

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:16,434

2

00:00:16,434 --> 00:00:18,990

OK, Fela, why don't
you tell me how it is

3

00:00:18,990 --> 00:00:22,370

that you came to Bergen-Belsen?

4

00:00:22,370 --> 00:00:28,220

Our camp was labor camp, was
on the outskirts of Hamburg.

5

00:00:28,220 --> 00:00:33,650

Every day, we were coming
into the city by train

6

00:00:33,650 --> 00:00:37,940

and working on the streets,
cleaning the rubble

7

00:00:37,940 --> 00:00:40,040

from the bombs that fell.

8

00:00:40,040 --> 00:00:43,670

It was the end of 19--

9

00:00:43,670 --> 00:00:51,650

almost the end of March 1945
when the flyers came almost

10

00:00:51,650 --> 00:00:52,760

constantly.

11

00:00:52,760 --> 00:00:55,940

There was very little
respite from the bombing,

12

00:00:55,940 --> 00:01:00,060

and we knew that

liberation is at the door.

13

00:01:00,060 --> 00:01:03,780

But if he would be alive
to see that, no one knew.

14

00:01:03,780 --> 00:01:08,880

And sure enough, Hitler
was so determined

15

00:01:08,880 --> 00:01:12,840

to destroy the Jewish people
that every time the Allies came

16

00:01:12,840 --> 00:01:18,810

closer, they evacuated
us deeper into Germany.

17

00:01:18,810 --> 00:01:20,850

This is what happened to us.

18

00:01:20,850 --> 00:01:25,020

We were taken on a train
again, and after several hours

19

00:01:25,020 --> 00:01:29,030

of travel, we found
ourselves in Bergen-Belsen.

20

00:01:29,030 --> 00:01:32,870

Bergen-Belsen-- it was
something I have never

21

00:01:32,870 --> 00:01:35,570

seen in all the
years that I have

22

00:01:35,570 --> 00:01:41,370

been a prisoner in the ghettos
at home and in the camps.

23

00:01:41,370 --> 00:01:45,340

At the time when we arrived,

everything was in disarray.

24

00:01:45,340 --> 00:01:48,270

They did not burn
the bodies anymore.

25

00:01:48,270 --> 00:01:51,780

They were stapled up like
cordwood on the side.

26

00:01:51,780 --> 00:01:55,390

It was unusual warm
for this time of year,

27

00:01:55,390 --> 00:02:00,150

and the smell from the
bodies was terrible.

28

00:02:00,150 --> 00:02:06,450

We were assigned into a barrack,
just a bare floor, nothing

29

00:02:06,450 --> 00:02:07,680

anymore.

30

00:02:07,680 --> 00:02:11,430

There was a skeleton
crew only of SS people,

31

00:02:11,430 --> 00:02:14,400

and the camps were
guarded by volunteers

32

00:02:14,400 --> 00:02:18,450

mostly, Ukrainians,
Lithuanians, Hungarians.

33

00:02:18,450 --> 00:02:22,770

And they were wearing white
armbands of surrender,

34

00:02:22,770 --> 00:02:26,460

but that did not stop

them from shooting at us

35

00:02:26,460 --> 00:02:29,280

if you came close
to the barbed wire

36

00:02:29,280 --> 00:02:33,940

and tried to get a hold
of that piece of kohlrabi,

37

00:02:33,940 --> 00:02:35,970

all these big piles
that were laying

38

00:02:35,970 --> 00:02:40,270

outside of the barbed wire and
supposed to have been the food.

39

00:02:40,270 --> 00:02:42,750

But they did not
feed us for days,

40

00:02:42,750 --> 00:02:44,700

and that decomposed already.

41

00:02:44,700 --> 00:02:47,910

But we were so hungry
that this would have

42

00:02:47,910 --> 00:02:50,430

been even good enough for us.

43

00:02:50,430 --> 00:02:52,080

The water was turned off.

44

00:02:52,080 --> 00:02:53,280

There was chaos.

45

00:02:53,280 --> 00:02:55,710

We did not work any more.

46

00:02:55,710 --> 00:02:59,160

You just walked
around, and people just

47
00:02:59,160 --> 00:03:01,050
dropped dead in front of you.

