

I was born in the town of Fényes, Hungary, close to the Romanian border. I am the one of only survivor of my family. We was three sisters. My elder sister was married. And she went in Auschwitz with her son, two years old, my younger sister, and my parents.

My parents was deported from Debrecen ghetto in 1944, beginning June. And this time I was with my sister, who was married, in Csorna. And she had a baby. And I was helping her because her husband was in labor camp. Her married name is Hofman.

We went from Csorna to the ghetto of Sopron. And we was later deported from there. We arrived in Auschwitz in the beginning July. I can't say exact date. I think it was between 4 and 5 July. When we arrived there, first I was in the vernichtungslager, which means the lager of elimination, which has no electric wire around. It was no facilities. It was just for a couple of days, when all you descended, the people from there and other lagers, for the gas chamber and crematorium.

When I was there a couple of days, I find accidentally one of my aunts, who was deported with my parents on the same train. So she told me that my mother went to the left side, which we don't know at this time what this means. And my father and my younger sister went to right.

And I learned from her that she met a neighbor from my hometown-- his name was Mr. Lerner-- who are in the same barrack, almost in the same bed, with my father. So he came in with the cleaning kommando every second day to the girl's lager. And my aunt, because she was working in the cleaning kommando, she was the only one who was allowed to talk with the men who came in.

And she learned from him that who he was. And this way she know it, that he was together with my father. So immediately, she know that I arrived with my sister. He sent a message for-- he take the message for my father, that my sister with a little boy went left. And I am in this-and-this lager. That was the B lager.

And I get the message back three days later through this man that my father let me know that my sister is in the C lager, barrack 8, together with youngsters, youngsters from 12 to 14 years old, or 11 to 12. And he was asking me if I have any time ever any possibility to go there, that I could be with her because she was too young to handle those things alone.

I was new in Auschwitz. I don't know it, what's going on there and don't know it, that you don't offer yourself for anything in Auschwitz because you never know. You know where you left, but you never know where you arrive and for what you go. We learned in the very first days that Dr. Mengele's name, who I met immediately when we arrived in the ramp of Auschwitz, that he is making experimental from the people in life. And he killed people. This we know it.

And everybody was afraid from him. We know his name from the very first day when we arrived. And everybody told us, who was there before us, don't offer yourself for anything. If you are picked, bad luck or good luck, you never know. But don't offer yourself.

But because I know it, that my sister was in C lager after this message I get from my father, almost couple days later, or maybe the next day-- I don't remember anymore-- it was called out that they need four volunteers to go to the C lager to pick up blankets. I didn't think for one second. I offered myself.

I had no relative with me. I have no friends with me. The only friends was that we was making after we arrived there. So I don't have anything-- nothing to lose. I don't believe it-- and this time I was to new-- that really you're not supposed to offer yourself. I learned later I shouldn't.

So I offered myself, and I was lucky because we went in C lager. And the luck was not only that we went in C lager, because in every lager was 30 barracks. You could stand in the other side, opposite side where her barrack was. But we stopped right by the door of barrack number 8. And the guard who came with us, he says, stay here. I come back for you.

And we was couple of women. Immediately I take the opportunity, I scream into the door. I'm looking for Ilona Ungar. This is my sister's name. And she was by the door. And she also was looking for me.

I didn't see my sister for a year. And you know, in this age, I left the child. In one year she was growing up, and no hair, so I didn't recognize her face in the first minute. And she says, I can't believe it, Elizabeth. What you are doing here? And I says, I came from B lager, and we came to pick up blankets. I would like to stay. How we can do that?

And I told her a lady told me in the minute before I left that she know it that her daughter is in this barrack. And if I can change that her daughter come back for me, that she will be together with her daughter and I'll stay with my sister. So she called out the name of the girl, and she appeared immediately. She says, my sister come from lager B. Your mother is there with her. Would you want to go back in her place and she stay here.

And she says, oh, of course I do. So I said, throw down your clothes because she had uniform and I don't. And immediately, the girls who come with me, they run to us. They can see that I take off my clothes also. You don't have to dress down, big deal because we have only one dress, no underwear. So you just threw it down, and that's it.

So I stepped in, and she stepped out. She put on my clothes, I put on hers. We was not marked. So she went back with the four girls with the blankets. And I stayed with my sister.

