

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,480

Warschau, slate three coming
up, camera roll three.

2

00:00:03,480 --> 00:00:15,630

3

00:00:15,630 --> 00:00:18,600

Back in Bergen-Belsen,
when you were liberated,

4

00:00:18,600 --> 00:00:22,550

did they bring in German nurses
to help take care of the?

5

00:00:22,550 --> 00:00:23,930

Yes, they tried.

6

00:00:23,930 --> 00:00:26,600

They had to bring
them in at gunpoint.

7

00:00:26,600 --> 00:00:31,000

Even at that time, they
did not want to come in.

8

00:00:31,000 --> 00:00:34,490

They had caught some
of the SS men escaping,

9

00:00:34,490 --> 00:00:38,390

and they made them bury the
people, the corpses that

10

00:00:38,390 --> 00:00:41,960

were like laying around
all over the place.

11

00:00:41,960 --> 00:00:45,760

And believe me, when
we looked at them--

12

00:00:45,760 --> 00:00:48,910

it was a sad situation,
but it gave us

13

00:00:48,910 --> 00:00:53,320

satisfaction when we looked
at them, how worn and tired

14

00:00:53,320 --> 00:00:56,020

they looked and how
their uniforms were all

15

00:00:56,020 --> 00:01:02,050

muddy from dragging these
dead bodies to the pit

16

00:01:02,050 --> 00:01:03,430

and burying them.

17

00:01:03,430 --> 00:01:09,560

And we thought to
ourselves, you were

18

00:01:09,560 --> 00:01:13,910

taught that you were the master
race and nothing can touch you.

19

00:01:13,910 --> 00:01:17,360

Now look, when the shoe
was on the other foot, what

20

00:01:17,360 --> 00:01:23,240

you look like and how you
react to a situation like that.

21

00:01:23,240 --> 00:01:29,380

Because this is what they kept
on telling children from little

22

00:01:29,380 --> 00:01:33,100

Hitlerjugend down, that
they are the master race,

23

00:01:33,100 --> 00:01:40,170
and they're the ones that
would be ruling the world,

24

00:01:40,170 --> 00:01:45,400
and they are entitled to
it because this is it.

25

00:01:45,400 --> 00:01:49,270
They're better than any other
people or any other race.

26

00:01:49,270 --> 00:01:53,770
So I thought, look at yourself,
what you look right now,

27

00:01:53,770 --> 00:01:55,150
your master race.

28

00:01:55,150 --> 00:01:59,110
Under certain circumstances,
you look exactly

29

00:01:59,110 --> 00:02:00,830
like any other person.

30

00:02:00,830 --> 00:02:03,580
There's no difference
between you

31

00:02:03,580 --> 00:02:10,800
and I. That gave us a
lot of satisfaction.

32

00:02:10,800 --> 00:02:12,990
And you could take revenge.

33

00:02:12,990 --> 00:02:14,700
You could do
anything you wanted.

34

00:02:14,700 --> 00:02:16,440

Nobody stopped you.

35

00:02:16,440 --> 00:02:18,210

But who had the strength?

36

00:02:18,210 --> 00:02:20,700

Some people walked
out to look around

37

00:02:20,700 --> 00:02:24,280

outside the gates,
whoever had the strength.

38

00:02:24,280 --> 00:02:27,360

I didn't do that
until about two weeks

39

00:02:27,360 --> 00:02:30,600

later to see what the
outside looked like,

40

00:02:30,600 --> 00:02:32,700

and then I was hesitant.

41

00:02:32,700 --> 00:02:33,810

I was afraid.

42

00:02:33,810 --> 00:02:36,060

I was so afraid.

43

00:02:36,060 --> 00:02:38,280

Finally, I walked out
through this gate.

44

00:02:38,280 --> 00:02:40,680

I kept on looking
backwards if someone

45

00:02:40,680 --> 00:02:43,860

wasn't going to shoot me for
walking out of this gate.

46

00:02:43,860 --> 00:02:48,650

You were so paranoid,
being liberated and not

47

00:02:48,650 --> 00:02:53,500

really believing that you're
allowed to go past this gate.

48

00:02:53,500 --> 00:03:00,410

This is how I felt. I don't know
how others did feel about that.

49

00:03:00,410 --> 00:03:03,020

And the German
population nearby--

50

00:03:03,020 --> 00:03:04,520

I think they feared a lot.

