

Interview with Emilie Danielova

March 8, 1997

Voice: Those, those

Voice: I would put it in there, I would put it in there for a moment, a moment longer on the VHS.

Danielová: Thank you. Please take one. I will make coffee. No, wait_____

Voice: I'm filming.

Voice: Fine.

Question: Mrs. Danielová, tell us now from the beginning. What kind of family were you born into? What was your life like? Where were you born?

Answer: Pa%ovice Uhersk~ Brod.

Q: And what did it look like there? What kind of a childhood did you have?

A: Well, we had a little building, a lovely one you know, like on the Vala%oska (River), like on the Vala%oska, like the buildings that are there.

Q: What did they look like?

A: A lovely building. We had a little kitchen, a little sitting-room and nothing more. And there were six of us there; there were siblings, brothers, sisters, everyone; I slept with my mother in bed, with my mother and sister — the three of us. Dad slept alone. Yea, it was small, you know; it was tiny there.

Q: Were the rooms nicely painted?

A: Just like here. Lovely, clean, you know I am very clean; there we kept everything clean. We didn't have gas there, nothing.

Q: And your father, your dad?

A: Dad was a blacksmith; he made chains, a blacksmith; he went for those, for those, for coal, you know, he walked to Brod and there he made blacksmith hoes and he made those big chains; he made everything. We had workers.

Q: And who came to buy from you?

A: I--all of us, at that point we were young, beautiful people, you know, a lovely village and (there were) a lot of people there.

Q: And your mom. Tell us something about your mom.

A: Mom was terribly nice, mom was nice, very very nice. She took care of us, went to work among people, you know, to dig up potatoes, to dig beets, beets. People would call to her, "Come Mafienka, dig up these potatoes and choose a beet." And so everything we did was among people; we were always among people, among them.

Q: And the villagers?

A: There were Gypsies there; are people were there; you you, we were born there, there we, there we--

Q: And how did the others behave, those neighbors?

A: We were alone there. Two. The people there were--Goodness, give him a short rest--with (my?) sister-in-law and her children — two — and two families were there. My brother was there, he was, he had a lovely building built from bricks. It was the best built, you know, a young person, how old could he have been, about 30-years-old, a young person; he married a young woman and two children, beautiful children — Mafienka, Vîru%oka — he had, well everythi--.

Q: And did you go to church there?

A: There we went to Pra%oice (ph).[Coughs]

Q: How did it start, that suddenly it was simply bad? How did you recognize that suddenly the problems had simply started?

A: Well, they arrived--those troopers arrived there, you know, out of Ofiechovo and they said that we were to get ready, that we were going to a concentration camp. Yeah.

Q: And what, what did your dad say?

A: Well, he died, he died _____

Q: No. What did your dad say--didn't he want--didn't he say, "We'll run away"?

A: Nothing, you can't run away when the troopers take you; how can you run away, you can't run away. They put us in Brod, you know, in the, in the, in the courtyard, in that huge courtyard into prison; there was a prison there and (they) cut--

Q: And how many of you were there? Were there a lot of people?

A: Yeah, a lot, from all over Brld, there were many, many; Bojkovic ____, I don't know, I was how old then, [Coughs] I was sixteen years old.

Q: And whom did they arrest there? And who was there will you, in that courtyard?

A: Well, those--those troopers.

Q: No. Those who were arrested, whom did they arrest there?

A: Well, mama, dad, everyone, my brothers.

Q: The whole family?

A: The whole family.

A: And another family besides?

A: And another family. How the whole (town of) Pa%ovice cried, the children, the people, how they cried for us "Oh God, Mafienka, you are going now. Mafienka, may the Lord God, the Lord Jesus be with you ____"[Cries]

Q: And for how long were you there in that courtyard?

A: We were there a long time.

Q: Did you even sleep there?

A: We slept there, our hair cut, beaten.

Q: What did they give you for food?

A: Nothing. Bre--Nothing.--Look here at how my leg is.-- It's impossible to speak about.

Q: And the troopers did that?

A: The tr--, when they kicked us.

Q: What did the troopers there tell you?

A: Well, they kicked us. They beat, beat, beat, beat, beat. We went to that concentration camp.

Q: From Brod?

A: From Brod and they led us onto these kind of trains, you know, the train that doesn't have windows, that doesn't have doors.

Q: (Trains) for livestock?

A: For livestock. So, naked, in clothes only, these clothes, naked.

Q: What could you take with you?

A: Nothing. We left everything at home. Nothing. We did not have anything. Nothing, nothing, nothing, nothing, dear Lord, Lord Jesus Christ_____

Q: And did you know at this point where you were going?

A: We knew.

Q: Did they tell you where you were going?

A: That we were going to Auschwitz.

Q: Did you know what would happen there?

A: I don't know anything, I am, I know, sir, I can't remember it anymore, I don't remem-- I am too old, sir; my nerves are bad, well, how can you remember the kind of things they did to us.

Q: What did your dad say then?

A: Dad, my dad arrived there and my mom, she--they were used to eating, you know, to eat and hunger, terrible hunger, terrible hunger. If a tiny crumb were to fall on the floor, yeah, we would have eaten it, sir, from the floor; such terrible hunger____(they were) used to food and she died right away, now mom, now dad.

Q: And in that courtyard, already you (were)--

A: Not there, in Auschwitz.

Q: OK, but something more from Brod. They put you into a traincar,

A: Yes.

Q: And for how long did you g---did you travel there? _____

A: All day, evening; all day until morning and we didn't arrive until the second day.

Q: And that was in the winter or in the spring?

A: I don't know anymore. So it was already--it was cold, already cold, cold, cold, cold, cold.

Q: How many of you were there in that train car?

A: Well, you can't imagine it, many, many, many people. Many from all over the world. England, America, all sorts of people; there were even priests, everyone, yea there were Gypsies, non-Gypsies, everyone all together. It didn't matter then. It didn't matter. And so _____

Q: Did you stop somewhere along the way?

A: Excuse me?

Q: Did you stop somewhere along the way?

A: Nowhere. Not until (we were) there. Oh, how the Germans grabbed the children, threw them to the ground, how they beat them and immediately their little brains oozed out, Lord Jesus Christ, Virgin Mary, Holy Mother, yes, awful, awful, awful, awful, it was awful: it is impossible to--

Q: What did you see when you got off the train car there? When they drove you out of the train car, what did you see there, first thing?

A: Well, there were crowds of people; they drove us there into the-- into that building and tore our clothes from us, everything off, and said that we weren't humans anymore that now we were their, that we--that there we would be in a concentration camp and-- I had a brother there at that point still, Ľanek (ph); I saw my youngest brother there and he said to me, "Miláda, please, I am terribly hungry, don't you have some bread?" "Come now, where would I get bread, come now Ľan-- little Ľan, where would I get bread when I don't have any, when I am going to a concen--"

Q: And they made you take showers there? Showers?

A: No, it wasn't a shower, it was closed there, it was, it was this kind of, kind of cement (floor), you know, that, they made it cement, this big cement and we were--we--water didn't run there, not at all; I did not wash for four years, nothing, nothing, nothing.

Q: And the first day when you arrived there, did they also give you a number?

A: A number. They gave us a number.

Q: The first day?

A: The first day.

Voice: Can you show me the number please.

Q: And what, so what did they say to you there? What did they tell you you should do?

A: Well, nothing. We hammered these rocks--you know, these rocks, big rocks, rocks as big as this building, we had to carry them. When we were--.

Voice: Something is making a sound.

A: Is it the clock.

Voice: The clock, it's O.K., it is fine.

Voice: I have a clip-on microphone here; I wanted to ask you if you would_____

A: Close it please, sir, so that it doesn't run anymore; it won't be possible; it is finishing up now_____; the clock is doing that.

Voice: Good. O.K.

Q: and you--you already knew--

A: My husband? No, not until Brno.

Q: Not until in Brno. And did you know any other families there?

A: Well, more cousins (male and female), uncles, aunts.

Q: You were all together there?

A: Everyone, but I don't know anymore; I did not see them there, they were already dead ___all those people. People died daily, millions; we walked on the corpses, we walked, well corpses on the ground, corpses on the ground, corpses on the ground, millions of corpses, millions; it is impossible to. I don't know anymore what I am saying. Do you know what I went through? Like a dog; not even a dog, ___ Good Lord, if only this had never happened. Lord Jesus Christ, all powerful, merciful Holy Lord, hear the calling to You. I am very religious; I believe in the Lord God.

Q: Tell us how did people help one another there? How did the people behave toward one another--the prisoners, those who were there, the Roma, how did they behave toward one another; did they help one another?

A: Well, there they didn't help at all, they were--if she were a sister, my sister. You know how much I loved her? My sister? (So much) that I would sacrifice my life here. I had a real beauty for a sister, beautiful, my goodness, a beautiful sister; she had a boyfriend, not a Gypsy, a white, she had that white guy from Bojkovice, good-looking, a handsome guy--she had a guy. She she she was in that, wher we drove--we went for those rocks, you know, and a truck drove, there trucks drove, you know, and she walked along next to that car and the car ran over her foot. It ran over her foot. No one mattered to you there, not your sister, your brother, nobody; terrible hunger and she she--I said, "Bertice, please, I am terribly hungry, if you (gave me) bread---I can't stand it anymore. If only Lord Jesus would take me. I can't stand it anymore." So she gave me that bread, and she was in the *Kankebau* (ph), you know, it was the *Krankebau* (ph).

Q: Krankenbaum, yes.

A: The hospital and I was, went also, also, I was also sick. I don't know how, but my head hurt, rather everything (hurt). I was in a bad state, _____bad, Lord Jesus Christ, so she gave me that bread, Dear Lord, and I took the bread from her--I didn't even cry, I was glad that she gave me that bread, you know, what was it; there nothing mattered to you, nothing, nothing, only that you would save yourself, I don't know what kind of a life that was there.

Q: Tell us how you went there with that-- in that train car. When you arrived there did the people there also sing?

A: No, in--there when we were at work.

Q: No, how they cried there; they lamented the old.

A: Oh.

Q: They also sang at night?

A: Oh, hunger, terrible and you know there were those plank beds, those plank beds, like for--for animals; a lot of them right, here a plank bed, here a plank bed, up to the top as high as that building, so plank--only plank beds. Only plank beds. We slept there on those in only one set of clothes, one set of clothes. A if someone stole it from you, then they would start to beat you. And they took the the shoes from you off your feet and from--they took them and you went--went barefoot. That they--there it didn't matter____on destruction, on destruction ____.