48
00:03:01,050 --> 00:03:04,770
And you were so dehumanized you
just walked over these people

49
00:03:04,770 --> 00:03:08,440
and kept on going, not knowing
what are we doing here,

50
00:03:08,440 --> 00:03:11,640
what is going to happen to us.

51
00:03:11,640 --> 00:03:16,320
Typhoid fever,
dysentery, and lice--

52
00:03:16,320 --> 00:03:20,010
I always tell everybody that,
if you sit on the ground,

53
00:03:20,010 --> 00:03:21,880
they could almost
carry you away.

54
00:03:21,880 --> 00:03:25,320
So many and so huge, they were.

55
00:03:25,320 --> 00:03:29,100
My sister, and I, and
two more friends--

56
00:03:29,100 --> 00:03:32,430
we always kept together,
supporting ourselves,

57
00:03:32,430 --> 00:03:36,600
whatever we could find to eat
or even with moral support,

58
00:03:36,600 --> 00:03:39,450
giving each other courage.

59
00:03:39,450 --> 00:03:41,790
So we had a little
piece of bread

60
00:03:41,790 --> 00:03:43,650
that we got for the journey.

61
00:03:43,650 --> 00:03:45,700
This was gone.

62
00:03:45,700 --> 00:03:48,910
By some miracle, my
sister found a potato,

63
00:03:48,910 --> 00:03:54,070
and we were sharing this one
potato, a slice every day.

64
00:03:54,070 --> 00:03:57,520
You try to find someone
you knew, very seldom,

65
00:03:57,520 --> 00:04:01,390
but one day, we found a
woman from my home town.

66
00:04:01,390 --> 00:04:06,450
She looked exceptionally
good, and she said to us,

67
00:04:06,450 --> 00:04:11,160
I hope I'll live long
enough to survive and see

68
00:04:11,160 --> 00:04:13,320
that I'm a free person.

69
00:04:13,320 --> 00:04:15,870

Looking at her, I thought,
oh, sure you will.

70
00:04:15,870 --> 00:04:17,519
Next day, she was dead.

71
00:04:17,519 --> 00:04:20,769
She was swollen
from all the hunger.

72
00:04:20,769 --> 00:04:26,630
We just walked around
like zombies every day,

73
00:04:26,630 --> 00:04:31,070
going back into the barrack,
laying down, coming out.

74
00:04:31,070 --> 00:04:33,620
Water, like I said,
was turned off.

75
00:04:33,620 --> 00:04:36,950
People that were so
thirsty went to the place

76
00:04:36,950 --> 00:04:39,290
where the latrine
supposedly was and licked

77
00:04:39,290 --> 00:04:42,560
the sweat from the walls there.

78
00:04:42,560 --> 00:04:44,660
I don't remember doing that.

79
00:04:44,660 --> 00:04:47,780
I just remember
sharing this potato,

80
00:04:47,780 --> 00:04:51,560
like a see-through slice
each one of us got,

81
00:04:51,560 --> 00:04:54,380
four of us sharing that.

82
00:04:54,380 --> 00:04:57,440
But we got weaker
every day because there

83
00:04:57,440 --> 00:04:58,940
was nothing to eat.

84
00:04:58,940 --> 00:05:02,790
Finally, the last day,
when we had nothing,

85
00:05:02,790 --> 00:05:05,300
I could barely drag myself.

86
00:05:05,300 --> 00:05:08,420
I said to my sister, I'm
going into the barrack,

87
00:05:08,420 --> 00:05:12,050
and I'm going to lie down
and just die in there.

88
00:05:12,050 --> 00:05:17,180
I do not want to die and
people should just step over me

89
00:05:17,180 --> 00:05:18,890
like others do.

90
00:05:18,890 --> 00:05:21,260
They followed me.

91
00:05:21,260 --> 00:05:27,790
We all lied down there and just
almost said goodbye to life.

92
00:05:27,790 --> 00:05:29,610
One of our friends--

93

00:05:29,610 --> 00:05:32,970

she was even younger
than I was, the youngest.

94

00:05:32,970 --> 00:05:36,810

She was always searching,
trying to find a way.

95

00:05:36,810 --> 00:05:40,920

So she said she has to take
the last look outside and see

96

00:05:40,920 --> 00:05:42,930

what's going on.

97

00:05:42,930 --> 00:05:45,420

When she came back,
she said to me,

98

00:05:45,420 --> 00:05:47,760

there's something
funny going out there.