And I think this is only maybe one of the million could be, or a couple hundred thousand maybe, that somebody could do it because in concentration camp they tried to do anything in this world that you cannot be together with relatives or even not with friends because they don't want that you give support to each other. And the more people have support and being together, they was afraid that they could be too strong. Unfortunately, we don't know anything that we could be strong or we could do anything.

And when I stayed with my sister, that was my biggest surprise. She says, you know, I get a message from Dad. He is in exact same number of barrack on the side of-- other side of the road. He was in the D lager, barrack 8.

And when we were standing Zahlappell-- the Zahlappell every early in the morning, when the sun rise, we have to stand outside in line, five person in line. And the German SS came and count us. I don't know what reason because there even a bird cannot fly out from Auschwitz. Everything was electric wire. But that was one thing to give you more suffering because in the morning was very, very cold, and the day was very, very hot.

In the morning you had to come out from the barracks. And the day, they don't let you go in. So you had to take all the weathers. Raining, cold, warm, makes no difference. But you had to stand there sometimes for hours.

And she said that, when we stayed Zahlappell, let's stay in the same side, same time. And we have to stay in the last lane, the very last, which is in the side of the D lager. And my father stays and the last one also, which is the side of the C lager, so we can wave. It's not-- was not so close that we could talk to each other, just wave.

And through this guy, he know it, that-- probably this day, the first day, he doesn't. But he was surprised when the two hands was waved. I don't know if he was able to see our face, that he knew it I was with him. But he learned a couple day after. Through this man, my aunt let him know that I am in the C lager with my sister.

We was there for six weeks. And this only barrack was not exposed for election. In the B lager, I used to be. It was election couple of days-- couple of times in the day. And always the election comes mostly with Mengele or other SS. And they picked up people that you never know for what. You never know where they went or what they did.

But this barrack was not exposed for election. They had a beautiful life in concentration camp, of course. But at least it was relaxing. We don't know about it, what was really the election meant. But I was preparing my sister because I know it, this will be not take forever. I was telling her what's going on in other barracks and the other lager. And she should know.

So the day when we was called 11 o'clock to go out for Zahlappell, I know it, the election, first election come. I told her,

be strong. I try everything what I can. But it's not my hand to stay with you. But one thing you have to put in your hand, you are young. You have to eat everything what they give for you because you need strengthness. You have to survive. You have to survive. And you have to fight for your surviving.

Looks like that I feared, that I have to leave her. When the election came, we stand in a very last line because I learned from the other lagers that they pick in the beginning. And they have enough, then they don't touch end of the line. But unfortunately, at this time they did. And I was the last one that he picked. It was Mengele.

And I could say that I just get crazy in this moment because we know it already for six weeks I was in Auschwitz or something like, that Mengele don't talk to the people. Mengele just make a movement. And this means life or death. He was the god, death angel in Auschwitz.

And I lost-- lost the control of myself. And when I realized that my sister was shaking and she was crying because she know it, that they took me and she will stay behind. And I then went to Mengele. I grabbed his arm, which was-- I don't know how he doesn't kill me immediately because they was afraid to come close to us because they were afraid that we are not clean. And of course, we wasn't because we had no water, not for drink-- even not for a drink. How you can be clean?

And I asked him, don't take me, please. I want to stay with my sister. And I know it that you're not supposed to stay in Auschwitz that you have relative. Even if you had, you was trying that nobody should know it. And we had a very nice-- we called her a blockalteste. This generally was inmates, many years already in camp. And she was from Czechoslovakia.

And she was the nicest human being I ever met in Auschwitz. Because them today kapos because they were so bad, some of them, because they was [? forbidden ?] for so many years being in concentration camp already. But this woman was like an aunt for us, for all of us. She gives support, and she was marvelous.

And she lost her control also because she Shema Yisrael, Elizabeth, what you did. You're not supposed to say anything. He will kill your sister in front of your eyes. And he turned around, and he said, shut up. I will not kill your sister. We didn't know it, that Mengele understand Hungarian.

He says, I will not kill your sister. If she is so pretty like you are, just point down on her. But my sister was standing in the back of Mengele, and she was putting her hands together like prayer sign and signing, we don't say it. She was scared to death. But I had no other choice. I turned on her, and I know it. I send my sister to death.

And he says, come here. She couldn't almost walk. She was so scared. And she come to him, and he says, oh, she is a beautiful girl. Go, join your sister. Nobody couldn't believe it.