Q: Do you still remember what they sang there? Which poem--songs they sang there?

A: I don't know.

Q: A what did your father say there? What did he tell you?

A: I did not see him, neither my mom nor my dad. Neither one. They had already died. I did not see either one.

Q: And small, little children.

A: Not even children; they took the children from me_____and threw them against rocks and their brains flowed out (of their heads). Those Germans tread on them, kicked them; there we were not the bosses, they were the bosses. You are nothing. ____Pit--You can't speak about it, Dear Lord. My head hurts from this, well then, my head hurts a lot when I speak about this.

Q: Tell us what you could--what did they give you to drink?

A: Nothing.

Q: Was there some water there?

A: Not even water. Nothing. Water. There was infected tea. When you drank it you got typhoid, typhus. Typhoid typhus was____ By morning, you were gone. Typhoid typhus. Well, do you know what typhoid typhus is? It was--you were a goner. You drank it and it was too late--it was to destroy (us). It was to destroy the people there. For destroying people.

Q: Tell us how what a typical day there was like, how the morning started. How they woke you, what then? You got up or--

A: Got up and "Auf", "Apel". "Apel", they said. Hands up. "Auf," that, that--those Germans, "Auf," hands up; we weren't even allowed to move. And how you placed your hands and during this you had to sing in the morning, through the hunger, through the beatings, through the hunger, beatings, so we held up our hands, God, God--

Q: That was on the *Appelplatz*?

A: On the *Appelplatz*.

Q: And that was in the morning and then you went somewhere to work, or--?

A: To work. We carried those rocks. Those big rocks, you know. There were those, those, those--like for lime, you know, those rocks as big as a building and you had to hold the rocks and carry them perhaps as far as over there to that building and back, once again there, back, again there; it was to destroy (us).

Q: You worked there all day?

A: All day till evening.

Q: And was there then another *apel*?

A: There was not another one. After that we went to sleep, naked, barefoot; lice--they cut everyone's hair, so that there wouldn't be any lice. Everyone was shaved like a balloo--it wasn't possible to recognize whether it was a woman or a man. We were (shaved to look) like balloons, like balloons, as if we were balloons. Yes, everything shaved, underarms.

Q: What about at night? Did you chat, mourn, did you cry at night?

A: Nothing. We slept then. I don't know anything.

Q: And did you have friends there or some--

A: Yes, friends, women were there, that already--

Q: And where were they from?

A: I don't know, mister, that already--

Q: From Germany?

A: No, over there, from Hradištské that Vlasta and Jifiina were from there. They have already died too. Husbands. Beautiful, beautiful women; yeah, such women don't exist here today, such women don't exist, as beautiful as they were, beauties, beau--yeah, I spoke with them there and with someone else. I knew someone who was here--they came to see us in Pašovice; they were nice people, from my mom--they were from my mom's family, so them the girl and boys, they were, you know, they came to see us; people were not embarrassed in Pašovice at our place, they came all the way to us to our apartment and (the boys) said, "Jifiina! Vlášta!" Well, the boys went crazy for them, crazy. They were beautiful, beautiful people. Well, I'm telling you.

Q: And were there dance halls or did you go to dances there? They, those beauties?

A: Well, there was this kind of a pub there. You know, a pub. He was called Valá%ek, he was called U%ela, U%ela was his name, U%ela. Lord, when I arrived there alone at the U%el's, at that pub, man, alone from Lord God____Lord God heard me speak. And, and I began to cry there and I said "God," and started to cry as if someone---well, I cried terribly and that U%ela and that U%ela--(Coughs) the lady told me, "Dear girl, don't cry. How will that help you now when your parents are already gone?" I went alone to work in Zlín, to Zlín, you know, when I went to the concentration camp. I went to work right away and I was in Zlín at BaÈa where they make those rubber boots, those rubber boots, you know, and it didn't suit me there, it didn't suit--it made me ill. I had to get out of there, so I went to Pfierov to work at the train st--(coughs) at the train station in the kitchen and there they had me____(Mrs.) Dvofiaãka was there from Prague, a nice woman who said to me, "Dear, you will stay here and here you will listen to people and be a nice girl." Yeah, they liked me a lot, that Mrs. Dvofiaãková said, "this one isn't even ours; you aren't a Gypsy, you are ours; you know how to do everything, yes, you are a good ol' girl, you are a very nice lady; you will stay here and here you will help us---in this--that couple____." The mistress came by and told me how I should dust, if there was dust there, if I was doing it well, yeah--Lord, I had it very good then after the war, very good, I swear to God with Jesus Christ as my witness. Lord God like me a lot, because I knew how to do everything. (I was) cleanly, (knew how) to cook everything, assisted the cook; I served coffee; I cooked; I helped; I did every--, the cook said, "You are tid-- tid--, you are nice, dear, you are like our own girl; marry our boy."

Q: You met your husband there?

A: Well, he arrived there, you see, he was a tradesman, he was-- he peddled fabrics. Fabrics, earlier there were, fabrics, he carried fabrics. So he, he he said, "Dear," he arrived in that restaurant and said to the head waiter, "What kind of a girl is she?" referring to me. "What kind of a girl is she?" The head waiter said, well, "She is tidy, part of the family; she is tidy; we won't ever give her away, we won't ever--, she is like one of us. She obeys, and she is nice. She knows how to do everything, everything so." And he said, "Well sir, mister headwaiter, we were in a concentration camp and we don't have anyone." He too didn't have anyone, they also died on him, the Jews, spouses, and he said wife--

Q: Also there?

A: Also was there in Auschwitz and he said to that headwaiter, "Mr. headwaiter, you know what, since she is so tidy, a nice woman, well then I will marry her immediately and we will have a wedding." On Sunday then it____the head waiter said, "Sir--sir" --I said to this man, "Sir, I don't have parents, I don't have anyone. I am alone like a finger; I only have the Lord God. And you want to marry me? I don't believe you, I won't go with you until there is first a wedding ceremony with you--and I, without a wedding--wed--I don't have parents, no one, and I should believe you? When--I don't know you? _____"

Q: A what did he say?

A: And he said, "Well, I will wait, dear lady, (laughs), I will wait, yeah, I will wait for you and there will be a wedd--I will come for you an there will be--my father will come." His father was living; they were from--from Slovakia. They fled, you see, to Slovakia; Slovakia was independent, so they fled to ____and those secret police from Brno caught him; the highest-ranked secret police from Lenin caught him and also the caught Galvo%ek his

brother, and even his sister too, and they went to Auschwitz, Dear Lord, and he remained a widower. And then he came for me a month later and he said to the head waiter, "So Mr. head waiter, I beg you to release this miss from her work; I want to marry her; she is tidy; you hear--you hear (me) well; I am clever--you know that I was in Auschwitz in the concentration camp; I am very clever, so I will marry her." And the head waiter said, "You have to go to the boss, to the top boss, to that Mrs. Dvořáková, and she will tell you if she will allow you it, and then you can marry her," he referred to me as "miss." So I didn't say anything. I said, "Mrs. Dvořáková, I still don't believe him; I am--you know, because of the concentration camp, my nerves are shot and nerves, my head is out of it, everything is shot. I still don't believe any man. I have been virtuous, I haven't had any man, no, protect me Lord God, Lord Jesus____I sai--I said, "I am tidy, I don't want any man even if he was made from gold."

Q: Tell us now, there in that camp, there in Auschwitz, did anyone try to escape?

A: Oh, no one could escape there. Dear Lord, there I was--there I went to fetch bread, you know, for bread, a quarter of a loaf, black, ugly bread. Well, when you ate this bread, it____and it was so high, like the palm one's hand and when you ate it, crumbs fell to the ground, so (as) you collected them from the ground you ate, you see, this crumb and, then I went up to the wires, to the wires, you know there were these gas wires, when you grabbed a wire, when you grabbed a wire you would burn up. Burn up completely, until, until until once the Lord God--Lord God was with me, Lord Jesus, and the Virgin Mary was (with me), and Lord Jesus heard me. So the wire released me and I fell to the ground and my leg was burned, this leg, I swear to God, in front of the Lord God, in front of the Dear Lord; you see here I still have a scar.

Q: And they picked you up there and put you back in the building?

A: No, I had to walk on my own____no one picked you up when you fell.

Q: No one could escape?

A: No one, no one there, indeed, from there you couldn't escape. Well there was there, sir, if he had been a king, if he had a star here, a star, you know what a star is? A gold star. There he could not escape ever, until, until he was destroyed, destroyed?

Q: Tell us how was the trough there, how did people wash themselves there, what did it look like there? There were bunk--bunk beds everywhere and where did people wash themselves?

A: .No where

Q: There wasn't (a place).

A: No, no where, water, water, water (was) nowhere.

Q: And in the *Krankenbau*(ph)?

A: *Krankenbau*(ph) also like that, also like that; everything for these people was made like that.

Q: And how long there were you____

A: There they made airplanes, there in that *Krankenbau*, they made airplanes, you know? And those two clever, yellow-bellied hags who hung out with them, you know, the clever hags, I

don't know, how, so [coughs] with those German women [coughs], so he gave them--they (the men) gave (them) that big, that ti--that--what do you call it--that big thing, and they (the men) let them go down so that they (the women) could [coughs] escape; those two hags escaped, you know, (got) away. They, those German (men) let them pass--they ran away. And do you know what happened to us then? Holy Jesus, we were [coughs] two days, three days without bread, nothing and then holding our hands up because of those women who escaped. Well, and what about us then? ____ what they (the women) had, however, they were the bosses, Dear Lord, we had to listen to them; well it doesn't matter, yeah it was a catastrophe; for three days we stood like that, and we didn't even go [coughs], we didn't even go to sleep, nothing. That which they (the men) did to us.

Q: And they didn't catch them?

A: I don't know. They ran away those hags. (Got) out. ____ The Germans hung out with them.

Q: And who, who were they? Those that escaped, who escaped? Did you know them?

A: No, no no, they were foreign hags, who hung out with them, you know, they were the *sturmdenisky* (ph) who were above us, that's what those hags were, they were above us, they told us what we had to do.

Q: *Sturmmeldinsty*(ph)?