99

00:05:47,760 --> 00:05:54,930

People are running all over
the place, and it's unusual.

100

00:05:54,930 --> 00:05:58,000

It's not what usually happen.

101

00:05:58,000 --> 00:06:00,990

And I told her to just
lay down and die in peace.

102

00:06:00,990 --> 00:06:03,660

She must be hallucinating.

103

00:06:03,660 --> 00:06:07,690

She insisted, so my sister
walked out with her.

104

00:06:07,690 --> 00:06:09,070
When my sister came back--

105
00:06:09,070 --> 00:06:11,380
I don't know with what strength.

106
00:06:11,380 --> 00:06:15,070
She came back,
grabbed me by my arm,

107
00:06:15,070 --> 00:06:17,440
and she says, get up, get up.

108
00:06:17,440 --> 00:06:18,320
Guess what.

109
00:06:18,320 --> 00:06:21,370
Everybody's running,
and the gates are open.

110
00:06:21,370 --> 00:06:23,560
There's a man sitting--

111
00:06:23,560 --> 00:06:25,410
is it a tank or whatever?

112
00:06:25,410 --> 00:06:28,930
We couldn't distinguish at that
time one thing from the other.

113
00:06:28,930 --> 00:06:31,780
He's speaking through
a loudspeaker.

114
00:06:31,780 --> 00:06:34,870
His words are being translated.

115
00:06:34,870 --> 00:06:38,550
I think we were liberated.

116
00:06:38,550 --> 00:06:41,940
When I got up and

walked outside,

117

00:06:41,940 --> 00:06:44,550
my eyes couldn't comprehend.

118

00:06:44,550 --> 00:06:48,020
It just didn't register.

119

00:06:48,020 --> 00:06:49,290
It's unbelievable.

120

00:06:49,290 --> 00:06:52,110
I couldn't believe
this was really true,

121

00:06:52,110 --> 00:06:55,490
so I said to my sister that
she has to grab me by my arm

122

00:06:55,490 --> 00:06:57,480
and do something physical.

123

00:06:57,480 --> 00:07:02,340
So I realize I am really
alive, and we were liberated.

124

00:07:02,340 --> 00:07:07,160
It was the English
army that liberated us,

125

00:07:07,160 --> 00:07:09,830
and the way I understand
is that they really didn't

126

00:07:09,830 --> 00:07:11,510
come to liberate this camp.

127

00:07:11,510 --> 00:07:15,380
They were just passing
by somewhere else,

128

00:07:15,380 --> 00:07:18,290

and they were
attracted by the stench

129
00:07:18,290 --> 00:07:22,460
and wanted to investigate and
see what's going on there.

130
00:07:22,460 --> 00:07:27,110
This is what they found, people
all over, laying, strewn--

131
00:07:27,110 --> 00:07:31,100
live corpses, dead corpses
because they did not even

132
00:07:31,100 --> 00:07:33,320
bury before we came.

133
00:07:33,320 --> 00:07:34,790
They were just laying around.

134
00:07:34,790 --> 00:07:36,330
They didn't bury
them in the pits.

135
00:07:36,330 --> 00:07:40,570
They didn't burn them, just
dead bodies all over the place.

136
00:07:40,570 --> 00:07:43,040
It was, for them, unbelievable.

137
00:07:43,040 --> 00:07:46,820
They distributed
food, pieces of bread,

138
00:07:46,820 --> 00:07:49,730
and they radioed
ahead for more help

139
00:07:49,730 --> 00:07:54,080
because they did not realize
what they have found.

140
00:07:54,080 --> 00:07:58,910
It was heartbreaking to see some
of these living corpses being

141
00:07:58,910 --> 00:08:03,440
handed a piece of bread
and, at the same time, dying

142
00:08:03,440 --> 00:08:05,960
on the day of their
liberation because they were

143
00:08:05,960 --> 00:08:10,640
so starved, so far gone that
even this piece of bread

144
00:08:10,640 --> 00:08:13,700
didn't help them anymore.

145
00:08:13,700 --> 00:08:18,310
I got some food with my sister.

146
00:08:18,310 --> 00:08:22,660
We just stood there hugging
each other and just crying,

147
00:08:22,660 --> 00:08:26,200
and it was a moment that I
think I'll never forget in

148
00:08:26,200 --> 00:08:35,700
my life, just walking around and
trying to make the best of it.

