

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:01:00,680

2

00:01:00,680 --> 00:01:08,090

OK, so now after this
May transports left,

3

00:01:08,090 --> 00:01:12,860

there were, as I said,
about 7,000 or more

4

00:01:12,860 --> 00:01:16,550

than 7,000 people less
in Theresienstadt.

5

00:01:16,550 --> 00:01:23,060

And, of course,
many of our children

6

00:01:23,060 --> 00:01:25,040

went with these transports.

7

00:01:25,040 --> 00:01:31,670

They were, by the way, mostly
Germans were sent out that way.

8

00:01:31,670 --> 00:01:46,220

And so the group we had in our
youth home was no longer there.

9

00:01:46,220 --> 00:01:49,220

And I was really without a job.

10

00:01:49,220 --> 00:01:52,700

So we were ready to
help wherever we could.

11

00:01:52,700 --> 00:01:55,400

12

00:01:55,400 --> 00:02:08,750

Our group room was now occupied
by several of our educators

13
00:02:08,750 --> 00:02:16,230
and their wives, something
which was against the rules.

14
00:02:16,230 --> 00:02:21,500
But as long as
nobody watched it,

15
00:02:21,500 --> 00:02:23,930
we made the rules ourselves.

16
00:02:23,930 --> 00:02:30,050
And so for the next, let's say,
for May, the next four months

17
00:02:30,050 --> 00:02:33,960
or so, we stayed together.

18
00:02:33,960 --> 00:02:40,790
We even slept together in
this room in our bunk beds.

19
00:02:40,790 --> 00:02:48,290
And so did some of the other
group leaders, among them

20
00:02:48,290 --> 00:02:53,730
a couple who just
were pretty careless.

21
00:02:53,730 --> 00:02:59,750
And the wife got pregnant.

22
00:02:59,750 --> 00:03:02,660
And that was pretty
bad, because that

23
00:03:02,660 --> 00:03:06,840
was the end when they came
to their final destination.

24

00:03:06,840 --> 00:03:15,440

But when I was free to work
for this town beautification,

25

00:03:15,440 --> 00:03:20,270

and I was sent from
one place to another.

26

00:03:20,270 --> 00:03:23,690

It wasn't very hard
work, especially

27

00:03:23,690 --> 00:03:34,160

for me who was used to very
hard work in the [GERMAN] group,

28

00:03:34,160 --> 00:03:39,240

for that everything
was just child's play.

29

00:03:39,240 --> 00:03:42,110

And I don't know anymore
exactly what I did.

30

00:03:42,110 --> 00:03:44,880

31

00:03:44,880 --> 00:03:51,830

I know that for one
time, we worked on a road

32

00:03:51,830 --> 00:03:55,550

in the back of the
administration building.

33

00:03:55,550 --> 00:03:57,500

But otherwise, I don't know.

34

00:03:57,500 --> 00:04:02,450

I don't have too many
memories of that time.

35

00:04:02,450 --> 00:04:07,640

36

00:04:07,640 --> 00:04:13,040

But I have to mention something
else, which started already

37

00:04:13,040 --> 00:04:17,240

around the time that
we got our children.

38

00:04:17,240 --> 00:04:29,205

There, we found out about one
department, which was called--

39

00:04:29,205 --> 00:04:31,710

40

00:04:31,710 --> 00:04:45,740

maybe the best way to translate
this leisure time occupation,

41

00:04:45,740 --> 00:04:46,970

or whatever.

42

00:04:46,970 --> 00:04:54,150

And that was the
liberal arts department.

43

00:04:54,150 --> 00:05:04,040

There were all kinds of lectures
given of recitals, partly

44

00:05:04,040 --> 00:05:17,240

vocal, sometimes violin
concerts, and sometimes

45

00:05:17,240 --> 00:05:20,120

a little plays, little operas.

46

00:05:20,120 --> 00:05:27,620

They were all produced

mostly in small rooms,

47

00:05:27,620 --> 00:05:33,290

usually in attic rooms, which
where rebuilt for that purpose.

48

00:05:33,290 --> 00:05:38,180

And they were very interesting
lectures given by--

49

00:05:38,180 --> 00:05:44,700

there were so many brains
assembled there in the ghetto

50

00:05:44,700 --> 00:05:51,740

that it was pretty easy
to find people who were

51

00:05:51,740 --> 00:05:54,440

able to talk about everything.

