
00:54:24,940 --> 00:54:26,966
smelled human being.

950
00:54:26,966 --> 00:54:28,720
And he's coming.

951
00:54:28,720 --> 00:54:31,670
And if we were not
killed by the Germans,

952
00:54:31,670 --> 00:54:34,240
we will be killed by a beast.

953
00:54:34,240 --> 00:54:39,085
But lo and behold, suddenly, a
huge, tall soldier is standing

954
00:54:39,085 --> 00:54:44,310
in the front of us, who screams
to us in Jewish language,

955
00:54:44,310 --> 00:54:49,210
and says, children,
don't be scared.

956
00:54:49,210 --> 00:54:52,000
I am your brother.

957
00:54:52,000 --> 00:54:54,710
You are liberated.

958
00:54:54,710 --> 00:54:56,690
That was May 8.

959
00:54:56,690 --> 00:55:05,290
In the morning, the Russians
captured that part of Germany.

960
00:55:05,290 --> 00:55:08,110
And they knew that

there was a group

961
00:55:08,110 --> 00:55:11,920
of inmates who were marching.

962
00:55:11,920 --> 00:55:16,010
And they were looking
for girls where they are.

963
00:55:16,010 --> 00:55:22,090
And he was searching in the
gardens and in the roads

964
00:55:22,090 --> 00:55:27,620
and in the forest and in the
woods and wherever to get.

965
00:55:27,620 --> 00:55:32,400
And he says, get
up, don't stay here.

966
00:55:32,400 --> 00:55:34,700
You go into the town.

967
00:55:34,700 --> 00:55:38,210
It's very close by, a town.

968
00:55:38,210 --> 00:55:42,740
And any house that
you want, you go in

969
00:55:42,740 --> 00:55:48,060
and you say that the
Russian occupying army

970
00:55:48,060 --> 00:55:51,550
told you to be put up.

971
00:55:51,550 --> 00:55:53,440
We had no strength to walk.

972
00:55:53,440 --> 00:55:54,570

We walked a little bit.

973

00:55:54,570 --> 00:55:58,800

The second house we
saw, we opened a gate,

974

00:55:58,800 --> 00:56:04,510

and a priest comes
out and greets us.

975

00:56:04,510 --> 00:56:06,770

Hello, who are you?

976

00:56:06,770 --> 00:56:08,450

We told him that we are inmates.

977

00:56:08,450 --> 00:56:16,350

978

00:56:16,350 --> 00:56:18,340

That we are inmates,
and the three

979

00:56:18,340 --> 00:56:23,170

are going to be here
by you, because that's

980

00:56:23,170 --> 00:56:26,460

what the Russian army told us.

981

00:56:26,460 --> 00:56:29,510

And he said, OK.

982

00:56:29,510 --> 00:56:34,330

So he points to the barn,
that we should be going there.

983

00:56:34,330 --> 00:56:37,290

And we didn't wanted
to go into the barn,

984

00:56:37,290 --> 00:56:40,720

so we went into the yard.

985

00:56:40,720 --> 00:56:43,840

And we sat down in the grass.

986

00:56:43,840 --> 00:56:45,880

And he had--

987

00:56:45,880 --> 00:56:48,030

[INAUDIBLE]

988

00:56:48,030 --> 00:56:49,000

I'll shut it off.

989

00:56:49,000 --> 00:56:52,420

990

00:56:52,420 --> 00:57:00,282

So the woman who
was his cook, she

991

00:57:00,282 --> 00:57:03,580

brought out, again,
mashed potato,

992

00:57:03,580 --> 00:57:05,920

and this time warm
milk, you know.

993

00:57:05,920 --> 00:57:08,060

And we eat and be very happy.

994

00:57:08,060 --> 00:57:10,690

And we are sitting
in the fresh air.

995

00:57:10,690 --> 00:57:12,670

What was the name
of the village?

996

00:57:12,670 --> 00:57:16,690

The village was [PLACE NAME].

997
00:57:16,690 --> 00:57:22,810
And we are sitting
outside and very happy.

998
00:57:22,810 --> 00:57:27,450
Later on we went to
sleep in the barn.

999
00:57:27,450 --> 00:57:28,920
It was a clean barn.

1000
00:57:28,920 --> 00:57:30,450
It had hay.

1001
00:57:30,450 --> 00:57:33,180
It didn't smell
because, apparently, he

1002
00:57:33,180 --> 00:57:36,030
didn't have any more cow there.

1003
00:57:36,030 --> 00:57:38,600
And we slept.

1004
00:57:38,600 --> 00:57:41,710
In the morning, we getting
up and we sit outside.