A: Yes, the *sturmdenisky* (ph), you know, what we had to do, what we had to eat; they told us what we couldn't do; we knew what we had to do in that concentration camp.

Q: But was there ____ was there also a *Blockeldestr*(ph), a kapo.

A: A kapo? There wasn't a kapo there. There were women there, only women and they ruled over us, yeah those (women), with ??? on their heads, hands, legs.

Q: They were German women or--?

A: German women, German women, German women, German women, Dear Lord, only Germans, only Germans. You haven't understood a single word. They spoke among themselves--when you collected the peel, you know, from potatoes, there was this kitchen there, and you begged for a peel and you put it into your poc--into a bucket, into this sort of u-rust-colored, ugly one that you found somewhere outside, ugly, rust-colored, and in there we placed the nice peel and then we ate those peel, those raw peel and grass, since we saw a little grass outside, we ate grass; already it was--if that had lasted 14 days more, not a single person would be here, not a single person would have returned, not a single person would have returned.

Q: Did they speak among themselves? Did everyone there know Romani?

A: No. But Czechs were there, there were Czechs there, men, priests, men, from Italy, they were there, a lot of people, these ones were there; we were with them a lot, a lot, a lot, with them.

Q: But you were there in that--in Bfiezinec.

A: ____ in that concentr--before that I was in Osvûnâim (ph) ____

Q: No in Birkenau?

A: No, no, no. First in Osvûnãim (ph) and later there in Birkenau, Buchwald(ph), Dachau.

Q: For how long were you in Osvûnãim(ph)?

A: Around two years, three years.

Q: And then?

A: Then in Buchwald (ph).

Q: In Birkenau, you were also in Birkenau?

A: No, no, after a short while and they put us there in Buchwald, Buchwald, Buchwald is where we were.

Q: And there there were--there were a lot of Germans also?

A: Oh, a lot, a lot, a lot, only Germans, only Germans, there were only Germans there.

Q: And how could you communicate there?

A: We didn't there in--they in--we had to--I don't know, we didn't, didn't, nothing, nothing, as if cr--it was as if we were craz--yeah cr--crazy, it doesn't matter.

Q: How did you get there from Auschwitz? Did they round you up, put you once again in train cars (on your way) out of Auschwitz?

A: No, no, no, no. At that point we went like this. By transport, you know, it was also a transport.

Q: You walked?

A: Walked, on foot.

Q: That was the death march?

A: Death ma--march.

Q: And for how long did you walk?

A: Well, all day, continuously, continuously, continuously until we couldn't, until the point when we fell down. Who fell, fell. Who died, died. It didn't matter to them. For example one might die all of a sudden on the road, you were starving, destroyed and like--it is impossible to (describe).

Q: On top of that, it was in the winter

A: It was in the winter, winter. It was terribly cold there, snow, Lord, there was so much snow there, like there is never that kind of a winter here like there was there. Lord God, Lord Jesus.

Q: Where did you go?

A: Well, we went from that Buchw--to that Buchwald (ph), you see?

Q: And did you also go to Grossrosen(ph)? Where did they put you on the train?

A: No. We went on foot.

Q: And how many days did you walk?

A: About two days, three days, I don't know anymore how, I don't remember that, I don't remember that anymore.

Q: And you were already--you didn't know where you were going.

A: No, we only walked at that point, it didn't matter at that point, whether I would die on the road or return, it didn't matter to me. I only called out to the Lord God, "Lord God, grant me that he will take me, Lord Jesus Christ, to heaven; what to do on earth when I am destroyed like ___ like death and my eyes are rolling (up into my head). And the Russians cam--they freed us, the russians came, Russians, golden Russian, golden Russians; I tell everyone this, even the president, even that Mr. Death, the one with the glasses, that other one I would tell that if it weren't for the Russians we would have been destroyed, if it weren't for the Russians, we would have been destroyed--completely. The Russians were dear boys, dear boys. "We will give you food. Show us your apron. We will give you su--" They didn't give us anything but sugar, you know, ground, ground sugar (they put) in our aprons and then we ate the sugar. "We don't have bread, dry bread; in a short while there will be enough, enough food; you will eat, if you can, because your stomach is shrunken." Whoever ate a lot, you know--more, he died later; his stomach couldn't handle it, couldn't handle it. Terrible hunger. So we ate the sugar, very slowly, that the Russians gave us. My goodness, those Russians were precious. Lord God, may the Lord God grant them health, Lord Jesus, for liberating us; those Russians were kind people. I swear to God, in front of the Lord God so that--yeah, it is not real how (kind) those Russians were; they cried, tears flowed from their eyes, "You will eat; you are poor dears, you are poor dears; how could the Germans destroy you so. We will give it to them, we will give it to them." Well the Russians ran after those b-- those Germans ran away once they saw the Russians there; they shook, at that point they left everything behind, they just left it there at that point, they ran away.

Q: How long were you there in Buchenwald? How long?

A: I don't know, mister. I don't know anymore.

Q: A year?

A: Year, more than a year.

Q: And you were also in other concentration camps in between? Were you also in other camps or only in Auschwitz and then--

A: Then in Buchwald (ph).

Q: But what did it look like there in Buchenwald?

A: In Buchwald (ph) it was a little different than in Osvûnãim (ph). Osvûnãim (ph) was the worst concentration camp, concentration camp. Osvûnãim (ph) was the worst, the worst in the world. There there was terrible hunger, oh people died by the millions, millions, millions. It is impossible to speak about it. We walked on--on those (bodies)--it was like with pigs, on the ground--we walked on them...

Q: And did you see the gas chambers there?

A: We--yeah there was a chamber there, you know, (saying) you were going to bathe. This chamber, you know, it was this kind of building, building and that, the biggest, as (big as) the kitchen, the building, so, like a kitchen, it is a kitchen and such, and so they told us we were going to bathe, you know and there was--you couldn't tell even your brother or your sister, no one--(if) you loved your sister, your brother, (if) you loved your father, you would give your life (for them), yeah I would have hung myself for them, since I loved them that much. Lord Jesus Christ. Well, and they said that you were going to bathe, and they turned on something in the back there, you know, they turned it on and immediately you were dead. But they didn't put me in there; God was with me, Lord Jesus, Lord Jesus is with me, so they did not put me in there and various people said that they gave you a towel or something on purpose (to trick you), you know and then they turned on the gas and you were gone, immediately, immediately you were dead, immediately dead in that gas chamber. It was an oven. Well, it is impossible to speak about it, impossible to speak about it, Dear Lord. Whoever wasn't there won't believe you. I swear to God, in front of the Lord, that I am not lying, not even a single word; God would have to punish me for that, Holy Virgin Mary, Lord Jesus and Holy Virgin Mary, God's little family, I thank You very much that You left me here (on earth) after the concentration camp, that I came back, I thank You very much, with my whole heart, with my whole body, with my whole soul; for letting me come back, I thank you very much, with my whole heart, with my whole body, with my whole soul, that I came back. You see?

End of Tape 1

Tape 2

Q: For our_____ Romani.

A: In the concentration camp.

Q: Well that was afterwards, right?

A: After I returned

Q: We can then show it to the camera, can't we?_____

Q: So, Mrs. Danielová, show us please the photo. At this point you had already returned.

A: From the concentration camp _____.

Q: And after the war. At this point it was all behind you, or did you still think a lot about it?

A: No, no, no_____, as soon as I returned from Auschwitz, I was in_____, I went to work that very same day. I no longer felt at home here. I went to work, to work.

Q: When you returned home...

A: Yes.

Q: What did you see? Was there--did they leave anything in your home or did they take everything?

A: They took everything, everything, everything.

Q: And did you still have that building?

A: No. I don't know anything (about it); I didn't even go there. I got married to my husband.

Q: And you no longer wanted to go there?

A: No. Not even to see it.

Q: And your siblings?

A: My siblings stayed there. All of them stayed there in Auschwitz, the concentration ca--

Q: All of them?

A: All of them, all of them.

Q: Not even--

A: Not one returned.

Q: Can you show us that photograph of your husband once again? How you have it--

A: Wait, the smaller photo.

Q: Wait, don't walk away, rather sit down, sit down.

A: There it is, there is the photo; give it to him.

Q: There it is in back. _____ Show it to him. _____ This one is also beautiful.

A: That is--that isn't my husband. This here, this is my husband.

Q: Wait, hold it closer to yourself. To yourself, hold it like this. Yes, that's it.

(.....)

Q: And tell us now something about your family. What was your life like before the war? About the workshop. How your father--put it down, name--how your father was a blacksmith there.

A: He made those little hoes himself; he was trained, you know _____ from the age of ten, twelve, to do this.

Q: And he didn't say how—he didn't say why they took you away despite the fact that your father worked and made things?

A: There wasn't anything yet, there wasn't even a whisper spoken about our going to Auschwitz. People liked us.

Q: And who arrested you there? Were they police officers there?

A: The police officers came from Ofiechovo, from Ofiechovo, you know, there from Zl--from Zlín there where Zlín is, is close to Ofiechovo, close to us.

Q: And they were Moravians?

A: Moravian police officers arrested us ____

Q: But there were also Germans there.

A: They were not Germans. The police officers. It wasn't until Auschwitz that there were Germans, that they arrived.

Q: And those police officers were also quite ____

A: Oh, they were like devils. The devil's own. Simply give them--what do you call them?

Q: Horns.

A: Horns, and they would gore (you) [Coughs].

Q: And tell us, there in Auschwitz, you didn't know where your siblings were, where your sisters and brothers were; you didn't know this when you were there in the concentration camp in Auschwitz?

A: No, no, none of them; all of them ____ and my brother...

Q: There you--

A:???, you know, we were terribly hungry, ????, terribly hungry and he scratched himself there, here this cask and then he ate the cask and then and the German came and shot him at the cask, shot him, Lord in Heaven, [coughs], hunger, terrible hunger, do you know what terrible hunger is? It is impossible to talk about it. People (today) still throw out bread, still throw (it) out, may the Lord God protect us, Lord Jesus; even a bit of chicken, even if it was moldy, people would have eaten it, even if it was moldy, even if it was shat on, they would eat it.

Q: Were you there--were there also Jewish women there among you?

A: Jewish women, everyone; many Jews, Jews, Jews.

Q: And how did you--how did you speak with them?