But we had the feeling that nothing good comes from this. If he let the sister go, it's because we go somewhere that we will suffering to see each other and the condition where we go. But we don't know it, for what.

We went in a special place. We was 200, all picked out from the children barracks. I was the only one adult that went. I was 20 in this time. And they took us in a special barrack, where we was for a couple of days.

We had checkup, like, I don't remember till today ever in my life that we had so many doctor checkups, blood tests and everything. And we was questioning, where we go? Where we go? Where we need such a doctor checkup?

And the big question sign was, when after two days everything was fine, everybody was fine and healthy, they took us in a place that after we learned it was the gas chamber. We were sitting there for over 24 hours, completely naked. And then there came the order to go to the showers, which it was 100% sure that we will open up and instead shower, the gas.

So when the SS give order, open up the-- go take shower. And in five minutes I want everybody next door. He came back five minutes after, and everybody was standing with a piece of soap. And nobody take shower.

He says, what's going on? So we told him, if you want to kill us, you have to open up the gas. We will not open up for you. He says, are you crazy? And he begins to turn on the waters. It was really water.

It was the biggest joy I ever see in Auschwitz. Everybody was screaming, laughing, because we could take a shower after two months, the first time. We had water and soap to it. Unfortunately, that time was too short for us to take the shower. They take us out immediately.

And one wonder to the other the choice dresses for us, which fit, not only the size but the color. Because in Auschwitz you get a dress. It doesn't fit you or fit you, that was yours. It was long or short, that was yours. You don't get another one. But this time they was looking for the size. They was looking for even the color.

My sister get a blue dress. And the guy says, no, it doesn't fit for her. I don't like for her, her color. And it was changed for another one. And more things was going on, more scared we was because we know it, that something is wrong.

They give us for two days or three days food, which we eat up immediately. We don't wait five minutes for it because, you know, what you have now you have. Tomorrow you don't know if you have time for tomorrow to eat. So eat up the whole food what they give to us.

So we was transferred to the train station. And my father worked in the ramp. So we know it, that he's working in the ramp. So he maybe at least was trying to search for him. And unfortunately, we was lucky because it was close to the time when the mens end the day, and they went back in five line to the lager from the Auschwitz station, where he worked.

And we learned also, if we send a message for him, we never send a message with his name because my name is Ungar. My maiden name is Ungar. And Ungar means, in German, Hungarian. So we never called him in his second name. We called his number, that he has the tattooed number.

And he know it. It was called, his tattooed number. He has a message from his daughter. And he see a group of girls standing there. And he could recognize us because we had not only well dressed, but they give us also to cover our head because our head was shaved down. So they give us something to cover our head, a piece of cloth.

So he could recognize us far away, that he already was there. And he was shocked when he see two of us. And he couldn't talk directly because we was marching. But he asked, how many are you? And we says, 200. All from the children barrack? And we say, yes.

And then his voice break, and he says, better be dead but not go with this transport. Go to the electric wire. I don't want you to leave if you have to go with this group. And he couldn't say anything. And we see it, that he was almost, you know, [? faint. ?] [? Faint ?] you call this, no?

And his friends who was around him hold him up, almost in their arm, to take him away. And he didn't know it, what we did. He went to his barrack this night. And like we know it later on, that he was crying the whole night. He says, I just killed two my-- two of my daughters.

And we were standing. The problem was, it was mostly the group Hungarian. And all they understand, if a father says, for two of their daughters that they want them seen dead before to go with this group, that must be very bad. And he know where this group goes.

And we was immediately take possession, go in the back line to be closer to the electric wire and not closer to the train. And we was standing in the-- behind, in the last line when we had order, begin to board. Go onto the train. And they told us that 25 on each door. And the girls begin to board. And we was having problem because the people was trying to delay because everybody know it, that something is wrong, and we should know something will going on.

And takes a little, a little time for them. But I don't know why we was a privileged group. And we don't know it, why we

was a privileged group for them. We don't want to be violent. And they was trying to say that we have to go because we don't have time. It's fast. Go up. Go up. Hurry. Hurry.

And half of the girls was board already. How long it takes 100% go on in a train? Nothing. And when was already the last 25, that we was already turned to go to the electric wire-- the electric wire was a very high voltage electric wire, covered all around the lager, which when you get closer enough, I would say two or three yards far away, the electric wire could pull you. You don't have to go yourself because it's so strong that they pull you.