51

00:03:04,520 --> 00:03:06,710

They thought, now
these prisoners

52

00:03:06,710 --> 00:03:10,130

that are going to be let
loose will come and loot

53

00:03:10,130 --> 00:03:15,390

them, or rob, or take revenge.

54

00:03:15,390 --> 00:03:18,480

I don't think any one of
us thought of doing that.

55

00:03:18,480 --> 00:03:23,770

First of all, we were too weak,
and then if I would do that,

56

00:03:23,770 --> 00:03:26,900

I would stoop to their level.

57

00:03:26,900 --> 00:03:29,330

I don't think I could do that.

58
00:03:29,330 --> 00:03:32,620
This is not the way to do it.

59
00:03:32,620 --> 00:03:37,120
I know our rage was inside
of us for what happened,

60
00:03:37,120 --> 00:03:41,280
but it wasn't me
that should judge.

61
00:03:41,280 --> 00:03:47,370
I judged them in my heart, but
not me personally, physically

62
00:03:47,370 --> 00:03:48,540
to take revenge.

63
00:03:48,540 --> 00:03:52,070
I didn't think so.

64
00:03:52,070 --> 00:03:53,720
Tell me other
things you remember

65
00:03:53,720 --> 00:03:57,050
about the German population
being asked to help

66
00:03:57,050 --> 00:04:02,620
or things being requisitioned
from them, taken from them to--

67
00:04:02,620 --> 00:04:04,930
I do not remember more.

68
00:04:04,930 --> 00:04:06,870
Maybe there was.

69
00:04:06,870 --> 00:04:08,900
Tell me about the nurses.

70
00:04:08,900 --> 00:04:10,730
Tell me about the--

71
00:04:10,730 --> 00:04:12,770
were Germans brought
in to be nurses?

72
00:04:12,770 --> 00:04:13,880
Can you tell me that?

73
00:04:13,880 --> 00:04:18,320
Yeah, they had German doctors,
also, and German nurses,

74
00:04:18,320 --> 00:04:21,620
but I think they did
not come voluntarily.

75
00:04:21,620 --> 00:04:25,460
They worked under duress
and not very willingly,

76
00:04:25,460 --> 00:04:30,170
and sometimes you could
see still being conquered

77
00:04:30,170 --> 00:04:32,120
and like a revulsion
on their faces

78
00:04:32,120 --> 00:04:35,590
that they had to
attend these people.

79
00:04:35,590 --> 00:04:39,510
So I think those
people that were

80
00:04:39,510 --> 00:04:45,690
nurtured all these years with
Nazi propaganda, most of them--

81

00:04:45,690 --> 00:04:48,060

the liberation did
not change them.

82

00:04:48,060 --> 00:04:50,130

They were the same people.

83

00:04:50,130 --> 00:04:53,160

It's just the circumstances--

84

00:04:53,160 --> 00:04:54,870

they had to abide by the rules.

85

00:04:54,870 --> 00:04:56,510

That was it.

86

00:04:56,510 --> 00:05:00,710

And the funny thing was,
whoever you spoke with,

87

00:05:00,710 --> 00:05:06,140

if you had a chance, with
the German population,

88

00:05:06,140 --> 00:05:08,420

every one of them were stunned.

89

00:05:08,420 --> 00:05:12,140

None of them knew
what was happening.

90

00:05:12,140 --> 00:05:16,070

Like when we marched in the
middle of the road in Hamburg

91

00:05:16,070 --> 00:05:21,200

to work lined up in five,
being guarded by these SS men--

92

00:05:21,200 --> 00:05:24,940

some of these people really
didn't know who we were.

93

00:05:24,940 --> 00:05:28,870

One time I remember a woman
walking up to this SS men

94

00:05:28,870 --> 00:05:31,640

and saying, who are these women?

95

00:05:31,640 --> 00:05:33,950

Why are they dressed like that?

96

00:05:33,950 --> 00:05:35,930

And you know what
their answer was?

97

00:05:35,930 --> 00:05:41,540

That we were young prostitutes
and we were being punished,

98

00:05:41,540 --> 00:05:46,460

put in that camp because
we're not supposed to do that.

99

00:05:46,460 --> 00:05:50,450

Can you imagine something
like that, all 500

100

00:05:50,450 --> 00:05:54,380

of us, Jewish women, being
prostitutes, so we were

101

00:05:54,380 --> 00:05:56,660

put in camps for punishment?