52

00:05:54,440 --> 00:06:05,300

And there were two
choirs, two big choirs.

53

00:06:05,300 --> 00:06:11,100

And Inge was attracted
to one of them.

54

00:06:11,100 --> 00:06:13,340

That was not the
real famous one.

55

00:06:13,340 --> 00:06:18,590

There was one where somebody
even wrote a book about it

56

00:06:18,590 --> 00:06:19,700

afterwards.

57

00:06:19,700 --> 00:06:22,910

But she didn't go to that.

58

00:06:22,910 --> 00:06:27,950

She went to a choir
which had just

59

00:06:27,950 --> 00:06:34,670

finished presenting
Haydn's "Creation,"

60

00:06:34,670 --> 00:06:39,440

which was quite
something, a big oratorio.

61

00:06:39,440 --> 00:06:43,970

And they performed
it several times.

62

00:06:43,970 --> 00:06:46,350

And Inge is such
a great musician,

63

00:06:46,350 --> 00:06:51,830

that she can just do it
without any rehearsal.

64

00:06:51,830 --> 00:06:54,410

She sang the alto.

65

00:06:54,410 --> 00:07:00,200

And then they just had
started to rehearse

66

00:07:00,200 --> 00:07:03,170

Mendelssohn's "Elijah."

67

00:07:03,170 --> 00:07:12,140

And they performed
the two several times.

68

00:07:12,140 --> 00:07:17,000

And I went with her for
the rehearsals usually

69

00:07:17,000 --> 00:07:20,210
and, of course, sometimes
even to the performances.

70
00:07:20,210 --> 00:07:24,020
Now, you will ask, how
can they do an oratorio

71
00:07:24,020 --> 00:07:26,060
without a big orchestra?

72
00:07:26,060 --> 00:07:30,290
They could because they
had just two pianos instead

73
00:07:30,290 --> 00:07:32,710
of a big orchestra.

74
00:07:32,710 --> 00:07:37,070
And so it worked beautifully.

75
00:07:37,070 --> 00:07:39,605
It was a real--

76
00:07:39,605 --> 00:07:42,800

77
00:07:42,800 --> 00:07:50,420
it was a big experience
to hear these oratorios

78
00:07:50,420 --> 00:07:55,880
in the middle of the ghetto,
in the middle of nothing,

79
00:07:55,880 --> 00:07:57,660
of despair.

80
00:07:57,660 --> 00:08:04,640
And I can tell you, last
year, the Carmel Bach Festival

81

00:08:04,640 --> 00:08:10,970
had the performance of
"The Creation" in German

82
00:08:10,970 --> 00:08:13,580
as well as a German conductor.

83
00:08:13,580 --> 00:08:17,240
And we went there.

84
00:08:17,240 --> 00:08:23,660
We had played it on our
phonograph several times.

85
00:08:23,660 --> 00:08:27,770
I think we heard
it even in concert.

86
00:08:27,770 --> 00:08:31,550
But I don't know we went
there to come Carmel.

87
00:08:31,550 --> 00:08:32,630
We sat down.

88
00:08:32,630 --> 00:08:34,610
And we cried all the time.

89
00:08:34,610 --> 00:08:40,500
It was too emotional for us.

90
00:08:40,500 --> 00:08:46,810
But I would do it again
if I could go there.

91
00:08:46,810 --> 00:08:53,710
And when they had sung "The
Creation" the 25th time,

92
00:08:53,710 --> 00:08:56,770
they even got a
little bit extra food.

93

00:08:56,770 --> 00:09:01,210

They got a roll and a
can with liverwurst.

94

00:09:01,210 --> 00:09:03,310

And that was really great.

95

00:09:03,310 --> 00:09:10,510

Now, that was something
really enjoyable.

96

00:09:10,510 --> 00:09:11,690

And--

97

00:09:11,690 --> 00:09:14,350

For whom did you perform?

98

00:09:14,350 --> 00:09:18,820

For the ghetto inmates.

99

00:09:18,820 --> 00:09:19,855

What about the Germans?

100

00:09:19,855 --> 00:09:21,020

They allowed it.

101

00:09:21,020 --> 00:09:22,840

No.

102

00:09:22,840 --> 00:09:24,430

So this was allowed.

103

00:09:24,430 --> 00:09:26,080

That was allowed, yes.

104

00:09:26,080 --> 00:09:32,680

That was part of this
leisure time organization.