A: In Czech. Some of them were Czech from our area here from OfiechovoCzech business men, a good business man, he was good that _____ he lent us some money. "You'll give it to us won't you Franti%ek, you're a good man aren't you; you know how to work so you will

give it to us again and then we will give you a loan for your children, so they have something to eat." That's what that Jewish man said to us. They were nice, those Jews, some of them extremely nice. There was a Jew from our area, from Ofiechovo. They also put him in a concentration camp. A business man, an extremely nice person, so they put him in Auschwitz. I don't know if he is also alive. All the Jews, Jews, Jews were the worst off there, what they did to them, Lord Jesus Christ. Well, it was a catastrophe. Well, about it, it is impossible to talk about it.

Q: Were there also doctors there?

A: Smart, Jewish doctors; there were smart doctors there, you know, and one fellow, one fellow, he was--he was not, you know, he was not a Gypsy, he was a white Gy--a Gypsy as white as you, but a handsome fellow. And do you know what, he--he pulled me from that--from that bunkbed, he pulled me down from there and and and he said, he said to me, "You, you, I am going to give it to you now," then he hit me 25 times on the buttocks, well I--on the buttocks with that whip, Lord Christ, at that point I thought I was going to die. He was a Czech, he was one of our people, you know; he was also a rotten man and now he came to the concentration camp and one woman has already died — Mrs. ·ubrt — and Mr. ·ubrt has died also, there, which already _____ they have a beautiful tomb, they have a luxurious tomb, so he came to the memorial service. If you had seen it, he came to the memorial service, that Gypsy, you know, so they dressed up in the best clothes, they dressed him up in the most beautiful clothes so, you know, the people would not recognize him; she said, "That's him, that's him" that's what Mrs. ·ubrt said, "that's him, that's him, that's him, that's him, that's him." He had been in jail. He got a life sentence, you know, and he was then-- the Lord God punished him badly; he went blind later, completely blind, lord, he went blind, completely blind, then he died. That fellow. That he punished people — us — like that; he punished us; why did he punish us, for free, for nothing; we didn't do anything to him; we were kind people and besides, you see, he wanted more bread, more soup, so that he could live through it, _____ on bread; he did that to us so that he would get more bread and that soup, but the Lord God did not leave him (alone) here; the Lord God immediately punished him, and Mrs. ·ubrt said, "That's him, that's him, That's the one who did all those evil things to us." It made Mrs. ·ubrt ill; he beat us terribly, he beat us _____ the kapo, he was the kapo above us, you know, above everyone, in that--in that--you know, how we were in that building, you know, so he ruled completely, he ruled us completely. You know what he did to us? It was a catastrophe, dear lord. God, God, why are those people so mean, why (are) they--he was a devil because he didn't believe in the Lord God; he was a devil, he was a devil from the Lord God, he was a devil. If he wasn't a devil, he wouldn't have done that.

Q: Did you see German doctors there? Those SS officers, doctors, did you see them there?

A: No, I don't know about that, lord, they kept to themselves. You know, right that there were those Ger--those Germans there; they were clever, they had for themselves, they had that huge palace they had food, everything; they only bossed us around and bossed us around. Those rocks and (if) a rock fell on you from that hill, you were immediately killed; do you know, they pushed those rocks onto the people (there); they were built--those rocks that they pushed onto people were (as big) as buildings, dear lord, and instantly you were killed, instantly you were killed.

Q: And were there also pregnant women there?

A: Pregnant women, no, none.

Q: Did they give birth?

A: No one gave birth; they couldn't there; there they couldn't--I didn't even have my own things there for four years, for as long as I was there, (for) four years, I didn't even have my own things; there pr--how? I ask you, how could you have (a child) there when you were so terribly hungry. How? How, when I was as thin as a finger? As a finger.

Q: No, women who were already pregnant went there.

A: Yeah pregnant women_____I don't know what they did with them, lord, I don't know, I don't even speak about these things anymore.

Q: Since there were those Romani women there, the old ones, did they tell you a story at night, did they tell stories?

A: No, they slept immediately, they didn't care. They poor old people, God, there were old women there, the poor things; apparently there is--there stands, there a cross stands, apparently a beautiful cross and the--beautiful, there in Auschwitz; I haven't even been there (since). If I went there, I would die. I would cry so much that I would die there; I couldn't go there to Auschwitz even, not even to have a look, I know what it was like in Auschwitz; I was at (block) twenty-four; and I should go there now to have a look? No, I would drop dead (from it).

Q: And did you see how they killed people there? How they were afraid so they killed themselves?

Voice: They committed suicide.

A: No ___the Germans_____hunger. The Germans, the Germans deserved it all; Germans are swine, swine; they handle them still as if (wearing) gloves,_____they handle them as if (wearing) gloves. If I saw a German, I wouldn't care, I don't know what I would do to him. Dear Lord, I don't know what I would do to him, what I would do to him; I am not vengeful, Lord God, _____I am not vengeful, but that which they committed, it was a catastrophe.

Q: And how did you then get to Buchenwald? There in Buechenwald, there the prisoners were from where, from all over the world or...?

A: From all over the world. Well, sir, it was so big, not even Prague, you know as big as Prague is, as big as Brno is, as big as America — well that could easily have been there.

Q: And the little buildings were the same?

A: The same; there were little, wooden buildings build there, like wooden, you know, like the wooden buildings that are for people here, those wooden buildings and in these we stayed; the bunks were in there and there were bunks down below and there higher up there were bunks and then again even higher up and when you shat your pants (because) you couldn't hold it any longer, you shat--whoever soiled himself was beaten for it. Jesus, well the hunger, _____the cold, the cold, the hunger, the terrible hunger, _____well it is impossible.

Q: And the food there also?

A: Hunger, hunger, terrible hunger, terrible hunger.

Q: And when the Russians arrived later, where did they put you? Were there some other buildings there?

A: Oh, they arrived with those--, the Russians arrived with those huge cars, you know, cars, they had cars, and the Russians, when they saw us, "Oh, our little mothers, little mother, little mother, you are dear." God, the poor dears cried, Lord Jesus Christ, how they put sugar in our aprons, in those dirty aprons _____stomach, so that we wouldn't die there _____ "You will get everyting," those Russians said. "That which you have suffered through, no one in the world has suffered through, no one in the world has suffered through, no one in the world _____"

Q: And for how much longer did you stay there? How---

A: After that we went away.

Q: To where?

A: Home.

Q: And how did they transport you there?

A: No, no, no. They Russians liberated us and we took little carriages, little carriages, you know like the carriages they have for children, but these were those--there was also a little carriage somewhere in the cottage or where was it; so [coughs] in Auschwitz, those little carriages and then we took the clothes, you know, that which the Germans had left behind; we took those clothes and dressed ourselves; those (other) clothes we tore from our bodies, we dressed up nicely, yeah, we were dressed up, as you can see for yourself in this photo which is lovely.

Q: And how did you get home? By train or in those--?

A: Later we waited for the train; somewhere there there was a train, I don't know now, I don't remem--there was a train there, you know, so a lot of people waited there — people from Brod who knew me. Olina and Albína from Brod, many people and _____all of them died, well so I went with them--I rode with them in that train home to Brno, to Brno, you know? And in Brno I was at that point, I was at that point a woman, I was at that point a woman; at that point I went immediately — oh first of all I went to that Saint Antoníãek; I said there that would go to that Saint Antoníãek; that if I returned that I would go to that Saint Antoníãek to give thanks for my return. So I went immediately to give thanks to that saint and there was a pilgrimage there and so I went along, yea, with that other pretty girl, she was a beauty, she married a police officer; (she was) a Gypsy but she married a police officer — a handsome fellow, a handsome guy, she married a handsome guy, a police officer; she was supposed to make umbrellas, curtains; she went around to the different villages, you know and we were at that Saint Antoníãek, yea she, yea I and one more Gypsy man was there and then we danced dressed up; beautiful girls, we were young, at that point the world was fun for us; at that point we were smart-looking girls, well you know like young girls are, well, so and we thanked that Saint Antoníãek for the fact that we returned, lord, I have that Saint Antoníãek there. "Run and look young miss, run and look; bring here that Saint Antoníãek."

Q: And you were already feeling well, I mean, you didn't have any illnesses from that concentration camp?

A: No, no, no, no, no. Only my neck hurts me here and my shoulders; my feet hurt me. I go regularly to a spa, to Hodonín.

Q: Did you receive something after the war? Did you receive some kind of compensation?

A: Yeah, I did receive (some), I did receive (some). I bought this carpet; I bought this carpet and that furniture, everything that I needed; I bought a washing machine--Bring it here, young lady

Female voice: I don't know if _____

A: Here in that room.

Q: No. We won't need that now.

A: God, but (it's) beau-- Here, young lady, bring it here. Here, here.

Q: Show it to the camera.

Voice: Put it closer to yourself, hold it up to yourself.

Q: This is what protected you?

Q: And how did they treat you after the war, the others, the gadjo? After the war, were they nice to you?

A: Oh they were terribly nice to us, those people, God, they cried for us, they would have given their life for us, life, life, alive, life, life, life; after all, you see how I look (now).

Q: And your husband, did he also know how to speak Romani?

A: Huh, very little; we don't know how to speak Romani, very little, very little, we speak Czech, Czech; we are like Czechs.

Q: And did you drive around with him?

A: Yes, in those comedian wagons. Oh, we had a kitchen in there, a sitting-ro--we had it (set up) like it is here; yes, beautiful, beautiful; furnished...

Q: And where did you sleep?

A: Well, in the sitting-room in the beautiful wagon.

Q: And you had everything in there?

A: Everything, everything; it is luxurious, beautiful; Antoníãek he gives me luck — Saint Antoníãek. Lord Jesus Christ.

Q: OK, so tell us now too — could you travel as you wished or did they tell you (to go) here and there, and they let you travel, they did not stop you.

A: No, no, we did not travel, we were--we were--we had our house in Tufiany, a beautiful (house) in Tufiany.

Q: Here?

A: In Tufiany by the Virgin Mary at (the place of) the ascension into heaven of the Holy Mother, God's parent's ascension into heaven in Tufiany, where I married my husband. There we had a beautiful house, luxurious, and in that Juliánovo, Juliánovo, we had a villa, a villa, and my husband had a trade; he was the chairman of the national committee, he was a manual worker, a good worker.

Q: And where did you put the wagon?

