

## **Interview with Frantisek Daniel**

**June 18, 1997**

**Answer: Do you smoke?**

**A man: So I'll start. OK? You can go ahead.**

**A: You were in concentration camp?**

**Question: We'll talk about that afterwards. Mr Daniel, now would you please tell us your name and when and where you were born.**

**A: Now, as a sequence, shall I?**

**Q: Yes.**

**A: Well, my name is Daniel Frantisek. I was born on 9.6.21. There were 12 of us siblings.**

**Q: And where were you born?**

**A: I was born in Chladkovice (ph), that is in the district of Vyskov, Ivanovice.**

**Q: O.K.**

**A: And my father was a blacksmith. Simply ... he brought us up pretty well. As ... as in that poverty in -- the First Republic. Well, he had plenty of work then and so he was able to provide for us, so that we were able to get to \_\_\_\_\_. I, personally -- I was about four -- five years old -- I was a bit lazy -- well it was in that village, well -- I beat the children and they like..., well. So they put me in an institution. I was -- in an institution in Moravsky Krumlov 10 years. It was only there that I began to somehow carry on with my life, well.**

**Q: Did you go to school there?**

**A: I went to school.**

**Q: For how long?**

**A: I passed through junior secondary school [11-15 years of age].**

**Q: And you went to elementary school?**

**A: It is -- normally, like it was eight ...eight [years].**

**Q: Was that in Krumlov?**

**A: Yes. That junior secondary school. Well and after I had managed to get through that ... simply through will power and I was bigger, like the others, then Miller (ph) chose me -- and he had tennis there -- like courts, tennis courts where I was a ball boy.**

**Q: And who was that Miller (ph)?**

**A: He was the proprietor of that -- he was a Jew.**

**Q: The owner of the court?**

**A: He simply had that place, yeah, and where like they played tennis. He rented it out per hour simply -- those people paid -- they were rich people. Factory owners, teachers. Well, and there I picked up the balls and I got money for collecting those balls, and I sold tickets. As a boy I already used to sell tickets. A ticket cost 25 crowns. I handed over 20 and I could keep five. So that I had quite a lot of savings in Krumlov .. Well, and that's how it began in Krumlov and so I was apprenticed to a smith. By that time I was \_\_\_\_\_ 14, 15 years old. I went to learn to be a blacksmith but I did not complete the training. That master blacksmith was very evil. He was very evil. They had fields, where I had to ... in the summer season I had to work from five o'clock -- I had to get up at four o'clock, first work in the "verkstat" (ph). That meant working in the workshop.**

**Q: In the workshop.**

**A: Yes. And then I forged rakes, hoes and different kinds of implements which they used in the fields. Well and then I went to the field. He had a field measuring about 30 ... Well, he had cows and so on. You know how it is in farming. Well, and I as a boy -- for me it was more than enough hours -- from morning to night, from morning till night, little sleep, little food. So after that -- they took me away from Moravsky Krumlov -- the director took me back to that institution. And I was there for about half a year. I worked ... in the garden, in the garden I hoed plots -- and there were -- strawberries, and there were currents. Whatever -- what was like important for gardening. Well and then after about six months a lady came. They were farmers. And I was supposed to, ... that like wasn't that I should work -- you know, like those farm-hands, like it used to be. I was there like their own -- like their own son. A kind of step-son. I worked very little there, I like took wine and food to the fields for the hands. And did various kind of things that were necessary in the house ... that's why I went there like. In all I saved about say ... 13, 14 thousand crowns. And in the end, toward the end, in about a year my mother and father came to fetch me. It was hard to recognize my mother and father, simply the best years of my life -- and all that -- as**

if they had been wiped out of my mind. I had in fact not seen them for practically ten years. Well, and my daddy promised, that he has a smithy like, and I don't know what all else he promised. So I like said, "I'll go home, I'll learn." And I came home and everything turned out quite different! It all turned out different, see. Poverty in the First Republic was great. There was a great amount of poverty. We did not get -- like it was a democratic republic, but there was a vast difference between Masaryk's democracy and democracy today. Every person who does not work receives, or not that he doesn't work, but simply you receive -- simply you get support. Whereas in Masaryk's time that was not so. We got some kind of bread for five crowns and that was all. So that there was real poverty. Well, and so then I was there at home. Well, and I couldn't come to terms with that. I was used to a different life, so I went to Chvatkovice (ph) -- and he was called Vystavel. I drove horses, he taught me to plow, he simply taught me ... to sew grain and like that kind of work in the field.

Q: Agri -- you learnt to do farm work.

A: Yeah, I learnt that work there. And they had a daughter -- they had one daughter -- her name was Lida. Well, and I simply began like that with her. And the parents, old parents, she had really old parents, so it depended on us to do as much work as possible. Well, so we were like there. Well, and it was about ...

Q: And you were friends with Lida?

A: Very, very much so. We like were such friends. And could like say that I would have like married her.

Q: And more.

A: Or she would have married me, because I was poor, see. But her mother said it does not depend on riches, it depends on what sort of character one has. Simply, that the property was there. So that it does not matter if like I was to marry her. But her ... those who were there \_\_\_\_\_ had sisters -- they lived a little way away -- and they were willing too to marry me. Only then came the concentration camp -- that is the Germans.

Q: So that was in '39?

A: What did you say?

**Q: The occupation had already begun?**

**A: That was still like ...**

**Q: Still in the [First] Republic.**

**A: ... when there was still no occupation. This was like when there was still no occupation.**

**Q: Before, when there was still no occupation.**

**A: And also during that occupation just in -- that means around the year 40, in nineteen thirty nine --- everything changed. The village had to provide -- some commander, or chief of police issued orders that each village should send some people. Simply, who are not good in that village, or something like that. Well, and so it happened that they took my father and brother-in-law. They were at the police headquarters -- they were there ... about a month. And then -- and after that month they transported them to \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Q: Wait. And how was it -- how -- what does it mean they were not good?**

**A: What wasn't?**

**Q: You said, they were to assign people, who were not good.**

**A: Well, yes. That ... village -- each village and town was to assign, who were like some people who were a nuisance, or just somebody. So they had to send some people -- say two people and they -- it depended on the size of the village.**

**Q: And the Germans gave these orders?**

**A: This took place all over Moravia.**

**Q: And the Germans gave these orders?**

**A: This was an order from the Brno headquarters. This was.**

**Q: And what did they say to your father when they came to fetch him?**

**A: I'm hard of hearing, yeah?**

**Q: And what did they say to your father when they came to fetch him?**

**A: They came for him, they did not talk to anyone, they took him, they took my brother-in-law, and they took them to the headquarters in Brno. There was a "robotarna" (ph) [workshop]. So they put him there. My mum, and all of us as whole who were there, tried to have him released somehow. There was no question of release. We had --**

there was a Rom there -- Novy, who was an SA -- so we also like went to see him and ...

Q: He was a German?

A: Well, he was a Rom. So he, as I said. Well, and not even he helped. Or simply did not want to help, see. So they then put him -- after a month they sent him to "Osvecin" (ph) [Auschwitz].

Q: And when ...

A: Both of them.

Q: When it happened, how many more of you children were at home?

A: All of us were still at home.

Q: All 12?

A: They were at home. Except father and my brother-in-law.

Q: Brother in law -- that means that your sister was married.

A: He was with my sister. The eldest. Well and he -- both of them -- I say -- went to Osvecin. They were in Osvecin about three weeks.

Q: And how did you find out that they had gone to Auschwitz?

A: Well, because they -- I'll tell you afterwards. I'll tell you. Simply, they were there about three weeks and so ... well in about five weeks we got one of those funeral urns. That dad had simply died and that simply -- an illness. So that's how it was with father and that brother-in-law lived. He went on living.

Q: And you received that urn -- where did you get that urn from?

A: That urn was a normal urn with ashes. Well and so we knew well, or we had already heard that this was the beginning of those furnaces. Those cremations.

Q: Wait. In which year was this?

A: In '40.

Q: And that urn came from where?

A: That came from Poland.

Q: But not from Auschwitz.

A: What did you say?

Q: Not yet from Auschwitz. Or already from Ausch ...

A: Well, that was from Osvecin. that was from Osvecin. Direct from Osvecin. They went to Osvecin.

Q: And how did you find out?

**A: Well, that brother-in-law -- I'll tell you all that. My brother-in-law was still there, that's where I arrived in '41, and my brother-in-law was still alive. So he -- he told me, how my late father died.**

**Q: And how did he die?**

**A: He simply died; they were digging, and well the soil there was marshy. Marshy soil, which was compact all the way down -- they were digging canals. And there as they beat him they simply finished him off. Well, and whenever they did anything either badly, or simply they found fault. Well and so they beat my late father to death. Well, and now what. Well, simply I learned later, in Osvecin -- like from that ... from Novy -- he told us that as well.**

**Q: From what Novy?**

**A: He was at the police headquarters.**

**Q: His name was Novy?**

**A: Yeah. He was called Novy. And it was he who told me that they are all going to Osvecin. There were more of them there. The Veselys from Uhersky Brod and so on. It was kind of a smaller -- well, like a family.**

**Q: Wait. But now we're talking about the year '42. So let's go back to the year '40 when you received that urn. So ...**

**A: Yeah.**

**Q: So what did you do? Did you put it in the cemetery?**

**A: Well so \_\_\_\_\_ when you receive an urn, you begin to cry. Simply my mother went completely mad. She was ill. Well, simply -- there was nothing we could do about it. And we knew well that we could expect the same thing would happen to us.**

**Q: And did you help keep the family?**

**A: Well I ... I had money which I had earned, yeah. So I gave the money to my mother. At the time I had about 16 thousand crowns -- that was a lot of money.**

**Q: That was a lot of money.**

**A: That was a lot of money. So that helped my mother a lot, it helped my mother and the family as a whole.**

**Q: Well, and you kept working all the time?**

**A: But in '40 they went after us. Between '40 and '41 they went after us.**

**Q: And how ... how did they go after you?**

**A: Well, there in Hodoninek -- that is in Moravia -- was a camp, where -- there they sent us to do forced labor. For three months. And it wasn't for Roma, but it was for everybody. It was like for prisoners. And it was there that they needed people to dig that road -- an extensive road was being built there. So that they supplied people to work there three months. There, if someone worked well then they released him -- say -- in one month .. they let him go in a month. He could go home and then come back. It was still not like ... bad. So that we -- so I set out -- and I was away from home.**

**Q: And where did you go?**

**A: Well -- that was in '41 -- then that camp finished for everyone and Roma were supposed to come there. Roma were supposed to come to that camp.**

**Q: So that if I understand correctly, at first it was a kind of ...**

**A: For forced labor.**

**Q: Re-education as it were.**

**A: It was a forced labor camp. Yeah.**

**Q: Forced labor camp.**

**A: And then they left it and put Roma there. And the round-up ... that round-up was for all Moravian Roma. My mother and this here brother, they were all taken to ... to Brno to that slaughter house. And from the slaughter house ... from the slaughter house some of them went to Osvecin. That is to say to Birkenau not Osvecin, but to Birkenau. And some who still stayed at home were then sent to Hodoninek. And that was my sister -- two sisters and afterwards they somehow ...**

**Q: And you too went, didn't you?**

**A: Not me, I escaped. I still had good legs. Well and that's how -- as we ran -- I always met up with my mother at home, see. And so two gypsies Roma found out and came to see us. And they escaped from Hodoninek. And so then I thought it over, I said: let's go to Poland and from Poland we'll go somewhere -- I don't know where -- simply we'll liberate ourselves by going beyond our frontiers and we'll get to Russia -- or simply somehow out of the reach of the Germans. So that I then said goodbye to my mother and off we went.**

**Q: Who else?**

**A: Two of those women, that is to say the two Roma and me. So we simply went and to .. to the Polish borders. And there where Trinec is -- Mistek Frydek that was near what in those days ... how should I say borderland, yeah, Sudety. They took it .. in those days ... from Germans and Poles. Well, and I was there for about a month -- as I was moving around and I wanted to get over that mountain range, yeah, to Slovakia. Slovakia was independent and the Roma were left in peace.. Well -- one of them had her family in Poland, so that she went back to Poland without any problems.**

**Q: But there war was already on there, wasn't it?**

**A: Yeah, there was a war on in Poland. But she like returned to her family. I don't know what happened to her. Whether they caught her or not -- it's difficult to say. But I, with that Czech girl, made for Slovakia -- there like to Orechova and there -- a long way beyond Trinec that is nearly Slovakia -- there they caught us.**

**Q: And who caught you?**

**A: Well, they caught us ...**

**Q: Czechs, Slovaks, Germans?**

**A: No, those are -- they were Germans, Germans in uniforms. Well and so they of course caught us and so they put us into -- that is ... Polsky Tesin.**

**Q: Was there a camp there?**

**A: No, rooms, rooms. They changed our clothes -- well, and she was in the women's and I was in the men's room. Well, and then we made those kinds of papers in that prison. The paper was about this long, cut that way and we made kind of string from it. We had to hand in about 100 meters. So that we would like get food. And ...**

**Q: But that means that you managed to get across the border.**

**A: Sorry?**

**Q: To Polish Tesin -- you must have crossed the frontier.**

**A: That was already Poland.**

**Q: Yes.**

**A: That was Poland. Trinec and this here -- that was all Poland. For Poland then laid claim to it in those days. The Slovaks are here -- and after all you know how it was. Well, and we were there in that prison**



and as far as -- later in the court they sentenced us to three months. To three months. And they did not tell us anything, but we learned, we learned that from there we were going to Birkenau, yeah. From there. And I worked in that ... in that factory in Trinec.

**Q: Making that string?**

**A: No, no. That was a normal foundry, see, where iron is cast, simply and so on.**

**Q: So that they let you go free?**

**A: No, no, no. Normally, normally ...**

**Q: You went there from the prison?**

**A: ... I was locked up. We were imprisoned. Plus, the guards went with us. That was very awful. They went -- simply it was a special road made for the prisoners. Mostly prisoners worked there. That is the heavy work.**

**Q: And how did you -- how -- what sort of food did you get in that prison?**

**A: In that ... . Well there ... there, normally the food was there so so. It could be said that it was just about possible to eat it. Well, soup, bread. There was nothing more. Well, and then I thought about how to escape. From Trinec -- there from Trinec -- from that work. And so I looked around, I think about three, four days -- before I succeeded in escaping.**

**Q: And this time you escaped on your own?**

**A: Alone, alone.**

**Q: And how did you manage?**

**A: Like that (laughter) I told him, that I'm going to the lavatory. And there in that lavatory I looked through the window and simply had a look at the whole way -- which would be the best way to make an escape, see. I had to see -- there was water there -- which way -- whether there are wires there. So simply I had a good look round, well and ...**

**Q: And what did you wear? Some ...**

**A: I had normal ...**

**Q: Civilian clothes?**

**A: No, no, no, no no. They were prisoners' uniforms.**

**Q: And you wanted to escape like that?**

**A: Well, I escaped naked (laughter). I escaped naked, because I didn't know how to swim and I said to myself that it was a question of sink or swim. Either I'd drown or like -- or like -- I then paddled like a dog. I still remember that to this day. That was ...**

**Q: And in which month was it? Approximately -- according to the weather?**

**A: Well it ... it could have been ... it could have been in June. About in June. Well, and ...**

**Q: So that you ...**

**A: ... and I had to ask permission to go to the lavatory, see. Ask ...**

**Q: The prison officer.**

**A: ... the guards. Yeah. And I had to come back within 15 minutes. Announce, "Yeah, I'm here" "Go along". He looked at you and knew that I'd go. And I in those 15 minutes managed to swim across that water. Under the bridge, yeah. To the other side. And on the other side -- it's still there today -- I was there -- there's a normal kind of path and I simply went along that path. Good gracious! People were going to work. This was at seven o'clock in the morning --that I managed to escape. So I simple went -- although I hadn't intended to run. I didn't intend running, so that I wouldn't draw attention. But then I began to be afraid, \_\_\_ those legs and I again began to run.**

**Q: And how did people react when you walked up to them naked?**

**A: Well that's difficult to say. I didn't even have time -- they simply saw me, but I didn't take them in. I simple went on -- I went along slowly. Well and then as I was struck with fear I began to run. And I ran into a kind of -- wood -- a kind of acacia wood. Well, and that was -- I simply ran. Well, and the main thing was I kept to the woods and so on. Well, but ... here I no longer heard, but I imagined, see, that the sirens were already going off because a prisoner had escaped and so on. Or I imagined this. So I \_\_\_\_\_. Well, so I ran. Only Zatopek could have caught me. He would not have caught me. It's amazing what fear does! And in the end, after about two days -- I slept in the woods -- and it was a very thick forest that you could hardly walk through it.**

**Q: And what did you eat?**

**A: Sorry?**

**Q: You didn't eat anything?**

**A: Well so far there was nothing.**

**Q: Well, whether anyone gave you anything. Did people not give you food or clothing?**

**A: No. This I \_\_\_\_\_. There was no food at all and there was no question of food. Well and ... so I ran and ran in this direction -- I said to myself "Whereabouts can Bohemia be? -- or something . There you are, well. \_\_\_\_\_ I said to myself I've been to school [I've got my wits], "So I'm here." I said to myself. "I'll go this way." Well, and I chose the right way. And in the morning -- after that, by then I had clothes, see.**

**Q: How did you get them -- how did you get ...?**

**A: Well, I had to steal, see! I had to steal them. Well and ... I also took shoes. And they were too small for me, so I took those shoes under my arm. And I said to myself, and somewhere in the train. or somewhere I'll use them, I'll somehow put those shoes on for that moment. Well, and so I arrived in a kind of valley -- a kind of village that was spread across the valley -- a kind of settlement. Well, and hunger forced me to go to a farm. And a woman came out, so I asked her. She gave me a mug of coffee and bread. That woman -- the farmer. And I kept looking round -- and so I observed this and that, see. And I said, "Lady, whereabouts is the Czech frontier?" Well, I had to ask. And she said, "You cross that stream, see? And you're in Bohemia." So that was that. But ...**

**Q: And what language did you speak? Did she speak Polish?**

**A: Well that -- there -- in Trinec, see, in Trinec there -- there they speak Slo ... "slonsky" (ph)**

**Q: Slonzacky (ph)**

**A: Those people -- they are neither Czechs or Poles. So that we ... well.**

**Q: Understood each other.**

**A: ... understood each other. So then I hurried and arrived in Mistek Frydek. Don't forget -- I simply -- I didn't have money. I simply had no money, so I had to find some money to be able to travel home. And a woman met me ... a fairly young woman -- and as I said there were scattered houses, there were cottages here and there. And she met**

me, and she confused me with somebody. She said, "Mr, you no longer sell those things?" I caught on and said, "And what sort of things?" "Well sheets, you had feather beds and various kinds of things." "But Mrs, my wife is there," I said, "so I'll bring it round to you." I immediately like adapted to the situation. I went into that house -- a little way off -- that was directly like in that village and as I like looked around -- and a farmer was plowing -- and that house had like -- and he plowed his way off into the distance and back again, and like that. So I worked out when he moved away. And then I went into that house -- of course I had to smash the window. I climbed in. Well and there I saw -- a dead woman. That was his wife.

Q: And he didn't know?

A: Well, he couldn't. If he had seen me, then he would have caught me!

Q: No. that the woman is dead.

A: What?

Q: That the woman is dead.

A. Well, he knew that she ... That was the custom in those days that she lay at home three days. Yeah, that was the sort of custom that she was at home three days and the they buried her after ... after three days. It wasn't like it is nowadays. And I pulled off everything I could. Well and I took it -- I made it into a bundle. And as she \_\_\_\_\_, I went a roundabout way and I sold it to her. I got 70 ... 70 marks. In those days German marks. Well, and I got to Mistek Frydek and I bought a ticket. Well and I put on my shoes -- small shoes -- I had working clothes. I even had a sort of bag. I had a piece of bread there. And I sat down in the train going to Prerov. Prerov and Nezamyslice and here ... from that side to my village. And I sat down in that ... in that ... in that carriage and by coincidence -- there were three policemen sitting there. Ours.