102

00:05:56,660 --> 00:06:00,900

103

00:06:00,900 --> 00:06:04,710

And I don't know why the German
population did not question--

104

00:06:04,710 --> 00:06:07,260

some of them did not question.

105

00:06:07,260 --> 00:06:09,810

Is it really true what
they are telling me?

106

00:06:09,810 --> 00:06:13,650

It seems they did what they
were told like a mechanical man

107

00:06:13,650 --> 00:06:15,120

or mechanical woman.

108

00:06:15,120 --> 00:06:17,730

This is what the Nazis say.

109

00:06:17,730 --> 00:06:21,430

This is what Hitler says,
and it has to be true.

110

00:06:21,430 --> 00:06:23,680

It has to be because he says it.

111

00:06:23,680 --> 00:06:27,760

He was almost like a
god-like creature to them.

112

00:06:27,760 --> 00:06:31,750

So you see, maybe
there were some people.

113

00:06:31,750 --> 00:06:35,940

Maybe there was an underground
but not enough of them,

114

00:06:35,940 --> 00:06:38,010

not enough of them
to make a difference

115

00:06:38,010 --> 00:06:39,760

because if there
would be enough,

116

00:06:39,760 --> 00:06:41,710
it would have made a difference.

117

00:06:41,710 --> 00:06:45,370
They would not abide by a regime
like that almost for 12 years,

118

00:06:45,370 --> 00:06:45,870
I think.

119

00:06:45,870 --> 00:06:50,670

120

00:06:50,670 --> 00:06:56,440
Now let's go over
to the beginning.

121

00:06:56,440 --> 00:06:59,360
How long before you
went to Feldaafing?

122

00:06:59,360 --> 00:07:01,610
Did you stay in
Bergen-Belsen as a DP camp?

123

00:07:01,610 --> 00:07:04,310
I think we stayed
maybe two months.

124

00:07:04,310 --> 00:07:06,770
I really don't
remember the dates.

125

00:07:06,770 --> 00:07:07,380
OK.

126

00:07:07,380 --> 00:07:10,160
Tell me, before you
left Bergen-Belsen,

127

00:07:10,160 --> 00:07:13,520
after you were out of

the hospital situation--

128

00:07:13,520 --> 00:07:17,210

tell me what it was like in
those first couple of months.

129

00:07:17,210 --> 00:07:19,010

Were you locked in?

130

00:07:19,010 --> 00:07:21,690

No, we were free to move around.

131

00:07:21,690 --> 00:07:27,020

We were free to visit other
prisoners in Bergen-Belsen.

132

00:07:27,020 --> 00:07:28,160

The doors were open.

133

00:07:28,160 --> 00:07:30,500

You could come and
go as you please,

134

00:07:30,500 --> 00:07:33,750

even venture out to different
cities if you felt like it.

135

00:07:33,750 --> 00:07:35,780

That's why people traveled.

136

00:07:35,780 --> 00:07:38,900

And some people did
venture into the city.

137

00:07:38,900 --> 00:07:41,780

138

00:07:41,780 --> 00:07:47,890

I don't know what they were
looking for, but they did.

139

00:07:47,890 --> 00:07:51,040

Those that stayed there--

140
00:07:51,040 --> 00:07:54,460
after a while,
what they told us--

141
00:07:54,460 --> 00:07:56,510
they got more
food, and they just

142
00:07:56,510 --> 00:07:59,020
did-- like every camp
try employ the people

143
00:07:59,020 --> 00:08:01,840
by some kind of a
trade or whatever,

144
00:08:01,840 --> 00:08:03,600
make it close to normal.

145
00:08:03,600 --> 00:08:07,750
And believe it or
not, even in Feldafig

146
00:08:07,750 --> 00:08:09,550
they developed
like a trade thing

147
00:08:09,550 --> 00:08:12,200
with the German population.

148
00:08:12,200 --> 00:08:16,020
It was like an unwilling
partner because there

149
00:08:16,020 --> 00:08:20,600
were certain things you did
get in the displaced camps,

150
00:08:20,600 --> 00:08:22,580
but it wasn't enough
what you needed.

151
00:08:22,580 --> 00:08:28,920
Again, we did not have any
money to go and buy anything.