And many, many people, during the months of my stay in Auschwitz, they find, every single day, people dead around the electric wire. Some was killed themself, and some other, they get too close, and the electric wire called them. So it was already almost in the border of the place that if you make one more step you go by themselves. You will be pulled to the electric wire. When all of a sudden, we listen a big noise, all the-- I don't know how you call this in English-- [NON-ENGLISH], when the plane is coming to bomb, when they're beginning make a noise. They call you go for the shelters.

And you listen this terrible noise. And immediately you see the planes. And you was looking on, and you was admiring. All American planes came. And we see that so many times in Auschwitz, but they never bombed the lager because they know it, it was a concentration camp and the Jews stayed there. So they never bombed the lager. But we used to see when they come by to bomb the city.

And I see it, when the bomb beginning far. And they bombed the station. So it was no way train can leave Auschwitz. How long they will be not fixed? And that was, for seconds, my life was saved for this time. But my father doesn't know it-- doesn't know it, number one, if we kill ourselves before that they board the plane. He doesn't know if the train left already and we was killed by the bombing.

Because they know it, that the station was bombed on. So he was almost 100% sure that he lost us anyway, one way or the other. But for him was a terrible pain to know that he pull us in to die. And take us two days that we can send him a message that it was the transport not taking away, and we don't killed ourselves. It was the last second when this happened. It was for seconds.

They took us back to the lager. And this time, of course, they took away, once again, our nice clothes. And he was right to eat the food because we don't need the food for three days. And take away all our clothes, and we get back, once again, a piece of something to cover your body. And we learned that we have to find a way to mix with other groups, not be separate in this because we will be not so lucky the next time.

To keep us separate, they will try to send this group out because it was for some reason. So we were searching how we get together because it was a new place to get message for my father. And we was lucky. They send us back to the B lager, the original lager I come from to my sister, where I arrived. And this is the lager where used to go this gentleman for the kommando of cleaning every second day. So I was trying to get somebody from the cleaning kommando because my aunt was not there anymore. And I didn't know it where she left-- to get this guy to find out how I can send a message for my father.

And I was lucky. Why? Because I find somebody. And I send a message through him for my father, that we are once again back to the B lager, took away the clothes. And I ask him, do you know what was this group called that my father was so anxious that we should not try not to go. And he says, we learned-- and this is 100% positive-- this group was prepared to send for the soldiers pleasure. This was the reason that they took young virgins, almost kids from the lager.

Of course, we could understand that my father wants to see us dead before to go in this. By the way, after the war what I learned, that a couple of group went for this, and no survivor. Because after they used them, they killed them.

So we tried to mix with the people-- and that's what we did-- to lose this group. And the other girls did the same thing because they know it, because we told them what was expecting this group to go. So we was trying to mix with everybody else, that once again take your chance that if you will be elected, you will be elected for something. You

never know-- maybe worse, maybe better. But at least we will not give ourselves in for something that we know it already where you go through.

I was in B lager for two or three more weeks with my sister. Then it was the time, it was close to fall already. It was the end of September beginning October. They was trying to empty the lager. And it was almost no lagers.

Mostly it was closed already. They put all the people who left in Auschwitz in one lager because the front was coming closer. And they don't want survivor that you can tell for everybody in the world, in the free world what happened in Germany. So they was trying to kill or take away everybody from Auschwitz and clean up, no to left behind nothing that they can tell for the future what was going on in Auschwitz.

And we was taken in the C lager again. But in this time, they're half empty already. So it was in the barrack 30 yet with my sister. And we couldn't see my father so often because that was already another side of the lager. And it was very difficult for us to reach him or send a message for him. But we know it, a day before I left, which was October 22, that he was well. And his health was-- of course, you have to see that it was a concentration camp, already six months or five months after, that he was not a greatest health. But in condition for Auschwitz, he was pretty much good condition, also my sister.

This night, when the crematorium was bombed or they put dynamite in the crematorium, and it was blew up there, the crematorium. And the Germans was crazy, was absolutely crazy. We know it, the next day they will kill us right there because we know it because they was-- they was running back and forth like crazies because they don't know it, after that, what they can wait. They were not expecting that anybody was possible to get dynamite there and to do that, what the people who used to work in the crematorium did.

But at least they know-- we know it, that now in this time, there will be no crematorium or gas chamber But they have to kill us or to put us in grave in life, like they did before. But the next morning, it was very bad.

We're going to stop.