A: Well, we sold the wagon to that--my husband sold it; for what purpose would I have a wagon when I am in the apartment alone, for whom, sir, for whom? All the same, I will die, and then whom will I give it to, whom will I give it to; no one, no one at all will we take that which we do well for people, we have that, but no one we will take nothing ourselves, everything we leave here, everything, if, if we have never taken anything ourselves

Voice: Let's take a break.

Voice: I'm going to stop filming, yea_____

Q: So you could summarize, explain to everyone in the world, so that God will protect you, that is a beauty.

...

Q: Mrs. Danielová, I would still like to ask you how was it when they transported you away? So, at first you did not go by train, right?

A: No, by bus.

Q: By bus. And what did the bus look like, what kind of bus was it?

A: Well, (a bus) for people, for people, like the state buses that run, like those that run here.

Q: Like those that normally run? A city (bus)?

A: A normal bus.

Q: And who besides yourself was in that bus?

A: My mother, father, brothers, sisters, everyone, everyone; those brothers who had beautiful children; from my husband, that Ludvík, he was there; everyone_____; he worked, he was a butcher, a trained butcher, you know what kind of a fellow he was, a white, handsome fellow, a dapper man, a young man; they were beautiful people. Isn't it a waste of such people?

Q: And how many people were there from your family in that bus? How many of you did they take?

A: Around ten people.

Q: About ten from your family?

A: Yes, from our family.

Q: And were there also Roma from other villages or just from Pa%ovice?

A: From Pa%ovice.

Q: Only from Pa%ovice.

A: Those of us who were in Pa%ovice and those of us who lived in Pa%ovice, you know, in that that little like, on Vala%oska we had a beautiful building, beautiful, beautiful. Daddy grew old from wood, he fetched wood, there, you know how the Roma fetched wood, chopped, cut, like, like, until_____he grew old from (fetching) wood, from everything, and he did that work and mama walked around the fillage selling little hoes, little chains and people bought everything from him, they bought from him, they gave him flour, all kinds of meat, canned meat, smoked meat; and those were farmers, nice people are there; here where we are people are religious, very much so, very much so.

Q: And in that bus, was there someone else there other than your family? There were also other Roma in (the bus) and...?

A: No.

Q: No, only you?

A: No, only us.

Q: Only you. And who gathered you into that bus? The police officers from Ofiechovo?

A: (From) Ofiechovo and also those chauffeurs who were there, they put us into this kind of big--in this kind of huge sitting-room and there they cut all our hair off.

Q: But wasn't that already in Brod?

A: In Brod, in Brod

Q: And those chauffeurs, they were Czech chauffeurs?

A: Yes.

Q: And tell me Mrs. Danielová, why do you think they took you? What did they tell you: why were they taking you and where were they taking you to?

A: They didn't say anything, not a thing, young lady, I swear, I swear to you that all I am saying is true; they didn't tell us anything, that we were going away, nothing, that we were driving to work, they said; they lied to us, (they said) that we were driving to work.

Q: But you weren't afraid yet.

A: Not at all.

Q: You didn't even know what they would do with you?

A: No, we didn't know anything; mother cried there, God, the poor dear— may the Lord God grant her a good rest, God, she cried terribly; father cried; Lord Jesus Christ, Holy Mother, grant them a good rest, may the eternal light for them--I pray for them every day.

Q: And Mrs. Danielová, did you know ahead of time that the police officers from Ofiechovo would come for you?

A: We didn't know; they came unexpectedly.

Q: And when was it? In the morning?

A: Well, around noon, at the âĤĤek's, like that at the âĤĤek's around ten, around nine o'clock.

Q: And where did you drive to? To Brod?

A: To Brod and from Brod, they at that point put us on those freight tru--on those freight trains, you know on those freight--like they transport pigs in, the livestock that they transport; and so--only our heads were visible, nothing else.

Q: And tell me, what went on in Brod?

A: Well, nothing there, nothing there, nothing there; thee they put us on the train and--

Q: In Brod they cut off your hair, right?

A: They cut our hair off, yeas, they cut our hair and said that we were going to work.

Q: But they let you keep your own clothes?

A: Well, our rotten clothes; even our clothes were upstairs--you know, we had that beautiful building and those clothes; he had there beautiful, modern, fine clothes; people dressed nicely; we went to church, you know.

Q: And how did your father go around dressed?

A: Beautiful clothes, Jesus.

Q: Try to describe it.

A: Well, those -- those, as the fabrics that existed earlier, those beautiful ones with those sashes, those modern, beautiful clothes; that was modern; the best fabric that existed; such fabricsaren't around now, young lady.

Q: And did you have some jewelry? For example did your father have a gold watch?

A: We didn't.

Q: No?

A: No, no, no.

Q: And earrings?

A: No, no, no.

Q: Nothing, no gold.

A: No, nothing. We only worked then; then we only worked among people; we worked; we were industrious people, hard-working people.

Q: And how long were you there in Brod? Were you there overnight? Did you sleep there? There in Brod?

A: Like that, yes, so we slept there and then the next day in the morning we already drove on.

Q: Aha. And then they transported you to Hodonín?

A: To Hodonín.

Q: And how did they transport you?

A: In Hodonín--we were in Hodonín; I was there for a year and a half.

Q: But how did they transport you from Brod to Hodonín?

A: No, first of all we were in Hodonín.

Q: I know, but did they drive you there by car?

A: We had already drive to Hodonín by car, but, if you could see, young lady, how bad it was in Hodonín, well those Ger--those Germans were there, Germans, you know, Germans were there also, those fellows; he was called The Devil and also there was another German there, yea, dear lady.

Q: And they were among the prisoners?

A: Among us, among us; these ones beat us.

Q: They were Romani?

A: They were Romani; yea, these ones beat us

Q: They acted as the kapos there?

A: Yes, they gave it to us, the kapos; they gave it to us. Yeah young lady, and it was eight o'clock, at that point you couldn't even go outside, not a peep, not even, not even, not even--nothing.

Q: Why do you think they did that when they were also Roma like you and also prisoners?

A: They, they were the worst those, those, those Gypsies; they were the worst, miss; so that they could hold us, so, so they hit, so they hit people; those on top, those police officers, so with them--with them, those police officers, they did not rule over us, (but) those fellows, those Gypsies (did)--Holy Jesus.

Q: A do you remember some of the names of those Roma? You said "Devil".

A: Devil, and one more, Fasi, Fasi.

Q: Fasi, Fasi.

A: And what about the police officers who were there?

Q: There were police officers there; one Gypsy woman, you know, her name was Kvûta, a Gypsy woman, but she stuck with him, that Gypsy woman.

Q: Ondrá%ová?

A: No, she was called Kvûta. You know, she had that police officer, that one, what was the name of that police officer; I don't know anymore, young lady. I don't know. She stuck with him. She went out; they went everywhere outside in cars; they knew it, they drove everywhere out, everywhere and she was, she was above us; she hit us, that Gypsy; she was young; she was a young girl, as young as you are; she thrashed us.

Q: And how did it come about, Mrs. Danielová, that it was she. Did the police officer choose her himself??

A: By himself___you know, he held on to her, in his room; he had his little room there; police officers can do whatever they like, the police officers. They choose a beautiful woman whom they want, whom they want, who will give them what they want; they do whatever they want, whatever they wanted; they had (the power).

Q: So then she did not live with you later, but with the police officer?

A: She was there with the officer.

Q: And did you see the building where they lived? What did it look like there?

A: Oh, there there was--there it was for the prisoners who sewed, for the prisoners, those clothes.

Q: A kind of a workshop.

A: A workshop. Those cobb--cobblers--that cob--who sewed the clothes for the--for the prisoners.

Q: And was he a Czech, the man who did the sewing, or (was he) also a prisoner?

A: There were a lot of people who sewed; they had it good; they went home.

Q: And they were prisoners?

A: They went home; the officers said that they were going home; they did not go ever to Auschwitz; well, I don't know where they went. Those Gypsies who sewed those clothes, they went home by themselves, then they ran away, or where they went, I don't know.

Q: And who, Mrs. Danielová, also had this kind of better position? Who among the prisoners had some kind of privileges? Do you remember?

A: I don't know anymore, young lady, I don't know anymore.

Q: And what about in the kitchen, for example?

A: In the kitchen, in the kitchen, there was--the food was better there--it was better in Hodonín, there was good food there, they cooked normal food; but when the cup wasn't clean, then they hit you on the head; it had to shine or else if they saw dirt in that cup, then they would hit you on the head; it had to shine, one for that soup and for that--for that thick (gruel), you know, hee, hee.

Q: And each of you were allotted some plate?

A: No, no, no. Only those cups.

Q: Cups. What did it look like?

A: Like in a concentration camp.

Q: A bowl?

A: No, it was--there were two, (one) for soup and on top (one) for thick (gruel).

Q: A sort of mess tin?

A: Yes.

Q: What did you eat there in the morning when you woke up? At what time did they wake you up?

A: Around--before seven o'clock it was; in the morning they didn't give us anything; they gave us nothing until around noon.

Q: Not even to drink?

A: Not even to drink, nothing. Yea that, young lady, yea that wa--we would have wished that for you; well that concentration camp has been photographed; my little son has it; I buried him there; son, my son died there and may the Lord God give him--

Q: And how did it happen, Mrs. Danielová?

A: [Coughs] Excuse me?

Q: How is it that he died there on you? What happened?

A: Well, he died, or she--that girl who went out with him.

Q: That Kvûta?

A: That Kvûta went out with that Gyp--with that officer; so she--she grabbed the child and you know, she tore him away, tore him away, but what she did was evil; yeah she tore him away from you like from a dog; not even a dog does what she did.

Q: And what did she do with the little child when she took him from you?

A: Well s--she didn't take; not until (he was) two days, three days (old); later the little boy died, he died on me there in Hodonín, František died in Hodonín, I swear to God ___he died, that little boy.

Q: Did he get typhus?

A: And he got typhus; we were up against spotted typhus there, spotted typhus ___Jesus, were there corpses there; young lady, I have never seen so many corpses as there were there.

Q: And Mrs. Danielová, did they take you there when they buried him?

A: No, no, no, no, alone, alone they buried him somewhere, I--and then, then, since my husband was alive.

Q: And do you know where?