152
00:08:28,920 --> 00:08:32,840
Let's say every month
you get a care package,

153
00:08:32,840 --> 00:08:35,120
but every month in
this care package

154
00:08:35,120 --> 00:08:37,380
it was always the same thing.

155
00:08:37,380 --> 00:08:38,909
It was wonderful food.

156
00:08:38,909 --> 00:08:44,480
But you get a big bag, powdered
milk, a huge bags, dried eggs,

157
00:08:44,480 --> 00:08:47,250
and how much can you eat
it through the month?

158
00:08:47,250 --> 00:08:51,140
So you see, you took this
stuff and sort of trade

159
00:08:51,140 --> 00:08:53,690
it in with the general
population for something

160
00:08:53,690 --> 00:08:55,460
that you wanted.

161
00:08:55,460 --> 00:08:59,000
We had no money to
deal any other way,

162

00:08:59,000 --> 00:09:02,180
and they just loved what we did.

163
00:09:02,180 --> 00:09:06,470
It was like I said, a very
unwilling partnership doing

164
00:09:06,470 --> 00:09:07,970
this.

165
00:09:07,970 --> 00:09:11,360
We could not stay all
our lives isolated there

166
00:09:11,360 --> 00:09:17,130
since we were there from
the German population.

167
00:09:17,130 --> 00:09:21,690
Now, in Feldafing-- let's go
to the early days in Feldafing.

168
00:09:21,690 --> 00:09:23,490
Where you locked in Feldafing?

169
00:09:23,490 --> 00:09:24,060
Pardon?

170
00:09:24,060 --> 00:09:25,050
Were you locked in?

171
00:09:25,050 --> 00:09:25,883
Did you need a pass?

172
00:09:25,883 --> 00:09:27,530
No, no, no.

173
00:09:27,530 --> 00:09:28,680
The camp was open.

174
00:09:28,680 --> 00:09:29,770
You could move around.

175
00:09:29,770 --> 00:09:33,610
They even had a hospital
which was about, I would say,

176
00:09:33,610 --> 00:09:37,510
close to a mile and
a half from the camp.

177
00:09:37,510 --> 00:09:41,860
And they converted a
hotel into a hospital.

178
00:09:41,860 --> 00:09:46,350
It was called the Hotel
Kaiserin Elisabeth.

179
00:09:46,350 --> 00:09:50,280
And there was a golf course
there, a very big golf

180
00:09:50,280 --> 00:09:51,660
course around there.

181
00:09:51,660 --> 00:09:53,700
People came from all over.

182
00:09:53,700 --> 00:09:58,170
And Feldafing was
sort of in between.

183
00:09:58,170 --> 00:10:00,030
You traveled by train.

184
00:10:00,030 --> 00:10:02,850
You could go the other
way to Garmisch, which was

185
00:10:02,850 --> 00:10:07,190
a famous ski resort in Germany.

186
00:10:07,190 --> 00:10:10,790

So there was a lot
of traffic going on.

187
00:10:10,790 --> 00:10:14,300
I would say the second or
the third station going

188
00:10:14,300 --> 00:10:17,840
towards Munich was Starnberg.

189
00:10:17,840 --> 00:10:19,850
Starnberg, you see,
is very famous.

190
00:10:19,850 --> 00:10:22,340
People come there
to stay in summer

191
00:10:22,340 --> 00:10:23,885
and to go skiing and boating.

192
00:10:23,885 --> 00:10:26,730

193
00:10:26,730 --> 00:10:32,340
All around there, the places
were very familiar to--

194
00:10:32,340 --> 00:10:36,090
in Germany, people knew
about these places,

195
00:10:36,090 --> 00:10:39,090
but very few people
remember Feldafing.

196
00:10:39,090 --> 00:10:40,170
It's an odd name.

197
00:10:40,170 --> 00:10:42,690

198

00:10:42,690 --> 00:10:47,250

So we lived in Feldafig,
and my husband worked.

199

00:10:47,250 --> 00:10:49,980

They were guarding--
there was a gate

200

00:10:49,980 --> 00:10:55,590

in the front with a little
house for them to be in there,

201

00:10:55,590 --> 00:10:59,680

like a policeman's guard house.

202

00:10:59,680 --> 00:11:01,960

And trucks were coming
in and out with food.