Q: Who knew you?

A: I -- no, they couldn't have known me.

Q: No.

A: Normal policemen. Czech ... Czech people, yeah. Now I got on. So as not to arouse attention I sat down, pulled out my bread and began to eat. Simply casually. It was all so -- how should I say -- such

pretence that I'm good and I don't know what else. And in the end when we were about half way he began to ask me where I work, what do I do and so on. And I did not know the mines, but once I had heard the name of a mine -- what was it called --and by chance that fitted in, that I work in this pit, that I'm on holiday and am going home. And he like swallowed this story. I got out at Nezamyslice ... in Nezamyslice I got off, because there is no train to our village. Well and from there I went along a field path and past the railway track home. Our little shack was like in the country -- how should I say, yeah. The shack that my parents had was out beyond the village. Yeah, it was a little way beyond the cemetery. Well, and on the way -- I had to cross a path -- I met a friend of mine ... and -- he was called -- well, it doesn't matter. And now -- he was a farmer, yeah -- and ...

Q: Also a Rom?

A; No, no. A normal fellow. He met me there and -- fellows -- we used to play football -- I used to play with them and so on. I was an excellent football player. So that I mixed well with those boys. I've got a photograph here. I'll show it to you afterwards. I was 18. And he says, "Franta, don't go there. They've put a price on your head, they are offering lots of money!" That's how he said it to me. Well, I said "That's a fine thing!" Well, for all that I went home. Well and my mother was distressed. The sisters were still like at home. Then they all moaned. So I stayed for about two days. That is -- that's called clay. There they dug ocher which people use for making bricks -- they like used it.. They called them adobe bricks.

Q: That ocher -- that place where you had that cottage?

A: Well, a little way from that house. But there was a good view from all sides. There I like stayed. Several times my mother brought me food and so on. Well, but then I said -- I know what, I said that I was like going away so that by chance ... they like would not catch me. And we knew full well what the Germans do when someone escaped. And they catch the parents and I don't know who else. As a punishment and I don't know what else -- they shoot and so on. And that's how it was -- that after that I went to Cilky. Cilky is also in Moravia

Q: And what was it called? Cilky?

**A: Pardon?**

**Q: What was it called?**

**A: Cilky.**

**Q: Cilky.**

**A: Cilky. That is a kind of slightly larger village. And Roma worked there. There they worked, they worked on the road and they quarried stones and pounded them -- and those stones to ...macadamize.**

**Yeah. Those are kind of small pebbles -- simply from the large stones you make small ones. And ...**

**Q: Crushed stones**

**A: And then... you put that ... crushed stones are something different. Crushed stones are big ones. First you put crushed stones and then you put macadam on the roads. So I then joined them, somehow ... lived with them. My sister Stefka with her husband were also there. So that we were there for a time. Well, and I used to go and play football there, and so on. And that was in ... 42 .....**

**Q: For about how long were you there?**

**A; Well, I was there about ... I don't know .. a good three months. I was there like three months. And at the same time I like -- used to go home, well of course. And ... after those three months, that was in May -- in May or so**

**Q: In which year?**

**A: In '42, '42. It was like -- in the time of the assassination of Henrich.**

**Q: Of Heidrich.**

**A: Right. And as I was going to the village a cop -- a policeman caught me. That was like -- that's what they called the gendarme. So he seized me and said, "Come with me!" He was kind of rough, so I said, I was -- I was mighty strong, mighty strong. I says to myself what can he do to me like. I'll go with him, I'll see what happens. And I thought well I'll simply kill him there, or what do I know, and then I'll run for it. And so in ... in that office, which he had, there was nobody, only him and me. And he asked me about everything. Where am I from. Well, so I lied as much as I could. I didn't tell him the truth. "What are you doing here" I said, "Look here, I .. I am a student." I was well dressed, I got all those -- good clothes. And I said, I'm studying. I had been to a junior high school, so I was well spoken.**

And he swallowed it all. And then he said, "Son, do you know there's been an assassination and they can shoot you!" I said, "I know." But I said, "If you're good, you'd let me go!" That's what I said to him. Well, and he said, "Well, I'll let you go. But on condition that I never saw you if someone else catches you. Then you say that you haven't seen anybody." I said, "I ask you, I'm going to tell somebody that you caught me?" I said. "I'll go away!" Well and that's what happened.

\_\_\_\_\_. Well, and after the war I searched for him -- at Cilky. I searched for him when we came back, see.

Q: And did you find him?

A: No, I didn't find him.

Q: Did you know his name?

A: No, no, no. I could only say how ... how then ... what he looked like. And I didn't find him.

A man: I'll stop now, OK? Because I must put in a new tape ...

End of tape 1 of 8

Tape 2 of 8

A man: I'm starting.

Q: So you talked about that policeman, that in the end he let you go.

A: He let me go, yeah.

Q: That you agreed that you won't say anything, that he had arrested you.

A: Yes, yes, yes, yeah. Well and so I was happy that it worked out that way.

Q: And where did you go?

A: I still had \_\_\_\_\_ I had my sister there. As I said before. I had my sister and brother-in-law. They were still working there -- like on that road.

Q: So you went back there?

A: Yeah. I went back there. There were pretty girls there, so I -- not that I would be coarse, well but I \_\_\_\_\_

Q: Nothing human -- nothing -- nothing human was alien to you.

A: Speak up.

Q: Nothing human was alien to you.

A: No. I just had fun. Then I went in for a lot of sport, you see. So that

like I didn't have ... have thoughts for any wild affairs.

Q: Well, and tell me, where did you live when you were on those road works?

A: They had sort of ... sort of a house. It was -- it was in the village. And there each of us had a little room like. There were about .. three or four families. That was a family "Osvetiman" (ph), yeah a family from Velehrad. But all like -- well simply acquaintances.

Q: And how did you get your food? Who -- did you cook yourselves?

A: Yeah, there we normally bought things on ration cards -- then there were ration cards.

Q: And you had ration cards? Since you had no documents?

A: Well, I didn't, I didn't. But they did. They, as long as they were at home -- every morning two coupons and one clothing coupon.

Q: So they actually supported you with those rations -- you gave them money.

A: Well, I was a sort of \_\_\_\_\_, see. I after all had friends -- I had friends here from you, like yes and they helped me a lot. They like helped. And there was one girl, she was deaf and dumb, but she was very pretty, very pretty.

Q: And they helped even gypsies?

A: Yeah, they helped me too/ They gave me money. And most of all this girl helped me. I was very sorry for her -- but pretty, really pretty.

Q: She probably liked you, didn't she?

A: Sorry?

Q: She probably liked you?

A: Well, yes, maybe. I can't say so now, but like yes. And I always gave her flowers. I even brought her flowers home/ Simply I sort of -- well she was deaf and dumb. Well, and in the end it worked out that I traveled home. That is to say I didn't travel, but I went on foot. That is about ... 40 kilometers to our village. A good 40. But I went across fields, and so on. But I like should add -- I would not have gone home. But there was a farmer and he was carting a pig. The pig was huge. It had a head like that. And it was already scalded. Scalded. And he was taking it -- like to the forest. But there was a good view of that forest, see. And I said ... said, "He is carting something," I say, "To be buried". \_\_\_\_\_



**Q: So you think the pig was sick?**

**A: Well, I'll tell you. And now -- I told my sister and my sister said, "Yeah, that'll be it. We'll keep an eye on him." And now we watched and he threw the pig down, he buried it a little and drove off. And we, behind his back, again quickly dug it out and took it. That pig was clean. Shaven like. Without bristles. And I said, "Good gracious, that chap is crazy!" I said, "A scalded pig. In such times!" But his wife - I learnt that later, his wife -- he would have eaten it, but his wife didn't want it. That farmer's wife did not want it, see. And we like -- had a good feast. Very good. And I had such a huge ... such a .. . it looked like a sheet and I tied the meat in it and went on foot with that meat home.**

**Q: So that you went home so that you could take meat to your mother?**

**A: Right. I got there in the evening, it was already getting dark. Well and we cooked it immediately. You know, we were hungry. For they really did not have anything to eat, so it was a God send for them.**

**Q: Mr Daniel, how long did you take to go those 40 -- how long did it take you to cover those 40 kilometers?**

**A: Well -- I don't know -- I left in the morning, I arrived at night. I rested. Well, it was simply 40 kilometers. Well I didn't go directly, but I had to avoid the villages. You see, so that they wouldn't see what I was carrying. And simply so that they would not stop me ... some cop or someone like that. Well, but I got home. So my mother was pleased to see me and she said, "For Heaven's sake, don't show yourself here, or they'll shoot you." And so the next day I went to that place to dig ocher, as I told you earlier. And I was very careful so they would not catch me, and I also looked after my mother. And such a drummer, who announced news, yeah -- he was a kind of cop and two Germans came -- came from the village. Two Germans.**

**Q: They came to that ocher place?**

**A: To our place, into our house.**

**Q: Into your house.**

**A: Yeah. And I was -- as I told you -- in the ocher place. Well and there was a good view. You would really have to see the lie of the land there. And I could see how they were arguing. In the end they**

took my sister and mother. They took them.

Q: And what did they say?

A: Sorry?

Q: What did they say?

A: Well, they didn't say where I was or --or said they didn't know.

Q: No, what did they say when they took ...

A: Because of me.

Q: I see.

A: It was because of me. That was because of me. The one that took my mother was called Vasina, the local policeman. He knew us well. He knew us very well.

Q: And he knew you had been there?

A: No, no, no. He knew when -- they were going -- and I immediately came after them and I said, "Mr Vasina, what's up?" "Well, They want to shoot your mother and sister because of you." I said, "I'll go with you and tell them that it is, that it's me." And so -- really it happened that way -- it was about one kilometer -- well, maybe -- maybe it was even two kilometers, yeah, in all from Chvalkovice to the Ivanovsky crossroads. And there's a cemetery there -- a Jewish cemetery. And there they wanted to shoot them. Well, but that Vasina intervened \_\_\_\_he simply intervened and said, "Leave them alone, please. He just came down, so I caught him." Well and they talked among themselves. Well in the end they actually caught the guilty one. So they let the innocent ones go home. My mother cried. She knew full well what would happen to me. And I also knew what was going to happen to me. That they would simply hang me. There at the place where I had escaped. In that camp. There, whoever escaped, they hanged everyone of them. So, they caught me and I was in Vyskov. In Vyskov in the prison. But that was the time ... the time of that Henrich, as I said, yeah.

Q: The persecution time after Heidrich's assassination, wasn't it?

A: Yeah, that was the time. And I was there. I and some girls. But very young girls. They were all the type that -- of vagrant folk -- they simply did not have identity cards, they had no way of identifying themselves. So they caught them and put them in prison. But ...

Q: Into the town -- into the town prison?

**A: That was ...**

**Q: Yeah.**

**A: ... a normal prison like. There was a district court and a prison nearby. You could see -- you could see into the street. We had a view of the street and so we could, for instance, observe visitors and the like. But among ... among these people where I was and some of those girls and so on, there were farmers. Farmers, butchers ... simply the type that slaughtered illegally. Or they did not report having the meat, see. Or there was some bad testimony or something. And these people ... and there were, in my opinion, about 20 of that sort of people there. And one woman. And we knew that shooting was going on each and every day. In that prison there was a cupboard -- and sand. They put them in the cupboard and shot, yeah.**

**Q: So that without a trial.**

**A: That ... that was the law of that Henrich, whoever committed some kind of offense and I don't know what. Everything was stricter, so that they could, the police -- the policemen -- not policemen, but SS -- could do what ever they liked, simply like that. It was against ...**

**Q: The laws.**

**A: ... against the Reich, so they shot. And I was -- I and one other .. and we signed our names on the wall there. In that prison we signed our names on that wall. So that we knew exactly who was there or what we knew and so on. And in the evening we sang the anthem. We sang the anthem every day. And the one who locked us up was Czech, see. Well, after all we did this sort of thing. And that man had a son. He could have been about 10. And he threw us a rope. A really long rope. And he made it longer \_\_\_\_ like this and people tied on it cigarettes, so that we could pull it up, you know. So that I remember clearly, what ... what it was like in that prison. Well they let me go and said, "You're the youngest, you're going to be a trusty." But for about two or three days. So I was a trusty and I took a bucket and went off. But I was glad to be a trusty, because I wanted to see that girl that attracted me and I her -- she was like next door. And so we like called to each other, "I love you, I kiss you." Well, all kinds of silly things, see. And I wanted to know what she looked like. And --**

well her name -- she told me her name, Vendulka, yeah. Vendulka, Vendulka. And I had a pencil and \_\_\_\_\_ well sharpened into a square shape and as I was doing that corridor I managed to slightly pry open that small peep hole and so I had a look at her. But she then knew, so she put the little door back in place. That ... screw, then put me back. He changed the trusty. It was 11 o'clock, it was 11 o'clock and the end of martial law. They ended martial law. I came before the court, see. Well and I told my story of what and how. And so he said, "You are very lucky that martial law ends at 11 o'clock. And it is now after 11, so you are saved. So go home." Well, and I stood there stunned, when somebody says to you go home, in such a situation, like what I was in -- it was unbelievable. And he gave me a direct kick. So as he kicked me then I \_\_\_\_\_ so that I would go. But in front of that prison, close by the steps these two were already waiting for me. These here ...

Q: Policemen?

A: Well, they were like ours, but with ... in German uniforms like. And they took me to \_\_\_\_\_ to Brno. So I was there \_\_\_\_\_ in Brno. Of course they asked me questions, the commander came and asked me from where I had escaped and so on. He began to question me. That is to say I was supposed to confess. It wasn't for him to talk, but me. And I said, "Look here -- so he began to question, "Where have you been?. Well, and I said, "Well, where have I been? I was sent to work," I said. I did not say that I was a criminal or the like. I said \_\_\_\_\_ "I was at work, I worked. Well, and I wanted to see my mother, " I said, "so I went home, see." That was all I could say. So they then beat me -- well I got a good thrashing, simply. And then they put me into a Czech -- that was a

Czech prison. And I had such a little cell -- about as big as this one. It was a solitary. No blanket, nothing at all. There was just a bunk. That is a bunk -- that's a wooden kind of bed, see, with nothing whatsoever. And so -- that was not all that important. I only wondered how and what -- how this would work out or where to go. And there was a Czech there ... old, simply one who handed out bread, breakfast, see and so on. And they all called him -- I heard them say that -- Dad. But very -- that meant that he was very kind, that one policeman. He was very kind. Well, I was there about ... for a good 2 months. I was there from 2 to 3 months and until ... until 5 August like. Well and there -- at ... the management was Zajic and Here ... Here -- what was his name? Herz. And he was simply in charge of these here gypsies and their liquidation. And Zajic also. He was a Czech from Vyskov. And he simply like -- simply liquidated it. He wrote -- say I don't know -- this village or that one and so and so many people, and so on. That was the main liquidation. This meant that my mother and the entire family were taken to that -- to that slaughter house in Brno and transported to Birkenau. They were transported. And so practically there were really few places in Moravia where there were any Roma left.

Q: And how did you find out, when did you ...

A: Sorry?

Q: How did you find out that they had been transported?

A: How did I find out? I simply -- found out like later.

Q: Later.

A: But I am saying in advance, how it was then. I found out later. And I was supposed to be taken back to Trinec. And this Her Her -- Zajic came to me and said, "So what? Will you go? he began to laugh, he demonstrated how I was going to swing, see and so on. And I said, "Mr Zajic that won't do. I'm young," I said, "I want to live and so on," to make an impression on him. And in addition my eldest sister was ... my eldest sister, with my brother-in-law, Ruzickova, were still free. And they lived at Slatina (ph) in Brno. And she used to bring me a little cabbage, dumplings, well and those sort of trifles. And they also came to visit me. And she said, "Look here, he fishes for gold ... He fishes for gold. Maybe we can get you out of here." Like that Zajic

like -- was supposed to accept gold. So I said, "Well, that's good. At least I would get home or out somewhere ... out. So that I wouldn't go there." And one day, it was getting on in the evening the door opens. And he says, "Come on!" I was a hefty man -- I had -- enormous strength, as I said -- I had enormous strength. I went onto that court yard and there was a Black Maria. That's a car. And I was supposed to take a chap from that Black Maria on my shoulders and carry to my room. My cell. He was a German. He had a swastika, like here. I saw he was stone drunk \_\_\_\_\_. There was a drunk tank there as well. And as I was carrying him on my shoulder I felt with my hands that he had a watch. So I said to myself, "I'm going to need that watch." You know. And he didn't seem to me to be that clever at that. And before I managed to carry him to the cell, I simply filched the watch. And I put him down on the floor, like. He couldn't sleep on the bed. I slept on the bed. I was the boss there, wasn't I. And he slept on the floor. I threw him on the ground, especially as he was a German. After a while Herec arrived.

Q: Herz.

A: And he began to shout, see. He swore in German and so on. And so he \_\_\_\_\_. Yeah, "Take hold of him!" So I lifted him again and I went with him to ... to such -- I don't know what you call it -- some kind of bathroom or what it was supposed to be. And there was this shower. And he began to squirt at him. You know, I was glad that he was giving him this shower. He was a German -- the Devil ... the Devil take him. Well, so we got hold of him. And he began shouting, "Meine, meine Mutter! Meine Mutter!" [My Mother, My Mother] and so on. At that the door opened and that -- the one they called Dad came in. And he says, "What is he on about?" And I says "He's swearing at you." He like, didn't know a word of German., so I lied as much as I could. Simply that ... I'll give him what for. He took a bucket of water and poured it over him. I poured water over him in our room. It was full of red earth, you know. I had had a proper dip in it. Well, and in the morning Herz arrived and took off that head gear, and like wanted to give it to him. As a German he was a disgrace, and he was a factory owner manufacturing shoes. That Dad told me that. Well in the morning he went out and I was scared stiff. I had that watch --

and immediately I put it --- into such a ... such a \_\_\_\_\_ ... it was like a lavatory. There were only boards -- well and there was a hideout, they called it. So I took the watch, had a look at the trademark "Atana" (ph), gold. So I made a hole here. And in between the lining. I shoved it in there and I also went to wind it up, so that I'd know what the time is, just for fun. So I had this watch, but I was really scared. There was no mention of the watch. Nothing at all. He didn't even know whether he had had the watch at all. And I was able to look out onto the court yard and I saw Roma -- Roma. There were about four of them. About four. A few of those Roma and girls that I knew. With children -- a year-old child. And then they shoved them off to Auschwitz. And after about two days they called me -- Zajic and he says, "So what?" I says, "But I have a large family in Hodoninek." And Hodoninek already functioned, see. Hodoninek. That camp. A man \_\_\_\_\_ You can go on.

A: The Roma were in Hodoninek and I had my family there. You know the Daniel family were all over Moravia. Daniel and Daniel and boy and girl cousins. That was terrible. In actual fact that was the only family in Moravia. The Hroneks and Daniels. And I says, "If you sent me to Hodoninek, I have a large family there." I says, "I would give you something as well." I saw that he was falling for that gold.

Q: You said that to Zajic?

A: To Zajic -- yeah. Well, so I -- I says "Look here, I've got a watch. It's an inheritance from my father. I'll give it to you. And you send me there." And that decided everything. I took out the watch and he was completely -- like a fool. "You know what, I'll send you to Hodoninek." To Hodoninek. So I got a hunch that I was going to be saved. And the next day I watched from the window of the manager's office how they took the women and that child -- I don't quite know how many of them there were. I can't say. One -- some of them left for Aus -- for Auschwitz, to Birkenau. In about two hours a second car arrived. And there from Oslavany -- I no longer know -- Daniels were there too.

Q: But you did not know that they were going to Auschwitz?

A: No. I couldn't know that, but I found out ...

Q: Afterwards.