1005
00:57:41,710 --> 00:57:44,780
We wanted just to
be in fresh air.

1006
00:57:44,780 --> 00:57:48,500
She brought us some bread with
a little bit of butter on it,

1007
00:57:48,500 --> 00:57:50,500
and again some kind of milk.

1008
00:57:50,500 --> 00:57:55,850
And if I recall, I think she

made us some cooked farina.

1009

00:57:55,850 --> 00:57:58,770

About 9, 10 o'clock
in the morning,

1010

00:57:58,770 --> 00:58:04,090

the same Russian soldier
who came into the forest

1011

00:58:04,090 --> 00:58:06,100

comes to check on us.

1012

00:58:06,100 --> 00:58:09,130

So girls, how are you doing?

1013

00:58:09,130 --> 00:58:10,120

We said, fine.

1014

00:58:10,120 --> 00:58:11,440

How was your sleep?

1015

00:58:11,440 --> 00:58:12,310

OK.

1016

00:58:12,310 --> 00:58:13,760

Where did you sleep?

1017

00:58:13,760 --> 00:58:15,940

So we show him the barn.

1018

00:58:15,940 --> 00:58:21,490

He rushed into the house and he
said to the priest, excuse me,

1019

00:58:21,490 --> 00:58:24,370

you have such a
huge house, and you

1020

00:58:24,370 --> 00:58:31,500

put these girls who went to
a whole year of troubles,

1021
00:58:31,500 --> 00:58:34,250
and you're putting them
in a barn to sleep?

1022
00:58:34,250 --> 00:58:37,210
How about you sleep tonight
in the barn and these girls

1023
00:58:37,210 --> 00:58:38,870
inside.

1024
00:58:38,870 --> 00:58:43,310
So he gave us a room.

1025
00:58:43,310 --> 00:58:46,580
He slept also, you know,
there, in other room.

1026
00:58:46,580 --> 00:58:48,410
He really had a big house.

1027
00:58:48,410 --> 00:58:53,140
And from that day on, he became
a whole different person.

1028
00:58:53,140 --> 00:58:56,880
He realized that this is
what his mission is now,

1029
00:58:56,880 --> 00:59:00,780
to help the refugees to come
to certain kind of health,

1030
00:59:00,780 --> 00:59:02,490
strength.

1031
00:59:02,490 --> 00:59:04,310
And he gave us beds.

1032
00:59:04,310 --> 00:59:07,890
She made us beautiful

pillow and covers--

1033

00:59:07,890 --> 00:59:09,730

you know, with feather.

1034

00:59:09,730 --> 00:59:12,300

In those days,

the pillows were--

1035

00:59:12,300 --> 00:59:14,830

I just couldn't

sleep in the bed.

1036

00:59:14,830 --> 00:59:18,330

So I had to go down

on the floor and sleep

1037

00:59:18,330 --> 00:59:22,740

because I was just not used

anymore, after a whole year.

1038

00:59:22,740 --> 00:59:23,940

It was too soft.

1039

00:59:23,940 --> 00:59:26,370

I just couldn't find myself.

1040

00:59:26,370 --> 00:59:30,180

For a few days, until I got

used to it, first the pillow,

1041

00:59:30,180 --> 00:59:33,930

and slowly I got back

and I slept in the bed.

1042

00:59:33,930 --> 00:59:36,960

About three days later,

unfortunately, my sister

1043

00:59:36,960 --> 00:59:39,870

came down with a very

high fever, and the two

1044

00:59:39,870 --> 00:59:40,950
other sisters.

1045

00:59:40,950 --> 00:59:46,730
And all three had to
be put in Libschitz,

1046

00:59:46,730 --> 00:59:49,040
which one is a nearby city.

1047

00:59:49,040 --> 00:59:52,310
And they have been
put up in a hospital.

1048

00:59:52,310 --> 00:59:55,430
They all came down
with typhoid fever.

1049

00:59:55,430 --> 00:59:58,070
And I started to gain weight.

1050

00:59:58,070 --> 01:00:00,470
And my hair started to grow.

1051

01:00:00,470 --> 01:00:03,770
And I started to look human.

1052

01:00:03,770 --> 01:00:06,920
And this priest was very kind.

1053

01:00:06,920 --> 01:00:09,590
Every day, he wanted
to learn to me.

1054

01:00:09,590 --> 01:00:12,110
He was learning with me Hebrew.

1055

01:00:12,110 --> 01:00:18,110
He said, how about you become my
daughter, you become Catholic.

1056

01:00:18,110 --> 01:00:20,900
I will provide you
with everything.