149
00:08:35,700 --> 00:08:40,320
The English tried to instill
some normalcy in that camp.

150
00:08:40,320 --> 00:08:46,220
They naturally weeded out
the sick people right away

151

00:08:46,220 --> 00:08:50,670

because there was a lot of
people with typhoid fever,

152

00:08:50,670 --> 00:08:53,640

and they did not have
any hospitals, not enough

153

00:08:53,640 --> 00:08:54,900

medication.

154

00:08:54,900 --> 00:08:59,880

So they had makeshift hospitals,
just a plain barrack up there.

155

00:08:59,880 --> 00:09:02,760

Belsen were the wooden
camps where we everywhere.

156

00:09:02,760 --> 00:09:05,340

Bergen was farther,
the brick buildings,

157

00:09:05,340 --> 00:09:09,490

and this is where they
took the sick people.

158

00:09:09,490 --> 00:09:14,580

There people were laying on
plain mattresses on the floor.

159

00:09:14,580 --> 00:09:17,220

The only one they
did attend to was

160

00:09:17,220 --> 00:09:20,430

the ones they thought
they would survive.

161

00:09:20,430 --> 00:09:22,440

The severe cases--
they didn't even

162

00:09:22,440 --> 00:09:26,280
bother much because they
didn't have enough medication.

163

00:09:26,280 --> 00:09:28,950
My sister got very
ill, and she was

164

00:09:28,950 --> 00:09:32,070
taken to one of these places.

165

00:09:32,070 --> 00:09:36,000
After I found her, I didn't
even know where she was.

166

00:09:36,000 --> 00:09:39,690
She told me that the doctor
made the rounds, and he said,

167

00:09:39,690 --> 00:09:43,080
we won't bother with her
because she will not survive.

168

00:09:43,080 --> 00:09:46,470
If she survives this
night, which is the crisis,

169

00:09:46,470 --> 00:09:49,230
then we'll give her
some medication.

170

00:09:49,230 --> 00:09:53,310
She said, I did not
sleep all night.

171

00:09:53,310 --> 00:09:56,830
If I die, I wanted to
die with my eyes open.

172

00:09:56,830 --> 00:09:59,070
But in the morning,
I was still alive,

173

00:09:59,070 --> 00:10:02,830

and when the doctor
came, he said to her,

174

00:10:02,830 --> 00:10:04,060

oh, you're still alive.

175

00:10:04,060 --> 00:10:07,090

Now we're going to treat you.

176

00:10:07,090 --> 00:10:10,210

I had a slight case
of typhoid fever.

177

00:10:10,210 --> 00:10:13,300

With me, they didn't
bother at all.

178

00:10:13,300 --> 00:10:19,040

Also, they tried to bring
some normalcy into our lives.

179

00:10:19,040 --> 00:10:22,980

They did disinfect us,
gave us different clothes.

180

00:10:22,980 --> 00:10:25,730

They burned down the
barracks, the wooden barracks,

181

00:10:25,730 --> 00:10:28,830

which were full of disease,
and we were transferred

182

00:10:28,830 --> 00:10:30,800

to the brick barracks.

183

00:10:30,800 --> 00:10:37,260

There were bunk beds and
so many people to a room,

184

00:10:37,260 --> 00:10:42,630

and they gave us food
and tried to treat us.

185
00:10:42,630 --> 00:10:43,890
This was it.

186
00:10:43,890 --> 00:10:47,550
Every day, there
were posted lists

187
00:10:47,550 --> 00:10:53,000
from different liberated camps
telling of the survivors.

188
00:10:53,000 --> 00:10:57,920
We always ran eagerly to see
if anyone from our family

189
00:10:57,920 --> 00:10:59,630
had survived.

190
00:10:59,630 --> 00:11:01,980
We never found anyone.

191
00:11:01,980 --> 00:11:06,710
My friend, the youngest one
that was so inquisitive--

192
00:11:06,710 --> 00:11:10,250
she got a message from
two brothers that were--

193
00:11:10,250 --> 00:11:11,660
OK, we have to re-load.

194
00:11:11,660 --> 00:11:15,280

195
00:11:15,280 --> 00:11:17,330
I'll tell you when.

196
00:11:17,330 --> 00:11:18,750

What do you want me to do first?