A: May the Lord grant him, my dear husband, peace; he was a dear fellow; he was at that, at that, you know; still with the local people who were people, you know, those more important people; the chairman of the national committee; he was chairman, so we went to have a look at the--at the concentration camp, at Hodonín, and I went with them and so did many women; one beautiful woman also died here, that Bořka; one died here near the water at Sovice, so she died. So we were there and I was there, also men, a lot of men who know me, old men, poor things; so I cried horribly there; I thought that I would die, you know, for the sake of that boy;

God, Christ, how I cried. Well, and my husband said, "Don't cry. How will that help you? I beg of you, how will that help—" Well, so then whenever I felt bad, I went to that *platz* and there was this sort of a cross, you know, and there is this kind of little woods, and there are these--all those who had typhus—typhus and those who were sick, they are buried there.

Q: But when you were still in that camp, I mean, when they imprisoned you, did you know where there were burying the dead? Did you know about this?

A: We knew; we knew.

Q: And did you ever go there to watch?

A: No, they wouldn't let us; no way; I never took a step alone, not even a step; they would have killed you immediately on the spot; if you went out, they would have killed you on the spot.

Q: And when you arrived in Hodonín, did they give you some clothes or did they let you keep your own clothes?

A: No, they gave us these sort of striped clothes.

Q: But that was not until Auschwitz.

A: Yes, in Ausch--

Q: But (when you were) still in Hodonín.

A: (When we were) still in Hodonín, they gave us our own (clothes); we had on our own.

Q: Your own?

A: Our own, our own

Q: And weren't you cold in the winter?

A: In the winter we were cold, dear lady; they did not have heating there; very little heating; there was only a little bit of low heat.

Q: And what kind of heating did they have there?

A: They heated with coal, with coal.

Q: Was there a stove heater there?

A: A stove heater, a stove heater, a stove heater.

Q: And, for example, did you have coats?

A: No, nothing, no coats, nothing. And we had to sing like in Auschwitz, and at that point it was Amen Maria with us, at that point it was Amen Maria with us, at that point --with Auschwitz--like in Auschwitz, the concentration cam--singing, constantly singing, singing in harmony, singing. If we didn't sing, they hit us in the head until we were senseless, senseless, senseless. In the head, head, senseless, that's how they hit us.

Q: And there in Hodonín, do you remember what you ate there? what they gave you for lunch?

A: Yeah, soup, sauce, like _____ like here, sauce.

Q: So the food wasn't bad then?

A: It wasn't, it wasn't.

Q: And did some Romani woman also cook in the kitchen?

A: Well, Romani women, I can't tell anymore, it was a long time ago now, you know, I don't remember miss, I can't tell, or, excuse me, *ma'am* rather; I don't recognize anyone; it was a terribly long time ago, young lady.

Q: And those who were in the kitchen had it better, didn't they?

A: Oh yes, they had it good, they were so, what they looked like, well you didn't see what those girls looked like, how good they had it; not even at home did they have it so good; they had not eaten (such food) in their lives; since the best food that was for--for those, for the prisoners, they didn't give it to us, they were supposed to, (but) they didn't give it to us; they took it for themselves, they ate it themselves, they ate it themselves, but for us (there was) nothing.

Q: And you were hungry and when you approached them? Could you approach them and ask them to give you something to eat, for example?

A: No way. Not until it was noon did they serve up (the food); they rang, over there is the bell, they rang, you know; not until after the bell--and then in a line, like we went in a line, in a line like soldiers, that is how we went in a line for food.

Q: Aha. So you stood for roll-call before that, before lunch? Did you stand roll-call before the meal?

A: Before the meal. Yes, we stood (roll-call), yes.

Q: And what did it look like, Mrs. Danielová, during roll-call?

A: Well, like a roll-call, *ma'am*.

Q: How did it proceed? You know, I can't imagine it at all.

A: Well. They hit you when you were not properly in line, so they beat you, those officers beat you then, they were--they had whips and they kicked, they tread on (you). Well, you were--we were beaten more than we were fed.

Q: And how did you stand? In one line or in two lines?

A: In one line. In one line.

Q: And did it happen to someone near you that they were beaten? Can you recall a concrete instance?

A: I don't know, young lady. I don't remember anymore, I don't remember anymore; it has been too many years, young lady, forgive me.

End of Tape 2

Tape 3

Voice: Wait a minute now; now I'm filming.

Voice: Give it--can you put that away and i will drive directly, ok.

Voice: OK? Ready?

Danielová: --ma'am, later I will bring the photos there, I will find all of them and bring the photos to you; please.

Voice: We can discuss it over the phone; I can go and pick her up_____

Danielová: Yes, yeah, come here.

Voice: So, you can start, Jana.

Q: What were the punishments like in Hodonín? Did they punish the prisoners for anything and (if so,) for what?

A: They didn't punish people there. Not at all, not at all; they didn't punish people.

Q: There weren't any punishments there at all?

A: No, none, not until later in Auschwitz.

Q: Aha. And you talked about someone in Hodonín — evidently he was a Rom — who was very mean to you; as you yourself said, he had to have been a devil.

A: That Fasi and that devil, that devil, what was his name, that Fasi. They were German; they were German Gypsies; they were German; that's just it, they — the officers there — placed them above the—above the prisoners so that they would beat (us), so that they would punish (us) horribly; you weren't allowed to even open your mouth, not even to open your mouth, you weren't allowed to even speak with them, no, God protect us. Yeah, they beat us.

Q: And where did they live there, that Fasi and the Devil?

A: I don't know, I don't know; they lived in the living quarter there, I don't know, I didn't worry about that.

Q: Did they live with the rest of the prisoners or did they have a better building?

A: Better. Over there, they lived somewhere over there. It was very large, it was like a co--large like a concentration camp; there were many, many buildings, many.

Q: Did you know Blařej Didi? Blařej Didi? He was supposed to have been mean too. He was a Rom, and he was mean.

A: Yes, yes, yes. Did, that , that one was--that's him, the one who went blind, who--who went blind, that Didi who went blind, who Mrs. .ubrt said to him that he had beaten me terribly; for no reason, he gave me twenty-five whippings on my butt, bare, on my bare butt, so, so that I had to bend over and he gave me twenty-five whippings on my butt; yea, it was terrible.

Q: And for what reason did he beat you?

A: For no reason, for no reason. You know, someone had shat himself there on those bunks, shat, it wasn't possible to go (to the bathroom) anywhere there. If you had to pee, yea, then you had to run quickly outside into the cold, so you had to (go out) naked, dirty and naked [coughs]. A catastrophe. So, that Didi, who blinded (someone), he blinded a live person. Lord Jesus.

Q: And why exactly was it you he hit on the butt because someone had... soiled himself?

A: No, he didn't soil himself, he shat. Because of this he pulled me down and because of this he gave me twenty-five beatings. And I said, however, "Do you know what you are doing to me, mister? Why don't you stay at home. Why don't you go home. What are you doing to me, afterall you know me. You're from Zlín, you had a woman from Zlín; he left that woman and too up there with that vixen. You know, he could have___he took up with that vixen; they--they, what they wanted to do. They were the best (off), you know, that--

Q: And what did he say to that? Wasn't he afraid that he would be punished after the war?

A: Nothing. He said nothing to me. Ma'am, I swear to God, that he didn't say anything to me. Nothing. He said nothing to me.

Q: And what else did that Didi do? Do you remember if he hurt anyone else?

A: Mrs., Mrs, Mrs. -ubrt, (he hurt her) the most.

Q: What did he do to her?

A: Well--t--apparently he hit her terribly. She--he, he, he was jailed here, you know, in that, locked up somewhere and he was dressed beautifully here; they gave him clothes so that he wouldn't be recognized, you know, the best clothes, constantly, every day different clothes, every day different clothes.

Q: And why did he beat Mrs. -ubrt? Why did he hate her so?

A: Well, ma'am, why? You know, who runs a concentration camp. Who runs a concentration camp. Well, it is a disaster. And he--she said, "You are you, you are the one who beat me; you are the one who beat me; you are the one, it is you, it is you," and he then said that about her, but she recognized ten times over that it was him; so later he was jailed there at that point and then he went blind and then he died there in that, where, in jail here in Bohnice or where (was it), I don't know.

Q: After the war he was put on trial? Weren't you there at the trial?

A: No, no, no, no, no, I wasn't there. No, no, protect me Lord God, Lord Jesus in heaven, I wasn't there, I'm telling you the truth.

Q: Mrs. Danielová, since it was that terrible there and some of the Gypsies had a better position, didn't they perhaps try to get some pretty girls? For example, did it ever occur that they raped some of the girls there?

A: I don't know; I didn't worry about that. I was terribly hungry, there was terrible hunger there, you know and carrying rocks up to the hill, all the way to the camp. You know what it was and singing, holding your hands up like in a co--well it was a concentration camp, Auschwitz. Only the food was better than in--than in Auschwitz; I mean we ate a little more, that we ate a little more and (at) the other (concentration camp????) there was nothing; they beat us terribly, those, those--that Fasi, the Devil, the Devil, he destroyed us absolutely, he destroyed us.

Q: And aside from those Gypsies here, who else guarded you? There were also Czech officers there. Do you remember any one of them?

A: No, no, no, no; only on that one--

Q: The one who was with that Kvûta.

A: With Kvûta. Yeah, that fellow. He was a devil. He was the worst, the worst SS who existed; that fellow who hung out with her.

Q: And what did he do?

A: Well, he hung out with her, he went out in a car — he had a beautiful, luxurious, luxurious, modern car — he drove with that wherever he wanted, wherever--wherever he felt like going,

he drove there and he ate and everything. You know, the way she had it (there), she had never eaten (that way) in her life, since there she ate the best things; she brought (the food) to the prisoners and there she carried it to the living quarters where he was; they carried the food under our noses, that we--that to us--(the food) that we were supposed to get, they ate it.

Q: And she didn't have to work?

A: No, no, no. She didn't work at all, not anywhere.

Q: And what did she do during the day?

A: I don't know, ma'am, I don't know. You are--I don't know, young lady, I don't know.

Q: And when you had children there, could they be with you or did they put them somewhere separate in Hodonín.

A: No, with us until they died. Until the children died; they came down with that typhus, that typhus__none, not one child was there after that, all of them died, every last one of them died, not even one child was there.

Q: And when you went to work, what did the little children do? Where were they during the time when you worked?

A: They were in bed, here in bed. (They went) nowhere, nowhere.

Q: Did someone babysit them there?

A: No one, no one. ___if (a child) cried or didn't cry, or if it died, died, it didn't matter (to them).