105

00:09:32,680 --> 00:09:35,950

106

00:09:35,950 --> 00:09:42,510

We even could perform something
by Haydn who was not Jewish.

107

00:09:42,510 --> 00:09:44,050

The Bible.

108

00:09:44,050 --> 00:09:49,060

And is better dressed
or religious maybe,

109

00:09:49,060 --> 00:09:51,490

better nobody cared about it.

110

00:09:51,490 --> 00:09:55,120

But that was really
a great thing.

111

00:09:55,120 --> 00:09:58,940

The performance took place
in some larger hearts.

112

00:09:58,940 --> 00:10:03,670

You can imagine that a
choir of, I don't know,

113

00:10:03,670 --> 00:10:09,610

50 people or more, need
some expression, some room

114

00:10:09,610 --> 00:10:11,540

to express itself.

115

00:10:11,540 --> 00:10:23,590

And it so happened that one
building, which up to that time

116

00:10:23,590 --> 00:10:36,430

was out of the real ghetto
district, was taken into it.

117

00:10:36,430 --> 00:10:44,560
It was the hall of the Czech,
let's say, the Czech Boy

118
00:10:44,560 --> 00:10:48,130
Scouts, which we
called the Sokols.

119
00:10:48,130 --> 00:10:52,210
And the building
was therefore called

120
00:10:52,210 --> 00:10:58,450
the Sokolovna, which would be
the home of the Sokols of that.

121
00:10:58,450 --> 00:11:01,180
And that had everything.

122
00:11:01,180 --> 00:11:06,790
That had a big hall, where
they could to really perform

123
00:11:06,790 --> 00:11:08,590
these oratorios.

124
00:11:08,590 --> 00:11:11,410
And it had the library there.

125
00:11:11,410 --> 00:11:18,040
It had good toilets
too, by the way.

126
00:11:18,040 --> 00:11:25,060
And that was taken in just
in time for the Red Cross

127
00:11:25,060 --> 00:11:26,200
inspection, you know.

128
00:11:26,200 --> 00:11:28,270
But it was kept in there.

129

00:11:28,270 --> 00:11:31,600

130

00:11:31,600 --> 00:11:34,870

So the time as this
inspection came.

131

00:11:34,870 --> 00:11:36,790

It was in July.

132

00:11:36,790 --> 00:11:43,660

And we had our own
restrictions that we

133

00:11:43,660 --> 00:11:47,660

couldn't go out on the
street, except when we had to.

134

00:11:47,660 --> 00:11:52,240

So that there is no
overcrowding there.

135

00:11:52,240 --> 00:12:00,790

The commission was taken to some
food places, where the food,

136

00:12:00,790 --> 00:12:03,280

where it was a little bit
better, a little bit larger

137

00:12:03,280 --> 00:12:04,570

than usual.

138

00:12:04,570 --> 00:12:10,870

And they were very
much impressed

139

00:12:10,870 --> 00:12:18,550

how nice it is, how nice that
city is that the Fuhrer gave

140

00:12:18,550 --> 00:12:20,350

to the Jews.

141

00:12:20,350 --> 00:12:22,990

You know, that was the text.

142

00:12:22,990 --> 00:12:27,880

And they wrote a report about
that really in glowing terms.

143

00:12:27,880 --> 00:12:35,340

And it is copied in that big
book, which I didn't bring.

144

00:12:35,340 --> 00:12:41,710

And then after that, we thought
everything would be fine

145

00:12:41,710 --> 00:12:43,720

and would go on.

146

00:12:43,720 --> 00:12:48,580

And then there was
something else.

147

00:12:48,580 --> 00:12:55,630

And that is wanted to make a
film of the of the town, which

148

00:12:55,630 --> 00:12:58,210

the Fuhrer gave the Jews.

149

00:12:58,210 --> 00:13:07,090

And they found a
German actor who

150

00:13:07,090 --> 00:13:11,980

was in the original performance
of "The Threepenny Opera"

151

00:13:11,980 --> 00:13:15,970

in Berlin in the late '20s.

152

00:13:15,970 --> 00:13:20,320

He was of course the
director of this film, which

153

00:13:20,320 --> 00:13:27,790

was a big fraud again, because
people had to do what had never

154

00:13:27,790 --> 00:13:29,830

been done before in the ghetto.

155

00:13:29,830 --> 00:13:36,390

And the oratorio had to be
played, at least part of it.