197

00:11:18,750 --> 00:11:21,500

198

00:11:21,500 --> 00:11:25,940

Let's start with, again,
your sister bringing you out,

199

00:11:25,940 --> 00:11:27,670

and you hearing
the sound, and then

200

00:11:27,670 --> 00:11:30,460

what sounds everybody made.

201

00:11:30,460 --> 00:11:31,660

It was noisy.

202

00:11:31,660 --> 00:11:32,530

It was loud.

203

00:11:32,530 --> 00:11:36,160

It's like joyous shouts
for people that could still

204

00:11:36,160 --> 00:11:41,260

raise their voices, but most
of them, the sick, were silent.

205

00:11:41,260 --> 00:11:42,760

Some of them had tears.

206

00:11:42,760 --> 00:11:45,580

Looking back, you remember more.

207

00:11:45,580 --> 00:11:48,250

Being asked, you remember more.

208

00:11:48,250 --> 00:11:51,490

People with tears in their
eyes, just like we did,

209
00:11:51,490 --> 00:11:55,000
cry from happiness.

210
00:11:55,000 --> 00:11:56,830
It was such a long dream.

211
00:11:56,830 --> 00:12:00,430
All we dreamed about and what
kept us going in the camps

212
00:12:00,430 --> 00:12:03,610
was if, maybe, if,
maybe, by some miracle,

213
00:12:03,610 --> 00:12:08,260
we would survive, how
happy we would be,

214
00:12:08,260 --> 00:12:09,670
that it shouldn't be a dream.

215
00:12:09,670 --> 00:12:11,120
It should be a reality.

216
00:12:11,120 --> 00:12:14,500
And we lived to see this moment.

217
00:12:14,500 --> 00:12:17,440
What kept us, also,
going was the thought

218
00:12:17,440 --> 00:12:20,960
of, after liberation,
that we also

219
00:12:20,960 --> 00:12:25,070
will be able to
meet our relatives,

220
00:12:25,070 --> 00:12:27,620
our family, which

we were parted from.

221

00:12:27,620 --> 00:12:31,010

222

00:12:31,010 --> 00:12:36,530

What they fed us is soup
and bread to begin with.

223

00:12:36,530 --> 00:12:38,750

They started slow.

224

00:12:38,750 --> 00:12:41,300

I know my husband
told me that he

225

00:12:41,300 --> 00:12:44,270

was liberated by the
Russians, and they gave them

226

00:12:44,270 --> 00:12:45,290

a lot of food.

227

00:12:45,290 --> 00:12:48,080

And people ate too
fast, and some of them

228

00:12:48,080 --> 00:12:53,210

died because their stomachs
couldn't digest the food.

229

00:12:53,210 --> 00:12:56,570

It was to the point that
your system didn't work right

230

00:12:56,570 --> 00:12:59,150

after being so
starved, so I suppose

231

00:12:59,150 --> 00:13:01,370

maybe they were more cautious.

232

00:13:01,370 --> 00:13:03,660
There wasn't a lot of food.

233
00:13:03,660 --> 00:13:06,590
It was in moderation,
which was just right.

234
00:13:06,590 --> 00:13:09,360

235
00:13:09,360 --> 00:13:14,410
The changes with burning the
barracks and disinfecting us--

236
00:13:14,410 --> 00:13:16,890
first of all, we had
the clothes which

237
00:13:16,890 --> 00:13:20,880
we wore there which was
full of disease and lice.

238
00:13:20,880 --> 00:13:24,710
We had to go through
showers, then some powder.

239
00:13:24,710 --> 00:13:28,950
I couldn't tell you what it
was, but I know disinfected

240
00:13:28,950 --> 00:13:30,600
with a powder.

241
00:13:30,600 --> 00:13:33,360
They gave us different
clothes, also,

242
00:13:33,360 --> 00:13:38,400
and then we were transported
to the other brick buildings.

243
00:13:38,400 --> 00:13:41,790
We were assigned so

many people to a room,

244

00:13:41,790 --> 00:13:44,390
and there were bunk beds there.

245

00:13:44,390 --> 00:13:48,160
We shared the room
with other people.

246

00:13:48,160 --> 00:13:50,650
We were weak enough to
get along with everybody.

247

00:13:50,650 --> 00:13:56,140
We were all happy just to
be alive and be liberated.