It was an election. And at this time, I had, unfortunately, no opportunity to ask for my sister or do something for her. I was elected, and she stayed behind. It was not much was left in the larger. I don't think that it was two barracks full in this time because everybody was taken already. And I was taken, and my sister stayed behind. I never know from her and not from my father from this moment on.

And the reason I came for the gathering here, or I was in Jerusalem two years ago, I don't know. But I had the feeling that my sister could live somewhere in the world, which I know is maybe 1% of possibility. But I don't lose the opportunity to search for her because I understand after that Auschwitz was closed down or invaded by the Russians or American-- I don't know who invaded Auschwitz-- almost two weeks or three weeks later, when I was taken out from Auschwitz. So I had the hope that at least my sister survived some way. But I never know about her.

I was taken the very same day out from Auschwitz to Glog³w. We arrived in Breslau by train. And we was walking for a day or so for a camp, camp. How you call this? Well, agricultural work, you know, outside from the city. The place calls Glog³w. And we was in a farmer house, put 25, 30 person in each farmer house. Oh, not farmer's house-- of course, it was not their house. It was the place where they keep the straw for the animals, you know, to put on that animals, the straw.

So they put us there. And we was going, taken-- we was taken out to work every day in the field. I don't know how to explain this, that we was digging, that if the tanks coming for the Russian or American or any alien coming in, that the tanks fall down in this hole. I don't know how you call this in English.

So he was digging this, which was a very, very hard job because it was winter already. We was not prepared for winter, of course. I have no shoes. I have these wood Dutch shoes on, no socks, no underwear, and not overcoat. I had a very lightweight dress. And it was a coat, something that you can call trenchcoat maybe. But it was no lining.

And some of them, of my partners or girls who was with me, they even not this. Some of them was luckier because they had a heavier coat. The only thing, we could keep our body a little warmer because they give us a blanket to sleep at night. But that was not allowed to take out. And we tried to put around the body and to keep under the clothes, this blanket, to keep us warm.

But if they find you to have the blanket around you, they kill you in the place immediately. And sometimes when we leave to going out for work, they search for blankets. So you take it a chance. But anyway, the chance was not so bad because the death was waiting you in the field.

Every single day we bring back five sometimes 10 people frozen to death because we was not dressed. And the work what we did, and by hand, no gloves on, digging in a frozen ground that after they realized that they are doing nothing. We are doing nothing. So then they bring dynamite to break the top of the ground where it was very frozen. Then we could dig in the bottom.

But you worked because you had to work. When you stopped for one minute, you was frozen. And that was the reason we had so many people frozen to death, that we have to bring back. And there, in one minute, I stopped because I felt my hand was so frozen that I couldn't hold already the things that I had to work with. And I tried to move my hand to bring back the feeling in my hands, and I don't realize the guard was behind me. And he see that I stop. And with the bayonet, he pushed my back. And I falled into the hole. And everybody know it, we will take her back dead because if she's not frozen but she break her column or legs or something, and this means that they kill you anyway because they don't need sick people.

And everybody was wondering would I stand up. And I tried to come out, so they're helping-- helped me to come out. But I don't feel then, this time, not much pain. I feel there's something wrong in my back, but I didn't know it, that it was something really damaged. Only later on I know it, that it is through a couple of disks.

Because when he hit me, not with the bayonet in the sticky side, but the other side, so the hit me, he break a couple of my disks in my column. Which, after many years, I had to have an operation because I couldn't live with the pain.

So after that, I learned that even if you don't-- you can't [? fall. ?] To fall down from your head, you have to grab some way because you can stop. You can stop for a minute. You have to work. And it was in both sides good because, if you stop, it was bad for you also because you get frozen standing. Like many people, if you are standing and get like a piece of ice, you're standing there and dead. So you had to move if you want to survive.

And we feel that our liberation is close because at night you could listen already, the fight. You could listen that it was shotguns close to us. So we was expecting every night that tomorrow morning we will be liberated.

And we want to live. And this time, we was trying to survive because we know it, that the liberation is close. But once again, we was wrong because the night before, when we almost-- we could listen already, it was not true. It was only in our mind that the tanks is coming, and we listen the tanks coming. It was close but not so close.

They take us, and we begin the march, March of Death, we call it-- walking 50, 60 kilometer a day. And winter-- it was the end of January. It was very, very damn cold. We was walking in ice. And with my wood shoes, the only thing I had is the spoon what they give us for eat. And with the spoon, I was taking down the snow from the bottom of my wood shoes because it's getting so high that I couldn't walk anymore.

And we was walking 60 miles, 50 miles for two weeks. Sometimes for three days, the only thing that we had is the snow, that we was eating snow. And sometimes we get some food, which food we called then this time food. But it wasn't really food.

One night we get frozen cabbage. And when you eat it, you feeled, when we go down, you feeled outside on your tummy that it was ice cold because it was frozen. And you had nothing in your stomach. So who survived, it was really a miracle because they could kill you. Today, if you have three days you are with an empty stomach and you eat only a frozen cabbage, it'll kill you.

So I don't know how we survived. Or once we get milk, because we arrived in a place that probably they had no time to send the milk out. And the milk gets sour. So I start to throw out a gift for the-- for the pigs, little bit for us.

God please, it was so many people sick next day-- diarrhea, empty stomach with sour milk. And many people we left behind. In those six weeks of walking, 2000 who left, it was not 700. The rest of them, many died and many was killed because trying to-- or they couldn't walk anymore, so they would not leave behind living people. They shot to death and leave behind the body.

Or a couple of them trying to run away, then they shot them when they was run away. Couple of them probably survived, run away. You never know. And we arrived in Nuremberg. There, we complete our group for 2,000 once again. But those people, I don't know where they come from. We never talked to them. But they had already a kind of uniform, because a piece of striped cloth was sewn in their dress, in the back. So if they run away, they can see the piece out in the back. You know, everybody, they came from the concentration camp.

And we was walking with them other week. We was trying to run away. And many of them runned away. When we arrived in Dresden, this day they told us that we will have two days rest. And when we arrived in Dresden, in this minute, when we stepped in outskirts in the city, the city was bombed down, what they called carpet bombed down. It was nothing left in the city.

And we was seeing how the bombs fall down once again. American planes bombed the city down. So once again, they save our life. We couldn't go into the city, so we had to work. And this time, I was in condition I couldn't work anymore. Because all my feet, from the wood and from the frozen, was bleeding, all over blisters.

And I was in my last, I could say, last days or last hours in my life. And I thought for the five girls that we was together and was trying to help each other. Girls, just go. Leave me behind. I can't make a step anymore.

They says, no. They told us two days we will relax. You will recuperate. Now, you have to come. And they was trying with four of us. I could say, pull me, because I couldn't pick up my feet anymore. And they left us in a small town. Once again in the straw. But they told us that we will stay there for 24 hours because we don't know where to go, not because they want us to give a rest.

The guard, the German guard was so tired, like we was. But the German guard was changed, and they was well dressed. Thy was working with us. But they was well dressed. And he was having good food. And they was sleeping at night because the next morning, we had a new group of guard.

And he says we stay here. That was a small town, which I don't know the name. But it was very close to Dresden. And I don't know how was located. Afterwards we was working once again. And the next stop was also in the straw, very close to Meissen. Meissen, the famous china factory.

And three of us, we was left because other two girls we lost already. It was two sisters. They ran away. I never know if they survived. And it was three together from the five line. And we was digging in in the straw. It was very, very cold.

But maybe the straw will cover us or the wind will not blow in and will give us a little warmness that we can sleep at night, to take a little strengthness to go ahead tomorrow. But we don't realize that digging-- we dig down maybe 10 meters down. We was in the bottom of the straw. And the stroke was like a two or three floor high.

And the next morning, when they called to go out to stand line because we are leaving, we have no strength to move. We was half frozen. And it was so deep down that no way we could come out. So we talked to each other, that we will not go out. Maybe this is our surviving opportunity.

And when we listen that the commander say push down the snow with the bayonets. If somebody there with life, then the bayonet take care for that. And if it's somebody dead, you will see that the blood will be not fresh.

And we looked at each other and says, you die but you don't scream. If the bayonet touch you, you bit your lips, and you don't scream, not to know that somebody else is there. But We begin to dig in because we know that there is somebody.

So when they listen, but the guard came out. And he says, nobody is in the straw. So we know it, that nobody was hurt because we was free to move even, to turn the head to see something, the other one is in life. And we listened when the group went-- left. And it was reported four missing.

So it was four person missing. We was three and one more. Somewhere was missing. So we don't know who was the fourth one.