Q: And Mrs. Danielová, children had to have been born there in Hodonín, isn't that right? Isn't it true that some women gave birth there?

A: I don't know, young lady, I don't know. I don't know, I beg your pardon, I don't know anything at all about that.

Q: So then try to remember, when you went to work, as you said, you collected rock, what did you do concretely?

A: Well we broke up those rocks into small pieces; we had to break them up with a hammer, with a big hammer and break, breaking up those rocks sufficiently [coughs]; the sidewalk, you know, that sidewalk was huge, enough so that the sidewalk would be huge, so that the path would be like a highway. A highway. Yeah, a highway--.

Q: What did the men do, you know, while the women were breaking up rocks like that.

A: (They did) too.

Q: So the men did the same?

A: The same.

Q: And where did you put the rocks afterwards? Did you carry them somewhere.

A: Nowhere. There.

Q: Onto a pile?

A: On--we made that path, that path, you know that we made on our way up to Hodonín.

Q: So you put it directly on the path?

A: Yes...My goodness, ma'am.

Q: Can you recall how long you regularly worked? When did they send you out and when could you return home from work?

A: About twelve_____ about 7, about 7:30pm we left and until 12, it must have been noon, so then we went for lunch and then again back to those ro--in the evening we went home.

Q: How long did they allow you to have for lunch? What kind of a break did you have for lunch?

A: So, about half an hour. Not even half an hour. Half an hour, not more.

Q: And where did you eat this meal?

A: There in the building.

Q: There, where you were living?

A: Where we were living, there, there.

Q: Could you also lie down there for a moment?

A: No, if only, if only. That Fasi, Devil would have gone after us. They would have hit us, they would have struck us, they would have struck us. There we--(could) not even rest, not even a moment. If he saw you, he would kill you.

Q: And how many of you were there in that one building?

A: Many, many, many, but--

Q: About how many?

A: Well, so, I slept with five people on that bunk, and the second again (had) many people, many. So on every bunk there were many people, many people, many people. Dearth lady, well, if you had seen it, Lord, Lord Jesus Christ.

Q: And when you had finished lunch, you had to go again to work?

A: Work.

Q: And for how long did you work after that?

A: Until the evening, until 6 o'clock or at 5:30 we left work. Again we sang, again holding our hands up.

Q: Yes, precisely this interests me? This was during roll-call?

A: Yes, yes, yes.

Q: If you could please describe to me a little what it looked like. Who called you for roll call? Who gave ordered you to line up?

A: That d--d--that Devil and that--the other one.

Q: So Gypsies. And what, for example, did it look like, what did they say to you at roll call?

A: Well, that we must--that we must be in our building and that we must, that we must maintain order there among, among them and then, you know how, what he said.

Q: And (he) coun-

A: I didn't even understand what he said. I don't know German____fifth through ninth, what can you understand of German. Do I understand German? I don't understand German.

Q: Surely Fasi knew Romany. Did he speak Romani with you sometimes?

A: No, no. /Coughs/ German, he was German. Germans, Germans; he was a gestapo, like a gestapo only worse.

Q: And Mrs. Danielová, later on when there were a lot of sick prisoners there who had typhus, did they put them somewhere separate, in some sick room?

A: No, nowhere; they were there in that building, there, there in that building, in that building; since they were, you know, those____ when I was sick, so (I though) here I am and here I will die. Once you die(d), then they threw you outside____

A: And did some doctor visit there?

Q: No one, no doctor was there. None.

Q: You didn't see (one)?

A: Not a doctor in the world; I didn't see a doctor there.

Q: And all the prisoners live in buildings or was there anyone there who lived in a wagon, in his own wagon, in a caravan?

A: There were no caravans there, nothing, on those, those--a concentration camp. There, there I didn't see--there wasn't anything there, young lady, it was devastating, like__a concentration--we waited there for the transport, you know, with which we would go to Auschwitz, we waited; or there was no room; they waited that we__until there was room, so then we would go to that place where they were in Auschwitz, that we would be there.

Q: I have heard, Mrs. Danielová, that some of the prisoners in Hodonín were so sick that they couldn't even stand on their feet to go to roll call. Do you remember any such prisoner?

A: Oh so, Te%oa said that he had typhus, that__there, no way, ____he couldn't even stand, he couldn't do any thing, it was a disaster, yeah young lady, (I'm telling) you____I can't say anything, it was a disaster, young lady.

Q: And when you were there in Hodonín, do you remember if they transported there other prisoners?

A: No. There were the same people there all the time, or we waited for Auschwitz, that we would go to Auschwitz. They transported all of us there to Auschwitz, all the people. And those who were in that--who went, they got out, they ran away; the officers took (them) and they ran away, I don't know where.

Q: And did anyone visit you there in Hodonín? Some friend?

A: No one, no one. No visitors, nothing. No visitors.

Q: And did you receive a letter or package?

A: Nothing, nothing. If you perished there nothing would come. Well, it was a concentration camp, like a jail; it was even worse than a jail.

Q: And did you come in contact with some of the local residents of Hodonín? Could you sometimes see some of them, for example, with some of the village women from Hodonín?

A: Those who--white people?

Q: White people.

A: No, no one went there.

Q: Not at all?

A: No way would they go there. Not even white people went there.

Q: And did you ever get into the village?

A: No. Well I didn't get there. I didn't see any (white person?) at all until I arrived in Auschwitz. With my own eyes.

Q: And can you remember who was also a prisoner there with you in Hodonín? Some girl friends, perhaps?

A: No, I don't remember that anymore, young lady, (I don't remember) anyone; that is so many years ago now and I, I didn't see anyone; I didn't even worry about what was. You know what that was for me, what punishment it was, it was punishment, it was punishment; the Lord God brought this punishment upon us, you know, because he sees the non-believers, because they are not nice people; that's why it happened, dear lady, because people didn't believe much, because there are evil people, that is why it happened, indeed evil, indeed there were bad people there, all kind of people, you know, just as people are evil here, so there are people--they were evil. It is this way everywhere.

Q: And why do you think they took you when you believe in God?

A: Well, young lady, dear lady, well because all of us have committed, everyone has erred. Isn't this true? That I have flaws? You too have flaws and lad--all of us have flaws. Did we make a mistake? I don't know, Lord Jesus, may he forgive us for it.

Q: And what kind of a mistake do you think you made?

A: I don't know young lady, I don't know. The Lord God knows.

Q: Fine. How long were you there in Hodonín?

A: I was there for a year and a half.

Q: A year and a half. And how did it come about, that they later transported you to Auschwitz? What happened?

A: Wel, we went there to Auschwitz, we went there by car, in huge cars and we arrived there and we immediately saw those Germans. The Germans stood--

Q: And approximately where was this?

A: In Osvûnãin(ph), in Auschwitz or in Osvûnãin, it was in Osvûnãin. Those Germans stood there and they immediately grabbed us and they immediately grabbed us and put us in those, in those apartments, in those apartments, in those buildings.

Q: And when did they tatoo the numbers on you?

A: Well, as soon as we arrived, immediately I had this, my arm swelled up, Lord Jesus, my arm swelled up like this, you see I have--

Q: And who did that to you?

A: Those Germans, those Germans did it to us; those Germans pricked us with needles, with such a big needle and with a needle, with a needle, with a needle.

Q: Were they also prisoners?

A: Also, prisoners also.

Q: And what nationalities were they?

A: I don't know, ma'am, I don't know; they spoke German, every type of language; you know they were clever, they were clever; a normal person wouldn't have done that, they must have been clever people, must have been clever people.

Q: And what else did they do with you immediately when they brought you to Auschwitz?

A: (Put us) to work, to work, young lady.

Q: Did they dress you differently somehow?

A: No, those clothes, those striped one, we had them from Hodonín; they had already, already given us those clothes; those, those who left, those witches who left, those who ran away, those who went home, then we had those clothes and already we got dressed in those clothes and already we were in those clothes.

Q: And what did those clothes look like?

A: Sort of blue, blue with a belt.

Q: And what kind of sleeves did it have?

A: Sort of short and this kind of clothes, they were blue and belts, only belts.

Voice: Please.

Q: Mrs. Danielová, you said that three of your children stayed behind there. Did you know that they died, or how was it?

A: I don't know anything.

Q: You didn't find this out until after the war? And when you arrived in the camp, in Auschwitz, did they then divide families up or did you stay together?

A: Every--I did not see my mother, my father, I did not see anyone; I was alone, as lonely as a finger.

Q: And which block were you in?

A: Twenty-four. In twenty-four.

Q: And who else was there with you?

A: Yes, yes, they were all friends, that--you know the niece of my mother; they were sisters in other words, this was her daughter; she was a pretty girl; she was there; friends.

Q: And your mother?

A: Mom, well I didn't see my mom; i told you, I didn't see my mom nor my dad, no one; absolutely nothing was there--I am not going to talk anymore, this is making me sick; young lady, I have problems with my nerves.

Q: But you narrate so nicely. Still tell us where you went to work in Auschwitz?

A: To the rocks, to that, to that__

Q: That was in Hodonín.

A: No, that--there__

Q: There as well?

A: There also with huge, huge rocks; you couldn't even carry them; I was weak, like a finger, and when you couldn't (work) anymore, they hit you with a rock in the head and that was the end of you.

Q: And to whom did this happen, that they hit him in the head with a rock? Do you remember?

A: No, I don't know any more, ma'am, I don't know.

Q: And did you witness this?

A: Yes, I saw it; a lot of people died there on the path since they hit them with rocks; the Germans hit them with rocks./Coughs/

Q: And you carried those rocks. Carried them from where to where?

A: From here, back, again, again, again there and back, there, we took the rock there and back again, like idiots, like idiots, like idiots.

Q: What purpose did this have, carrying those rocks? Did you build something?

A: Nothing, it was useless work, young lady, useless work, usele--they only wanted to destroy people, to destroy people. Apparently he wanted a pure race, pure race, he wanted his own race; for this reason apparently he was like a devil at first, so he would have a stroke, so that a stroke would wound him.

Q: And did you also build a highway there?

A: No, there rocks, we carried rocks, rocks; that sister, that sister of mine — Bertiãka — a car ran over her; may God grant her peace, ____ran over (her) /Coughs/a car drove next to her, a car ran over her foot, the poor dear.

Q: Were you there when it happened?