156

00:13:36,390 --> 00:13:41,610

And it was a big fraud.

157

00:13:41,610 --> 00:13:45,810

And as soon as the
film was finished,

158

00:13:45,810 --> 00:13:52,580

the director, Mr. Kurt
Gerron, was sent to Auschwitz.

159

00:13:52,580 --> 00:14:01,050

So the film itself for a
long time was not finished.

160

00:14:01,050 --> 00:14:09,680

And only about three years
ago, something about that, they

161

00:14:09,680 --> 00:14:14,180

found parts of this film
and put it together.

162

00:14:14,180 --> 00:14:20,090

And it was played in New
York, I think, but not here.

163

00:14:20,090 --> 00:14:25,280

But as I say, it was a fraud.

164
00:14:25,280 --> 00:14:30,740
Then came another rumor.

165
00:14:30,740 --> 00:14:38,580
And you can imagine
that a town, which

166
00:14:38,580 --> 00:14:43,690
was so close together that there
were rumors, one after another.

167
00:14:43,690 --> 00:14:46,980
There was a rumor
that the Nazis wanted

168
00:14:46,980 --> 00:14:59,520
to bring the younger people
to work, people were work age,

169
00:14:59,520 --> 00:15:03,870
to Germany into
labor camps there

170
00:15:03,870 --> 00:15:16,140
to do some construction or other
work there in Germany itself.

171
00:15:16,140 --> 00:15:19,920
Now, there is nothing
strange about that,

172
00:15:19,920 --> 00:15:24,030
because there were groups
that were sent away

173
00:15:24,030 --> 00:15:30,180
from Theresienstadt
into the Heim ins Reich

174
00:15:30,180 --> 00:15:32,530
and had to work there.

175
00:15:32,530 --> 00:15:37,740
A friend of mine went
with one of these groups,

176
00:15:37,740 --> 00:15:40,470
stayed there for
over a year I think,

177
00:15:40,470 --> 00:15:44,140
and had to work really hard.

178
00:15:44,140 --> 00:15:48,330
But he was saved from any
transports to Auschwitz.

179
00:15:48,330 --> 00:15:52,680
And so was his wife,
who remained back

180
00:15:52,680 --> 00:15:55,530
in Theresienstadt.

181
00:15:55,530 --> 00:15:58,830
They both survived.

182
00:15:58,830 --> 00:16:06,710
But the wife died a natural
death right after the war.

183
00:16:06,710 --> 00:16:13,010
My friend came back to
Berlin, worked for a while,

184
00:16:13,010 --> 00:16:18,440
worked in the newly
formed Jewish community

185
00:16:18,440 --> 00:16:22,400
until his death around 1979.

186
00:16:22,400 --> 00:16:25,160

And we were in constant
touch with him.

187
00:16:25,160 --> 00:16:26,735
He was one of my good friends.

188
00:16:26,735 --> 00:16:31,040

189
00:16:31,040 --> 00:16:38,660
So there was nothing really
exciting about that or nothing

190
00:16:38,660 --> 00:16:43,410
new about that, that they
wanted to send the people away.

191
00:16:43,410 --> 00:16:53,060
What was not told and
what my 800 page book says

192
00:16:53,060 --> 00:16:57,680
is that the
government was afraid

193
00:16:57,680 --> 00:17:05,480
that the mixture of people in
the ghetto, which were partly

194
00:17:05,480 --> 00:17:12,020
old soldiers from the
first war or Czech soldiers

195
00:17:12,020 --> 00:17:20,900
from in between and young
people may give rise

196
00:17:20,900 --> 00:17:23,930
to some rebellion.

197
00:17:23,930 --> 00:17:27,170
So they wanted to
separate these people

198
00:17:27,170 --> 00:17:35,520
and to make the camp, the
ghetto, smaller that way.

199
00:17:35,520 --> 00:17:38,650
That was a good idea.

200
00:17:38,650 --> 00:17:41,890
So we were not
really surprised when

201
00:17:41,890 --> 00:17:51,700
the when the notice came that I
would go on one of these labor

202
00:17:51,700 --> 00:17:55,720
transports into Germany.

203
00:17:55,720 --> 00:18:00,270
And we were separated.

204
00:18:00,270 --> 00:18:02,310
We would be separated.

205
00:18:02,310 --> 00:18:07,740
But we hope that the wives
would come pretty soon too

206
00:18:07,740 --> 00:18:13,140
and that we would
be reconciled then.