248

00:13:56,140 --> 00:14:02,420
But you see, reading the
lists from other camps

249

00:14:02,420 --> 00:14:07,920
from the survivors that
lived through this,

250

00:14:07,920 --> 00:14:11,530
we did not find anybody, which--

251

00:14:11,530 --> 00:14:15,630
at this point, what kept
me going was all this,

252

00:14:15,630 --> 00:14:16,930
and I was fine.

253

00:14:16,930 --> 00:14:19,020
But when I didn't
find anybody, this

254

00:14:19,020 --> 00:14:22,410
is the time almost I caved in.

255

00:14:22,410 --> 00:14:25,680

I only lived with that hope
that I will meet my family.

256

00:14:25,680 --> 00:14:30,170

I had such a wonderful home
life, such loving parents,

257

00:14:30,170 --> 00:14:31,900

and I had two brothers.

258

00:14:31,900 --> 00:14:33,370

And besides that--

259

00:14:33,370 --> 00:14:36,490

I don't count the rest of the
family, like uncles, and aunts,

260

00:14:36,490 --> 00:14:37,180

and cousins.

261

00:14:37,180 --> 00:14:41,320

I think it was almost
close to 60 people.

262

00:14:41,320 --> 00:14:45,730

We had such a big relation, and
none of us survived to the end.

263

00:14:45,730 --> 00:14:48,700

There was my sister,
and I, and two cousins

264

00:14:48,700 --> 00:14:50,860

that survived all this.

265

00:14:50,860 --> 00:14:55,300

So you see, I was desperate
after being liberated,

266

00:14:55,300 --> 00:14:58,180

knowing that no
one had survived.

267

00:14:58,180 --> 00:15:03,090

We met a man that we
knew from Lodz ghetto.

268

00:15:03,090 --> 00:15:08,040

He was in the line behind my
father and my two brothers,

269

00:15:08,040 --> 00:15:10,770

and when we met them
after liberation,

270

00:15:10,770 --> 00:15:17,700

he told us that they went
the wrong way in Auschwitz.

271

00:15:17,700 --> 00:15:22,290

But you know, you really don't
believe it until he really

272

00:15:22,290 --> 00:15:24,610

hit it yourself.

273

00:15:24,610 --> 00:15:28,470

You have to be so convinced
that no one is alive

274

00:15:28,470 --> 00:15:32,310

that-- even he told us he
still hoped, maybe it isn't so,

275

00:15:32,310 --> 00:15:35,400

maybe by some miracle
they did survive.

276

00:15:35,400 --> 00:15:38,660

But it didn't happen that way.

277

00:15:38,660 --> 00:15:41,500

So you see, we were
in a place camp.

278

00:15:41,500 --> 00:15:44,270
You just didn't know what to do.

279

00:15:44,270 --> 00:15:47,390
Like I said, my
friend got a message.

280

00:15:47,390 --> 00:15:50,030
Two brothers of hers
survived, and they

281

00:15:50,030 --> 00:15:52,250
were on the American zone.

282

00:15:52,250 --> 00:15:54,470
They wanted her to come there.

283

00:15:54,470 --> 00:15:56,830
They would come and pick her up.

284

00:15:56,830 --> 00:16:00,100
Well, she persuaded us
to travel with them.

285

00:16:00,100 --> 00:16:05,650
Since we had nothing here,
what did we have to lose?

286

00:16:05,650 --> 00:16:08,800
Their main argument
was, maybe by chance

287

00:16:08,800 --> 00:16:10,240
you will find someone there.

288

00:16:10,240 --> 00:16:13,750
Maybe they weren't on the lists,
and you will find someone.

289

00:16:13,750 --> 00:16:16,540
So we traveled with them.

290

00:16:16,540 --> 00:16:19,940

Not having any money, we
traveled on freight trains,

291

00:16:19,940 --> 00:16:21,550

on coal wagons.

292

00:16:21,550 --> 00:16:25,840

There was only one time when
we got into a passenger train.

293

00:16:25,840 --> 00:16:29,110

The conductor didn't even come
over and ask us for any money

294

00:16:29,110 --> 00:16:31,570

because he could
see who we were,

295

00:16:31,570 --> 00:16:34,880

and he just made a
wide turn around us.

296

00:16:34,880 --> 00:16:38,260

We didn't have any money
to give him anyway.