203

00:11:01,960 --> 00:11:05,440

They were being checked
who they were and all that

204

00:11:05,440 --> 00:11:08,110

and just to keep
order in the camp.

205

00:11:08,110 --> 00:11:19,350

206

00:11:19,350 --> 00:11:22,390

You do not know how long
it takes to get there?

207

00:11:22,390 --> 00:11:24,730

To Henniger from the
[INAUDIBLE] Hotel?

208

00:11:24,730 --> 00:11:28,510

20 minutes, 25 minutes maybe.

209

00:11:28,510 --> 00:11:31,840

OK, now we're rolling again.

210
00:11:31,840 --> 00:11:36,478
Was there a difference between
the American administration

211
00:11:36,478 --> 00:11:37,770
and the British administration?

212
00:11:37,770 --> 00:11:40,440
Did you notice when
you got to Feldafing?

213
00:11:40,440 --> 00:11:43,060
Yes, I did.

214
00:11:43,060 --> 00:11:46,560
The English did
what they had to do,

215
00:11:46,560 --> 00:11:51,630
to me it seems like,
because they found us,

216
00:11:51,630 --> 00:11:52,710
and they had to do it.

217
00:11:52,710 --> 00:11:53,550
It was a job.

218
00:11:53,550 --> 00:11:56,940
But I don't think there
was any special warmth

219
00:11:56,940 --> 00:12:01,860
or any connection,
personal feelings.

220
00:12:01,860 --> 00:12:06,000
Like sometimes you feel the
people sympathize with you.

221
00:12:06,000 --> 00:12:09,300

Maybe single ones,
but all in all,

222
00:12:09,300 --> 00:12:12,430
it didn't come across
to me like that.

223
00:12:12,430 --> 00:12:16,650
But once I was in the
American zone in Feldafing,

224
00:12:16,650 --> 00:12:19,020
the military police--

225
00:12:19,020 --> 00:12:23,130
they came in a lot to the camp
because they had connections

226
00:12:23,130 --> 00:12:26,460
with this local
police, the survivors,

227
00:12:26,460 --> 00:12:30,420
and they always came
into their office there.

228
00:12:30,420 --> 00:12:31,920
For what reason I don't know.

229
00:12:31,920 --> 00:12:32,920
I never asked.

230
00:12:32,920 --> 00:12:37,320
But there was a big camaraderie.

231
00:12:37,320 --> 00:12:39,960
They didn't make any
difference to them.

232
00:12:39,960 --> 00:12:42,510
Like you were an
equal with them,

233

00:12:42,510 --> 00:12:47,390

and there was great
warmth that came through,

234

00:12:47,390 --> 00:12:51,170

even if we didn't
understand the English.

235

00:12:51,170 --> 00:12:52,760

One day, one of them came in--

236

00:12:52,760 --> 00:12:56,480

I remember this because my
husband told me that he came in

237

00:12:56,480 --> 00:12:58,310

in a Jeep, and he parked it.

238

00:12:58,310 --> 00:13:01,550

He went into the office, and
then he motioned to my husband

239

00:13:01,550 --> 00:13:03,890

he should come and
bring the Jeep around.

240

00:13:03,890 --> 00:13:08,780

Naturally, coming from here
and thinking he's a policeman,

241

00:13:08,780 --> 00:13:13,190

he knows how to drive this car
this Jeep or drive at all--

242

00:13:13,190 --> 00:13:15,230

well, he said, I took
this key, and I kept

243

00:13:15,230 --> 00:13:17,240

on fiddling back and forth.

244

00:13:17,240 --> 00:13:19,140

And I brought him the
Jeep, and he said,

245
00:13:19,140 --> 00:13:21,530
this is how I
learned how to drive.

246
00:13:21,530 --> 00:13:24,320
See, there were so--

247
00:13:24,320 --> 00:13:27,200
it's something that you
felt close to a person

248
00:13:27,200 --> 00:13:30,230
when they do things
like that, but I think

249
00:13:30,230 --> 00:13:33,840
the English were more distant.

250
00:13:33,840 --> 00:13:37,365
They meant good, but we didn't
understand at that time.

251
00:13:37,365 --> 00:13:40,630

252
00:13:40,630 --> 00:13:44,380
Did you witness
reunions of survivors?

253
00:13:44,380 --> 00:13:44,950
Pardon?

254
00:13:44,950 --> 00:13:46,780
Did you witness reunions?