1057
01:00:20,900 --> 01:00:23,470
I told him, I really
appreciate everything

1058
01:00:23,470 --> 01:00:26,090
but I am a daughter of a rabbi.

1059
01:00:26,090 --> 01:00:30,320
And I promised my parents
that whatever will happen,

1060
01:00:30,320 --> 01:00:33,410
I will remain faithful
to my own faith.

1061
01:00:33,410 --> 01:00:37,640
And from that day on,
he never bothered me.

1062
01:00:37,640 --> 01:00:40,220
He was very kind to me.

1063
01:00:40,220 --> 01:00:44,460
And then, there were
Czechoslovakian soldiers

1064
01:00:44,460 --> 01:00:48,510
in the town who had a
special headquarter.

1065
01:00:48,510 --> 01:00:51,060
And you could go to
their headquarter

1066
01:00:51,060 --> 01:00:55,650
if you were a refugee, if you
were an inmate from a camp.

1067
01:00:55,650 --> 01:00:58,770

And they would give you
a little bit of clothing.

1068
01:00:58,770 --> 01:01:01,530
And they would direct
you a little bit.

1069
01:01:01,530 --> 01:01:05,640
And I told them that only one
thing that I am requesting

1070
01:01:05,640 --> 01:01:12,310
is if I could get a bicycle so
I can go into the other city

1071
01:01:12,310 --> 01:01:15,540
where my sister and my
friends are in the hospital

1072
01:01:15,540 --> 01:01:17,920
so I can go and visit them.

1073
01:01:17,920 --> 01:01:20,710
Lo and behold,
they gave me-- how

1074
01:01:20,710 --> 01:01:24,070
they got for me the bicycle,
I really don't know.

1075
01:01:24,070 --> 01:01:25,480
They gave me a bicycle.

1076
01:01:25,480 --> 01:01:29,560
They gave me a scarf
that, until this day,

1077
01:01:29,560 --> 01:01:34,190
I think I never got
such a scarf in my life.

1078
01:01:34,190 --> 01:01:38,910
I started to put around my

head, you know, around my neck.

1079

01:01:38,910 --> 01:01:41,170

The humanity started
to come back.

1080

01:01:41,170 --> 01:01:46,690

The woman in me, you know, to
look decent, to look human.

1081

01:01:46,690 --> 01:01:50,020

And the lady who was
the cook of the priest,

1082

01:01:50,020 --> 01:01:52,080

she would bake with
me cookies that I

1083

01:01:52,080 --> 01:01:54,550

should take to the hospital.

1084

01:01:54,550 --> 01:01:57,160

And I was, at first, shaking.

1085

01:01:57,160 --> 01:01:59,560

How can I ride the bike?

1086

01:01:59,560 --> 01:02:04,930

I haven't been riding
a bike for over a year.

1087

01:02:04,930 --> 01:02:07,044

How can I do that, you know?

1088

01:02:07,044 --> 01:02:11,650

But God was good to me,
and I started first around

1089

01:02:11,650 --> 01:02:12,520

in the yard.

1090

01:02:12,520 --> 01:02:14,200

And then I went.

1091

01:02:14,200 --> 01:02:17,530

And lo and behold, I was
on the road, on the bike,

1092

01:02:17,530 --> 01:02:21,280

going every day
to visit the sick.

1093

01:02:21,280 --> 01:02:25,240

Until one day I felt this is
quite dangerous on the road.

1094

01:02:25,240 --> 01:02:27,730

There were still
Russian army coming in

1095

01:02:27,730 --> 01:02:30,490

and they are not the nicest.

1096

01:02:30,490 --> 01:02:33,940

Except this one fellow
who liberated us,

1097

01:02:33,940 --> 01:02:36,440

the rest were not so nice.

1098

01:02:36,440 --> 01:02:39,700

There is a lot [? more ?]
to talk about it, you know.

1099

01:02:39,700 --> 01:02:43,960

And I just felt very bad.

1100

01:02:43,960 --> 01:02:47,790

And, also, my sister
was very, very sick.

1101

01:02:47,790 --> 01:02:50,920

She-- her mind wasn't
any more there.

1102

01:02:50,920 --> 01:02:54,370

So I begged the
head doctor if he

1103

01:02:54,370 --> 01:02:57,460

could give me some
job in the hospital

1104

01:02:57,460 --> 01:02:59,290

so I can be near to my sister.

1105

01:02:59,290 --> 01:03:02,125

I told him, otherwise
she will die.

1106

01:03:02,125 --> 01:03:06,490

We're getting near the end of
the tape, so better stop here.

1107

01:03:06,490 --> 01:03:08,000