A: Yes, yes. She went to the *Krankenbau*, you know, to the hospital; and she could no longer even carry rocks, nothing, she was finished, she was already, she was already as good as dead. And somehow I went too to that *Krankenbau*, you know, I was also ill or what the devil, I don't know, so and she [Coughs]-- and she was eating bread, you know, she was eating bread; I hadn't eaten anything; I was terribly hungry, I was terribly hungry; I said, "Bertiãka, I beg you, for God's sake, in exchange for five beatings, I beg you, I am terribly hungry, give me a bit of bread." So she didn't eat that bread, and she gave it to me; for God's sake, I beg you--her last piece of bread she gave to me, her last piece of bread, I swear to God, with the Lord Jesus Christ above me as my witness, with God above me, I am not lying to you, I am not lying to you with the Lord God as my witness, with the Lord Jesus Christ above me, just as God is above me, I am telling you the truth.

Q: And did she heal?

A: So, she, she died; she died immediately, I beg you, water from her mouth; she died immediately, opened her mouth, she died immediately; I hadn't even swallowed, I was glad that she gave me that bread, I was glad. Well you know what it was like, you didn't cry or anything; if, if your father or mother died (whom) you loved or your wife or your child, you didn't cry at all, it didn't matter.

Q: And how did it come about, Mrs. Danielová, that her foot got hurt? How did that happen? Since you were there, try to describe how it happened.

A: Ma'am, a car drove, a truck; I don't know how it___ a truck--it dr__many people were walking there--there--a transport (of people) were walking, many people with those rocks, she--I don't know how, I don't know, young lady, I can't tell you, I can't.

Q: You were very hungry there?

A: Very hungry, terribly hungry, terribly hungry, terribly hungry.

Q: And what did you try to do in order to come by some food? Did you ever pick up some food somewhere ?

A: Those, those pixle, those peels from potatoes; they were shat on, shat on; the Germans who shat, who shat there, they shat there, well we collected the pixle, the, the peels and then we ate it, you know what that was like for us?

Q: And you could do that? Didn't someone watch over you there?

A: Nahh, I don't know how we did it; I don't know anymore.

Q: They didn't punish you for that?

A: No, well, I don't know; I don't know, young lady. I don't know anymore anything; that I don't know anymore.

Q: And in Auschwitz didn't you see perhaps how they punished someone there for something?

A: Jesus, goodness, yeah they punished people, beat them, stepped on them, beat us, yes.

Q: And for what reasons, for example?

A: Well, for any reason, they beat you for any reason, for any reason at all; you weren't allowed to say even a word, not even a word; they were gestapo, you know, gestapo, Germans, how they dressed and how they beat you; they didn't even speak to anyone and they started to hit you on the head, in the head.

Q: Who, for example, did they hit like this? Do you remember, any of your girl friends?

A: No, no, no, dear lady; many, many, many people were there; there were many, many, many, many, many, many; if you saw those people; (as many) as the city of Prague and as big as Brno and America, that's how many people there were there; it was terribly big, big, a big structure.

Q: In addition, what would interest me is — you spoke about those crematoriums, about those ovens, did you see them?

A: Yes, we saw them, we saw them and we were not allowed to tell even our brother or sister, not even our sister or brother; we knew about this; if you had know__If I had told you and I knew about this and said something, if you said something, then you would be kille.

Q: And what did it look like?

A: It was ti--tiny and there they pushed you in from behind, they pushed you in there from behind; there was some kind of hole, I don't know, ma'am, I don't know any longer, and there they would stick you and that was the end of you.

Q: And how did you know that these were ovens?

A: By the fact that there was a gas chamber at--for people, for destroying people.

Q: Someone told you that?

A: Well, we knew that immediately.

Q: From the prisoners?

A: Yes.

Q: And did you see, for example, people going there? Can you tell me something about this, if you saw some people going in there and then what happened, whether or not they came back again?

A: They didn't return; no one who went there returned; the end, amen Maria, the end, amen Maria; that was the end, amen Maria.

Q: And did you have there some--did you meet, for example, with Jewish women there? Did you come in contact with them?

A: No.

Q: Not at all?

A: No no no no no.

Q: And there were only Roma in that block where you lived?

A: Roma, even those white people, every kind of person.

Q: And where were the Roma from there?

Q: From Hodonín; they already died; those old women, the poor little things, died; that woman who went home with me was nice; apparently she had tuberculosis, that is she got tuberculosis and she died; that daughter of hers — pretty, a beauty — she also died; all the people from Hodonín, people who had built their houses beautifully, everyone who was in Hodonín, we went through home in those wagons through the fields when we returned home from Brno; they went to Hodonín; I went to Brno; I don't know how I ended up in Brno, I don't know, young lady how I ended up in Brno; that's all.

Q: And did you also have some illness there in Auschwitz? Were you sick there or were you constantly able to stay completely healthy?

A: Yes, healthy, healthy.

Q: And how would you explain this? What do you think it was that kept you healthy?

A: The Lord God protected me, the Lord God.

Q: And did something happen to you there, for example did you get injured or did some guard hit you there?

A: Oh, one German kicked me in the genitals, Lord God.

Q: How did that happen? Why?

A: Well, for no reason; he kicked me for no reason and I started bleeding; I didn't bleed there for four years, I didn't have women's bleedings, nothing, you couldn't have anything, yeah, how could you have (menstruation) from (that) food when you were treated like a dog; from that (food) you were not going to get it.

Q: And you got it?

A: I was, well yes --that kapo kicked me.

Q: For what reason? And what did--how, what did you do?

A: Nothing, for no reason, for no reason; out of anger; the way he looked at you with anger (in his eyes).

Q: And what was his name?

A: I don't know, lady.

Q: And what nationality? What was his nationality?

A: I don't know.

Q: Was he also a prisoner or was he--

A: He was German.

Q: German.

A: German.

Q: You know, that is terribly interesting; we never here about that. Tell me what did the women do when--when it came, when they got their period? What then did they do there?

A: Oh, they didn't get any period; no woman there even got it, except those who had it good, one who hung out with the Germans, whom the Germans had chosen; so they got it, those who were pretty, beauties whom they chose for themselves, they got it; but those of us who were in the concentration camp, not one of us, not one of us (menstruated).

Q: But you are saying that that is the reason why he hit you, that you got your period?

A: Yes. My goodness.

Q: And did they give you some, some--some sort of cotton, for example or did they give you something like that?

A: Nothing; no way, not cotton, no way.

Q: And so what did you do then?

A: Nothing.

Q: I can't imagine it. It is terribly difficult (to imagine).

A: My goodness young lady, there was no way, no way, no way, no way, no way.

Q: And could you go to wash yourselves?

A: Nothing, there wasn't water; the water was shut off there; for four years I did not wash myself and I didn't even know what water was, for God's sake, I beg you, you must believe me — for five beatings.

Q: And it also interests me, how often did they cut your hair?

A: They didn't cut our hair; we were shaved as bald as balloons.

Q: As a balloon?

A: As a balloon. I looked like a man, like a man.

Q: And when later on, with time, your hair started to grow, did they shave you again or did they leave you like that?

A: They didn't shave anything; we were as bald as balloons under our arms, everywhere, everywhere.

Q: And who cut your hair?

A: Those women, those German women, those German women came and shaved us and that was that.

Q: And where did they cut your hair? Did you go somewhere to get your hair cut or did they cut your hair--

A: They did it, did it in the building.

Q: In the building.

Q: And did you wear something on your heads?

A: Nothing, nothing, bare headed; you didn't understand what you wanted; you would not have recognized that I was a woman, that I was an old woman with her hair cut like a man; hair down below also shaved bare; do you know what that was like?

Q: It would also interest me what you said about how some of the gestapo there chose some pretty women.

A: One woman, that Tonka; she is still living; Lord, no, no, no, she died already.

Q: And which is she?

A: Honziková from Tufian.

Q: From Tufian? And from which family?

A: She is--apparently she hung out with a fellow--with that--with those German women; she was in the kitchen; she had it good. She was with that Honzík; may the Lord God grant him (peace), that Honzik was nice, that was my husband's friend and he was his brother-in-law; he was my husband's brother-in-law; Honzík, a very good fellow. May the Lord God grand him a peaceful rest. So, she apparently hung out with the German women, so she survived; she survived because she hung out with the German women. There in the kitchen she had extra food.

Q: Did you see that she hung out with them or did you hear it from others?

A: From others, from other who spoke Gypsy (language) among themselves; you know, so this is how I heard it.

Q: And what privileges did such a woman have, one who was the mistress of a gestapo officer? What kind of privileges did she have?

A: I don't know, I don't know; I didn't worry about that.

Q: And did she live with him or in the barracks?

A: In the barracks.

Q: And did she go to work too?

A: (She went) to work also; but she hung out--she hung out with him, you know, she was in the kitchen, she handed out food, she had more soup, she had more bread; so because--because of bread, because of soup, she hung out with that officer, with that fellow, with that German.

Q: And who in those barracks in Auschwitz acted as female kapos, as kapos, I mean as those overseers?

A: I don't know those men; those men know, that Didi was there, that _____

Q: He was in Hodonín.

A: Oh, oh, he was in Auschwitz, in Auschwitz.

Q: There as well and he again acted as kapo?

A: Again, again he was there in Auschwitz.

Q: And who guarded your block?

A: I don't know him; I don't know that.

Q: Was he foreign?

A: A foreign fellow.

Q: And was he a prisoner?

A: He was a prisoner from among those--from among those of our people who ruled over others, who walked around there, who watched out to see that they didn't do anything, that they were not dirty; I don't know any longer.

Q: And was he nice to you? Did he try to be?

A: He wasn't, he wasn't, he wasn't; all of them (were) bad, bad, bad..

Q: And what did he do?

A: Well miss, he hit us; he hit everyone.

Q: And for example, for what reason?

A: For no reason, for no reason; he had--that--that bludgeon--and at that point he hit us, for no reason; "I will beat your brains out," and that devil tried to that devil tried to do that to people.

Q: Mrs. Danielová, one thing that I cannot imagine is how you went to the bathroom? Where did you go to the bathroom?

A: Geez miss, there was this little room outside and we went outside.

Q: A latrine?

A: The kind where you go outside to reach.

Q: And it was in some kind of little booth, or was it under the open sky?

A: It wasn't like that, it was like this.

Conclusion of interview