297

00:16:38,260 --> 00:16:43,150

So we arrived in the
American zone in Feldafing.

298

00:16:43,150 --> 00:16:46,390

It was a camp about,
I would say, by train,

299

00:16:46,390 --> 00:16:51,600

an hour away from
Munich, and the Americans

300

00:16:51,600 --> 00:16:54,910

for administering this camp.

301

00:16:54,910 --> 00:17:00,570

And of course, they
asked the survivors

302

00:17:00,570 --> 00:17:04,230

to form their own
administration,

303

00:17:04,230 --> 00:17:06,900

like offices if you
have grievances.

304

00:17:06,900 --> 00:17:13,109

Even an infirmary was there and
a doctor that was-- excuse me--

305

00:17:13,109 --> 00:17:15,460

a survivor.

306

00:17:15,460 --> 00:17:17,819

He was the head
of this infirmary.

307

00:17:17,819 --> 00:17:21,660

They also opened up
kitchens, and who

308

00:17:21,660 --> 00:17:25,470

didn't want to eat in
the kitchen got supplies.

309

00:17:25,470 --> 00:17:28,990

And if you could manage in
the rooms that you got--

310

00:17:28,990 --> 00:17:33,540

it was also brick buildings
which supposedly housed

311

00:17:33,540 --> 00:17:36,220

before a Hitlerjugend there.

312

00:17:36,220 --> 00:17:39,540

So this is where we
were housed in, also

313
00:17:39,540 --> 00:17:43,200
several people in one room.

314
00:17:43,200 --> 00:17:49,580
All the four of us were in a
basement room and another girl

315
00:17:49,580 --> 00:17:51,320
which we didn't
know at that time.

316
00:17:51,320 --> 00:17:53,150
We were assigned to this room.

317
00:17:53,150 --> 00:17:54,810
But we got along very well.

318
00:17:54,810 --> 00:17:58,610
There were bunk beds, and there
were just like one counter

319
00:17:58,610 --> 00:18:01,760
to keep a couple dishes if
you could organize this.

320
00:18:01,760 --> 00:18:04,220
And whatever you
possessed was shoved

321
00:18:04,220 --> 00:18:06,480
underneath the bunk beds.

322
00:18:06,480 --> 00:18:09,900
In the middle of the room,
we had like a potbelly stove.

323
00:18:09,900 --> 00:18:11,990
If you could manage
to get food and cook,

324

00:18:11,990 --> 00:18:15,680

that's what we did on
that potbelly stove.

325

00:18:15,680 --> 00:18:17,360

The same thing there--

326

00:18:17,360 --> 00:18:19,070

no one was there.

327

00:18:19,070 --> 00:18:23,060

People in Feldafig were
from all over Europe.

328

00:18:23,060 --> 00:18:25,140

It wasn't only from Poland.

329

00:18:25,140 --> 00:18:29,420

We had Hungarian Jews, Romanian
Jews, Czech Jews, and also

330

00:18:29,420 --> 00:18:33,020

Greek Jews in this
camp, everyone

331

00:18:33,020 --> 00:18:39,430

just walking around and trying
to mingle and find someone.

332

00:18:39,430 --> 00:18:41,770

Like I said, we never did.

333

00:18:41,770 --> 00:18:47,230

But what Americans also did
is organize ORT schools.

334

00:18:47,230 --> 00:18:48,670

They brought in films.

335

00:18:48,670 --> 00:18:54,250

They brought in-- organized our
survivors that were musicians,

336
00:18:54,250 --> 00:18:56,320
and also, traveling
from other camps,

337
00:18:56,320 --> 00:18:59,330
they were giving concerts,
and, believe it or not,

338
00:18:59,330 --> 00:19:04,720
even dances for those that were
well enough to attend all this,

339
00:19:04,720 --> 00:19:10,510
and also, our own
police force to police--

340
00:19:10,510 --> 00:19:16,240
that it would be safe
from other intruders.

341
00:19:16,240 --> 00:19:19,570
They kept us busy,
but the problem

342
00:19:19,570 --> 00:19:23,380
was there was no
future in being there.

343
00:19:23,380 --> 00:19:25,540
Where do we go from there?

344
00:19:25,540 --> 00:19:30,140
You see, to Poland we
didn't want to go back.

345
00:19:30,140 --> 00:19:32,590
It was communist, first of all.