255
00:13:46,780 --> 00:13:50,290
Did you witness people
who found each other who

256

00:13:50,290 --> 00:13:54,090
had survived who didn't know--

257
00:13:54,090 --> 00:13:58,170
Like my friend, when
she met her brothers,

258
00:13:58,170 --> 00:14:00,490
and there was my other friend.

259
00:14:00,490 --> 00:14:04,970
She was looking for a brother,
but she found a cousin.

260
00:14:04,970 --> 00:14:07,310
It was very hard on
us because my sister

261
00:14:07,310 --> 00:14:11,420
and I didn't find anybody,
and our two other friends

262
00:14:11,420 --> 00:14:13,460
have found someone.

263
00:14:13,460 --> 00:14:16,340
We were overjoyed for them
but, at the same time,

264
00:14:16,340 --> 00:14:19,430
sad for ourselves
knowing there was

265
00:14:19,430 --> 00:14:21,080
nothing to hope for anymore.

266
00:14:21,080 --> 00:14:26,115

267
00:14:26,115 --> 00:14:29,220
What about visits to
the camp by Eisenhower?

268
00:14:29,220 --> 00:14:29,920
Did he--

269
00:14:29,920 --> 00:14:31,160
He was there.

270
00:14:31,160 --> 00:14:32,890
He was in Feldafing one time.

271
00:14:32,890 --> 00:14:34,780
I couldn't tell
you exactly when.

272
00:14:34,780 --> 00:14:36,730
I know he was there.

273
00:14:36,730 --> 00:14:38,380
And what about Ben-Gurion?

274
00:14:38,380 --> 00:14:39,100
Did he come?

275
00:14:39,100 --> 00:14:40,480
I don't remember that.

276
00:14:40,480 --> 00:14:41,953
You don't remember.

277
00:14:41,953 --> 00:14:43,430
OK.

278
00:14:43,430 --> 00:14:50,030
Tell me about how the Jewish
population in Feldafing

279
00:14:50,030 --> 00:14:53,210
organized itself and what
kinds of culture they did.

280
00:14:53,210 --> 00:14:56,020
And did they make a newspaper?

281
00:14:56,020 --> 00:15:01,980
There really was no newspaper,
but there were meetings.

282
00:15:01,980 --> 00:15:03,530
Like I said, there were socials.

283
00:15:03,530 --> 00:15:06,200
There were organized dances.

284
00:15:06,200 --> 00:15:10,880
There were survivors that played
the instruments before the war.

285
00:15:10,880 --> 00:15:13,490
Where they got the
instruments I will never know,

286
00:15:13,490 --> 00:15:14,990
but they organized dances.

287
00:15:14,990 --> 00:15:18,500
The Americans also
brought in films.

288
00:15:18,500 --> 00:15:20,450
It was like a
great, big building,

289
00:15:20,450 --> 00:15:26,420
and they ran films for us for
free there, and also amateur

290
00:15:26,420 --> 00:15:29,360
theater, also
survivors that traveled

291
00:15:29,360 --> 00:15:32,600
from camp to camp in our own--

292
00:15:32,600 --> 00:15:38,150

from our camp that performed
little skits to entertain us.

293

00:15:38,150 --> 00:15:40,700

And like I said, I
don't know if I told you

294

00:15:40,700 --> 00:15:45,200

that one time they had a skit
with that organ grinder, two

295

00:15:45,200 --> 00:15:45,980

people.

296

00:15:45,980 --> 00:15:50,570

One of them portrayed
Hitler, and the other one--

297

00:15:50,570 --> 00:15:53,870

I don't know if it was
Goebbels, or Goring, or whoever.

298

00:15:53,870 --> 00:15:56,600

And they were going
around and begging people.

299

00:15:56,600 --> 00:15:59,390

They are all gone,
and they need a few--

300

00:15:59,390 --> 00:16:02,480

you probably don't understand
Yiddish, or do you?

301

00:16:02,480 --> 00:16:03,170

No.

302

00:16:03,170 --> 00:16:04,820

Well, anyway, there
was a little--

303

00:16:04,820 --> 00:16:06,620

I remember a few

words in Yiddish

304

00:16:06,620 --> 00:16:11,450

how they were singing this,
and to the end they say,

305

00:16:11,450 --> 00:16:13,400

we are so poor now and broke.