**A: ... afterwards. As I said, in advance, like it was.**

**Q: Yes.**

**A: Well, and there the second car was ready. And I says, "Well, that means Hodoninek." The door opens -- and everything was packed -- and Herz -- Zajic and the door opens, "Come on, Daniel." So into that car. "Sit down." So I sat down. And we're off to Hodoninek. So then I breathed a sigh of relief, well I was saved. So that I arrived in Hodoninek in front ... in front of the gateway. And Vyroba (ph) was there. Vyroba -- well, a guard, yeah. And that ... that**

**Q: Wait. A guard was on watch, who ...**

**A: There were Czech guards there.**

**Q: And his name was Vyroba.**

**A: And his name was Vyroba, yeah. Vyroba welcomed everyone with a slap on the face. He was perhaps a pervert who hit people and got a kick out of it. And when we arrived Herz says, "Be off." So I went, I said goodbye to him, and he added in a low voice that I should keep quiet. Vyroba wanted to slap me and Herz -- Zajic says, "No, no. He's a craftsman. He's excellent. He's been to school." He simply began to praise me, that I'm something better. Like intelligent and so on. So that Vyroba did not slap me. We got into the cloakroom. There I changed clothes for -- there were uniforms, black uniforms -- they were still those cast off from those prisoners and those who were there for forced labor. Leggings -- simply military ... military -- A1 clothes they were. To be thrown away. So we put on those clothes, we changed, and I went of to block one. And it was supper time and I was like without food, but at supper you got a mug and a kind of card. That was before -- like before -- how should I say ...**

**Q: In those uniforms**

**A: ... when you got that clothing. It was a kind of card and I lost that card. I did not know what it was for, simply as I went along I lost it. And we went for that supper. Supper meant that you like stood in line. In line, one behind the other, everyone had to be silent.**

**Prisoners -- prisoners were on guard. These Roma. Yeah, there were sergeants, privates, lance corporals and I think corporals. They were**

**...**

**Q: So that there was a kind of military organization?**



**A:** That was ... an internal -- kind of guards or like kind of orderlies. Well and I went to get supper. Well, and I was getting close to the one doling out and that Weber (ph) stood there like -- he stood there and he was supposed to ...

**Q:** Check the card.

**A:** Right. And he says, "Where's your card? I says, "I haven't got one." He hit me so hard ... slapped me hard so that I felt sick. And I had that mug wrapped up like this. And I looked at him and I wanted to repay him with that mug. But it was just as well that I calmed down. I was ever so quick tempered in those days. And I went to that pad without supper. Supper had been distributed when \_\_\_\_\_. I didn't hear, but the people there, the Roma, heard Vyroba shouting, "Call that Hungarian!" They didn't know that I was a Rom, they thought I was Hungarian. And so they came to fetch me. "You Hungarian, you're supposed to go there, Vyroba is calling you." So I went \_\_\_\_\_. I didn't know why they were calling me. Without a mug. He gave me a look, and says "Now, don't you want food?" I says, "No-o." And all I did was to give him a look, simply like quick tempered. And he says, "Give him. Lend him a mug, give him supper." He gave me supper (laughter) -- I don't even remember what it was. Well it was groats. Mostly they cooked groats and the like. But it was good. And so I ate. Well, and I went to work.

**Q:** Now you could tell me what it was like in Hodoninek?

**A:** Well, what was it like in Hodoninek. There was ... there was one block for single people. For those who did not have wives. Next to it was a second block, where there were younger folk who had wives, see.

**Q:** And children?

**A:** And children. And the third block was -- there. there were like people who were cobblers, they repaired shoes, mended clothes, women, yeah, And they slept there and there were mattresses. It was on the whole large. And they simply slept there. Those cobblers and seamstresses worked there; well and they also ... slept there. Below that there was a sickroom, where -- Vyroba was in charge of that sickroom.

**Q:** Was there a doctor there?

**A: Pardon?**

**Q: If there was a medical man? A doctor?**

**A: I'll get to ... There was. While I'm speaking about ..**

**Q: That sickbay.**

**A: ... about that sickbay, there was a doctor Miler (ph) there. From Prague and Vyboldo (ph), see.**

**Q: And who?**

**A: A doctor. He was a Jew, see.**

**Q: Yes.**

**A: And he was called Vyboldo (ph). So he was there. Miler was of small build. Well, what he was practically able to do he did for people. Because he knew that ... this awaited him. He knew that full well. Well, and I in the meanwhile , as I said ...**

**Q: Still -- were there many sick people there? Were there many ill people?**

**A: Well, at that time there were not like to many ill people. When I came there, it wasn't that bad. We'll get to that. To those illnesses, too. And I then went to do this work. And there were girls there - 13, 14 year olds. They were very badly dressed. As I was saying and so on.**

**Q: And what sort of work did you do there?**

**A: That was a road. Simply breaking down that hill. There was a huge hill and we had to break it down to enable them to drive easily etc. It wasn't a highway, but ...**

**Q: A road.**

**A: ... a modern -- a modern road. See. It was very steep and I was the first. Like to the end. I was the first up and the last down. And so I took those girls from the family. I felt sorry for them and I took that cart and pushed it, I was as strong as an ox, there was no question of being tired. And I knew how to load that cart and how to swindle. Yeah, I put all kinds of boards, I camouflaged it in all sorts of ways, I covered them with earth and the cart was like full. In fact it was half empty. I knew how to do it very well. And so we all used to run the carts down the hill -- and we used wooden planks to brake -- I had to brake the carts. The carts ran down on the rails. Well, and there we overturned them. Then we went back. Like everyone had to overturn**

the carts and go back.

**Q:** And the children went with you?

**A:** ... They had to. The girls worked normally like me, see. But not, like -- I ask you what could a girl do? Not this. So that I did this work. I knew how to cheat. And ... about the second day ... or maybe the third day he noticed. I must tell you, see. I must tell you about those guards. Lablo, Fasi (ph) and one other got there. Maybe that \_\_\_ I've forgotten his name. They were Germans, soldiers. And since the Germans ... couldn't stand gypsies who were supposed to be soldiers, so they liquidated them. No matter whether he was good or bad, they liquidated them. They let them go home or sent them to camps. And here these three were assigned to be supervisors. You know, like.

**Q:** So they were German Roma.

**A:** Yeah, Roma. German Roma and they were supposed to supervise. Well, so I must like mention that they were Germans. They were dressed for the job. Dashers. And as I was going downhill with that cart, I overturned it and I was like waiting. And he came up to me that -- yeah, Hazl (ph) was his name -- write it down so that I don't forget his name -- Hazl. We'll get round to that too. And he comes up to me (coughs). He had a kind of stick, a proper birch. And he went like that at me.

**Q:** He shoved it at you.

**A:** Yeah. So he goes for me. And he says, "You'll go to that cart!:" He said like that. And he had girls there who he wanted to make love to or simply he wanted to have something with them ... simply an affair or something of the kind, yeah. So he wanted to protect them and that I should do the work instead of them. And when he did that to me, there was that slope there, about ... a 15 meter slope. I hit him and sent him flying down. And, mark you, it was like a muddy pillow, you know. The earth was kind of soggy. When he came up I couldn't recognize him. And so I said I'll give another on that hill. That means on that hillside -- which we were cutting down, so there was this slope and below it the state security [a communist term, he probably means SS] were patrolling, yeah, they were

**Q:** Guards.

**A: Those were the supervisors ... and they put Roma as the other supervisors -- there on that road ... There in that place. And he was called -- that policeman -- Novak. I remember him very well. And he says to me, "You! Go and report!" He says to me. I says, "Yeah!" Well, that was like this (laughter). And I knew full well what that meant. They simply hit, beat us. Well, so I went up the hill and I was sort of -- sort of wild with anger and so on. And so I didn't even know how full that cart was and he gave me a look and says, come closer to me and he says, "Now report! And when you beat him, then beat him until he's blind." You know, that's what he said to me. So I says, "A pity I didn't strangle him." That is a shame. Well, I couldn't. Well, that's what happened.**

**A man: Wait, I'll stop the recording.**

**End of tape 2 of 8**

**Tape 3 of 8**

**A man: I'm ready. You can go on.**

**A: Well, as I said, it was really a good thing that I didn't have to go to that roll call. That I didn't have to report. The shift was over and after the shift we could go to the huts. Each to his family. There were no restrictions. That camp was fairly easy going.**

**Q: But you had to line up for the roll call?**

**A: Well, we had the roll call so that they could count us, how many people -- simply how many people were in the camp, see. That meant how many in the work force and that included women and children. That's how they counted it, that's how it was.**

**Q: And how often did you have a roll call?**

**A: There was a roll call everyday. Everyday.**

**Q: Once?**

**A: Twice a day.**

**Q: Twice.**

**A: Then -- immediately after the roll call it was off to work. That was like each and every day.**

**Q: So that there was a roll call before work and on return to the**

camp.

**A:** On returning to camp. And well, so I simply went to my sleeping quarters. I was there ... say two hours and a sergeant came to fetch me. Murka was his name.. Well, "You are supposed to go to such and such a place," simply. Well, there was a kind of a room there where sergeants and corporals had their dormitories. But what was important that the firing squad was there. And they simply judged and they slept there. And I arrived there. There was a bench ready. And I stood by the door -- like in that direction. And he began to lay it on. It was ... well, it was Daniel, but I no longer remember his name. So you've committed something, that I got hold of such a ... a kind of a chief of the camp, that I slapped him in the face and so on. Simply what happened there, he reminded me of it. And then, "What do you have to say?" Like to the younger sergeant, see. Bok was there, Karel Bok, he was one of those sergeants. A bunch of riffraff they were. So he measured 50. The one to carry it out will be that ... one of them, also such a ... a private. And so I stood at that door, there was a stove there, and by the stove there was a poker. So I took hold of it, and by then the light was on -- and I hit the light with the poker and began to go wild with that poker, see. So I damaged a lot of things that they had there. And in the end I left \_\_\_\_\_. But they also ran down and reported that ... reported to one of the -- he was a commander -- not commander, but deputy commander of that camp. But he was not good. He was never good.

**Q:** A German?

**A:** What?

**Q:** A German?

**A:** No. He was Czech. A Czech. And me -- a Daniel yeah -- A Hungarian, me a Hungarian. "So call him and give him a few whacks." And Novak will supervise. That was -- that was that Novak who was like a police constable, like. I goes there and take a look at him, so I take a look at that private -- he had a kind of proper stick. He says, "So lie down." So I lay down and Novak says to that sergeant, "If he gets to feel it, then you'll catch it. You'll cop it from him." You know, I had such luck that I really escaped those 50 beatings. He gave --- he did it like this -- he simply hit me one blow,

like the last. Well, and it was over. I thanked him, yeah and so on. He knew my father -- and he knew my mother.

Q: That Novak?

A; That Novak. He used to be -- maybe before we were born -- he was in that village a long time ago -- like I say -- well that --it is -- it's a little way from Vyskov. So I thanked him and went off. Well and ... that story spread and so on.

Q: Mr Daniel, tell us something about the military organization, a kind of self-administration you mentioned. Do you hear me?

A: Yeah.

Q: Now how was it? They were Roma? And which of them?

A: Well, that was ...

Q; And how did they behave?

A: Well, I wanted to tell you -- the local -- kind of local ...

Q: Self-administration.

A: ... that self-administration -- they were Roma. Mostly Roma such -- a little German-- they were kind of Sudeten Germans. The declared themselves to be Germans. They always said they were Germans. They boasted, like Czech Roma. ... that they are something better than Moravian Roma. Well this went on day after day. And in the end Vyroba -- this guard -- typhoid began to spread.

Q: That was typhoid fever or typhus?

A: Well I think it was typhoid fever or diarrhea and so on. Well, simply typhoid fever or whatever it was, it was really bad. Because they complained of pains in the stomach and were all bent. Some died. They were all bent -- that means with pain ... they died in pain. And now those corporals and sergeants had to move from those -- their hut and it was turned into a "krankebau" (ph), Yeah, they simply turned into like a hospital. That means that there really was typhoid there. And they called me and said -- and one other fellow -- "You are going to -- are not going to go to work, but you'll stay here in this sickroom." This means bringing food here. Clean. And of course we had to carry away the buckets.

Q: And help the sick.

A: And help the sick. So I said to myself, "Well, I'll go there and that's that." So I brought them food ... food and so. But in the

meanwhile -- as I am saying all this -- Vyroba went out -- well went out, well -- had an affair with Kveta. She was a Rom -- that is a "dzaj" (ph), see -- and he had an affair with her. I caught him -- I caught him many times. And so once, as I was going for medicaments -- I knew Kveta earlier ... when we were free, yeah, we were like friends. And she was about my age -- probably the same age. And her mother -- and I knew her mother when I was free -- they had been at our place, so that we knew each other well. And she said to me, "Look here, if by any chance they should ask you whether you like me, then say no." I says, "Why?" "He's jealous." And I says, "That's bad." And so once I was going for medicaments and \_\_\_\_ and there was \_\_\_\_ like for sick people -- when they lie down, yeah -- a stretcher. And I saw how he jumped up and like tidied himself up ...

Q: \_\_\_\_\_

A: \_\_\_\_\_ well, you could say it like that. And he like did that and I like saw him, but I went to the cupboard -- there was such a cupboard there -- and like that I'm taking the medicaments and like that I didn't notice anything at all. Or that I knew anything. And he came up to me, "Sit down." So I sat down, he gave me Zorka (ph), a cigarette -- and began to be kind of sweet with me, you know -- he talked like that, see -- and he says, "And what do you say, do you like Kveta?" I says, "What did you say?" "Well, whether you like Kveta?" I said, "'Good Gracious, I ask you! What is there to see in her," I says, "'She's a curse! Skinny!." I says, "Like that," I says. "I, if ever," I says, "I take a woman, I says, "she has to be like this!" I said the opposite of everything. The opposite. And that made him ... that simply -- so to say -- like ...happy and he didn't have to be afraid that I would like ... \_\_\_\_\_

Q: That you would take over.

A: Yes. Or that I would simply poke fun -- and I could do something in secret, see. He had such a bee in his bonnet. Well, I like -- as I said -- went to that sick room, to look after the sick.

Q: But tell me -- so you -- there was a kitchen there? And who did the cooking?

A: Well, by comparison with other camps -- by comparison with other camps ... it was fairly decent.

**Q: And did prisoners cook there?**

**A: They cooked there -- they cooked there for the children -- how do you say -- some kind of flakes. You know, it's ... it's from oats, some kind of oats.**

**Q: Porridge oats.**

**A: Right, for those children.**

**Q: Porridge.**

**A: It was fairly filling and they had food. It was a kind of porridge. Well, and horse meat, dehydrated meat, and they mixed it with cabbage. Like Szegedin goulash. And there we also had some of those beetles or caterpillars.**

**Q: And did the prisoners do the cooking?**

**A: Yeah. There were -- there were Roma there. And there was one there -- he was called Chromy. And he only had one leg, and he was bouncy, high spirited. A first class devil! And he served there with the Roma. And he also took as his wife a cook there -- well and simply -- well a cook. But he didn't have to. She came from Kyjov. She maybe is still alive. So she stuck with him and she was bouncy too. She wasn't good there. When she had time she also thrashed with a stick people who stood there waiting for dinner or supper. And once it so happened to me that I was standing in line -- there were maybe a total of 12 hundred ... 12 or 13 hundred Roma there.**

**Q: And there were no others there?**

**A: Pardon?**

**Q: Other prisoners -- other nationalities?**

**A: No, no, no. There were just two, who were like, who were like -- they were practically like civilians. Only two- \_\_\_\_\_ and that there Chromy. And I was standing in line and beside me, about the third in line there was a woman from Hradiste and she had that ... she simply didn't have a leg and she had a kind of wooden, a kind of ...**

**Q: An artificial leg.**

**A: ... a stick, stick, see. A kind of artificial one, yeah. And she must have swayed. She could not keep standing for long because it hurt her. It was simply not well made. So she simply began to sway and so on that Murka -- there is the evidence, the evidence in that book, in that novel. There that by \_\_\_\_\_ I know that. Only we looked for him**



there and couldn't find him anywhere. Not that we would have taken him to court, but we would have beaten him up. I looked for him several times.

Q: And what did he do?

A: And Murka stood on that hill -- like that -- so that he like saw the whole line. And she like swayed, maybe she said something and he simply went and hit her with that stick. And that woman fell. I had a mug, I hit him -- like that in like this direction -- with that mug in his face, so that he had a nose like a cucumber. You know, he bled from the nose and so on. So ... immediately detention. Immediately, immediately I had to go down and sit on the bench instead of supper. Well and they gave me a few on \_\_\_\_\_. But I didn't care. For I was pretty tough. And I simply knew that there was no use crying or shouting. That wasn't my style. And I told him that as soon as I get out and if I see that day that I'll chop off his head. That's what I told him. But I haven't caught him yet. He was very careful to avoid Roma. And he used to live at ... Gottwaldov [Zlin] and thereabouts. And then the commander found out ... the commander of the camp -- I've also forgotten his name -- an excellent, a good chap -- he did not take any notice of Roma. And he -- the Rom girl was from Hradiste -- and she used to go to him -- I found out that later from her. And he liked her very much, like a sort of you know. And he found out. So he then ordered him to get 50 beatings, That Murka. So that we were even. Well and there was a morgue there beside the stable. There was a stable and there was a Daniel -- they were all Daniels, see -- and he used to fetch bread from the village. Well, and of course he always brought some bread and began to black-marketer with it, and so on.

Q: And did many people die of typhoid?

A: Well, they did die there and all of them -- well plenty of them died. But ...they buried people -- that is dead people -- in that village there.

Q: In the local cemetery, you say?

A: Yes, in the local cemetery. Since there were afterwards more and more dead, they then dug \_\_\_\_\_ in that camp, a few meters from the fence in the forest, a hole -- with an excavator or with something they dug a long ... a long kind of shaft -- they called it -- and there they

simply put them in paper -- I was there about twice -- I was there twice and on the other days I didn't go there. They wrapped them in kind of wrapping paper like they used for blackouts during the German occupation, kind of stronger paper and used string to tie them up, well and they took them -- on those planks, well and carried them there, put them in, covered them with earth into that \_\_\_\_\_. And so slowly the numbers increased, yeah. Well and covered it with earth and so it went on. And Kveta acted as a priest. She had a prayer book and began to speak there, she acted out such a ceremony, yea. And Vyroba was like -- simply accompanied -- always, so that the prisoners would not escape, so he accompanied -- and back again.

Q: And were you allowed to go to the burial? Were you allowed to go to that funeral?

A: Well, when it was like a whole family we could, we could. The next of kin could go there. Well, because it was all just beyond the camp. And as far as the village was concerned, well just the mother or a few of those people who had to carry that coffin there. They had to carry the coffin. I remember -- how I carried ...

Q: The coffin? You said they wrapped them in paper?

A: At first, when there were few dead they buried them in that village.

Q: I see. Yes.

A: And then when there were more ...

Q: Then in that shaft.

A: ... and then when there was nowhere to bury, because there was also that -- so they made that what-you-call-it beyond the camp.

Q: And you were in the sickbay all the time, were you? At the ...

A: I was there all the time. So that I really saw lots of those dead and sick people who died in agony. Well, in the meanwhile a doctor arrived and -- I don't know what he was called -- I know -- I've forgotten. And he was such a nice doctor, such a kind doctor! He really comforted a person. I saw how he treated the patients and so tender hearted and he knew well what awaited them; he was a genuine doctor -- he came from Prague. And he said, "Well, the same is coming to us all." That's what he said.

Q: He was a Jew, you said.