346
00:19:32,590 --> 00:19:35,910
I knew I had nothing
to look for there,

347

00:19:35,910 --> 00:19:38,130

and to tell you
the truth, maybe--

348

00:19:38,130 --> 00:19:40,960

I know the Polish people
resent that very much,

349

00:19:40,960 --> 00:19:46,820

but I remember slurs and
them being very anti-Semitic,

350

00:19:46,820 --> 00:19:48,200

so I just had no--

351

00:19:48,200 --> 00:19:52,110

I didn't feel that I
wanted to live there again.

352

00:19:52,110 --> 00:19:54,780

It wasn't what I wanted.

353

00:19:54,780 --> 00:19:58,410

Of course, we didn't want
to stay in Germany, too much

354

00:19:58,410 --> 00:20:00,070

Jewish blood spilt there.

355

00:20:00,070 --> 00:20:03,750

So where do we go from there?

356

00:20:03,750 --> 00:20:09,870

And meanwhile, I signed
up for ORT classes.

357

00:20:09,870 --> 00:20:14,250

It was like a technical
training place

358

00:20:14,250 --> 00:20:16,910

where you could learn a trade.

359

00:20:16,910 --> 00:20:22,930

And believe it or
not, we were so alone

360

00:20:22,930 --> 00:20:28,900

that we needed moral support,
and meeting young people there,

361

00:20:28,900 --> 00:20:33,310

young men and young women-- we
paired off, and we got married.

362

00:20:33,310 --> 00:20:38,800

You needed someone, and who
else would understand you better

363

00:20:38,800 --> 00:20:41,020

than another survivor?

364

00:20:41,020 --> 00:20:46,420

It's like a soul mate and
just somebody to support you.

365

00:20:46,420 --> 00:20:48,850

I don't think there were
really great romances.

366

00:20:48,850 --> 00:20:54,440

It was someone that we needed
to comfort one another,

367

00:20:54,440 --> 00:20:57,460

and this is why we
did get married.

368

00:20:57,460 --> 00:21:01,060

I got married in 1946.

369

00:21:01,060 --> 00:21:04,510

I met this man that was
originally from Lodz.

370

00:21:04,510 --> 00:21:08,050

I spent two years
in the ghetto there.

371

00:21:08,050 --> 00:21:09,610

And we did get married.

372

00:21:09,610 --> 00:21:14,380

My sister also got married,
I think the same year.

373

00:21:14,380 --> 00:21:17,500

We lived in one
of the buildings,

374

00:21:17,500 --> 00:21:21,430

afterwards in a different,
another couple the same room.

375

00:21:21,430 --> 00:21:25,670

We divided the room
with some wooden boards

376

00:21:25,670 --> 00:21:28,055

to be separated and
have our own privacy.

377

00:21:28,055 --> 00:21:30,650

378

00:21:30,650 --> 00:21:33,500

And my husband worked
as a policeman,

379

00:21:33,500 --> 00:21:36,020

and I went to the ORT school.

380

00:21:36,020 --> 00:21:40,430

This is how we spent our
time, trying to figure out

381

00:21:40,430 --> 00:21:42,950

where do we go from here.

382

00:21:42,950 --> 00:21:46,430

To tell you the truth,
I wasn't very strong.

383

00:21:46,430 --> 00:21:51,370

I did not regain my
strength after the war.

384

00:21:51,370 --> 00:21:52,520

Some people did.

385

00:21:52,520 --> 00:21:57,510

And I felt that the rough
journey to illegal Palestine--

386

00:21:57,510 --> 00:21:59,250

I couldn't take that.

387

00:21:59,250 --> 00:22:03,070

I wanted to go somewhere
where I could recuperate.

388

00:22:03,070 --> 00:22:04,900

But where?

389

00:22:04,900 --> 00:22:10,420

You see, the problem was,
the world finally found out

390

00:22:10,420 --> 00:22:12,760

what happened in these camps.

391

00:22:12,760 --> 00:22:17,110

No one wanted to take the
people in in the beginning.

392

00:22:17,110 --> 00:22:19,750

We just sat there.

393

00:22:19,750 --> 00:22:20,780

So what--

394

00:22:20,780 --> 00:22:21,280

Wait.

395

00:22:21,280 --> 00:22:23,730

We have to re-load.

396

00:22:23,730 --> 00:22:27,000