Take us three days to come out from the straw. We was trying to come out because we know that we can't stay there forever because you will die. It was already over hunger. We hadn't eat for, I would say, almost nothing for the last four weeks. So we can't stay very long there anymore.

And we was trying to dig in, digging the snow some way to come out. But the way is the straw stay, they have fence, wire fence. So how you can go through that? We have to find the door. So we had to come up in the top that we can see where the door that we can come out. So take us four days, and we could come out.

The condition how we looks like, I don't have to tell you. And when we came out, we realized this is not a small town, but the outskirts of the town. And it was a farmhouse. So we went out holding each other because either of us was in condition to walk.

And trying to call for people, nobody answers. So we went in in the first door and called for the people. We don't find anybody. And see, it was a kitchen. It was warm. So we decided we'd stay there how long somebody is coming. But the feeling of the hunger was much bigger, like the honesty. But you could feel that you are in somebody's home, and you are not right to take something.

So we eat up everything what this woman had in the kitchen, everything, which was plenty, especially for us. And we don't know it-- or we know it, but who minded that that what we was doing, it was very wrong because after fasting for almost a year, and especially in the last five days, you don't have anything in your stomach. You're not supposed to eat. And you're not supposed to eat something what we did. Because we did eat discriminate, everything what was there. It was sour cream. It was things which-- there was this thing could eat somebody after fasting.

Not a miracle in my life, because nothing happened with us. But when the woman came home, she gets scared from us because I don't blame her. We was dirty. We was skinny with an enormous tummy Because all the inmates from Auschwitz had a big tummy, looks like pregnant everybody, because they give us brome. It's a kind of medicine which stopped the period of the women.

And of course, this makes us a big, big tummy. And it was very, very skinny with a big, big tummy-- no hair, dressed how he was dressed. Of course, everybody would be scared. And she begins to scream, screaming for help. And the police came, and he was arrested.

But we know it, that was the fifth day, that 5 times-- 50 kilometer. Our group is so far away that no way that they could take us behind the group because we know it from the past week, that if they catch somebody run away and bring back to the group, then the commander kill those person when they arrived. So we know it. We will not go back, at least with our group. But probably they will send us some other concentration camp. And we was there for two days in the police station. We was trying to find out where we belong and what they should do with us. So other 100 kilometer saved for us, which means that our group was even further ahead.

And then we was put down in a car, in a police car, which was ride by horse, not automobile, and with one single police. The fourth person, we find also. We was four. And they have an order to take us. Where, I don't know. So when we left from the town, the police was beginning questioning us, where we come from, where we are originally, what we did.

And we told him that our only problem was that we was Jew. And we was deported in Auschwitz. And he couldn't

believe it. He thought that we are lying, that what happened in Auschwitz. They says, I know that concentration camp exists. But there's a little bit too much, what you are telling me.

We say's, OK. You believe it or not. But this is our story. So I don't know if he did, that he doesn't know it. Or maybe it was a very small town, and they don't know it in this small town. But absolutely, the German nation know it, what was going on in concentration camp. No question about that.

The camp was close to the cities or towns. And like we smelled the crematorium when the flesh was burning. They smelled also many, many kilometer around. So they know it, what's happened there.

So what the guy was probably not so far good with us, but he was good with himself. He was beginning having problems because all the Germans was running away already from the Russians. And they find us, that the police car with horse take four refugees back to the concentration camp when we don't have car enough and horse enough to run away from the Russians. And it was beginning the people be against the police.

So he felt unsecure from the German side. And this is better. Who will know it, why we let this four go. And he says, look. I will tell you very fast what you should do. You are originally Hungarian. Budapest falled in January. The Russians came in in January. Tell the story-- either of you looks like Jewish, so they could pass like Hungarian non-Jewish. Tell that you are Hungarian refugee and you run away with the Russian-- with the German Army from the Russians. And you are looking for help.

And we said what we should say with our hair? Oh, just, you say that you get, because you had no opportunity to wash yourself, you have something in your hair and you cut it down to get rid of it. So he let us go. And this is 10 kilometer from here. So you walked already so long, you can walk another 10 kilometer.

It's a refuge for hunters. You go there and ask for the night refuge. And next day you go into Meissen and look for the Rote Schule. That means the Red School. Because there you will find volunteers, and they help for political refugees, the people who ran away from the Russian. And tell that you are Hungarian non-Jewish.