306

00:16:13,400 --> 00:16:15,210

Give us a few pennies.

307

00:16:15,210 --> 00:16:22,610

And we all roared, and everybody
threw pennies on the stage.

308

00:16:22,610 --> 00:16:25,870

Tell me that story again as
if you haven't told it to me.

309

00:16:25,870 --> 00:16:28,940

Tell me about that skit
and who the players were.

310

00:16:28,940 --> 00:16:32,030

And say the lines in Yiddish,
and then translate them.

311

00:16:32,030 --> 00:16:32,570

OK.

312

00:16:32,570 --> 00:16:34,170

You want to start all over?

313

00:16:34,170 --> 00:16:36,260

Start right all over.

314

00:16:36,260 --> 00:16:40,460

There were amateur theaters
performing all kind of skits.

315

00:16:40,460 --> 00:16:43,790

One of them was-- well, there
was another one about people

316
00:16:43,790 --> 00:16:47,240
needing to go to Palestine.

317
00:16:47,240 --> 00:16:49,640
It was like little propaganda.

318
00:16:49,640 --> 00:16:52,790
And this one was
two organ grinders

319
00:16:52,790 --> 00:16:56,900
going around and begging for
money, and they were singing--

320
00:16:56,900 --> 00:16:59,090
this song was like
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]..

321
00:16:59,090 --> 00:17:08,810

322
00:17:08,810 --> 00:17:12,740
That means, our
luck has run out,

323
00:17:12,740 --> 00:17:14,930
and all we do is
grind this organ.

324
00:17:14,930 --> 00:17:20,000
And they begged people for some
money to support ourselves.

325
00:17:20,000 --> 00:17:22,670
I will never forget
that skit because it

326
00:17:22,670 --> 00:17:25,609
was like throwing these pennies
in the face of these two

327
00:17:25,609 --> 00:17:26,690
performers.

328
00:17:26,690 --> 00:17:29,090
It gave us satisfaction.

329
00:17:29,090 --> 00:17:30,560
I don't understand.

330
00:17:30,560 --> 00:17:32,910
You probably don't
understand the feeling

331
00:17:32,910 --> 00:17:37,130
we had at that time, thinking
that we could sit here, free,

332
00:17:37,130 --> 00:17:39,440
and make fun out of them.

333
00:17:39,440 --> 00:17:40,385
That's what it was.

334
00:17:40,385 --> 00:17:46,710

335
00:17:46,710 --> 00:17:50,130
Do you remember ever having
an election in the camp?

336
00:17:50,130 --> 00:17:52,830
Did you ever vote?

337
00:17:52,830 --> 00:17:54,570
I don't remember.

338
00:17:54,570 --> 00:17:55,740
I honestly don't.

339
00:17:55,740 --> 00:17:59,820

I know they had some
kind of organization.

340
00:17:59,820 --> 00:18:02,400
I think the Bund
they were called,

341
00:18:02,400 --> 00:18:07,710
and they marched at
certain holidays with flags

342
00:18:07,710 --> 00:18:12,210
through the camp, in the
camp, observing this holiday.

343
00:18:12,210 --> 00:18:14,130
I wasn't personally involved.

344
00:18:14,130 --> 00:18:17,520
I was not into
politics at that time.

345
00:18:17,520 --> 00:18:19,770
There were other problems
I had to deal with,

346
00:18:19,770 --> 00:18:25,080
how to get out of this camp,
and this wasn't my top priority

347
00:18:25,080 --> 00:18:26,220
at that time.

348
00:18:26,220 --> 00:18:27,330
What about children?

349
00:18:27,330 --> 00:18:29,690
Do you remember--

350
00:18:29,690 --> 00:18:31,550
We had no children
in the beginning.

351

00:18:31,550 --> 00:18:35,060

Only the people that got
married there in the camp,

352

00:18:35,060 --> 00:18:36,800

after a while, had children.

353

00:18:36,800 --> 00:18:39,770

I also have a daughter
there, and she

354

00:18:39,770 --> 00:18:46,340

was born in the year of 1949.

355

00:18:46,340 --> 00:18:49,700

Now, I need you to tell me
the skit story once more

356

00:18:49,700 --> 00:18:51,920

because the second
time you didn't tell me

357

00:18:51,920 --> 00:18:54,950

that it was Hitler and Goring
who were the characters.