**A: Pardon?**

**Q: He was a Jew?**

**A: Jew.**

**Q: Mr Daniel, and did new Roma come to the camp during that time?**

**A: Well, yes, yeah.**

**Q: Or was there a permanent number.**

**A: No. In that camp --there was like a turnover, simply like once a month, or -- they came more often, yeah. And once a month people from the management came and selected people, and there were very ill people or simply the commander didn't like the look of them and -- he pointed to: you, you, you -- and they were transported to Brno and from Brno to Birkenau, see. But those people were not in Birkenau for long. Probably -- well, I think that they had to test those furnaces properly. And they had to go to those furnaces. That means that person. So that they came and went. And like as far as the sickbay is concerned -- that is to say that ... that Jew. And they considered -- and they proposed -- I heard that -- they thought about how to save not them but themselves. Because they had it very good there and these here guards and the like, they had it good. There was no duty, they did not have to do anything like elsewhere where they'd have duties. And they said someone should produce some kind of artificial typhoid, so that they would like spread. some germ so that the German wouldn't come there. Well, but it was impossible to keep it up or -- as I said -- they went on dying and dying, There were people there -- that is Roma, who were in a kind of "budulinec" -- that is a kind of little cart -- "romano" (ph) like there used to be in the First Republic. That was a cart on wheels -- and they took off the wheels and like put them at the back. And there were these ...**

**Q: Like a caravan, was it?**

**A: Yes. Something like that. Yes, yes. Only there were people there who were simply ... very ill, aged and there was no helping these people. On the contrary the sergeants beat them. They couldn't -- I don't know -- get out of the hut. So they kicked them and I don't know what else. Simply, really those ... those people didn't know the meaning of the word good.**

**Q: So that not even all Roma ...**

**A: Those were Roma. These were the worst type of Roma. Or those from Gottwaldov. And once it happened -- there was a special roll call -- that was \_\_\_\_ on Sunday or something like that. There was a roll call and in the end on the assembly place -- there was this commander of the camp himself.**

**Q: What was his name?**

**A: I don't know -- I've forgotten -- well, I'll tell you later. And he simply said, ""Who stole that rabbit? Who stole that rabbit?" And those rabbits were his. So, of course no one, no one and so on. So he made an inspection. He sent the sergeants, the whole bunch of them, he sent them to the camp to see if they could find something, you know. Some bones from the rabbit, or fur or something. And one of the Rom women -- her name was Giza (ph) -- the fur was really there. But it wasn't her that took it. Probably the sergeants took it. And they put the fur there. And that Giza was ill, so they took her to the place of assembly. And now they told the commander, "She took it and ate it." She swore that no, no, no. But it didn't help, as the fur was there. She got such a beating! So many times that after a while the flesh from half of her behind fell off. She was so beaten, the flesh was so beaten, that it simply fell off. \_\_\_\_ she returned from the concentration camp, but she no longer had half of her backside. Such experiences -- that's what it was like in Hodoninek. And it was perhaps at the end ... at the end of this camp, the liquidation -- when that Lablo (ph) -- Lablo was in with Kveta. They used to meet secretly and in the end that ... that ... found out everything.**

**Q: The commander.**

**A: Yes. The one I already mentioned. So he found out and he moved her to that sickbay -- there, where there was --typhoid, so that he could not see her, only me and that Holomek. Well, and he used to come whenever he felt like it, or he called her when he wanted her. That's what I say in front of you. But she used to meet -- she used to give me letters, she trusted me to give him like letters and things. Well and I didn't care and used to give them to him. But I was very careful so he wouldn't catch me. Well, and then the Germans came, the Germans came to check the whole camp. They checked how many sick people there were, how many -- they put them in the**

transport and so on. And Vyroba had it all in his hands. Vyroba had such records -- how many -- how many prisoners he had, how many sick people. Vyroba had all that. And he reported to the commander and the commander was to ... report to the SS. So that man -- Lablo passed on the information to them, to the Germans. Perfect German - - He was a German. And so he complained about Vyroba, he complained. And I was not there, but he complained; that's what Vyroba told me. And the Germans left and Holomek called Rables (ph), to come to the sickbay. And Kveta was there, Lablo and this ...  
Q: Vyroba.

A: He says, "So you complained to the Germans that you are not being treated well here, that I'm rough with you," says Vyroba, yeah, Vyroba -- "that I don't treat you well." and he also \_\_\_\_ all kinds of details, yeah. And he says, "That's why the Germans ordered me to give you 50 whippings for complaining." I was there. And Vyroba says, "Go and cut down a proper stick. And if the stick is not a good one, you'll catch it." So he brought a stick -- well a proper one, well a stick. And he says to Lablo: "Lie down on that bench." And he says to me, "And you're going to do the beating." I says, "Mr Vyroba, that's out of the question. I ... It's not in my nature for me to beat someone like that." I says, "I -- he didn't do anything to me." "I say you're going to beat him!" I took his hand and said, "You ... you must \_\_\_\_\_ to Holomek and you somehow." So Holomek beat him. He beat him -- I don't know how many -- 40 or 50 times -- I don't know -- I didn't count. I wasn't even interested. And for that he got a good dose. And I said as a joke, "Well, serves you right," because he was lousy to the Roma -- because he was a lousy fellow. Like that he beat them. So in this respect I was glad that he got a hiding -- and got what he deserved. So that he would know what it is like. Well, and then that camp was dissolved.

Q: When roughly when was that?

A; That was still in forty-two. It could have been about then. In August or it could have been about then. The liquidation of that camp was so simple. Each one of us put on their clothes. The clothes they had and if they had none, so then the uniforms, which those military had, as I said -- old things. And in the end they cooked fairly well.

They cooked well as the storehouse was full of stock. Food -- that is there was flour, sugar and so on. Simply they had not issued as they should have done, so they had a surplus .. a huge surplus of ... of that food -- of that. And so they did a good deal of cooking. They gave us extra dumplings. Well, and in the end ... it was said ... that the commander must go to Pisek, to Lety. Lety. There was a lot of typhoid -- serious typhoid. And he was supposed to set it right, to see that the camp was cleared as soon as possible. So they had the surplus flour -- and I don't know what else -- well, they transported it to Lety. And it so happened that Vyroba approached me. And he says, "You're not going with that transport." He said to me. I had my sister there. Her name was Mana -- my sister -- Jarka, And he says to me, "You're not going there." And I didn't believe him. I says to myself, "Who knows what this is." "And I won't put you there! You'll go to ... to that ... to Auschwitz," he said to me. I had been to have dinner and I put my mug -- where the beds are, so I had put my mug down there -- they gave me some goulash. And so then I came and saw how my sister -- Jarka the one that died -- was eating my goulash. I was hungry. Well, I said to myself, "Well, let it pass, so what." So I didn't say anything, I just swallowed as my mouth watered and that was all. And so that camp was set up -- and he came after me later -- as I was saying in that transport -- and put me in the sickbay. To that sick room -- there were about a total of thirty-two who stayed there. And he says, "Get undressed quickly, and lie down there." So I got undressed and I covered myself and with one eye I watched the ~ Germans counting, yeah: typhoid, typhoid, typhoid. And in the end I was left. So all of them -- including my sister -- they all were transported to ... Birkenau to block nine. Hodoninek had block nine. And I was there with one other -- they were fumigating. There were lots of those -- what-you-call-it ...

**Q: Bedbugs?**

**A: ... such ...**

**Q: Lice**

**A: Well, there was simply everything there, yeah.**

**Q: Fleas?**

**A: And they were supposed to be debugging -- and there were all**

kinds of worms and all that. So they debugged, And that meant that we had to lubricate the chimney and so on. So I had kind of three wires, so I copped it -- you see my hand is still -- in the end the current burnt me -- here two, here six stitches, see. And so it all began to break.

Q: And why did you catch hold of it?

A: Well, I thought there was no current in it and somehow -- well simply ...

Q: I see.

A: Well, and in the end that's what happened -- that I blew the fuses. That bone -- It was a good thing that I had such a sound heart. But my hand was -- I looked and said, "That's nothing," but after a few hours it went black and the flesh fell. Here in this palm it all fell off. And that doctor was there. And he said, "You know what? We'll leave it. I'll treat you."

End of tape of 8

Tape 4 of 8

A man: You can start.

Q: So you can carry on , Mr Daniel.

A: So that doctor then said they'd have to amputate if the hand got worse. That means if it went black. So that he would like treat my hand. And he really cured it.

Meanwhile that transport left -- that was -- there was a dog, which the guards let loose on the Roma, see. He bit -- he was such a -- it was a young dog. And they simply thought it was great fun. That all was part of like how they tormented us. Us Roma. Well, and so that was settled and I stayed there for about a month.

Q: Wait. Not yet - before we go on, I still have some questions. If you could go back to Kveta. Did she stay there? Kveta?

A: I was just about to tell you that.

Q: So say something. Who she was and what was her function? What was her role? Kveta's.

A: Well, she stayed there -- simply the whole family stayed there -- well, of course there were thirty-two people like -- and among them

was Kveta's large family. Her mother, brothers and sisters, Marena was the name of one of the sisters. I don't know they were all kinds of children. Vyroba made sure they did not go to ... to Auschwitz or to Birkenau. This meant that he sent them to a village where they like worked for a farmer. Kveta had the task, that she assisted at child births. There was no maternity home, nothing like that ... there was no kind of nursing ...

Q: And she knew what to do?

A: Well, she knew. When there were women there giving birth, she normally delivered the babies. And if the navel or whatever -- that was like a thing ... Vyroba like helped too. Well, and though he was a joiner by trade -- that Vyroba -- so that's how it all simply happened. But before that a doctor from outside the camp used to come there. That is he came from the town or some place. A doctor came like once a fortnight -- or I don't know --to see how many sick people there were and what kind of typhoid and whether this was not going to be a threat to like the country ...

Q: Environment.

A: That's it. So of course this was the end --- Hodoninek came to an end.

Q: Wait. And Kveta -- they --- and her family -- they survived in that village? They survived? They stayed there until the end of the war?

A: They survived by normally staying in the country at that farmer's.

Q: Yes.

A: And that farmer simply provided them with a livelihood until the war was over. They all came back, like they were all alive -- these ones. So that nothing happened to them. They were fine. They had large food allowances. Kveta had the chance to get jam and I don't know what else for her patients. Simply they were, comparatively, far better off there than normal Roma who worked or were like in prison. Well, and that's how that entire Hodoninek came to an end.

Q: I've some more questions about Hodonin. What were the guards like. Were they ... could you say something about them. About the Czech guards. How did they behave?

A: Well, they were simply there -- there were German guards at the end -- as well as Czechs, yeah. The ones the Germans appointed



there. Most of them ... most of those people were very evil. Wherever they could they handed out slaps in the face. Wherever they could they beat people. Simply, that was their consolation and so on. The worst people alive. And \_\_\_\_\_

Q: And who were worse? The Czech or the German guards?

A: It was all the same. There was no difference between them.

Q: They were all the same scoundrels.

A: Yes. And I'd like to just add something -- add a note -- I forgot to tell you about Hodoninek. A Spanish Rom came there -- she was like a ballet dancer -- a dancer -- but she really knew how to ballet dance. She performed to us there.

And she was beautifully dressed. She had a kind of gray coat. Something ... something lovely, it was modern. And that German, that guard, says to me, and I had the chance to be there when the coats arrived -- there was a room there -- where they were about a fortnight or so -- I don't know -- three weeks -- they were there because they were ill, see.

Q: Like quarantine?

A: Yes. it was quarantine. Well, and I like used to take food to that quarantine. So that I used to lock it always, so they couldn't get out. And when that Spanish girl was there I saw exactly what she was wearing and the German saw it too when she came there. And that German said to me -- I can't tell you the name, because I've like forgotten, or I was never interested in the names. He says to me, "Hey, if you give me that coat that ... that Spanish girl has I'll give you tobacco, cigarettes." And cigarettes and tobacco were scarce there. Very scarce. And I was a pretty strong smoker. So I says, "That would be fine." I said that without hesitation. He gave me tobacco. I don't know exactly how much. But they were Zorky -- those green boxes. I had a look at them, well and then I realized what I was doing, yeah. That I was selling or giving a coat that doesn't fit him and he was going to boast -- he'd give it to his wife and will be proud. From a Rom, see. So I took that tobacco -- and the cigarettes and went to see Vyroba. I said, "Mr Vyroba, that one there sold me cigarettes, tobacco so that I'd steal ... steal that coat," I says, "and he wants that coat in return for those cigarettes." That was something. It was

like a tam tam. He went to the chief of the camp, well and he reported it. And apparently on that very day they bumped him off. But I kept the tobacco, and the cigarettes. So that I managed it quite well. Well, and after that -- the Spanish girl stayed there too. And she stayed there with us until the camp came to an end. Well, and Kveta of course -- they left.

Q: You told us that. But tell us were there any incidents that say the guard or the officials or Roma -- maybe -- maybe raped some woman, that ...

A: Well, rape in my opinion -- there was no rape. But there were there \_\_\_\_\_ such -- well pretty girls there, really very pretty. And they used to come and clean -- some -- came to clean there to this sick ... to that ... to those buildings. Yeah, where the guards lived. They cleaned there. And I heard \_\_\_\_\_ you know. And it was noticeable that they were better off than the others. So that there perhaps wasn't rape, because every girl of that type is well off. She had cigarettes from him and so on. So that it like didn't happen. In my opinion that didn't happen. But as I say -- the guards played a big role. They could do as they pleased there. Whatever they chose. If they wanted to exterminate a person, then that happened within a month. His name was Tomas Holomek -- someone -- somebody broke his glasses. He got so many slaps in the face \_\_\_\_\_ and off he went to Auschwitz, yeah. That means whoever rubbed them up in the wrong way in the slightest they managed to annihilate as well. That wasn't in the least hard for them.

Q: Another thing Mr Daniel -- since you were such a strong smoker, what was the position with cigarettes? Was there a black market there, profiteering? Did you swap?

A: Well, ... here it was ... if people had money from home -- or there were even visits. Visitors came there in front ... in front of the camp gate -- that is not into the camp, but in front, to the gate. They were there. And some of them brought parcels. Yeah, and well cigarettes, money. And they could buy things. Vyroba did that. As long as there was money, they had an account, or simply they had a certain kind of plan, so that he simply like deducted it and they bought cigarettes -- whatever they needed. So that then there was a black market. For ...

for a loaf of bread about 70 crowns.

Q: You said an account. Did they pay you for your work?

A: No way. What they had from home.

Q: They had from home, what they brought with them.

A: They had from home. What they maybe had on them when they arrested them. Some of the Roma had money, oh yeah.

Q: Yes.

A: Well, so you had to take it from -- and he wrote it down -- I don't know, say Holomek had, I don't know, 1,000 crowns or so.

Q: And then he deducted it.

A: Right, he simply deducted it from that ... from that. So that ...

Q: And did he cheat?

A: ... they could only have money for shopping. Well, they could fiddle -- as I said -- bread for instance cost 70 crowns.

Q: And how much were cigarettes?

A: Well cigarettes on an average three or four crowns. And they did all kinds of business. They traded etc. Somebody again gave cigarettes so that he wouldn't be beaten. And to be on the good side of those sergeants and so on. Interestingly, at work was a man -- his name was Bok -- he was pretty strict -- depending on his mood.

Q: And that was a guard?

A: He was a Rom.

Q: Rom.

A: A Rom, yea. And those guards stood up there and kept saying "Get on, get on wit the work!" And they shouted at us and so he began to shout too, see. And the girls worked there down below. And he said. "Get on with it Roma, Roma \_\_\_\_\_ (laughs)

Q: Now I didn't understand ...

A: Well, and didn't understand. That guard. And Roman shouted in Czech. "Fuck him!" That's the way he said it.

Q: So that he wouldn't understand.

A: Yeah. But he didn't understand. So when they saw that Rom they then shouted on purpose like. They said all sorts of things.

Q: And Mr Daniel were there cases --- did anyone escape, or did anyone try to escape?

A: Well. There were some escapes, about three. There were about

three they didn't catch. Jana told me about that. She interviewed him. He was like a Pole. His name was, yeah. He was called Hrska (ph). He was like Zorka. Tall, skinny. And he escaped, but they caught him. So that poor thing also ended up on the bench. He got a big hiding. And he didn't understand. He was completely confused. He was. And the others escaped -- they were mostly from Gottwaldov, there from that side. So that those who escaped were punished with beatings. And this took place on the roll-call ground, yeah.

Q: In front of everyone?

A: In front of everyone. So that they'd be afraid, or simply ... so that it was carried out.

Q: And once more to go back to Kveta. How did she behave toward the prisoners?

A: Pardon?

Q: Kveta. She was fairly well off, wasn't she. So how did she behave toward the other prisoners?

A: Well she didn't have any influence, or simply as I said on the prisoners. Well, ... it's hard to say. Because she wasn't directly together with the prisoners. At the beginning when now and again she left the sickbay. But Vyroba always kept an eye on her. He watched her very carefully. Because he had his wife visiting him. And they had kind of cubby holes -- the SS had these small ... behind the camp. And they could be with a woman maybe until the morning and so on. And I saw then how Vyroba's wife came -- and he was there a few hours and then went away. So ...

Q: Well, did she have the possibility to help somebody? Did she help anyone apart from her own family.

A: No, not that. She didn't help or something like that. No, she didn't. No. She ... she knew that she was a winner there, see. She knew what she said carried weight with Vyroba, yeah. So it's difficult to say she had any what-you-call-it. Well as I said with Lablo she kept ... she kept it a secret. That wasn't worth his while. And in the end neither for her. She was in the sickbay ... in that circus. So it all happened there simply, not in the camp. But in the meanwhile, as I said, Lablo, Fasi (ph) -- and the third was called ...

Q: You said Hazo.

**A: Hazo, Hazo. Hazo escaped. And he succeeded ... he managed to escape.**

**Q: They didn't catch him.**

**A: They didn't catch him. So that out of those three he like escaped.**

**Q: Does the name Doctor Habanec mean anything to you?**

**A: Habanec? Doctor Habanec? He was probably a doctor from outside, wasn't he?**

**Q: I don't know.**

**A: That was a doctor from outside.**

**Q: And did you hear the name there?**

**A: Well, like I had access to the sickbay, yeah. So I heard someone called that. Vyroba had like dealings -- which medicines he was supposed to get from him.**

**Q: From Habanec?**

**A: Yes. So that somehow the medicines had to be delivered.**

**Q: And the camp ... that camp --- that camp doctor got them? He got them from Habanec?**

**A: Yes, from him. They talked together about some treatment, like, well and ... Like the doctors. The doctors between themselves.**

**Q: And let's go back to how you lived there. You lived with those single men, didn't you?**

**A: Well, there were the single ones in number one. In number one, but I have already said that gradually ... Afterwards they built another two huts behind the fence Behind that fence there were two such huts where there were only women with children.**

**Q: And their ...**

**A: They were isolated.**

**Q: And where were there husbands?**

**A: But during the day -- during the day they could visit their family or simply go there. It wasn't in anyway forbidden, that they were not allowed to go there. Of course during the night .. each was in ...**

**Q: Separated.**

**A: Yeah. And if by chance they caught somebody, then he really got a beating that it was not worth what-you-call-it. So that the women with those children were later quite separated.**

**Q: And did the women have to work?**

**A: Well, women worked, they also worked.**

**Q: Also on that road?**

**A: They did -- they did the leveling -- on the road -- they leveled. They spread the stuff that was transported there by carts. The women did that sort of work there. Well, and some of them worked pushing those carts. As I said before -- they also worked in the quarry and had to like to pound the stones. So all of them ... had to work.**

**Q: And Mr Daniel, who selected and from which points of view those who were to be included in the transport that then headed for Auschwitz? Who ...**

**A: That is -- well when at the beginning, when they went with the little ones with less ... with less people, well Vyroba made the proposals -- Vyroba simply suggested or simply ... the guards -- that one is like this, that one is like that, so of course.**

**Q: Those that could no longer work?**

**A: Well, he could still, he could still work. But ...**

**Q: So according to what did they select?**

**A: Well simply ... if he was rude, or always somehow, yeah, or simply he kept being a nuisance -- not a nuisance, or he wasn't afraid or so, so they got rid of him in this way, yeah. And then there were sick people, who they in that -- who they called "budulinky", yeah -- there they automatically got rid of, the sick ones, because these people were really useless. They were useless, yeah. They got little food, the Roma cheated them.**

**Q: But they got rid of them there on the spot. Or did they also send them to Auschwitz?**

**A: People came from the director's office in Brno; they loaded as many as they needed and transported them off. And of course one doesn't know. Well, and a train went away; that was not only from ... Hodoninek. That was also from Pisek, yeah and -- some who were still at large ... that were still at large -- so they caught them.**

**Q: And those who came from the director's office in Brno -- were they Czechs or Germans?**

**A: Well, Germans headed ... headed, but Czechs -- Czech Germans like Czechs liquidated the camp. Like it was an order. It was supposed to be the liquidation of all the Roma.**

**Q: And say something more about when that commander then went to Pisek. What do you know about that?**

**A: Well, as a character ... as a character that commander was a good-an. He was OK. He didn't even try to .. go to that camp, yeah. He went there because he wanted to improve [matters] somewhat for those who were ill -- or those prisoners who were there, the Roma. I mean with food.**

**Q: Where? in Lety?**

**A: In Lety, yes. Food was the only thing. There food and food again was what mattered. So that the people would get better. There he couldn't just talk and or -- there he simply had to give. Well, and then. From there -- from Lety -- they transported something to Hodoninek. And the others ...**

**Q: What something? People?**

**A: Yeah. Some of those people, the girls, they transported them to Hodoninek and only then did they go to ...**

**Q: So that he tried when Hodonin was being liquidated that the supplies did not remain there.**

**A: Yes. So he simply loaded the supplies which were a surplus there. Well and that was -- his name was Ruzicka, the one who had the supplies, and who supplied the kitchen with food, well he -- the supplies had to be liquidated and -- were sent to Lety So that it wasn't relatively so bad.**

**Q: And that was ... that was that guard?**

**A: Yea. He was a high up. He had a high function. I think he had three pips \_\_\_\_\_ just that. That is a first lieutenant.**

**Q: And don't you remember his name?**

**A: I'll tell you later -- beginning with H. I ...**

**Q: Never mind, It'll be in the book.**

**A: I'll remember later. But I say ...**

**Q: And now let's go back to you.**

**A: Pardon?**

**Q: Let's go back to you. How about you?**

**A: Well, I stayed there, as I said. I was sick with that hand. But I had to work. My hand rotted, The flesh fell off completely, the burnt part, But I had to work. Well, and in the end the camp was fumigated, so**

they put us ...

Q: How fumigated?

A: Well, they fumigated, as I told you.

Q: Disinfections.

A: Yea. They put us all together, well and they transported us off -- about thirty-two people -- they took us off to the director's. That's here ... on Bratislava Road, on Bratislava Road -- they took us there to labor.

Q: That was in Brno?

A: In Brno. Labor. So they put us there in one room -- men and women. I guess there were two or three children, about six or seven years old, who didn't have parents. An they were in hospital and from the hospital they put them here ... And we were there about ...

Q: And what was that --- was it a school or a prison -- or what was it?

A: A prison.

Q: A prison.

A: A normal prison. That was a labor camp, that you got \_\_\_\_\_ say two years plus say another two years of hard labor. That means that was the highest punishment. That's why they called it hard labor prison. Well, and we were liquidated in the course of about a month. We were liquidated --- that was in about the fall -- sent to Birkenau. A whole train load went. A whole train. They collected the last of the Roma. That's what happened, they collected us and we went off to Birkenau.

Q: And did you know anything about Birkenau or Auschwitz?

A: What do mean, know?

Q: Well, that you knew that there was ...

A: We knew about them -- we knew exactly what they did there -- we knew exactly.

Q: And how did you know?

A: Well, so again -- they had visitors -- the Roma had visitors and they had contacts with those people, some of them simply who like told them, "A transport is going to Auschwitz." Yeah, everything was possible with money.

Q: And you knew about the gas chambers?



**A: We also knew about the gas chambers, 'cos as I said -- my late father -- when -- that was exactly -- that was the beginning of those gas chambers.**

**Q: And what happened when you arrived? They drove you out -- in what ...**

**A: Well, we ... we .. we arrived in Polish Tesin. We traveled in that direction. There -- there the Germans took over. There was crying, they all cried. The guards themselves were touched -- they were not the ones from the camp, they were normal ones, not those. So as they knew where they were taking us. The Germans brought us. We arrived in Birkenau. And there was terrible chaos on the arrival of that train -- that beating \_\_\_\_ not slaps but with those rifle butts. And innocent, innocent -- that made us so afraid that they made such sheep of us. There was such fear. The way they treated us. We stood in a row.**

**Q: And you arrived in what sort of trucks?**

**A: Normal, normal ...**

**Q: Passenger trains?**

**A: Passenger. Passenger trains. Well, they were covered. And so we arrived and stood in a row. Two people put numbers on arms.**

**Q: You are also tattooed?**

**A: Yea.**

**Q: Show us. You can go on talking in the meanwhile.**

**A: Well, so ...**

**Q: And who tattooed you? Were they Poles, Slovaks ...**

**A: They were Polish, Polish, They were Polish. 9444. And -- you know -- in front of me there were these two -- these two children/ They didn't have parents, they had nobody, so I took them. That means that they had the same number as me, see. Two numbers less. And then we got to our block ...**

**A man: Can I ask you to roll up your sleeve more -- roll up your sleeve.**

**Q: It is 9244.**

**A: And so they put us in that block. They put us in block 16.**

**Q: In which camp? In the Roma camp?**

**A: There in Birkenau.**

**Q: Once more, when --- when did you arrive there? So that we can recap.**

**A: Pardon?**

**Q: Well, which year was it -- was it in 42?**

**A: That was in the year forty-two.**

**Q: And roughly in which month?**

**A: Well ...**

**Q: In the Spring, Summer, Fall ...**

**A: No, no, no. In the Fall.**

**Q: In the Fall.**

**A: In the Fall.**

**Q: So that we could say at the end of the year.**

**A: And we were in block 16. And Hodoninek was in block nine. So that he -- the girls were there and they had no family -- who were there in block sixteen, so they managed to slip through and visit us. They visited us -- and simply told us the whys and wherefores. And we again asked them about other things -- who is alive and so on. Who died there. And my mother was alive there. My mother was alive about a fortnight -- a fortnight, while I was there.**

**Q: So that you met there?**

**A: No. no she was in the "krankebau" [sickbay], see. And I sent her via my sister the bread they gave me, so I gave it to my sister, because she was there ... much earlier, so she knew her way about -- and we were like in quarantine, like there -- in block 16. Well, and she put the bread there -- and my mother had already died. So she ate the bread. My sister. Well, and then one more of my sisters died. One of my sisters had ... eight children, we'll get to that -- and she lay .. there ... in block 14. I visited her there. All the children in block 14 were so ill! They were so ill that they didn't even eat bread anymore and said, "Uncle, help yourself to that bread." They held it like this and said, "Take it -- uncle take that bread." I simply wept and didn't take the bread, even though we were hungry there. I says, "Jenik eat it up." And so on I said. I knew that this was really, that this is ... the end. And she was ... she was my sister, she was so beaten up that she died. I heard about that from other Roma who were in that block, who returned home. Well, and another -- my -- brother, he was next door -**

- there where the Jewish camp was -- the Jewish and Roma camp. And it was there that I met that doctor who treated my hand. And there I like talked to him and he said, "Well," he said, "you'll return, but I won't." We knew very well that the Jews who were there -- six months and more -- six months and then like went to be cremated. And I like saw ... the liquidation of that camp. So that he was liquidated ... and then ... then burnt.

Q: And Mr Daniel, did you have any functionaries in the block?

Shrajbry, broker ,, (ph, ph)

A: Well, of course -- of course, without that there weren't like internal matters.

Q: And who was it?

A: There was a "blokestr" (ph), "shrajbry" (ph) and then there were also those ...

Q: "Shtube" (ph)?

A: "Shtube" (ph) were there. That was a matter of course in every camp.

Q: And how did they behave?

A: Well, in those camps there were mostly Polish people. And we found out that those Poles had life sentences what we found out there in Dora; they were the types who had life sentences and promised to beat people and strictly keep to the Germans' orders and so on. Simply, they were people who .. who did not have the least bit of pity.

Q: So that in that block there were no Roma functionaries at all?

A: No, there weren't.

Q: Not even the "shtube" (ph)?

A: Some of them there ... here and there one ... a Rom. But a German Rom. They mostly knew German and so on ... "shtubmisters" (ph) and I don't know what else. At meals and then those ... those who handed out work, yeah and so on. Well, they simply knew German, German Roma.

Q: And what did you wear? Did you go into the sauna?

A: Well, in the beginning we had civilian clothes. And the clothes were sprayed on the back with red color. And I have to note that everybody had to have ... such a ... such a ...

**Q: Lable.**

**A: ... lable. There was a “vingl” (ph), number and on ... on the right hand side here on the trousers also a number.**

**Q: And what color was your vingl?**

**A: It was black, yeah. That means that the people were -- call it work -- were work shy.**

**Q: Yes, the work-shy association.**

**A: Yeah, that’s exactly what it was. Well and ... and so we experienced ... experienced day in, day out whether we are going to exist, or not. Simply we knew all the time who is dying. And afterwards when my sister said that my mother had died, I managed to get to the krankebau. But next to the krankebau was a huge ... a huge pile of dead people. But a great big pile . That can’t be described. Like if you took a truck, a heavy truck and load it with logs and then turn the logs over.**

**Q: Unload.**

**AA: That’s how it was, one over the other. And I like thought I’d see my mother, I’d see her, well. I looked, I took a closer look. Well, if -- even if -- even if she were there, yeah, then I would not have recognized her. I couldn’t recognize her. So that ...**

**Q: And then they transported the dead away?**

**A: Well and after that -- they loaded them on trucks and took them to the furnaces. I remember -- I worked there digging -- there they tumbled, fell down, yeah. That was in the evening or in the morning. And the smoke did not go up as it were, but rolled just above the ground. And you could smell it and the flames blazed really high, and you could smell that the bones were human, as the smell was everywhere. So you looked at it -- you couldn’t look for long --so only -- because you had to be careful that someone did not beat you with a stick. So that you had to keep going, there was never a good worker, but you had to keep moving, so that ...simply to prevent being beaten.**

**Q: So that you were --- you went there to work. Was it in the camp or beyond the camp?**

**A: Well, -- that camp --- it was a large camp, yeah. And the Jews were beyond the gate, again there was -- there was again another**

area ... a camp.

**Q:** In the camp.

**A:** In that camp, yeah. And again we working on a sewage canal. There was work on the sewage for those .. for the SS and I don't know for who else, or for who it was. That didn't even interest us, simply that was that. Well, and the time came -- of course there was a roll call every day, see. Ruzicka -- my brother-in-law -- was so sick that he could not get up and so he was missing -- he was missing at the roll call, so they came inside -- into the camp, see.

**Q:** Into the block.

**A:** And of course they found him, so they beat him dead on the spot and carried out his dead body, covered in blood. So that's how it was -- you expected that each one of us would end up like that. And it became ever more severe that ... 10 dead or more would be brought back from work -- the Germans just didn't care. They didn't care at all. On the contrary they felt good. People were hung, they hung people who simply tried to escape, but there was no escaping from there.

**Q:** And what about ...

**A man:** I'll stop it here.

End of tape 4 of 8

#### Tape 5 of 8

**A:** So we simply did not think about escaping, because we knew exactly that nobody could escape from there. And whoever says they escaped from there is not speaking the truth. There were lots of camps, lots of camps, and then there was water. So that it's hard to say that someone escaped. Not from that camp -- from Birkenau. Well, and I met my brother there about once. And he worked there as a bricklayer. Because those lads who were -- the 15 , 14 year-olds -- learned to be bricklayers. They like were builders and learned bricklaying. I thought, Auschwitz ... rather Birkenau -- is hell, that it is absolute hell. Like forever dead, forever dead sleeping beside each other -- they were already dead, yeah. So that the boxes in which we slept -- there were about eight of us -- we slept in those boxes. I used to wake up in the morning -- a dead person. We had kind of old

carpets on us -- like to cover us. It was simply terrible. In that year ...on ... and on ... yeah the commander of that camp here in Birkenau -- gave orders for the gypsy camp to be blocked ... the gypsy camp -- they blocked the gypsy camp, so that the next day or the day after they would be burnt. Like the Jews. So they blocked us. We couldn't go either here or there. Simply there was no food, there was absolutely nothing. And I must add, how they for instance gave us tea -- there was blue tea, and whoever drank more -- more than you should, they got bloated. They had terrible swellings. That tea -- I don't know what ... what sort of tea that was. People drank out of hunger, so they drank and in the end -- I said, "Don't drink it!" I saw how they got swellings -- their legs, mouths. That was something terrible! So that was the kind of tea -- well, and food -- there was beet. Sometimes it happened, when there was a transport of Jews, yeah, that they threw parcels, they threw -- they knew precisely they were to be burnt ... they knew they were going to the furnaces, so they threw from the windows, they threw -- in the passage to the camp -- they threw parcels and all sorts of things. They were in a frenzy, yeah. There was wailing. You could hear that from a long way. And we collected the packages. There were so many of those parcels and all together after those people were liquidated they gave -- and it happened to me that in that "zupa" that's what they called it -- I found some chocolate, so I knew exactly that it was from those ... that the parcels were from those Jews. Well, and as they closed down ... closed the blocks, we were there about three days and there was supposed to be an order, as I said, for the burning. And Hitler issued orders -- Hitler himself issued the order -- "Don't burn those people who are able to work." So they were to be transported to work, and the rest who remain with the children were to be liquidated. And that's what happened. The mothers with children who stayed, well they all stayed -- to be burnt. With the children -- simply with the children they were sent to be burnt. Well, and we who were able to work -- we went to Auschwitz. To that camp in Auschwitz.

Q: To Auschwitz 1?

A: Yes. There we changed clothes. We again passed through a

passage of water. Well, and they gave us the striped clothes -- striped clothes, well and -- God knows \_\_\_\_\_ again. So we went with the transport. There they even liquidated women. In Ravensbruck, yeah. There were women in Ravensbruck and we were sent to Buchenwald.

**Q:** But let us stay ... let us go back to Birkenau, yeah? For a while. Before we go on to Buchenwald. Did you meet with a situation that someone out of despair committed suicide?

**A:** Yes, they did try. Lots of people, lots of people. They simply felt so lost that they caught hold of the wires. Of course the current killed them. Both Poles and Czechs, yeah. In that camp you could tell exactly the Jewish women in that mud, yeah. What they suffered! What those women suffered! They were knee-deep in mud, not dressed and with those carts! You know, when you yourself -- when a person is in such \_\_\_\_\_, yeah ...

**Q:** Have a drink of water, drink. Drink some water. Try and tell us what it was like. What the blocks were like and everything.

**A:** Well, it was terrible, I can hardly describe it. They beat those working the carts. Well, and there were Jewish women there, or simply I don't know who -- what race they were. But beating! Such beatings that caused them to fall into ... into the mud, yeah. They were trampled on. They had to pick up those prisoners, they threw them onto the carts -- nobody knows where they took them to -- I simply only saw about -- I don't know -- I could see only some 100 meters or 150 meters. There was really no feeling. There was absolutely no feeling. Well, and as I said they liquidated that camp 100 percent, all the people with the children and all. And I must also add that I had those two children, they said they were going to a nursery. And I said goodbye to them thinking they were going to that school \_\_\_\_\_. And the next day they went into the furnaces. Into the gas chambers \_\_\_\_\_ into the furnaces. So there was .... no way of saving them. Well, and we like were transported to Buchenwald.

**Q:** Wait. Do you remember the name of that commander ... of your camp? Or ...

**A:** Oh no. The German?

**Q:** Yes.

**A: Hardly, hardly.**

**Q: Or the one that was the recipient of reports of the number of prisoners.**

**A: Well, that's hard, I can't remember that.**

**Q: You don't know.**

**A: I can only say that in Auschwitz, thereabouts near the gate there where the kitchen was, well there was a house with an upstairs and it was there that they selected people who were more able, or simply fatter and they tested them there. They gave them injections.**

**Q: As experiments?**

**A: Right, those experiments, yeah. That's just what I forgot to tell you. As an experiment. That's why they chose us -- I was there -- where they measured simply ... foreheads like.**

**Q: Skulls.**

**A: The size of the head and I don't know what else. And eyes. I was there so they measured me.**

**Q: They measured you, too?**

**A: Yeah, they simply measured me. Well and ... that injection; they told us it is against inflammations and I don't know what else. That injection was --- so we got injections -- there were about twenty-seven of us -- and I was one of them. And the others were upstairs, those who were being checked, yeah. They got food, good food there. Simply -- I don't know -- I think they got some kind of a drink. So that they would like learn the effect of the injection. And that was just because then in Russia when it was so cold -- probably --- I think, in my opinion they did it because of the cold winter. They wanted to know the effect, how resistant a German could be, see. And that's what they had these people for. And so it happened, they put a man in a bath tub and normally froze him. And then they cut off his head. They told me that directly in that kitchen where one of us was ... that one who was with us ... And he was also liquidated afterwards. That ... Holomek was his name. So that is what happened there -- those experiments and various things. And women -- experiments on women -- so that a woman should not give birth. So none of these women believed that when they come back, they thought that they'd of course come back, see -- that there won't be**



any children, the men were supposed to be sterilized, see. So they simply waited for it to happen. But there was no longer time for that, because orders came to take us to Buchenwald, yeah. In Buchenwald -- in Buchenwald we got to block 54.

Q: About how many of you went?

A: How many of us were there? ... That was an entire transport. A whole transport. Hard to say, to estimate. Simply there were -- the number -- hard to estimate, because we each had to look after ourselves so that we were not beaten. I was in block 54 \_\_\_\_ and once I was out in the field digging -- that woman commander had a field, yeah -- and I dug some vegetables for about two or three hours and again they drove us off. Because nothing would have been left there. We would have eaten it all. And there we actually saw -- the Czechs came to see us -- the Buchenwald camp was in Czech hands. The Czechs had command of the camp -- from the doctors, the sergeants down to the "blokesters" (ph) they were all Czechs. And the commanders came to see us, the Czechs, who were also like prisoners -- those who tormented us, like, and so on.

Q: Where? In Buchenwald?

A: Buchenwald. So we told on him. And they took him out, yeah and of course it was t-h-e-y who tormented him. And they did it something like this: we used to go to the quarry from Buchenwald -- down the hill to the quarry -- and there everyone quickly picked up a stone and again quickly went up. Well, but a blokester used to stand there, and I don't know who else and beat us with sticks, so that you really had to dodge and zigzag your way to prevent getting a blow. And there was one Czech there who -- how d'you say it -- betrayed to the Germans about 70 people ... 70 people. Yeah, it was some political matter which he had betrayed and simply 70 people were liquidated and sent to concentration camps. And there they recognized him. Well and so -- it was there they recognized him. So he got a beating there. And two such capos were there, Czechs, and they gave him a stone, which really -- a very heavy stone and he had to like run with it and again -- and you know -- they beat him, they beat him to the end. Well and then -- after a longer time -- when he was really worn out -- the doctor gave him ... simply ... an injection to

... make him kick the bucket. So that was that. Well, and then we again had to go to the doctor's -- to see what state of health we were in and so on, well and then they said \_\_\_\_ he's able. They put us in Dora.

**Q: And how long were you in Buchenwald?**

**A: There we were for quite a short time -- a short time in that place, because that was only for the sick, or so. That was only -- I don't know. So they put us in -- in Dora. Dora belonged --- Dora as such was administered by Buchenwald. It was under the command of Buchenwald. The total number in Dora was fifty-two thousand. The total number. I was in "komandr" (ph) 24. There were -- we were like above ground. We received -- we received a kind of board -- about, I don't know how many of us there were -- say 100 -- I don't remember that well -- nor did it interest me -- but we went to that -- to that tunnel. That was the Messerschmitt factory. There they made V 1 and V 2. There was welding -- assembly line production. Well, and there they asked who is a skilled laborer and who isn't. So I simply was told to clean metal, see. The torpedo was around 15 meters long, And they mostly used V1 and V2 to test the torpedoes. This was for England or simply -- well and that's what we heard there. We spent six months in Dora underground. We didn't see -- we slept normally in that tunnel. Without beds, without blankets, without anything, just a stone under your head and that was it. Here I said to myself that ... Birkenau was a golden paradise compared to Dora. Compared to Dora. This was something ... terrible! For ever beatings -- the capos were Polish who were mostly murderers. Most of them were murderers. They had command -- the Poles had command of Dora. Well, and as I said we worked on those V1. There were "shraibrs" (ph) for instance who kept in with the prisoners. They were simply gays, these people were perverted. So they were well off, they smoked and I don't know what, they got a little extra bread or something, or that "shrajbr" again had much food -- so he maintained those bastard gays, the younger ones. So I worked at that point-welding. It meant welding about ... eight or ten meters. Automated.**

**Q: What is that?**

**A: Pardon?**

**Q: What is that?**

**A: Well, that's a point ... there were ... that's point welding, where you make points on the entire cover of that ...V1. That was the casing and that enveloped the entire ...**

**Q: The components.**

**A: Well, simply, the other components, see. I worked on that. Well, and it so happened that this Pole, who had a relationship with that fellow, was there. He kept in with that Pole. He also gave me cigarettes now and again. Or he gave me Primka -- Primka is tobacco -- black tobacco \_\_\_\_ and the civilians saw him giving me Primka, like. I had an Austrian as a foreman. So that he -- he was serving a kind of punishment, but a civilian sentence. Yeah, like ... the Germans -- I don't know -- they had to go to the labor exchange, and that labor exchange sent them to work in Germany. That's perhaps how it was. They gave me a slice of bread and I saw the entire camp how \_\_\_\_\_. Well, and all that.**

**Q: And you claimed you were qualified?**

**A: Pardon?**

**Q: You said you were a qualified metal worker?**

**A: Yeah, I volunteered and that's how I got the job. I got the job. So that I was then there. Well, and I like -- as I said -- for six months we slept underground. Once I fell asleep -- that was when I worked extra -- we worked 12 hour shifts, like not -- in all before it was supper or dinner time. Practically they gave us dinner on the spot and supper was there like -- we got food either in the evening or at noon. That wasn't like that you got dinner, but it was according to the shift you were on. Well, and it was a piece of bread -- and that was all. Well, and I used to go there -- Czechs distributed the food -- here ... in Domazlice, here on this side -- and they were like political prisoners. And I used to go there to wash socks, do those sort of stupid chores and they always gave me soup, or they gave me bread, so that way I was a little better off. Well, and ... once I like fell asleep and they caught me, and I had shoes tied round my neck, wooden clogs --and I had them tied round my neck and that's how I slept. Well, and I didn't even know how ... the prisoners cut them off and I had to walk barefooted. Most people there used paper from cement bags --**

and bound the paper round their feet, either with string or with wire -- whatever you managed to get. So that's the way I walked for a long time. For a long time I walked with that paper until I happened to see a dead person, so I took the shoes from him. So after that I had shoes again. Well, and after half a year I got to the surface. To the camp. The camp was already set up. Well, and this one had 112 blocks. So again I met up with ... my brother. He was in block 12 and I was in block 105. Well, and we used to go to that camp and there -- the commander of the camp would stand there, yeah -- that meant having a wash and that sort of nonsense, and hands as well -- simply like soldiers, yeah. It was strict there at that ... at that entrance gate -- simply the head like this, yeah and that. It was strict there. We slept in those boxes, yeah. Well and always one shift and then the other shift. And perhaps once a month we didn't go to work -- I don't know why, there was some -- some German holiday -- well, and then the other one did not have a place to sleep. He had to sleep outside. Or he had to wait for the other one to wake up. So that was how ... so that, on the whole how it was in Dora. And, as I said, on the surface you were blinded, because in half a year you slowly got completely blind. And in -- Dora -- there was no water down there. We got tea, and we had to keep that tea for washing -- I poured a little in my mouth and then I washed my eyes, and then drank the rest. So that there was no water there. I remember in Dora there was one chap, he went to the lavatory -- you had like to say you were going to the lavatory and you had a certain ... a kind of ... supervisor, and there they also had a supervisors -- and there a man died who, who \_\_\_\_\_. And he was weak, and he was gone ... completely \_\_\_\_ and in that camp it happened all over the place, yeah -- they said it was "durchfall" [diarrhea], really drastic diarrhea, and people died of this. Most people died due to this. The bowels were so weak that these people simply did not live. And he was holding a piece of bread \_\_\_\_ as he was holding the bread I pushed him -- I wanted to say to him, "What are you doing?" So I pushed him a little -- he was holding the bread like this -- and he fell down and he was dead. So I took the bread, but hadn't the heart to eat it. Even though I was very hungry, I did not eat that bread. And I swapped it -- that was a kind of reward,

you know -- they gave some of the prisoners such ... marks ... prison marks that's what they were.

Q: Bonuses, were they?

A: Pardon?

Q: "Premienschajny" (ph) [premium vouchers]

A: Yeah, some got them. Of course that was that thing. Well, and I sold the bread for that mark at the roll call -- there was such a square -- and there they sold something from such large barrels -- well and I had no idea what was there, but I also went to buy for that mark, and each person had to have a bowl and spoon on them, even at work. So I took this bowl and held it out -- for that mark -- and he took a ladle, a big ladle -- and it was all watery -- and there were snails, but it looked like grubs -- like when ... like June bugs -- the bugs that crawl in the soil, yeah -- that's what they looked like -- their black bottoms curled up, yeah. Good gracious! So I spat them out there and I says, "What shall I do with it," and I mixed it. And a Frenchman -- he talked to me and says, "What?" I says, "Do you want it?" So he in return gave me -- they brought .. they gave the French parcels from the Red Cross. So he gave me such filling biscuits. So I said to myself, "That's good." So I ate the biscuits, yeah. So that's the sort of business I did, and I nearly came to grief, see. Well, and on the whole, as -- I said on the whole many died. Well, and there were two corridors -- two corridors. One was for entering and the second corridor was an exit. So two corridors. And between the corridors there were passages. There were workshops, assembly lines. That means that there were two and between was a kind of assembly line. And we happened to go along that second corridor where those torpedoes V 1 were hanging -- well and I don't know what they were doing with them, but they were like complete. I just also want to mention there was -- one, there were people of all nations: Belgians, French, and Germans. Some from every nation -- I made friends there with the Frenchmen.

Q: And how did you speak to them?

A: Normally, normally. He understood me, and I understood him. I don't know, maybe God arranged it so we could understand each other. Well, and there was sabotage there. And the Russians used to

go and pee into those motors -- into the motors there. There was a kind of gallery where those motors were stored. And those motors became sort of rusty, or I don't know -- I am like deducing that -- simply that it was like sabotaging the Germans. And they went on hunting, the Germans wanted to hunt down that sabotage -- and in the end one of the Poles ... one Pole got some bread -- he betrayed them for the sake of bread. He betrayed who did it. And we were just coming back from work -- I was about that far away ... about that far from the huts, yeah -- a large "shina" (ph), a metal rope -- a kind of hand elevator that moves forward and back, yeah -- but there was such a thing in that corridor, such a ... simply, such a step down and ... such a ... well simply it was a kind of downhill ramp. And they said something -- they spoke in German -- well, and those men were standing by the wall and had rods ... they had rods in their mouths, fastened with wire, bound hands. Well, and when he finished talking, they got hold of them, put a noose round them, well and with ... with that machine, they pulled them up and dragged them and then they fell down ... into that hole. There were about eight of them. And that Pole gave them away. That's what that "shtubinstr" (ph) told me. And justice was supposed to have been done -- when ... if we live to see a turn of events, so then something was supposed to be done to the Poles, an attack on the Poles. Because of this here thing. They organized a kind of attack. Well, and in the end, in Dora, I considered an escape. And there they had kind of vouchers -- with them you could go and collect tools, see. Here take these vouchers -- I don't know how many -- there were about ten or so -- well, and I got allocated pliers, a good pair of pliers and I put a rubber tube on those pliers. And there was one Rom there, but he was absolutely like a white man, he had fair hair and he had \_\_\_\_\_ "Hamshli" (ph). They called him Hamshli, Hamshli, yeah, that was his name. And I needed a person just like him -- a person who speaks German, who doesn't look like a Rom. I simply just reckoned how I could get out and so ... how to organize it. And so I asked him if he's prepared to escape. and he said, "ya, ya ... if you know how and the place, then I'll run with you." So I -- I said between 10 and 11 o'clock -- we met, and we set out \_\_\_\_\_ and there, before you got to those wires there

were kind of low pegs, and on the wire a notice “Danger” and so on, like a warning ... warning. Well, anyway we knew that. Well, and so I crawled underneath the wire and he panicked. I stretched out my hand to him and held him so that he wouldn’t run off. But I didn’t know that among the huts there were these ... “stojky” (ph) -- that’s probably what they called them -- but I didn’t know they were still patrolling. That was all OK, except for the chap that was patrolling. It was dark. Well, and I went and clipped the wire from underneath. A second wire. And as I clipped the second wire, it fell one on top of the other, yeah, like this. And that wire began to burn. Such a huge \_\_\_\_ came from it. And he shouted to me to put on a light. He called to that “stojka”. Only then did I notice that he was there... Well, but I jumped onto such a ... such a ... such a “zmolinka” (ph), so that we crouched well hidden, so that we were like level with ... with the ground. I crouched down and said to him to shine a light on those wires. He shone and shone, and suddenly somebody shouted from somewhere below, one, two wires are damaged. One said that to the other, and he in turn began to shout to the other and so the call went down the line to the gate. And inside there were these police from among the prisoners, see. There were police, they called them police, but specially, especially dangerous ones. I saw -- yeah, but then I still did not -- no, it wasn’t like that yet. I ... I -- as it was burning -- so we stopped, well and we tried to get up so that I could cut one more wire. And only at that point they began to shout, so then we ran back. This of course was in the camp. And I said to him, “Listen, if they catch you and hang you,” that’s what I said, “don’t split. You can’t change that. And if they catch me, I won’t split on you either.” I told him like that. Yeah, yeah, yeah. In the end I didn’t trust him. I went with him to block 12, but I still watched how he climbed into the window -- and I lay down and kept quiet until I saw through the window that he was lying down. Only then did I go to 105, yeah. That was a huge distance. Almost across the whole camp and that “lagrmudr” (ph) -- that building was just by -- a little way from that tower building. So I said to myself, “now it’s all right. I said, “They won’t catch me.” I said to myself, “Now I’m at home.” Like in that camp. But for all that, you know, something occurred to me -- I says,

“What if,” I said, “they ask me where have you been or what happened.” Each block had a sort of “vachman” (ph) [supervisor], who was in charge of the bread and also supervised. Well, simply there was a “vachman”. And I undid my trousers, well and I held my trousers and pretended that I was in pain, and I opened the door and at the same time he opened the door from his side. We both held the door handle. I opened and he too. That means we opened the door at once. “Komm her! {Come here] Where have you been?” that Pole said to me, “Where’ve you been?” And I said, “I’ve got an ache, “ I says, “I’ve been to the lavatory.” And there were these lavatories outside ... such lavatories, see. “To the lavatory?” And he saw I was holding my trousers and that I’m moaning, I pretended to be ill \_\_\_\_\_. And he asked, “Did you see him?” “No.” So he began to beat me on the spot. “Where’ve you been?” “Well,” I says, “to the lavatory.” I only said to myself, “Don’t own up.” As long as it is not ... then I won’t hang, so I’m going to say no and no and no. Only there, one of them -- there were about five of them there -- five of those police, the local ones -- says, “No, he wasn’t, He ... he,” he says, “he steals ‘pachky’ (ph).” He accused me of stealing “pachky. Parcels, that was “pachky” in Polish, in Czech it means parcels. And I said “That’s a good one.” “No,” I said, “I did not steal. I did not steal parcels.” I \_\_\_\_ got away from mentioning those wires. “And where have you been?” I says, “Potatoes,” I says, “I wanted to take a few potatoes.” There were potatoes next to the kitchen. But of course they were guarded. But I turned talk to ... to this, so as to distract from those wires. So they beat me there. The whole night, they beat me the whole night. But that was still like ... there in that block, in my block they beat me. But they said that I like steal those parcels “pachky” ---- that means those parcels -- it went from block to block - - they woke up that “blokestr” -- and said “Here you are. He’s the one stealing parcels.” When he had a stick, then he hit me with a stick, then he boxed, he began to box me. Simply they beat me just as they pleased. So I went from block to block throughout the night. To be beaten, yeah. In the end I went to the “unter ... “unterblokestr” (ph) [probably he meant oberblokestr] -- he was the kind of biggest capo - - the top capo on the camp -- the others were all below him. And they



led me to him because I steal parcels, yeah and potatoes and everything possible and so on.

end of tape 5 of 8

tape 6 of 8

Q: \_\_\_\_ And what about that escape? Those cut wires were there? Did they not investigate that escape ...

A Man: I'm starting

A: Well, as I said. Thanks to that escape I was in for a beating the entire night. Those were the blokestrs, mostly the blokestrs and capos. And it was about six in the morning when they handed me over to that "ober ... ober capo" -- he was practically the biggest chief in the entire camp.

Q: A prisoner?

A: Pardon?

Q: A prisoner?

A: Sort of -- he was like the biggest capo, unter capo. And ... he stood me at the door like this and a boy stood opposite me. He could have been about twelve. And he says, he like told him what I had done and what I was doing and so on and he says, "Bring a stick." That's what the capo said. So that boy went and brought a really proper stick. And I was watching him and he was having breakfast. Bread, coffee. So I said to myself, "At least if I could eat a piece of that bread like him!" He took his fill, I got up, then he got up. And I was like standing by the wall. And he -- they called him by his nickname Bonbardyr -- and he began to box me thick and fast. Only I made a big mistake. If I had fallen down -- as he hit me \_\_\_\_ and I had fallen -- only on purpose \_\_ it would have been good. Only I simply did not fall. I was so tough -- and I kept in mind all the time that they were going to hang me, as you know, so it was like that I only felt half the pain. Well, and in the end ~I was so beaten up, so he took the stick and with that stick he banged my head -- wherever he could -- thick and fast. Across my back, my legs. Well and then he chucked me out. Meanwhile there was the roll call and our lot were already standing

there -- that is to say still ... the commando number twenty-four. And when they saw that I can't walk, two Poles, Stasek and another -- jumped forward and took me. They held me under my armpits. I walked through the gate where that camp commander stood and he said to me, "For God's sake, please pull yourself together, just a little." And you must -- there the order is, "Muze ab!" and you have to look to the side where he is standing. Well, so I simply pulled myself together and looked in his direction. Well and then I went off normally. I came there to that ... to that tunnel, where we worked and the capo called me and said, "You! So you are the one who steals those parcels, are you? -- He was a Pole -- and I didn't say anything, there was nothing more to say. So he slapped me in the face and onto the bench and took one of those -- that is a kind of rubber tube, you know. But it was a really tough rubber cable, really firm! So he took me there, he sat on my feet, the other on my head and began to beat me up. I didn't know what to do for pain so I overturned that bench with them and all and bit him in the leg. I bit that capo, yeah. And he kicked me here in the back. I had terrible after effects. We'll get to that later. Well and then I went to clean ... to clean the metal, yeah those ... as I said for those V 1. But before we like continue, I'd like to tell you what happened to me... As I told you I used to wash those socks and such things, whatever they needed. And I had finished doing the washing and one of those blokestrs gave me pea soup. But I don't know where he got it from. It was home-made pea soup, nice. And I had a fairly big pot -- a good two liter one -- so he poured it in and I went out -- and I had a spoon and now I began to eat it. It was terrible how many years I hadn't eaten such soup. Well, it was very good and I gulped it down, you know. Simply ... one spoonful after another ... and it somehow turned my stomach and I was sick. But I wasn't sick on the ground -- but into the bowl, yeah. Into the bowl. So I brought it up, and now I took a look, and I said to myself, "Now what do I do with it?" I took my spoon and went like this and said, "Good gracious," I said, "so much good soup and again I'll be hungry." And that Pole passed by and says, "Well gypsy, what have you got?" I said, "Supe [soup]". And I like stirred it. "Pea soup, good soup." And he says, "And what do you want for it?" I

says, "Give me a piece of "kavale" (ph) kavale bread." So he gave me bread and I waited until he had finished eating, because the bowl was mine. And he ate it \_\_\_\_ and there were like bubbles on it -- like something, see. And he said, "Pshokr (ph) gypsy, that soup has a sour taste." I says. "That's nothing, there's vinegar in it." And he ate the soup. An I took that ... the bread and went off. Of course I wouldn't have eaten it. But this way I sold it quite ... quite well... Well and that sort of thing -- once I was ... I was walking from work and we were digging a trench around my block. Not deep. About 50 or 60 centimeters. Possibly for some cable or I don't know what for. And two prisoners were working there and they had a ring. They were escape suspects. So they marked them with such a red circles so that they would watch them. And one of them was there ... he was weak -- not a gypsy, not a Rom, a white. And he had his tongue clipped off, the tip of his tongue. And I looked -- he was all blood stained and he mumbles. The blood poured from him, yeah. I says, "Good gracious, what's this? What's he up to?" And he stood there like this -- so he stood on one side and a German on the other side, yeah. A young man, a young German, really. And he saw how the blood was dripping. So he took hold of his pistol and shot him. He shot him. And I said to myself, "He did the right thing, that he simply put him out of his misery." And one of those did -- the head of that camp did it to him. He apparently said something, swore, so he clipped off his tongue. But all that was so, so. Only then they came to check what was or wasn't going on and they heard that ...

Q: That shot.

A: Yes, that shooting. So they like came and now what's going on. Well, he said that he like suffered and that he couldn't watch it any longer, so he shot him. So they took him to the commander. I can't tell you -- that is just what I deduced, perhaps. There were two Germans -- he and one other -- there was this cremation on a kind of hill -- there was a cremation , and before that cremation they shot two Germans, yeah. In uniform -- Germans in uniform.

Q: And who shot them?

A: Well, in that camp. Simply it must have been some commander who gave orders to shoot them. It was like that \_\_\_\_ or it was like

German -- A German shot a German. So that's what I thought and I said, "Why do Germans shoot Germans?" I says and so on. So I asked about it all and in the end it came out, and he was sorry for that man. Well -- so I told you about -- that tongue, how they cut it off, that's how it took place ... in that camp, simply all kinds of such experiences, yeah. Not good. Well, and afterwards -- since I got that beating -- when I was down under in Dora -- it was there that my head began to ache. And I got -- here I have such a mark here -- a mark -- simply where they beat me. From here and slowly it pressed forward. And what did they call it -- I'll remember. And it went so far that I was unable to move my head this way, but .. because of the pain. As soon as I went like this, then I had these pains -- there was malaria there, yeah. Well and I got high fever from this and so I went on cleaning and kept an eye on where a capo was, yeah. And so kept watching, and as soon as he looked I began cleaning. Otherwise I could no longer do it. But, as they say, I malingered in this way, so that he wouldn't see that I was not working. And that one saw me, he was an Austrian. And he said to that capo, that one -- he needs me -- there is such hard work there -- so I'll take him and he'll work there, see. So that he is -- to make him "kaput" -- so -- so that he'll as it were kill me. He says, "Good, take him." So he took me. And in that gallery there were such raised sections -- some of the galleries were in steps -- and some galleries were like separate. Kind of steps like wooden ones and a shed wedged in the rock. A wooden shed. That was simply the office for those ... for those who supervised the work. And behind that hut, like there was a hut and like this there was a space between the rock and the hut -- there was such a space. I passed through it. I went along normally and ... He says, "You lie down here and when the shift is over, then I'll wake you and you'll go." And he covered me with those papers. Those from the cement. Well, I had all kinds of illnesses. And that lasted several days. This lasted several days. That he hid me and so on. And as I went, he shouted, you know and so everyone thought that he was like .. murdering me. And one day -- it could have been .. two or three o'clock, this sickness got worse and worse -- that "flegmovana" (ph). And suddenly I heard this foreman and the others -- were like ---

hundred kilometers, America -- that I understood -- I understood that and I didn't need to understand any more. But that the American front was nine kilometers, that like they are here. And that they were going to evacuate. Gracious, I don't know what medicine ... what medicine exists to make you pull yourself together from such a ... from an illness, yeah. I tell you, I jumped up and ran to join our lot that were working there, but they still had to pretend, because, see, only I had heard it -- and I told them ... my future brother-in-law -- he wasn't my brother-in-law yet -- Olda Holomka. I said, "There, behind that shed, I heard them say that the front, like is nine kilometers away. Americans." And that they're going to evacuate. And I had some bread hidden -- I had some bread hidden, you know. I couldn't eat. I gave some away and some I hid. And I took that bread \_\_\_\_\_. One such square of bread ... a square piece of bread was divided into 16 pieces, for 16 people, yeah. It meant dividing it like this and like that. And so I took that bread and said, "You there give me a fag for that bread." Well, and of course he had a Primka, as I told you before. And so he gave me that Primka -- just a little piece, yeah and there were those knives and such files, files for iron -- so that you could sharpen them a bit if nobody was looking. So I cut it up. And there were big lamps there -- two-hundred watts or more, yeah. They gave out a huge amount of heat. And I dried it there, I took a piece of paper, twisted it. Gee, I see it like today. I took one pull at the cigarette and I went dizzy, and I was so happy and I immediately saw myself at home, where I used to be, not that I loved that ... that girl. And so I smoked. And now that it was near, I stubbed it out and said to myself, I'll keep the rest for a second time." Well, and it did not take long -- as I said -- many hours and it really happened. They began to shout -- the capos took sticks and began to chase us of course onto that meeting place, counted us and off to the camp. There was no, what-you-call-it, roll call, there was no like counting those people -- no one was there. Each went his own way -- the commando simply went and then everyone went to their block. It did not take long and they did set up a roll call. Here again -- but after that, yeah, after that. They had a roll call and they like talked. They did something -- and that was supposed to be like from England --

some were supposed to have been smuggled into the camp and there was supposed to be a spy there, or something -- I cannot tell you. I did not explore that much, because I had enough. But I did catch something now and again. I said, "Gracious, those Englishmen. " and so on. And I drew some kind of little conclusion from that. And they like spoke about the end. They still did not know, or who knows should own up and nothing would happen to him and so on. And there were two there, those ... simply those two people, who were -- who were simply supposed to be Englishmen, yeah. That ... that was. When they did not own up then they said, take off your shoes. And then it worked -- this was practically in the Spring, yeah - - that was -- for all I know -- April or just about, yeah. But of course -- it was in April, and in May was liberation ... normally, the entire liberation. So I'm saying it correctly. And there was still snow, so we took off our shoes -- and we stood barefooted. An hour ... an hour and a half. And then that commander gave orders -- shoot every tenth. Every tenth. You know, Mrs, you never ... you never knew when you would be the tenth -- you were stupefied, so stupefied that you did not take it in who they would shoot and who they would not shoot. The beatings, the cold and all that -- you simply no longer took it in. And I was about the eighth -- eighth, so that I was missed -- it went past me. Well, and so I looked. They stepped forward and they shot. In the end it came out, so those two ... those two came forward and that solved it.

Q: And did they shoot ...

A: And they took those ...

Q: Did they shoot them?

A: Well, either they were Englishmen or -- I can't tell you.

Q: No. I'm asking, did they shoot them.

A: Mrs, I can't tell you, but they couldn't do it immediately, for they needed to know how it happened -- you know, a proper investigation. Because that was not only -- it had to be investigated properly. And by that time we possibly were no longer there before they shot them. Well, they then had this roll call again and began to shoot into the crowd. They shot randomly, randomly.

Q: Into the people?

**A: That was -- they called it -- as they called us “Haefblings” [prisoners], yea. They began to shoot the “haefblings.” They shot thick and fast, yeah. Well, and as the shooting went on, we ran away, see. Well, and then again the camp guards patrolled -- patrolled ... around the blocks and in the area -- and drove us back onto the roll-call square. And only there we called numbers -- I do not know how many people, yeah -- and they went to that -- truck -- into that truck. And that was that transport -- the first transport from ... from Dora. I did not get into that first transport. I did not get there. There were friends there and so on. They managed to get there and I got left behind without friends. And so we parted. But you know ... I think those “haefblings” had no sense. They raided the depots -- raided --- they rifled the clothes, shoes and all kinds of things. All that was in the camp. So they raided it and each of them grabbed -- each grabbed -- like this they took it in their arms -- each took -- you know like this, yeah. Stupid. I would take some trousers or so. But they took it like this. Well, and I watched -- so I pulled out something. I took something and I then had clothes. I was fully dressed. Well, and then we got to the second -- the second ... transport and we like went by train. They died in that first transport. They were bombed. I don't know by whom, but probably by the Americans, yeah. Because there were Germans there and they were -- were not -- in those open trucks, they sat there \_\_\_\_, so they did not know who they were, but the Germans sat on top, so very likely that is how it happened. Well and we went by the second transport and we went a long way. I can't tell you where it was. And in the end the railroad was bombed, so we had to get out -- there is a sort of ... a square and there they lined us up. And they dragged out the dead which were in the truck. And they did not believe it, so they shot at each of them with a pistol, yeah. So to make sure they were dead. And so we went on this death march. We went for lots of nights and we slept in a forest and in various places. But the SS were no longer with us, but Wehrrmacht. Like Wehrrmacht guarded us. And that Wehrrmacht -- so they say -- was 100% better, yeah. Calmer. They no longer cared. They were older chaps who would have loved to have been at home by now, and I don't know what else. And I watched how they were shooting and so**

on and I said -- yeah, Mrs, I forgot to tell you, see what happened meanwhile. I had this "plegmonia" (ph) and I didn't tell you how I got rid of it.

**Q:** You cured it.

**A:** Yea, because there was rather much of all this. I went to ... to the sickbay. And there were all Czech doctors there. Doctors ... such corpsmen, see. And they saw me, so I lay down ... I lay down on such a -- he sat on my back. One held my head, took a knife, yeah and he cut me here. As he cut, it squirted out at him. That ... that was it. And I sat there and it all came out. So that I did not have the pain. Like it all went out. Well, and so I went about with that, and in the end we got to the camp -- well, that camp was called -- I'll tell you later its name, yeah.

**Q:** So that you were now away from Dora?

**A:** Where?

**Q:** You were already away from Dora?

**A:** Yes, we were already out. That was ...

**Q:** So we could go back a little to life in Auschwitz.

**A:** Yeah.

**Q:** Auschwitz. You said they made some experiments there. Could you say a little more about it?

**A:** Well, as far as Roma were concerned, yea. Like Roma and Roma women were ... they were there for experiments and they carried out such things ... with injections so that they would no longer give birth, see. I don't know in what way. One was not up to it... did not know. Nor did you understand what they were doing.

**Q:** And you spoke to those women?

**A:** Yea, I talked to them -- my wife was there too. My wife as well. She was called Jarka. We'll get to that. So that there were lots of women who did not give birth. Who came back and did not have children. And in the case of the men there was again sterilization, yeah. That is how it was that some Roma ... Simply a dog's life -- I just cannot imagine -- but I also think that this is no life, or else. Well and Ruzicka, Franta Ruzicka and I made good friends -- still when we were -- as I said ... in Auschwitz. And that building had this kitchen. And one of them told me, "You know what, let's volunteer for those



experiments.” And he said, “We’ll get food,” and he said, “we’ll get drink.” And I said, “If I am to die, so: I said, “we’ll at least die with a full stomach.” When a man is hungry he doesn’t know what he is doing. But we did not go there, simply not. I can only tell you they tested types -- the shape of mouths, nose and I -- this at the back and ears and simply all kinds of nonsense. There was one there -- he was not a Rom, that was a white -- he -- we met him later. When, for example, we went to fetch dinner \_\_\_\_\_so we went for dinners -- so we used to stand in line, so we were able to speak with him. And he said that at the time he was in charge of such an ice room -- a room where like people -- that is how it was. They examined the people and the ones that seemed to them -- simply according to them -- how that person was supposed to be, then they called out a number and that person had to come ... to the reception; well and there they put him into the water. So he froze there. As he froze, the brain, as it were, stopped functioning -- they immediately cut off his head and then tested the brain -- how, in what way I cannot explain that to you, because ... I only heard this from him.

Q: You were told this by the one, who ...

A: The one that worked there on the spot, And ...

Q: And what did he do there?

A: How long?

Q: No, what did he do there?

A: He did that sort of. He was -- he like turned on the water, he brought that ... that head. He simply brought .. all sorts, frozen legs and the like. He was simply just one of those hands that helped the doctors. And I know for sure that Czechs did that too, I know that for sure -- that all sorts of knuckles -- they bought them, you know like balls -- and simply looked at them -- how do you say -- researched them. And they researched and there was a case that they used it -- how am I to say it -- they masturbated, yea. In that way , simply.

Q: Who? The ... the doctors?

A: Yeah.

Q: They were prisoners?

A: They were Czechs. That is to say Czech and German Poles who worked on this.

**Q: And prisoners?**

**A: Prisoners. They were prisoners and above them was this doctor. And I knew exactly the doctor's name, but I cannot remember just now. And that Czech doctor. Those were the biggest capos above those doctors. That Czech. So that this took place fairly secretly. But he said so much that he would not live, that they will have to liquidate him. And this actually happened. They liquidated him, because he knew too much. So he was written off.**

**Q: Does the name doctor Pavel Epstein mean anything to you?**

**A: What?**

**Q: Doctor Pavel -- Paul Epstein?**

**A: No.**

**Q: No. Good. And they were all doctors who treated you in that "krakenbau"?**

**A: Who?**

**Q: Those who did the experiments.**

**A: There ... in that? Well, in Auschwitz in that "krankebau" they did not do experiments. There they as it were treated you, or ...**

**Q: I know. but there were other doctors, weren't there?**

**A: There were quite different ones there. And there were also prisoner doctors. And above them there was like one German, who walked around and told them "tot, tot", "kaput, kaput," and so on. That was not one of those, this was when they were simply worn out. They simply ordered him to be liquidated and he nodded, "Cremation, cremation." So they liquidated, that was no problem for him.**

**Q: And what sort of illnesses were there?**

**A: Well there was typhoid. Gastro-typhoid. Then there was ... well, I don't know if that's the right name -- "durchwald" [Diarrhea]**

**Q: "Durchfall."**

**A: Yea. See, but I remember. That's an intestinal sickness -- where you have to sit on the lavatory all the time with pains, those cramps ... simply cramp. That meant that a terrible lot of people died of that.**

**Q: And were those doctors also able to help?**

**A: Well, such help ... they could not help. Because they did not have ... they simply did not have the medication, or I don't know what.**

They could not help. Perhaps the only thing the doctor took a fancy to, or I don't know -- maybe only with a few individuals. For that typhoid it was the same. They did as following. He had -- such an illness -- he had a fever, high temperature. And so when he went to that "kran ... to that "krankebau" then he gave him a thermometer, saw that he had a high temperature -- that meant 40 or more -- so he sent him to the "washraum" (ph) -- what do you call it -- the bathroom, turned on the shower. And cold icy water. I too had this. So that was a kind of treatment. And another were some kind of pills or -- nothing existed.

Q: Well and when somebody, say at work, had an accident -- could they bandage him?

A: Mrs, there was an accident, a Frenchman. I was a witness. And I carried him off to the "krakenbau". I mentioned that -- that V1 had a total of 15 meters -- including like the head piece.

Q: But those were in Dora. And now we're talking about Auschwitz.

A: Yeah. Oh, sorry in Ausch..., yeah. Well, there couldn't be any accidents there, because anyone who fell, see, he was so beaten up. Like my late father, he was beaten to death there. There was no such thing.

Q: So you saw how they murdered somebody?

A: Who?

Q: Somebody. A prisoner.

A: Yeah. I saw that. He ...he... was hit over the head with a log, or he turned round a little where he should not have. Well, and when a German came, some commander -- then, so that they would not say that the capos were good, so they beat people up right, left and center, "Loss, loss, loss. Arbeit. Arbeit" [ Get on, get, get on. Work, work." And they began to punch, yeah. Like this ...

Q: So even prisoners murdered?

A: What about them?

Q: Even some of the prisoners committed murders?

A: Yea, they were the ones.

Q: The capos?

A: Exactly those were the capos. It was those very capos and the "untercapos" and I don't know what. Those, those ... those ...

corporals, yeah. And they did that at the very time when the Germans came. So as to look good. So they used to begin to shout and hit people over the head.

Q: And were all the capos like that?

A: Mrs ... there ... there wasn't a single good one. Not a single one. You ... you catch a kind of disease. Once they start beating a man. Once. Once he has the chance, and nothing happens to him ... Then he is more and more under the influence and beats more and more. It never happened to me that he said ... "Hey you, don't do that," I don't now. That ... that never happened. That never happened. That he would have something nice to say, or -- that simply did not happen. They were worse and ...some of the capos were worse than the Germans. Because they showed -- you know, he had power, that .. SS -- he had power. And he wanted to be in with them, so he -- and he got praise for being good.

Q: To curry favor. To curry favor. To curry favor. To please.

A: Yes, yes, That was the way they did it. And perhaps he gave him a cigarette. And that was a way of getting in with him. Yeah -- and I forgot to tell you when we were talking about those accidents, so now we can add it. He was called Dydy (ph). Dydy, yeah.

Q: Who was that?

A: A Czech. He was -- I do not know -- a private first class or corporal. That is not important, what he was. There was a woman and she was pregnant and so when we were assembling for the roll call she couldn't go fast, so at the gate which of course was open -- they beat her -- there from that side they beat her -- well they drove them. And in the end that woman couldn't go that fast. so he kicked her. Yeah, kicked her. A pregnant women. That woman, normally ... blood ... blood flowed from her and so she died, yeah. She is ... here it is ... she is here from Gottwaldov. And he was then tried.

Q: After the war?

A: He was tried after the war and got a life sentence. And then they reduced it to twenty-five ... twenty-five years. Like they counted it. Well and then they released him. That's how it was -- and there were more such people.

Q: And he was there -- he ...

**A man: I'll stop the tape.**

**End of tape 6 of 8**

**Tape 7 of 8**

**A man: I'm set!**

**A man (no. 2) Just a moment.**

**A: There were German women, too.**

**Q: Wait Dydy was a German?**

**A: No he was not on the German side. He was like a capo. A Czech Rom.**

**Q: A prisoner ... Czech. Yes, now I understand.**

**A: Yeah. A Czech Rom.**

**Q: And after the war you then ...**

**A: He got a sentence.**

**Q: And you found him after the War and you gave him away?**

**A: Yeah. There was a court case and plenty of witnesses. Especially, there were women there, because it was like that. So that he got a life sentence. Then they reduced it to twenty-five years, well ... well simply ... and he has already died \_\_\_\_ Lots of Roma, or every Rom simply beat him. Just like that. He also went a little blind there, yeah and so on. Well, and then there were the German Roma. Those were scandalous Roma. They were "shtubmisters (ph). They were lice, lice. Whenever they could they took a bite of a person. And it was these very ones that beat these women to death. These very ones, you know, that beat and beat those women and children to death. And the food they were supposed to get, let's say -- I don't know -- soup or bread, see. Well they simply took it away from them. "You're not going to eat that. That's good. Shut up." And so on. All ... all this took place. And then they gave it to ... those chaps -- simply their pets and so on. Well and they like survived.**

**Q: Were there any cases of torture?**

**A: Torture?**

**Q: Did you actually witness any torture?**

**A: Well ... there was no torturing there, but hanging ... there was hanging to be sure. They hung them. A Rom was also hung. That was**

when he tried to escape, yeah. Two or three.

**Q: And what sort of punishments in general were there?**

**A: Well there were punishments -- they beat them to death -- they simply beat them with a stick. Beat them to death, beat them to death. Nobody asked whether he had killed him or whether he had received twenty five strokes. So they beat them as they pleased. And when he killed him, well then they put him on a stretcher and simply crossed off the item -- number so and so died. His name was removed from his index card and marked as dead and the respective number was again allocated. So that there was no actual torturing there, the torturing was automatic, yeah. They beat them with a stick and I don't know what else. That was the way they tortured there.**

**Q: And were there many cases of suicide?**

**A: Look here, there were perhaps not many suicides ... there were not a lot. But there were plenty who -- especially women whose children were dying, died of typhoid or "durchfall." So out of desperation they threw themselves on the wires, or died of hunger, yeah. There were like plenty ... that did that. But rarely a man lost his senses, well he too would throw himself at that wire, see. But they were simply write offs. As I said that did not play a role there at all whether 20 or 10 died. That did not play a role.**

**Q: Does the word "muziman" (ph) mean anything to you?**

**A: Muziman? Musizman is .... muziman is a person who loses all his flesh and is just covered in skin, yeah. And his stomach is so shrunk that you can see that the muziman is just waiting for death. He is just waiting to die, yeah. And the only ... the only ... the only liberation for such a person was death.**

**Q: And were there such cases where you were?**

**A: There were lots and lots. There were a terribly lot of such people. There was much of that there.**

**Q: Now tell me whether you had the possibility to see those transports, how they arrived at the ramp, or the transports that departed?**

**A: Like ...**

**Q: Transports -- new transports, which arrived. You had a view of the ramp after all.**

**A: Well, of course the ramp was in sight . But not in Auschwitz. In Auschwitz they had to jump -- that is Auschwitz -- as I said -- Birkenau -- well it was there they had to jump straight from the train. There was no like what-you-call-it. And it was there that they beat up people. They caused confusion. So that they did not have time to think about anything. Or so that he did not do anything. So they stirred up confusion by using force, beating them with a rifle butt and shouting “You dog!” So that the people were as tame as lambs. So they did not go like a man.**

**Q: And did you have any contacts with the prisoners in the camp?**

**A: There ... there, there was not contact, but only my sister was there. There back in that gypsy camp, yeah, that is where my sister was. I saw her once. She died -- she died at home. Otherwise I don't know of any contact, we did not have any. Except for those Jews, yeah. They were next to us and when it was a little [possible] then we went to the wire, yeah, and we called to them ...**

**Q: So that you did talk with them?**

**A: Yes we did talk together.**

**Q: And when did you find out that you are actually in an extermination camp? That you are in an extermination camp, that actually everyone there is condemned to death. When did you find out?**

**A: When they will die, or what?**

**Q: No. When did you find out that the camp is an extermination camp?**

**A: Well, we said that before. We said that they used to of course count the people and the block was shut down ... the block was shut down.**

**Q: But somebody told you that all the people are due to die?**

**A: Oh yeah. It happened like this. Each of those capos -- each capo or simply a “blokestr,” yeah simply had -- had a favorite among the Germans or God knows. And that German like said that they will like go to be cremated, see. So always some German split it to a capo or to some “untercapo” and so it went by word of mouth and so possibly also to us. So that it was not like a problem to not know about it. But then there were orders that anyone capable of working**

was to go with that transport to Buchenwald.

Q: Well, and what sort of work did you do there? Still in Auschwitz.

A: How? Well there we had to clean in those blocks. Then there was digging ... digging these here canals -- for sewerage. Then there was -- there was the largest factory for the production of paints. For paint. That is in Germany.

Q: Bona (ph)?

A: Yeah. Bona. Right. That's what it was. Yeah.

Q: Bona?

A: Yes. And it was there that they worked, they worked there -- that is the largest firm in Germany, this one, yeah. And so the ones they transported there worked there.

Q: So from your camp ... the commando went to Bona?

A: Yes, yes, yes.

Q: But you -- you had already -- you still saw them?

A: Well it's difficult to say like that. I say.

Q: And what were the relations like between the prisoners. Did you help each other?

A: Help? Well, in as far as ... as far as like for instance ... if someone was supposed to be beaten, or simply, the \_\_\_\_\_ then I -- then I always warned him, "Don't do that." Or "The capo is coming get on with it, get on with it." We simply caused confusion -- we helped each other by giving advice so that we like pretended to work or by giving warnings -- "The capo is coming, you'll be beaten." Well, so like there were these warnings.

Q: Did high SS officers ever come on a visit?

A: Yeah, they were there. There were VIP visitors. And above all there was a woman, I can't remember her name. but it was -- somebody informed on her, knew her name, I simply not. She used to examine the lads and they had to undress. Well of course all of them. She walked from block to block.