Of course, we don't believe him. So we went to this refuge because we had to go somewhere at night because if he was in the field. And we ask for sleeping there. And they let us sleep down with the chickens. Because we was dirty, so they would not leave us come into the house.

And the next day we went into Meissen, but we was not going in the school that he send us because we was afraid that he called already by phone to tell, hey, it's coming four haftling-- that was our name from the concentration camp-- be arrested. So we went in opposite side and he told us to go.

And I was working. I was living there for-- that was sometimes February. I can't tell the date. And we was in Meissen, three of us, for till end of the war. During this time, we was arrested every third day because, obviously, asking us paper. And we maked that we don't understand German, which we did. All three of us was perfect German.

Then he was shaking papers. He said, paper, paper. We said, [NON-ENGLISH] We don't understand. So he was asking for identification. We had none. So what we could show for them? [NON-ENGLISH].

We don't-- they couldn't talk. They was trying to questioning us. [NON-ENGLISH], we don't go ahead with this. So we was arrested. Two days later, they had to leave us because what they can do with us? For us, was the best bet when we was arrested because we was warm, we had food. So we had no problem because during the day, we had no to sleep. We were sleeping indoors in the hallways of the buildings. We had no place where to stay, and we was going house to house asking for food.

And then this time, it was end of the war. The people alone, they had no much food for themselves. So it was very difficult to find for us. Then friend, we had an opportunity to work for-- to find for papers. We went in-- they call this arbeitsamt. It was an office who was searching work for the people and, for the factories, workers. But of course, it was not for refugees.

But when somebody walked out in the door, we put our feet between the door because it was no way to come out from outside. You have to go in in certain door where we were sent away already. So we know it, if you don't go in the back door, you will not go in never. And when somebody came out, we put our feet between the door. The door don't lock, and we squeeze in.

And we went in the line inside. And we get-- they ask us who we are. We said, we are Hungarian refugee. We came with the German Army. And we lost our family. And we are alone. And we want to work. They believe it.

There we speak German already. [LAUGHS] And they believe it. And they give us paper with our name, which we give, of course, not our original name because my name is Ungar, they should know it, that that one was Schwartz. That they know it immediately as we are Hungarian. So we changed to very Hungarian sounds names. I was Szabo.

I told them I am Szabo Elisabeth because we was afraid that if it came out the name, that it should be-- the first name should be your own. So I said, I am Szabo Elisabeth. And they gave us a paper to go to a factory that was making piece coats. And they will teach you to work with the machines. So we had our first documentation.

I had in my name Elisabeth Szabo, and the two girls also. We went to the factory. And this factory give us the factory's dorm to stay. So we had identification. From this time on we was not arrested anymore. They don't pay for us, but we had food. We have room, room and board, which was the most important for us in this time. It was not the greatest, but it was fine. And I was there working in this factory with the two girls till the war end.

When the Russians invaded Meissen, we was unlucky in one hand because the Elbe River cut that city in two. And on one side fall to the American Army's hand, and the other side the Russian. And we was in the Russian side. And there was no way that we can go from this side to the other.

But the Russian, the third-- second day after the liberation, we was arrested because they wanted to know if we are not SS or German Nazis, that we are covering ourselves now with the concentration camps identification. And take us two days that we was in the bunker, that they find somebody who questioned us. And they realized that we are inmate from the lager, from Auschwitz. And then they give us identification in four language.

This time was our only identification, and four language-- French, English, German, and Russian, asking the authorities and the people to help us because we want to go back in our town where we was born and searching for the rest of the family. It take us one month to go back to Hungary. And I learned that, unfortunately, when I arrived, that I am the only survivor. Not only my in direct family, I mean, my parents and my sisters. I lost six of my seven uncles from my mother's side, six of my uncles my father's side. I lost my grandparents. I lost all my cousins. I left only seven of my cousins. So altogether, I lost 89 persons in my immediate family.

And there was this thing once that you had to deal with your survivor because we was not feeling happy. We thought that we are condemned for life. And we don't feel liberated. Takes many, many, many months because, in the beginning, you had the hope that with time somebody comes back. But more months was by, less hope you had. And older you get, the worse it is.

Because when you was young, I get married, I was trying to have my own family. You was trying to recuperate something that you lost. And you was trying very hard that your children would not suffer the consequences of the concentration camp and our tragedy that we are carrying on all our lives. And that was a hard job.

But now, when you get older, it's getting very difficult. It's very hard to be like you try to be all your life, strong, and just go ahead.