358

00:18:54,950 --> 00:18:56,230

Oh, I'm sorry.

359

00:18:56,230 --> 00:18:56,790

That's OK.

360

00:18:56,790 --> 00:18:58,910

Can you just tell
it to me again?

361

00:18:58,910 --> 00:19:00,500

OK.

362

00:19:00,500 --> 00:19:04,790

So you had this skit,
two organ grinders,

363
00:19:04,790 --> 00:19:08,250
one in the image
of Hitler and one--

364
00:19:08,250 --> 00:19:11,610
I don't remember if it
was Goring or Goebbels.

365
00:19:11,610 --> 00:19:17,070
And they came out on the stage
grinding this organ and singing

366
00:19:17,070 --> 00:19:32,520
that song, [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH],,
and we just roared.

367
00:19:32,520 --> 00:19:37,890
It was uplifting that we
could make fun out of them.

368
00:19:37,890 --> 00:19:42,050
On the other side
of the coin we were.

369
00:19:42,050 --> 00:19:45,410
It was unbelievable
at that time.

370
00:19:45,410 --> 00:19:49,080
Being for so long shut up--

371
00:19:49,080 --> 00:19:52,620
and the smallest child
which was a Hitlerjugend--

372
00:19:52,620 --> 00:19:54,180
he had the power over you.

373
00:19:54,180 --> 00:19:57,060
If he came over and told
you, you have to do this,

374

00:19:57,060 --> 00:19:59,830
you had to obey them.

375

00:19:59,830 --> 00:20:04,320
You have no idea the feelings,
what restrictions we had.

376

00:20:04,320 --> 00:20:12,420
We felt like cornered animals,
no way to turn, so being free

377

00:20:12,420 --> 00:20:14,000
was-- it was intoxicating.

378

00:20:14,000 --> 00:20:22,160

379

00:20:22,160 --> 00:20:24,500
Tell me a little about
how you and your sister

380

00:20:24,500 --> 00:20:28,960
supported each
other emotionally.

381

00:20:28,960 --> 00:20:34,120
She did support me
because I was the one that

382

00:20:34,120 --> 00:20:38,790
kept on crying all the time
because no one survived,

383

00:20:38,790 --> 00:20:42,030
and she said to me,
now, we came that far.

384

00:20:42,030 --> 00:20:45,510
If you keep this up,
you're going to die, too.

385

00:20:45,510 --> 00:20:48,000

And she kept on
talking me out of it.

386
00:20:48,000 --> 00:20:50,070
She was the stronger one.

387
00:20:50,070 --> 00:20:53,020
I was more like a
mom and daddy's baby.

388
00:20:53,020 --> 00:20:55,950
We were always, all of
us-- we were four children,

389
00:20:55,950 --> 00:20:57,990
but our parents
were to that point,

390
00:20:57,990 --> 00:21:00,720
like we were the most precious
gems of the million dollars

391
00:21:00,720 --> 00:21:01,740
to them.

392
00:21:01,740 --> 00:21:06,000
It was unbelievable, the love
we had at home and everything,

393
00:21:06,000 --> 00:21:09,160
and this is what
I missed so much.

394
00:21:09,160 --> 00:21:11,650
You only live for it,
that they will be here

395
00:21:11,650 --> 00:21:15,970
to comfort you after
all what happened,

396
00:21:15,970 --> 00:21:18,460
and there's nothing,

nowhere to turn.

397

00:21:18,460 --> 00:21:22,720

So it was very hard for me to
take, and I got real emotional.

398

00:21:22,720 --> 00:21:26,650

Somehow she thought she has to
pull together because someone

399

00:21:26,650 --> 00:21:29,920

has to do something,
so it was a comfort

400

00:21:29,920 --> 00:21:35,480

to know that she was
so strong at that time.

401

00:21:35,480 --> 00:21:38,050

But after a while, it came out
that I was the stronger one

402

00:21:38,050 --> 00:21:40,670

than she was later on.

403

00:21:40,670 --> 00:21:42,580

So you see, sometimes
the roles reverse.

404

00:21:42,580 --> 00:21:46,710

405

00:21:46,710 --> 00:21:47,520

Thank you.

406

00:21:47,520 --> 00:21:52,540

Now we can get the
room with no voice.

407

00:21:52,540 --> 00:21:54,390

Room tone.

408

00:21:54,390 --> 00:22:26,000

Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection