

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:15,090

2  
00:00:15,090 --> 00:00:17,820  
I'm going to start asking now.

3  
00:00:17,820 --> 00:00:20,940  
I want you to tell me--

4  
00:00:20,940 --> 00:00:24,090  
just start at the point  
just before liberation

5  
00:00:24,090 --> 00:00:27,090  
when things were getting very  
bad, tell me where you were

6  
00:00:27,090 --> 00:00:28,710  
and what the  
conditions were like,

7  
00:00:28,710 --> 00:00:32,520  
and then just describe  
the liberation to me.

8  
00:00:32,520 --> 00:00:41,490  
Maybe I start this way, that I  
say that 29 of April in Dachau

9  
00:00:41,490 --> 00:00:44,730  
began as a very quiet day.

10  
00:00:44,730 --> 00:00:47,790  
Nothing in the  
surroundings and in the air

11  
00:00:47,790 --> 00:00:52,320  
indicated that there will be  
a drama this day, you know.

12  
00:00:52,320 --> 00:00:57,060

And there were several  
days like that before--

13  
00:00:57,060 --> 00:01:01,140  
when I came to Dachau  
from Hersbruck--

14  
00:01:01,140 --> 00:01:06,720  
this was a subcamp of a  
large camp of Flossenburg--

15  
00:01:06,720 --> 00:01:15,190  
I came to Dachau in  
the evacuation March

16  
00:01:15,190 --> 00:01:18,210  
that lasted about 20 days.

17  
00:01:18,210 --> 00:01:22,950  
When we came to Dachau  
I was lice-infected.

18  
00:01:22,950 --> 00:01:25,800  
All of us were in  
the same condition.

19  
00:01:25,800 --> 00:01:30,870  
And we waited for several  
hours, almost the whole day,

20  
00:01:30,870 --> 00:01:37,350  
before we were received by  
Dachau, by the camp of Dachau.

21  
00:01:37,350 --> 00:01:45,510  
And finally, we  
have been accepted

22  
00:01:45,510 --> 00:01:53,490  
and signed up or given the  
numbers and taken the showers.

23  
00:01:53,490 --> 00:01:58,470

And after that, I  
was completely naked.

24  
00:01:58,470 --> 00:02:01,230  
Everything has  
been taken from me.

25  
00:02:01,230 --> 00:02:05,780  
All my belongings that I  
brought from Hersbruck--

26  
00:02:05,780 --> 00:02:10,635  
and my uniform, old uniform.

27  
00:02:10,635 --> 00:02:16,100

28  
00:02:16,100 --> 00:02:23,950  
And I was not given anything  
that was used in Dachau.

29  
00:02:23,950 --> 00:02:27,100  
Instead I had a blanket.

30  
00:02:27,100 --> 00:02:31,900  
I wrap around the blanket, and  
I stay several days this way.

31  
00:02:31,900 --> 00:02:35,440  
It has one good thing  
because we didn't

32  
00:02:35,440 --> 00:02:38,170  
have to go to work  
because we were naked.

33  
00:02:38,170 --> 00:02:42,880  
You know, but we only had  
to participate in roll call

34  
00:02:42,880 --> 00:02:44,290  
three times a day.

35

00:02:44,290 --> 00:02:47,830

36

00:02:47,830 --> 00:02:51,510

And there was a  
quiet days, and we

37

00:02:51,510 --> 00:02:57,840

lived in area which was  
called a quarantine--

38

00:02:57,840 --> 00:03:00,420

several blocks that  
were completely

39

00:03:00,420 --> 00:03:11,430

separated from the rest  
of the camp by the fence.

40

00:03:11,430 --> 00:03:14,700

And there was a  
guard at the fence.

41

00:03:14,700 --> 00:03:17,500

And we couldn't get  
out of that area.

42

00:03:17,500 --> 00:03:23,100

But on 29 of April, when I  
get up and went out outside,

43

00:03:23,100 --> 00:03:26,310

I saw that the gate  
was open, and there

44

00:03:26,310 --> 00:03:29,340

was nobody at the gate.

45

00:03:29,340 --> 00:03:34,450

So I took a chance,  
and I went outside

46

00:03:34,450 --> 00:03:39,490  
on the main street of the camp.

47  
00:03:39,490 --> 00:03:45,130  
And I walked to the  
place before the kitchen

48  
00:03:45,130 --> 00:03:49,000  
where usually the  
roll call were held.

49  
00:03:49,000 --> 00:03:51,970  
I remember seeing,  
when I arrived,

50  
00:03:51,970 --> 00:03:55,900  
a big tent over there  
in which there were

51  
00:03:55,900 --> 00:03:58,090  
clothing-- all kinds of things.

52  
00:03:58,090 --> 00:04:01,630  
You know, so I hoped  
to find that tent.

53  
00:04:01,630 --> 00:04:06,520  
And I did found it, but it  
was complete almost empty.

54  
00:04:06,520 --> 00:04:11,890  
But still I could find a pair  
of trousers and a jacket.

55  
00:04:11,890 --> 00:04:19,579  
And I took this with me.

56  
00:04:19,579 --> 00:04:23,970  
And I came back to the block.

57  
00:04:23,970 --> 00:04:27,980  
And by this time, everybody  
was already outside,

58  
00:04:27,980 --> 00:04:30,320  
and there was supposed  
to be a roll call.

59  
00:04:30,320 --> 00:04:33,020  
And we assembled the roll call.

60  
00:04:33,020 --> 00:04:38,660  
And we stood for two or  
three hours and nobody came.

61  
00:04:38,660 --> 00:04:42,560  
Usually there would be an SS  
man who would come and count

62  
00:04:42,560 --> 00:04:44,270  
everybody and take the--

63  
00:04:44,270 --> 00:04:51,770

64  
00:04:51,770 --> 00:04:59,120  
I mean, report this  
to higher authorities.

65  
00:04:59,120 --> 00:05:02,590  
This time he didn't come.

66  
00:05:02,590 --> 00:05:06,370  
Instead we were ordered  
to go into the block.

67  
00:05:06,370 --> 00:05:08,420  
And the block was closed.

68  
00:05:08,420 --> 00:05:12,670  
And we were told that we  
will have to sit inside

69  
00:05:12,670 --> 00:05:16,390  
locked indefinitely.

70  
00:05:16,390 --> 00:05:19,610  
So this is how the day started.

71  
00:05:19,610 --> 00:05:26,420  
And it really-- and the only  
contact with the outside world

72  
00:05:26,420 --> 00:05:28,370  
was through the window.

73  
00:05:28,370 --> 00:05:30,320  
And when we see  
through the window

74  
00:05:30,320 --> 00:05:33,080  
a strange thing happening.

75  
00:05:33,080 --> 00:05:38,840  
Because all of a sudden there  
appeared a German gestapos

76  
00:05:38,840 --> 00:05:44,660  
with canes as a guard.

77  
00:05:44,660 --> 00:05:46,760  
And they were  
stationed all around,

78  
00:05:46,760 --> 00:05:51,280  
on all corners around this area.

79  
00:05:51,280 --> 00:05:55,790  
But there were no SS  
guard of any kind.

80  
00:05:55,790 --> 00:05:57,950  
There were nothing in the air.

81  
00:05:57,950 --> 00:06:01,930  
Usually for many  
days, there was always

82

00:06:01,930 --> 00:06:11,830  
a British airplane hanging above  
the camp, spying over the camp.

83

00:06:11,830 --> 00:06:14,560  
There were nothing  
there-- absolutely quiet.

84

00:06:14,560 --> 00:06:18,930  
And when the 5  
o'clock arrive, we

85

00:06:18,930 --> 00:06:20,830  
were starting to get a dinner.

86

00:06:20,830 --> 00:06:24,720  
You know, dinner which was  
one slice of bread and water

87

00:06:24,720 --> 00:06:25,810  
is all.

88

00:06:25,810 --> 00:06:35,200  
And at that time, the block  
shook because fighting began.

89

00:06:35,200 --> 00:06:38,320  
And it lasted about 1/2 hour--

90

00:06:38,320 --> 00:06:39,970  
terrifying fighting.

91

00:06:39,970 --> 00:06:44,500  
And all the walls were shaking.

92

00:06:44,500 --> 00:06:48,550  
And of course, we  
immediately thought

93

00:06:48,550 --> 00:06:50,590  
that probably this is it.



94  
00:06:50,590 --> 00:06:53,770  
You know, that the  
Americans are coming.

95  
00:06:53,770 --> 00:06:57,130  
Because we knew that  
the Americans are

96  
00:06:57,130 --> 00:07:00,880  
marching toward Dachau.

97  
00:07:00,880 --> 00:07:04,630  
We know this even  
already when we

98  
00:07:04,630 --> 00:07:11,760  
were marching from Hersbruck--  
that they already are coming.

99  
00:07:11,760 --> 00:07:19,300  
The fighting lasted about 1/2  
hour, and then it stopped.

100  
00:07:19,300 --> 00:07:22,090  
And nothing happened again.

101  
00:07:22,090 --> 00:07:25,390  
And it took about  
another 20 minutes

102  
00:07:25,390 --> 00:07:29,200  
before we heard  
individual shots--

103  
00:07:29,200 --> 00:07:32,870  
pop, pop-- here and there--  
from all directions.

104  
00:07:32,870 --> 00:07:34,690  
And then I look in  
the window, and I

105

00:07:34,690 --> 00:07:38,830

see there are a lot of people  
running toward the fences.

106

00:07:38,830 --> 00:07:43,120

Prisoners from other block which  
were not in the quarantine.

107

00:07:43,120 --> 00:07:46,690

And I see that some of  
them are carrying guns--

108

00:07:46,690 --> 00:07:48,940

rifles already, you know.

109

00:07:48,940 --> 00:07:54,310

So we broke through  
the window outside

110

00:07:54,310 --> 00:07:57,130

because the door was  
still locked, you know.

111

00:07:57,130 --> 00:07:59,890

And we started running  
toward the fences.

112

00:07:59,890 --> 00:08:04,930

And we see that this area was  
completely already demolished.

113

00:08:04,930 --> 00:08:11,140

It took only maybe five minutes  
to demolish all the fences,

114

00:08:11,140 --> 00:08:13,330

all the fences of Dachau.

115

00:08:13,330 --> 00:08:19,120

And then I see at the  
far end on the corner,

116

00:08:19,120 --> 00:08:21,770  
you know, American soldier.

117  
00:08:21,770 --> 00:08:29,440  
He was walking, and behind  
him were other soldiers.

118  
00:08:29,440 --> 00:08:33,250  
He were m commanding  
the guards that

119  
00:08:33,250 --> 00:08:40,539  
were on the tower, the Germans,  
to descend and to surrender,

120  
00:08:40,539 --> 00:08:41,200  
you know.

121  
00:08:41,200 --> 00:08:44,260  
Those who were too  
slow to surrender

122  
00:08:44,260 --> 00:08:47,770  
were shot immediately,  
right on spot.

123  
00:08:47,770 --> 00:08:57,030  
So I saw this, but I  
didn't venture outside.

124  
00:08:57,030 --> 00:09:02,820  
Some people already tried to  
go through the broken fences

125  
00:09:02,820 --> 00:09:04,320  
to the outside.

126  
00:09:04,320 --> 00:09:07,080  
There was a ditch  
filled with water.

127  
00:09:07,080 --> 00:09:08,370  
You know, I didn't know.

128  
00:09:08,370 --> 00:09:13,660  
I was not familiar with  
Dachau-- really how to go about.

129  
00:09:13,660 --> 00:09:16,330  
So I went in the  
other direction.

130  
00:09:16,330 --> 00:09:20,070  
I ran toward the  
area where I'd been

131  
00:09:20,070 --> 00:09:26,940  
before to the big square  
in the front of the kitchen

132  
00:09:26,940 --> 00:09:33,130  
where the roll calls were held.

133  
00:09:33,130 --> 00:09:42,370  
And here I saw another  
row of the fence.

134  
00:09:42,370 --> 00:09:45,740  
And behind right  
behind the fence

135  
00:09:45,740 --> 00:09:50,020  
there were already about  
50 prisoners of war--

136  
00:09:50,020 --> 00:09:52,360  
German officers and men--

137  
00:09:52,360 --> 00:09:54,580  
sitting in the ditch.

138  
00:09:54,580 --> 00:10:01,990  
And I saw these funny  
little Jeeps, you know,

139

00:10:01,990 --> 00:10:03,890  
cruising here and there.

140  
00:10:03,890 --> 00:10:09,310  
And for the years, for  
many years, we always

141  
00:10:09,310 --> 00:10:13,720  
discuss eventual liberation--

142  
00:10:13,720 --> 00:10:15,640  
how this will happen.

143  
00:10:15,640 --> 00:10:18,760  
And we always wish  
that there would be

144  
00:10:18,760 --> 00:10:22,450  
an Americans who liberated us.

145  
00:10:22,450 --> 00:10:28,660  
And in those talks, the  
Americans grew up to a giants.

146  
00:10:28,660 --> 00:10:32,890  
They look like giant people  
themselves, the soldiers.

147  
00:10:32,890 --> 00:10:36,250  
And the trucks were  
tremendous trucks--

148  
00:10:36,250 --> 00:10:40,840  
like trains, you know.

149  
00:10:40,840 --> 00:10:45,670  
And here I am seeing  
a little Jeep.

150  
00:10:45,670 --> 00:10:47,350  
This was really funny, you know.

151

00:10:47,350 --> 00:10:50,200

152

00:10:50,200 --> 00:10:54,940

And of course, I  
look around, and I

153

00:10:54,940 --> 00:10:59,530

see thousands of people  
gathered on the square.

154

00:10:59,530 --> 00:11:05,080

And I see thousands  
of national flags--

155

00:11:05,080 --> 00:11:08,560

looked like everybody was  
prepared for that occasion

156

00:11:08,560 --> 00:11:12,490

and was carrying in their  
pocket a flag of some sort--

157

00:11:12,490 --> 00:11:16,522

Polish, and Russian, and  
Czechs, and French, and Italian.

158

00:11:16,522 --> 00:11:17,230

Wait, wait, wait.

159

00:11:17,230 --> 00:11:17,730

Yeah.

160

00:11:17,730 --> 00:11:18,940

We have to reload.

161

00:11:18,940 --> 00:11:20,990

Yeah.

162

00:11:20,990 --> 00:11:22,870

Camera roll two.

163

00:11:22,870 --> 00:11:25,081  
is up-- slate two is up.

164  
00:11:25,081 --> 00:11:33,440

165  
00:11:33,440 --> 00:11:38,850  
OK, John, go back and start  
when you came into the big place

166  
00:11:38,850 --> 00:11:40,150  
where they held a roll call.

167  
00:11:40,150 --> 00:11:41,820  
Yeah, yeah.

168  
00:11:41,820 --> 00:11:51,720  
So I came to that after  
the incident with Jeeps?

169  
00:11:51,720 --> 00:11:53,620  
Right, OK.

170  
00:11:53,620 --> 00:12:00,400  
So I notice all around  
me thousands, thousands

171  
00:12:00,400 --> 00:12:07,150  
of flags of all nationalities  
that were, at that time,

172  
00:12:07,150 --> 00:12:08,740  
present at Dachau--

173  
00:12:08,740 --> 00:12:15,570  
Polish and Russian and  
Czechs, Italians, French.

174  
00:12:15,570 --> 00:12:19,890  
And when I took a walk  
along the main street,

175

00:12:19,890 --> 00:12:23,960  
I saw many blocks decorated.

176  
00:12:23,960 --> 00:12:26,320  
It took probably only  
minutes, you know.

177  
00:12:26,320 --> 00:12:30,800  
All the decoration must have  
been already waiting in storage

178  
00:12:30,800 --> 00:12:33,620  
somewhere in secret.

179  
00:12:33,620 --> 00:12:36,530

180  
00:12:36,530 --> 00:12:40,100  
It was drizzling--  
rain drizzling--

181  
00:12:40,100 --> 00:12:43,910  
during that hour of liberation.

182  
00:12:43,910 --> 00:12:49,140  
But as the time went  
by it cleared up,

183  
00:12:49,140 --> 00:12:53,490  
and the sun began to set down.

184  
00:12:53,490 --> 00:13:01,080  
And there was a  
glorious sun setting,

185  
00:13:01,080 --> 00:13:08,600  
but there were also a very  
dark clouds on the east.

186  
00:13:08,600 --> 00:13:13,720  
This was-- you know,  
east, that's communism.



187

00:13:13,720 --> 00:13:17,240

That's what I always  
remember later on.

188

00:13:17,240 --> 00:13:19,520

That this was a warning.

189

00:13:19,520 --> 00:13:26,360

You know, that this  
freedom is not complete.

190

00:13:26,360 --> 00:13:29,930

You know, this is only  
personal freedom and not

191

00:13:29,930 --> 00:13:32,295

the freedom of my country.

192

00:13:32,295 --> 00:13:37,070

193

00:13:37,070 --> 00:13:45,690

When it became dark,  
in between the blocks

194

00:13:45,690 --> 00:13:50,240

there were hundreds of fires--

195

00:13:50,240 --> 00:14:02,240

fires it hit up and all those  
who venture outside the fence,

196

00:14:02,240 --> 00:14:06,560

and who manage to  
bring some foodstuff

197

00:14:06,560 --> 00:14:10,880

were cooking a supper,  
because we didn't get anything

198

00:14:10,880 --> 00:14:13,570

to eat that night.

199  
00:14:13,570 --> 00:14:16,990  
And joyfully, we went to--

200  
00:14:16,990 --> 00:14:22,980  
when it's around probably about  
10 o'clock in the evening--

201  
00:14:22,980 --> 00:14:25,420  
we went to the  
blocks and to sleep.

202  
00:14:25,420 --> 00:14:27,570  
But we couldn't.

203  
00:14:27,570 --> 00:14:38,880  
And maybe about 1/2 hour  
later, again, a big detonations

204  
00:14:38,880 --> 00:14:44,220  
broke the silence above Dachau.

205  
00:14:44,220 --> 00:14:51,420  
It was a SS division that was  
marching from Munich to take

206  
00:14:51,420 --> 00:14:55,230  
back Dachau from the Americans.

207  
00:14:55,230 --> 00:14:59,520  
The Americans were  
only a small unit that

208  
00:14:59,520 --> 00:15:03,340  
were patrolling in that area.

209  
00:15:03,340 --> 00:15:06,600  
And when they found  
out that there

210  
00:15:06,600 --> 00:15:12,860  
is a Dachau in the neighborhood,

they took advantage.

211

00:15:12,860 --> 00:15:16,200

I mean, they took on  
themselves the job

212

00:15:16,200 --> 00:15:18,000

of liberating the Dachau.

213

00:15:18,000 --> 00:15:21,990

You know, and they were  
not really equipped fully

214

00:15:21,990 --> 00:15:26,850

to protect camp  
and the prisoners.

215

00:15:26,850 --> 00:15:32,970

So I understand, and we were  
told later on the next day,

216

00:15:32,970 --> 00:15:38,730

that the orders were already  
given to wake us all up

217

00:15:38,730 --> 00:15:42,480

and send us up north  
into the area where

218

00:15:42,480 --> 00:15:45,460

they were many American forces.

219

00:15:45,460 --> 00:15:55,140

Of course, they stop the  
advance of that SS division

220

00:15:55,140 --> 00:15:57,480

shortly before the Dachau.

221

00:15:57,480 --> 00:16:07,060

And we could stay in the  
camp until the next day.

222

00:16:07,060 --> 00:16:15,580

And it was several days  
later on that make history--

223

00:16:15,580 --> 00:16:16,490

some sort.

224

00:16:16,490 --> 00:16:24,700

First of all, the next day  
we were given too much food

225

00:16:24,700 --> 00:16:26,050

to eat.

226

00:16:26,050 --> 00:16:38,260

Everybody got a 1 pound pork  
conserve and a loaf of bread.

227

00:16:38,260 --> 00:16:42,760

Some people who ate that  
got immediately sick.

228

00:16:42,760 --> 00:16:47,620

Consequently, there was  
dysentery in the camp.

229

00:16:47,620 --> 00:16:52,270

There was a lot of dead people.

230

00:16:52,270 --> 00:17:07,390

And of course, typhus was  
one of the reasons that

231

00:17:07,390 --> 00:17:12,250

decimated the camp population.

232

00:17:12,250 --> 00:17:16,930

I understand there were  
about 16,000 people died

233

00:17:16,930 --> 00:17:20,440

after the liberation, you know.

234  
00:17:20,440 --> 00:17:22,540  
This is tragic.

235  
00:17:22,540 --> 00:17:24,310  
I too got sick.

236  
00:17:24,310 --> 00:17:26,170  
I got typhus.

237  
00:17:26,170 --> 00:17:32,230  
And when I get out of  
it, there was no more

238  
00:17:32,230 --> 00:17:34,100  
former prisoners in the camp.

239  
00:17:34,100 --> 00:17:38,410  
They all were moved to Freimann.

240  
00:17:38,410 --> 00:17:46,150  
Before we go on, did you  
see any revenge on the SS?

241  
00:17:46,150 --> 00:17:48,790

242  
00:17:48,790 --> 00:17:52,570  
Did the Americans kill any SS  
other than when they first--

243  
00:17:52,570 --> 00:17:57,640  
Yeah, those who  
resisted in any way

244  
00:17:57,640 --> 00:18:01,400  
were shot immediately  
right on the spot.

245  
00:18:01,400 --> 00:18:06,550  
And there were corpses floating  
in the ditch, I mentioned,

246  
00:18:06,550 --> 00:18:09,100  
that was around the fence area--

247  
00:18:09,100 --> 00:18:13,870  
German soldiers that were dead.

248  
00:18:13,870 --> 00:18:25,570  
And a lot of Germans Kapos were  
caught, denounced by prisoners

249  
00:18:25,570 --> 00:18:29,230  
and caught by them  
immediately and arrested.

250  
00:18:29,230 --> 00:18:33,820  
There were tense moments  
from the very beginning,

251  
00:18:33,820 --> 00:18:36,250  
because they camp--

252  
00:18:36,250 --> 00:18:42,520  
from the next day, was under  
the authority of the Americans.

253  
00:18:42,520 --> 00:18:48,340  
And they consider us almost  
like prisoners again.

254  
00:18:48,340 --> 00:18:52,930  
We couldn't get out,  
because they were afraid

255  
00:18:52,930 --> 00:18:57,790  
that most of the prisoners  
are sick, that we will

256  
00:18:57,790 --> 00:19:01,570  
infect the population outside.

257  
00:19:01,570 --> 00:19:03,660

So they kept us in.

258

00:19:03,660 --> 00:19:09,150

Yet, they didn't know how  
to handle this population.

259

00:19:09,150 --> 00:19:11,130

Therefore, so many people died.

260

00:19:11,130 --> 00:19:14,310

261

00:19:14,310 --> 00:19:21,150

So when you got typhus did  
they take you to a hospital?

262

00:19:21,150 --> 00:19:24,090

Yeah, they took me to  
the American hospital.

263

00:19:24,090 --> 00:19:27,400

264

00:19:27,400 --> 00:19:32,410

And the nurses were the--

265

00:19:32,410 --> 00:19:33,910

how you call it?

266

00:19:33,910 --> 00:19:38,560

They have a special  
name, that unit that--

267

00:19:38,560 --> 00:19:39,370

Army nurses?

268

00:19:39,370 --> 00:19:41,395

Army nurses, yeah army nurses--

269

00:19:41,395 --> 00:19:44,590

270

00:19:44,590 --> 00:19:47,190

but there are a lot of people  
who died in that hospital.

271

00:19:47,190 --> 00:19:53,080

272

00:19:53,080 --> 00:19:59,180

OK, let's go on to  
leaving the hospital

273

00:19:59,180 --> 00:20:00,860

and going to the DP camp.

274

00:20:00,860 --> 00:20:04,290

275

00:20:04,290 --> 00:20:09,150

As I say, you know, when  
I get out of the hospital,

276

00:20:09,150 --> 00:20:14,250

I get out of in a  
funny attire, you know.

277

00:20:14,250 --> 00:20:24,030

I was given a SS jacket,  
prisoner's trousers,

278

00:20:24,030 --> 00:20:32,790

Albanian hat, you know,  
and a Russian boot--

279

00:20:32,790 --> 00:20:38,070

winter, I mean, winter boot.

280

00:20:38,070 --> 00:20:43,050

And the time was  
the middle of June.

281

00:20:43,050 --> 00:20:44,160

I came out this way.



282  
00:20:44,160 --> 00:20:49,140  
And of course, a few  
days I stayed at Dachau.

283  
00:20:49,140 --> 00:20:54,060  
So I signed up to work for--

284  
00:20:54,060 --> 00:20:56,580  
there was a lot of  
workers, you know.

285  
00:20:56,580 --> 00:20:58,350  
There was a kitchen functioning.

286  
00:20:58,350 --> 00:21:01,065

287  
00:21:01,065 --> 00:21:04,320  
The blocks has to  
be kept in order.

288  
00:21:04,320 --> 00:21:09,660  
But the day came when they  
rounded us up, all of us,

289  
00:21:09,660 --> 00:21:14,580  
and without much  
discussion and so, they

290  
00:21:14,580 --> 00:21:17,610  
loaded us into the  
military trucks,

291  
00:21:17,610 --> 00:21:23,830  
and drove us into the  
countryside to a DP camp.

292  
00:21:23,830 --> 00:21:28,910  
This is how I went  
to [PLACE NAME],,

293

00:21:28,910 --> 00:21:35,080  
which was right  
in the boondocks--

294  
00:21:35,080 --> 00:21:39,160  
nowhere, no roads,  
no railroad, nothing.

295  
00:21:39,160 --> 00:21:45,580  
Everywhere the nearest railroad  
was about 10 kilometers

296  
00:21:45,580 --> 00:21:46,820  
from this place.

297  
00:21:46,820 --> 00:21:50,650  
It was absolutely in the fields.

298  
00:21:50,650 --> 00:21:55,660  
And so of course, we  
complain about it.

299  
00:21:55,660 --> 00:22:00,520  
Because our real  
destination was Freimann.

300  
00:22:00,520 --> 00:22:03,790  
And this is where all our--

301  
00:22:03,790 --> 00:22:10,690  
my friends were all the  
prisoners from Dachau.

302  
00:22:10,690 --> 00:22:14,500  
Here in different  
camp were the people

303  
00:22:14,500 --> 00:22:22,270  
who were gathered from the  
farms, from the German farms,

304  
00:22:22,270 --> 00:22:27,050  
and brought those who

are forced laborers.

305  
00:22:27,050 --> 00:22:28,530  
So we--

306  
00:22:28,530 --> 00:22:50,680

307  
00:22:50,680 --> 00:22:56,240  
OK, you're just getting into the  
DP camp out in the boondocks.

308  
00:22:56,240 --> 00:23:00,610  
And tell me what you then  
did to rebuild your life.

309  
00:23:00,610 --> 00:23:04,410

310  
00:23:04,410 --> 00:23:07,620  
Really, you are  
not doing anything,

311  
00:23:07,620 --> 00:23:14,790  
because the whole camp was in  
the process of organization,

312  
00:23:14,790 --> 00:23:16,770  
you know-- of building up.

313  
00:23:16,770 --> 00:23:26,740  
It was a former  
military barracks.

314  
00:23:26,740 --> 00:23:34,270  
And it had to be adopted to  
house families and children.

315  
00:23:34,270 --> 00:23:39,950  
And there were a lot of  
children in that camp.

316

00:23:39,950 --> 00:23:44,050  
So there was some work  
has to be done in order

317  
00:23:44,050 --> 00:23:50,350  
to occupy the children  
and teach them.

318  
00:23:50,350 --> 00:23:52,810  
A school has to be open.

319  
00:23:52,810 --> 00:23:59,560  
You know, there got to be  
some instruction written

320  
00:23:59,560 --> 00:24:05,590  
for how this whole business  
should be conducted.

321  
00:24:05,590 --> 00:24:10,150  
So I was involved a little  
bit in those things,

322  
00:24:10,150 --> 00:24:14,710  
while there are others just  
sit and didn't do anything.

323  
00:24:14,710 --> 00:24:20,200  
And their only excitement  
was to get a permission

324  
00:24:20,200 --> 00:24:25,120  
because all the movements  
were controlled by the army.

325  
00:24:25,120 --> 00:24:31,060  
There was a-- at the  
gate of that new camp,

326  
00:24:31,060 --> 00:24:33,550  
there was a MP sitting.

327  
00:24:33,550 --> 00:24:38,920

And he would not let out anybody  
unless you have a permission

328  
00:24:38,920 --> 00:24:41,670  
that entitled you to go out.

329  
00:24:41,670 --> 00:24:46,910  
And this was the only  
excitement to get

330  
00:24:46,910 --> 00:24:48,910  
a permission in the office.

331  
00:24:48,910 --> 00:24:52,000  
And then go and  
travel to Munich,

332  
00:24:52,000 --> 00:24:59,840  
let's say, which was  
about 15 kilometers.

333  
00:24:59,840 --> 00:25:03,800  
Otherwise, there was just a--

334  
00:25:03,800 --> 00:25:09,020  
it looks like any  
UNRRA establishment

335  
00:25:09,020 --> 00:25:14,980  
where the people sit  
idle, do nothing.

336  
00:25:14,980 --> 00:25:18,520  
Tell me where had the  
children come from?

337  
00:25:18,520 --> 00:25:19,460  
The children?

338  
00:25:19,460 --> 00:25:28,090  
It looks like a lot of children  
came with the people who

339

00:25:28,090 --> 00:25:32,290

work on German farms.

340

00:25:32,290 --> 00:25:35,500

Looks like they were  
born in that town where

341

00:25:35,500 --> 00:25:38,020

they were brought from--

342

00:25:38,020 --> 00:25:40,915

the countries like Poland,  
like Russia, like--

343

00:25:40,915 --> 00:25:43,540

344

00:25:43,540 --> 00:25:47,620

of course, this camp was  
primarily Polish, you know.

345

00:25:47,620 --> 00:25:52,510

But there were few  
other than Poles too.

346

00:25:52,510 --> 00:25:53,890

But most of them were Poles.

347

00:25:53,890 --> 00:25:58,020

But so they just get born--

348

00:25:58,020 --> 00:26:03,280

were born on German soil  
during the war times.

349

00:26:03,280 --> 00:26:05,920

Just the same way  
there were a lot

350

00:26:05,920 --> 00:26:11,300

of children who were born  
in concentration camp--

351  
00:26:11,300 --> 00:26:13,100  
in women camps.

352  
00:26:13,100 --> 00:26:18,590  
You know, women always have  
represent a special problem.

353  
00:26:18,590 --> 00:26:21,470  
Problem that I don't  
know much about it,

354  
00:26:21,470 --> 00:26:26,150  
but when I read the books  
about the women camps,

355  
00:26:26,150 --> 00:26:30,230  
there were all kinds  
of specific problems.

356  
00:26:30,230 --> 00:26:33,110  
Because these were women.

357  
00:26:33,110 --> 00:26:36,650  
You know, thousands  
of children were

358  
00:26:36,650 --> 00:26:39,690  
born in concentration camps.

359  
00:26:39,690 --> 00:26:43,820  
So I imagine the same  
thing happened also

360  
00:26:43,820 --> 00:26:50,920  
in the situation  
where of forced labor.

361  
00:26:50,920 --> 00:26:54,640  
And in this camp,  
were people trying

362

00:26:54,640 --> 00:26:57,640  
to go back to Poland or not?

363  
00:26:57,640 --> 00:27:00,460  
Not only that they were  
trying, they were really

364  
00:27:00,460 --> 00:27:02,950  
forced to go to Poland.

365  
00:27:02,950 --> 00:27:10,030  
The UNRRA policy  
was to repatriate

366  
00:27:10,030 --> 00:27:13,190  
all the people  
who are available,

367  
00:27:13,190 --> 00:27:16,060  
who were at that  
time on German soil.

368  
00:27:16,060 --> 00:27:20,290  
You know, the existence  
of the UNRRA camp

369  
00:27:20,290 --> 00:27:24,580  
was for the purpose  
of the repatriation.

370  
00:27:24,580 --> 00:27:33,550  
But as the time went by, we  
were getting a strange messages.

371  
00:27:33,550 --> 00:27:38,010  
For example, Poles  
were contacted

372  
00:27:38,010 --> 00:27:42,000  
by the government in exile--

373  
00:27:42,000 --> 00:27:44,790  
resided in London.



374  
00:27:44,790 --> 00:27:51,390  
And the agents who used  
to come and talk to us,

375  
00:27:51,390 --> 00:27:54,810  
they were talking about new war.

376  
00:27:54,810 --> 00:27:59,730  
Everybody in this times  
was expected that there

377  
00:27:59,730 --> 00:28:01,950  
will be a war with Russia.

378  
00:28:01,950 --> 00:28:08,590  
Because nobody in their  
right mind after liberation

379  
00:28:08,590 --> 00:28:13,800  
thought that this is  
the end of the war.

380  
00:28:13,800 --> 00:28:17,690  
You know, we expected  
war with the communism.

381  
00:28:17,690 --> 00:28:22,060  
You know, and since  
this didn't come,

382  
00:28:22,060 --> 00:28:29,650  
we start looking for  
places to go for immigrate,

383  
00:28:29,650 --> 00:28:35,710  
while the UNRRA in between  
was trying to repatriate us

384  
00:28:35,710 --> 00:28:40,600  
to other countries--

385

00:28:40,600 --> 00:28:42,040  
to Poland.

386  
00:28:42,040 --> 00:28:49,900  
And Russian, for example,  
had to go also to Russia.

387  
00:28:49,900 --> 00:28:54,220  
You know, and they were sent  
mostly to Siberia immediately

388  
00:28:54,220 --> 00:28:55,890  
by the Stalin, and so forth.

389  
00:28:55,890 --> 00:28:59,320  
So this was a dangerous  
thing, repatriation.

390  
00:28:59,320 --> 00:29:06,130  
It went so far that  
the UNRRA promised

391  
00:29:06,130 --> 00:29:15,070  
those who would go back to  
their countries of origin,

392  
00:29:15,070 --> 00:29:17,740  
extra food, supplies.

393  
00:29:17,740 --> 00:29:19,300  
And they were really giving it.

394  
00:29:19,300 --> 00:29:22,180  
Of course, you know, they  
are not giving anything

395  
00:29:22,180 --> 00:29:29,740  
worthwhile-- usually some  
potatoes and flour and nothing

396  
00:29:29,740 --> 00:29:34,600  
like a threat or  
anything-- water no--

397  
00:29:34,600 --> 00:29:38,980  
only some very  
primitive foodstuff.

398  
00:29:38,980 --> 00:29:44,770  
But anyway, they were giving  
people some supplies just

399  
00:29:44,770 --> 00:29:54,410  
to make them go back to Poland.

400  
00:29:54,410 --> 00:29:57,935  
Tell me about being asked  
to identify Germans.

401  
00:29:57,935 --> 00:30:03,790

402  
00:30:03,790 --> 00:30:08,320  
One of the reasons why we  
had to move out from Dachau

403  
00:30:08,320 --> 00:30:12,130  
was that the  
American authorities

404  
00:30:12,130 --> 00:30:18,880  
were planning to bring to  
Dachau all they arrested SS.

405  
00:30:18,880 --> 00:30:26,470  
And in a few months, there  
were several thousand of us

406  
00:30:26,470 --> 00:30:29,200  
as the inmates of Dachau.

407  
00:30:29,200 --> 00:30:34,720  
And once a week we were  
brought by trucks to Dachau,

408

00:30:34,720 --> 00:30:41,230  
and we are seated in the  
outside of the fence area.

409  
00:30:41,230 --> 00:30:48,340  
And they were parading in  
front of us, in circle.

410  
00:30:48,340 --> 00:30:51,880  
And whoever was  
lucky and identified,

411  
00:30:51,880 --> 00:30:55,120  
immediately MP  
re-arrested the man

412  
00:30:55,120 --> 00:30:58,660  
and put him to the  
side for trial.

413  
00:30:58,660 --> 00:31:03,550  
And I was not able to identify  
anybody because, you know,

414  
00:31:03,550 --> 00:31:09,970  
I was not familiar with  
the SS that were in Dachau.

415  
00:31:09,970 --> 00:31:11,590  
They were strange people.

416  
00:31:11,590 --> 00:31:14,290  
But anyway, I participated.

417  
00:31:14,290 --> 00:31:16,240  
And it was quite a show.

418  
00:31:16,240 --> 00:31:17,740  
And it was once a week.

419  
00:31:17,740 --> 00:31:20,750

420

00:31:20,750 --> 00:31:23,420

And tell me about  
traveling around Germany

421

00:31:23,420 --> 00:31:25,295

in those first few months.

422

00:31:25,295 --> 00:31:26,960

How did you do that?

423

00:31:26,960 --> 00:31:34,100

When I get out of the  
hospital, my biggest desire

424

00:31:34,100 --> 00:31:39,830

was to go and see the Bavaria,  
especially mountains--

425

00:31:39,830 --> 00:31:40,730

Alps.

426

00:31:40,730 --> 00:31:46,300

Because I come from the area  
near the mountains in Poland.

427

00:31:46,300 --> 00:31:48,230

So I understand mountains.

428

00:31:48,230 --> 00:31:50,150

And I love mountains.

429

00:31:50,150 --> 00:31:59,480

So very early when I still  
was living in Dachau,

430

00:31:59,480 --> 00:32:03,480

I went by train to  
Garmisch-Partenkirchen,

431

00:32:03,480 --> 00:32:07,850

which is a distance  
about 101 kilometers.

432  
00:32:07,850 --> 00:32:13,690  
And the first ride  
took me 12 hours.

433  
00:32:13,690 --> 00:32:18,370  
There was a situation where  
the train was so overloaded,

434  
00:32:18,370 --> 00:32:22,090  
that uphill we had to  
get out of the train

435  
00:32:22,090 --> 00:32:28,060  
and walk along the train  
because it couldn't pull.

436  
00:32:28,060 --> 00:32:33,340  
The locomotive was too weak to  
pull all the masses of people,

437  
00:32:33,340 --> 00:32:34,500  
you know.

438  
00:32:34,500 --> 00:32:46,500  
So when I arrived in  
Garmisch, I went to this

439  
00:32:46,500 --> 00:32:47,880  
to Zugspitze station--

440  
00:32:47,880 --> 00:32:52,090  
you know, the highest mountain  
in Bavaria is Zugspitze.

441  
00:32:52,090 --> 00:32:56,810  
And there is a train  
that go up the mountain.

442  
00:32:56,810 --> 00:33:00,070  
So I wanted to  
get to that train,

443

00:33:00,070 --> 00:33:04,510

and I was waiting in  
the ticket office.

444

00:33:04,510 --> 00:33:07,360

And I couldn't get a ticket  
because it was reserved

445

00:33:07,360 --> 00:33:09,970

for the Americans only.

446

00:33:09,970 --> 00:33:12,640

And here they come--

447

00:33:12,640 --> 00:33:16,180

truckloads of the  
American soldiers.

448

00:33:16,180 --> 00:33:20,820

And I notice one soldier.

449

00:33:20,820 --> 00:33:27,890

He was a prisoner  
artist from Auschwitz,

450

00:33:27,890 --> 00:33:33,770

who through the evacuation,  
landed eventually

451

00:33:33,770 --> 00:33:37,970

before the camp was  
liberated in Buchenwald.

452

00:33:37,970 --> 00:33:42,500

And Buchenwald was  
liberated about two months

453

00:33:42,500 --> 00:33:44,950

before Dachau was.