Q: Did she have a uniform?

A: She was in uniform, yeah. She had a whip -- a whip in her hand -- and she was simply -- what you call it -- a beast. Such a beast, beast. And she looked the men over and whoever had a tattoo and a nice tattoo, yeah, I know that exactly, then that man was ordered to come



forward, she wrote down his number and he had to come ... simply there where ... where they wrote off people and there were injections ... what d'you-call-it ... tortured to death.

**Q: Killed.**

**A: And then it was pulled from him, yeah. They pulled off his skin and I can't tell you any further. But it was used for various things ... handbags, or I don't know what. She enjoyed this sort of thing, yeah. And then there was another such beast there who had the men undress and then looked to see ... how it was, yeah.**

**Q: Well, and how -- did you ever have extraordinary roll calls?**

**A: Well, as long as nobody tried to escape, as long as there was no escape, see or -- the counting used to be quite fast, like. This was always up to ten and it was finished in no time. So it was like exceptional when somebody escaped or somehow someone was missing, then we had to ... we had to stand there until it was clarified.**

**Q: And Mr Daniel, did you experience any selection? Selection -- did they ever do that. For instance, did you ever go before a commission, for instance before you were sent to Dora?**

**A: When I went to the roll call or what?**

**Q: When you left the camp.**

**A: No. There they -- there they simply -- when like -- when we went there ... from Auschwitz or from Birkenau then we were stood in line on the main ... the main path. And the "shraibrs" were there who wrote the numbers of those who were to go in the transport. But they were separated immediately. That means, that he had to write it down and you went forward. And simply we were sent immediately \_\_\_\_ to Auschwitz. There were the showers and there they handed out the striped clothes and clogs.**

**Q: And did you smuggle anything into the camp?**

**A: Did we smuggle ? No.**

**Q: No. And was there ever an opportunity -- like after work -- for you to sing?**

**A: Mrs, not at all -- there it was absolutely impossible -- what sort of singing, there was no way of anything like that. There were some women there who composed that one song, yeah. Such a ... such a nice one.**

**Q: Which one?**

**A: That was “There is no love in the camp ...”**

**Q: Can you sing it?**

**A: (Laughs)**

**Q: Go on, try**

**A: (Laughs)**

**Q: A little. At least the first verse.**

**A: (Laughs) That song was like composed, then there was ...**

**Q: At least tell us the words.**

**A: There were two songs. There was this ... that how Roma, yeah ...**

**Q: Say it in Romany.**

**A: \_\_\_\_\_ Well and then she speaks to the Romany mother \_\_\_\_\_**

**Q: And do you remember the melody?**

**A: No, yeah.**

**Q: So, after that.**

**A: I can't any more.**

**Q: You can't? ... But you promised to tell me about your first wife. About Jarka.**

**A: Like about my wife?**

**Q: You said that they did some experiments on her too.**

**A: Yeah. From Hodoninek, yeah -- we got to know each other in Hodoninek and simply ... I took a fancy to her, but that I should like be with her, that like did not like occur to me at all \_\_\_\_\_. Well, when we got to Auschwitz she used to visit me -- in that block 16. She was in block nine and I was in 16, so she used to come to me -- and she also had her brother there. His name was Stana, that's what his name was. And he -- that I have to say so, Stana died suddenly. There ... behind that “krakenbau”, yeah there were barrels there. There were kind of barrels and there was food inside. I had that -- we each had a spoon; as I said we always had it on us and so these barrels were there -- and we were supposed to rake the ground there and tidy -- sweep it, see. And suddenly there were these barrels there -- I tasted it --so I tried --and I said, “I'm not going to eat that.” I thought it was disgusting, you know.**

**Q: And that was garbage?**

**A:** No, no. That could not have been garbage. That was like food left over. Scraps. But it was sort of -- Mrs I can tell you -- it was -- it looked like semolina. It had such a white color. But I don't know what it was. It was not even sauce, nor any "popovica" (ph) -- simply some kind of -- kind of sticky stuff -- something like that, you know. As if there was potato meal in it or something like that. And he had such a big spoon. Like what my wife has when she is ladling out something. And he had that kind of spoon. And I tasted it and says, "I'm not going to eat that." Well, I was hungry, but I am still squeamish. And he ate it. And he kept saying how good it was and so on. And in a couple of days he started swelling and died. And it was Jarka who came to see me and we were like \_\_\_\_ that he had died. She was with me. And then we did not see each other ... then we did not see each other until after the War

**Q:** And then you got married?

**A:** Yes, we married. After that I was still like there. I then went from that camp -- there was a camp there and -- they were military barracks. They drove us there, those people that were left -- they drove us into barracks,

**Q:** From where?

**A:** There was that ... what was it called , I said it before --- that death march, yeah.

**Q:** From Dora?

**A:** Yes. That was that transport ... that transport.

**Q:** Now we've again got to that march from Dora.

**A:** So we like went to this camp. They were barracks. Huge barracks. And so we were free there. There was no counting, no such ceremonies, because the Germans couldn't care less. And everyone would have rather run away and changed clothes and so on. But there were still Germans there, as I said -- but Wehrmacht. But there were -- there were two camps. One was a camp -- that is to say there were two military camps. But each of the camps was fenced in with ... with wire. And between there was a passage, That was for the watch -- guards that walked up and down. Well , and I -- me and Franta we escaped. We escaped from there from that camp and we ran away and were free. If you had seen us, Mrs, then I think, I don't

know what you would have thought of us. We had such crosses on our heads cut out from our hair. Like this and like that, yeah. And \_\_\_\_ there was no hygiene, nothing clean, no washing or anything like that. We looked like all the devils, yeah. Well, and we were already -- as we escaped -- far away of course. We raided a cottage. The Germans had evacuated them, so there was nobody there. But they had cases and various food prepared. So we jumped into that cottage. There were some old people. So we took some cans of food and various food that was going and went into the forest. We spent several days in the forest. Until we ran out of food. In the same way we helped ourselves to cigarettes. Well, like that, yeah.

Q: That was in Germany?

A: This was all in Germany. Well, and in the end ... that's where it was. It was from there that they took us in the end. There was a kind of camp. I know -- I forget now -- now I kind of forget. Well and we were there until the Americans came.

Q: And how did they catch you?

A: How did they catch us? I went back.

Q: I see.

A: I went back, because I had friends -- this brother-in-law -- Olda Holomek and about five or six others. So I went back there because I had some food and I like brought it back for them. And then I escaped with them -- with those six we ran away again. And by then we were like free. And we got food as best we could -- well how could we get food? Only by stealing and so one could do that. We did not care at all about how we were dressed. That sort of thing was out. As far as like -- I managed very well. As far as food was concerned. But the others got diarrhea, they got fever, because they suddenly started eating, simply until they were full up. Of course the stomach was not able to digest so much and so they had these problems. In the beginning they had terrible complaints. For many days -- they had to cure themselves for several days,

Q: But by that time you were free, liberated?

A: That was when we were escaping. We escaped. That was simply like when we were escaping, but this camp was still functioning. It was called Nordhausen.

**Q: What was it called?**

**A: Nordhausen.**

**Q: Nordhausen.**

**A: Yes. And that's where we were then. Well, and we were in the forest and we saw a uniformed person and he was also like this. We went to a farmer. Frantik, Ruzicka, he knew German, so he went up to him and of course we wanted tobacco, see. We saw there from our vantage point in the forest that he had a pipe. And there was no tobacco, so I said, "Go and ask him." He was a white man so he did not rouse attention. And so he spoke German with him and he gave him the tobacco, like that, and he said, "Can you tell me, please, how far is the front line? Or what exactly is happening?" And he said, "Here you cross this stream and along that road and there you'll find the Americans." And so we went through that forest and of course ... the Canadians liberated us there. So they liberated us, so they, the Americans took us in immediately. And they also gave us food and so on. "Eat slowly, slowly." They talked to us like to children when you give them I don't know what. They were afraid that our insides might burst, or something. Well they were simply careful. Well, and then we were in this here camp -- we were already -- in a reception camp -- a reception camp, which -- which was supervised by the Americans. And we were in that zone -- that was the Soviet Zone and -- how do you say -- American. Those Russians had to withdraw. So then the Americans had it. And we were simply there. Well, and there we set up a kind of kitchen, you know. There was no food, there was nothing.**

**Q: And they did not give you food?**

**A: That was .. that was Mrs -- when the Americans simply gave us food or they gave, but it was not enough to feed a child. It was completely -- they did not have such supplies for --- I don't now how many -- there were 60, 70 thousand people. Well, and so we went. And we slaughtered cows to make the kitchen function, to make those soups. There were six of us who were getting supplies -- well of course there was stealing, yeah. It was in the countryside... in the fields and meadows. It was still fairly cold. And so we caught [these cows] and slaughtered them for cooking. Well and so we did the**

cooking. And then they gave us number one. And so we like helped people.

Q: What does number one mean?

A: Well, that we are like the best there in helping, yeah.

Q: I see, like top marks?

A: Yeah. That is how we worked. Well, and I then in that camp -- it was there that I saved Rowena \_\_\_\_, yeah.

Q: Who? Tell us about that.

A: Pardon?

Q: Which Rowena? Tell us about her. Tell us about her.

A: Yeah, so she -- while we were together with Frantik, yeah -- when we were walking around in the forest of course. And there was this camp -- I don't know what it was called, well, but perhaps I'll remember. That camp was razed. And there was terrible typhoid, terrible typhoid. And there were mostly a load of women there. And basically we were afraid to go there. And like this ... a little way from the gate, she was a little way from the gate. A little way from the gate.

Q: Who? The girl?

A: That ... that girl, yeah. So I was just looking and saw like when you have saliva, yeah. So she like, you know -- she had a kind of bubble, you know.

Q: Foam.

A: Not that girl. I saw that she was alive. So I took her, and we began to feed her, slowly of course. And so she was with me in the camp, and her mother also. Then we were liberated. And there were Jews there. Jewesses. With a "Bauer" (ph). That is a farmer. And he treated them still as if ... like they were in concentration camp. And I had a kind of club -- a good and proper club and he also. And we went there --and these poor girls were working there -- and they gave them kohlrabi -- that is not kohlrabi -- it was a kind of turnip. That is what you give cows and to other kinds of livestock. And they gave them soup made of these turnips. Well, they like grated potatoes into the soup and that is what they ate. They were just sitting around this large table -- and God knows how many girls there were -- but like about 15 girls. Young girls, aged twenty-five, twenty or so. And I said so what -- I banged on the table with that club. And he was standing

like opposite me and so I began to beat him. And I said, "And now come here!" and I caught hold of him and I knew well that the young folk were not at home in Germany. I simply knew that, because they were all at the front or simply in the War. But he was quite a brave chap. But I looked like a hussar. I had one of those --- well I got hold of that in a tank -- I don't know what it is -- a mortar -- and what they have for shooting rockets -- I had a real proper pistol. Yeah, I had all that. And that German held this club in his hand. And he had a kind of broken one -- the butt was, you know -- the butt was broken, so there was everything there. We had all that so that we were not afraid. And so I forced him to give us all the food. And so we threw all the food together. And opposite was a store room -- and that was like, Mrs, when you walk in a door. But whatever you do, whatever you do it is still visible that the door is there. If ever you have noticed that. Or the wall was 15 cm thick or so, you know. I took a look at it and I said in Romani to Franta, " \_\_\_\_\_ " And I went forward, I pushed good and properly into that 15 cm wall and I knocked it down, and I thought I would drop dead. Mrs, there was this room -- there were about three pigs -- that is to say smoked, sausages, bacon fat (speck) -- well all kinds of food like that and hanging there. So ... so I said, "Girls, come and collect it all." Well you can imagine like beasts of prey. Those girls were like beasts of prey. Yeah, so I had to take those girls away, because that chap could have done something to them. So I took them. Each of them took something. Clothes as well ... I said, "Take some clothes." So they took clothes. And we went into the forest. Well, and so we went to \_\_\_\_\_ -- to that ... to that camp, to that reception camp, yeah. Those barracks. And it was only there -- that one met the other in that camp -- that they made friends with each other, and families and so on. Well and he --- he then came to fetch her-- that was on the ninth -- May 8th -- that was the liberation of Prague, or Prague called for help. We had a radio of sorts, so we listened and it was only on 9th or 11th that the country was liberated. The end of the war as a whole. Well, you can imagine how we cried with joy. And we were in this camp -- in those .. in those barracks, and she was there as long, see, until her brother-in-law came. And her brother-in-law was an eye doctor at Charles

**University.**

**Q: That was her brother-in-law?**

**A: Of Ruzenka. He was an eye doctor at Charles University. And he came to fetch her. And she of course told him what and how. And he took along her mother and her. And we said goodbye to each other. With the understanding that I will somehow go -- so also to -- that I'll stop over in Prague. And we had such a firm pledge that we were going to be together. And, Mrs, it was ... it was not so simple. Just like I say. It was simply -- there were longings. We talked together -- one with the other -- how like somehow, but I simply did not feel anything like -- that I could simply have a relationship. That is the way I want to explain it to you. Simply such -- nothing nowhere, yeah. I says, "Gracious, what have you said!" \_\_\_\_ I says, "I will be -- I will not have a relationship with women and so on." \_\_\_\_ for a long time, Mrs. It took a long time before it happened. Well and ...**

**Q: So you were with your wife later?**

**A: Pardon?**

**Q: You were with Jarushka?**

**A: Yeah, yeah that was afterwards, yeah. And that was such a ... such a seduction. She practically seduced me and then she was pregnant. And I promised her the earth. And afterward I was bad-tempered that it all happened that way, because I really wanted to stay with her. And in the end she got pregnant, she had nobody -- this here Jarka, my first wife -- she had nobody. The entire family died. And she was pregnant. In this case I felt terribly sorry for her. So I wrote her a letter that I had simply gone and so on. So that she -- simply I did it in this way, so that she would not know that I had stayed with this one, or simply here with Ruzena. Well, and she is ... she married in Benesov.**

**Q: Who?**

**A: That Ruzena. Ruzenka \_\_\_\_ married and she married some -- some fireman, who is an officer. And she has a girl, a daughter. And she after a while ... fled to Switzerland and she stayed in Switzerland.**

**Q: And Ruzenka was also a Rom?**

**A: Who?**

**Q: Ruzenka.**



**A: No, no a Jewess.**

**Q: Jewess. And you liked her?**

**A: Yeah. She too -- he was -- he was an authority that doctor -- he was ... from Charles University. And she ... and she was their sister. They had a large villa in Branik [Prague]. Well and that is how it ended simply, that entire set up. Well, and in the end I had eight children.**

**Q: With Jarka?**

**A: Yeah, eight children. And I did this work, I kept on doing this work, well and ...**

**Q: What did you do after the war?**

**A: Me, after the war. I worked at my trade.**

**Q: That is as a smith?**

**A: I worked as a coppersmith. And \_\_\_\_ and I made these kneading troughs, you know those they use in production, in bakeries and in school canteens, so there where they had these troughs or ...**

**Q: Boilers.**

**A: Cauldrons, yeah. This is like how I made my livelihood. That is my trade. But in a while that will disappear, too, because no one wants to do it and we will no longer make them.**

**Q: And when did you get married for a second time?**

**A: Well that ... that is 20 years ago ...**

**Q: Your first wife died?**

**A: Yeah. She died, yeah. She died and then -- I think I -- it was 20 years ago when I was 25 years old, 26 years old, but she was pregnant and at the age of 24 with this daughter, the eldest. Well and that is how my life turned out.**

**Q: And where did you live after the war?**

**A: Pardon?**

**Q: Where did you live?**

**A: After the war?**

**Q: Well. You returned to ...**

**A: Yes, we returned home, to Chvalkovice. And that girl welcomed me ... the girl, the farmer's daughter. Lida Vystavilova (ph). So she welcomed me. She like gave me some money, of course what I needed. And invited me to come there for meals. But I actually did**

not go there often -- so she came to see me. And she was simply capable of staying. We went out together as far as the public was concerned. Everyone knew she was going out with Daniel, yeah and so on. And so it worked out, if it had not like been that ... I had an affair with Jarka, then I would of, well, that ...

Q: And tell me, how many of your family came back?

A: Of my family there were 12 ... 12 came back sisters and a brother. And of those children who were younger, not a single one.

Q: And how long were you in Chvalkovice?

A: My family or who?

Q: No, you.

A: I was there after the war, -- I think not even -- not a whole year.

Q: And where did you go after that?

A: To ... To Prostejov. Well and in Prostejov I had an apartment. And there I lived normally with Jarka,

Q: Already with a family.

A: Yeah.

Q: Well, and did you stay in Prostejov?

A: I was in Prostejov from the time after the end of the War and then on and on until now. Well and I worked there. They needed \_\_\_\_ this plant Plzen Skodovka needed this work and so on. And so I simply worked there and it was there that I made friends with her.

Q: So that in the end you stayed in Plzen?

A: Yeah. In the end we stayed there. I stayed with the daughter who I have now in Brno. Well, now they are ...

Q: Grown up.

A: Yes. They have children and so on. I have only one boy and seven girls. And here I have two boys and two girls. So that that is how we have established a family. Well, and she went to work with me. So that she like learned a lot. Well, and as far as cooking was concerned, well she had to learn to cook our way. Everything the Moravian way. She used to cook like they do in Slovakia. But then she began to cook our way. Well, and as far as Roma meals are concerned, she knew how to do that, she is a very good cook. Well, and that is how it ended. Someday I'll tell you about that. One day when we meet again I'll tell you about our customs ...customs ...

**Romani customs ... customs like there used to be in the First Republic. Yeah that \_\_\_\_\_ and such things. She know. That is interesting, like how those customs and simply how they have been handed down to the present day. And this present generation which like -- which like for instance -- this generation and the future ones will not know about it, because these customs that used to be are no longer kept up.**

**Q: Now let's look at the photographs, yes?**

**A: Well, have a look.**

**A man: Stop, stop, stop, stop.**

**A: This is my brother and ...**

**End of tape 7 of 8**

**tape 8 of 8**

**A man: Camera, action**

**Q: So tell me something about that watch.**

**A: Well, it occurred to me to throw it away. So I thought about it and in the end I thought I like clocks \_\_\_\_\_ I like them very much. I said to myself, "What if I put some little heads there."**

**Q: 12 hours.**

**A: And 12 children. It just occurred to me. So I stuck them on and it worked out well.**

**Q: From the eldest to the youngest.**

**A: Yeah, yes, yes. Hung on to that -- where I like have -- where I hang everything. Well it was hard work drilling all the holes.**

**A man: Shall I stop? On we go.**

**A: He is born 1900 and his wife died at home. And he died of typhoid in concentration camp in Birkenau. Of typhoid.**

**Q: Tell us when you change tapes.**

**A man: You can change.**

**Q: And who is this?**

**A: That's my sister.**

**A man: Put it closer to each other.**

**A: And of the girls she was the youngest. She also died in concentration camp and she had one child. She could have been about four. That was at the time when she went to Birkenau. And so**

**that child died. And she died too, well ... Like the youngest sister ...**

**A man: OK.**

**Q: And this one?**

**A: And here I was about ... eighteen and a half.**

**A man: Turn it a little toward you.**

**A: When I was playing football ...**

**A man: That is too much.**

**A: ... for the club SK Chvalkovice.**

**A man: I see.**

**A: This is over fifty years old. A good -- I would say I was 19, 20, not quite nineteen.**

**Q: You played football.**

**A: Yes, I played football. I got about 50 crowns and when I shot a goal I got 100. So I tried really hard.**

**Q: Ready?**

**A man: No, not yet. Now you can. You can start!**

**Q: Yeah. Right, Mr Daniel, have you got any more?**

**A: There is nothing of interest to tell you.**

**Q: So I ...**

**A: (Coughs) Pardon?**

**Q: So I'd like to thank you.**

**A: (Laughs)**

**Q: I thank you for your patience. And we can ...**

**A: Well, it was rather long.**

**Q: But it was interesting.**

**A: But I made a lot of ...**

**End of tape 8 of 8**