207
00:18:13,140 --> 00:18:16,470
We took as much as we could.

208
00:18:16,470 --> 00:18:21,930
I told Inge she should
never volunteer to anything,

209
00:18:21,930 --> 00:18:34,400
because that was an old motto,

which I learned pretty soon--

210

00:18:34,400 --> 00:18:40,890
never volunteer because you
never know what you get into.

211

00:18:40,890 --> 00:18:48,380
So the time came that
we were put into cars.

212

00:18:48,380 --> 00:18:50,360
They were not even
really cattle cars.

213

00:18:50,360 --> 00:18:53,610
They were even some
seats in there.

214

00:18:53,610 --> 00:19:04,010
And we went off toward
Germany, went through Dresden.

215

00:19:04,010 --> 00:19:11,186
And then all of a sudden,
the train made a right turn.

216

00:19:11,186 --> 00:19:19,200
It did not go further into the
country, but went eastward.

217

00:19:19,200 --> 00:19:23,670
And whoever knew a little
bit about the geography

218

00:19:23,670 --> 00:19:28,890
knew that there could
be only one terminus--

219

00:19:28,890 --> 00:19:35,770
Auschwitz-- another fraud.

220

00:19:35,770 --> 00:19:41,080
The train went then

during the night

221

00:19:41,080 --> 00:19:44,560

with some stops
outside the stations.

222

00:19:44,560 --> 00:19:49,060

The SS people stood
there, shouted.

223

00:19:49,060 --> 00:19:50,230

SS people shouted.

224

00:19:50,230 --> 00:19:54,310

You know that was something
which we knew already.

225

00:19:54,310 --> 00:19:58,660

They shouted away from
the windows and whatever.

226

00:19:58,660 --> 00:20:01,390

We had a hard time even
to go to the bathroom,

227

00:20:01,390 --> 00:20:08,500

because we were so crowded
with baggage and people,

228

00:20:08,500 --> 00:20:10,990

just like cattle.

229

00:20:10,990 --> 00:20:17,020

The next morning we arrived
where we were afraid we would--

230

00:20:17,020 --> 00:20:17,800

Auschwitz.

231

00:20:17,800 --> 00:20:20,380

232

00:20:20,380 --> 00:20:32,680
And so that was maybe the last
fraud, the last big fraud,

233
00:20:32,680 --> 00:20:35,530
which the Nazis performed on us.

234
00:20:35,530 --> 00:20:38,190

235
00:20:38,190 --> 00:20:48,410
When we arrived there,
the SS shouted, out,

236
00:20:48,410 --> 00:20:53,290
get out of the cars,
leave everything behind.

237
00:20:53,290 --> 00:20:57,670
That's why we have packed
our baggage so carefully.

238
00:20:57,670 --> 00:21:02,470
So then we had to
go into a line.

239
00:21:02,470 --> 00:21:10,750
And there was one man standing
there who looked at us.

240
00:21:10,750 --> 00:21:16,840
And we had to tell them our
name and that we were well off

241
00:21:16,840 --> 00:21:19,330
and whatever.

242
00:21:19,330 --> 00:21:26,530
And he was apparently that
infamous Dr. Mengele, who

243
00:21:26,530 --> 00:21:28,040
I think you heard about him.

244
00:21:28,040 --> 00:21:30,940
He went after the
war to South America

245
00:21:30,940 --> 00:21:35,110
and apparently died
there somehow, somehow.

246
00:21:35,110 --> 00:21:42,360
Anyway, when we stood
there in front of him,

247
00:21:42,360 --> 00:21:46,340
he either pointed to the
right or to the left.

248
00:21:46,340 --> 00:21:48,960
The right was the right side.

249
00:21:48,960 --> 00:21:55,400
The left was the wrong
side, because whoever

250
00:21:55,400 --> 00:22:03,930
went to the left was put into
a group and carried away,

251
00:22:03,930 --> 00:22:04,702
led away.

252
00:22:04,702 --> 00:22:07,680

253
00:22:07,680 --> 00:22:13,750
And we could imagine where.

254
00:22:13,750 --> 00:22:16,060
We never saw them again.

255
00:22:16,060 --> 00:22:28,790
But we saw big chimneys

there, which spewed flames out

256

00:22:28,790 --> 00:22:32,270
of there, out the top.

257

00:22:32,270 --> 00:22:41,930
And that was the place where
the gassed people were burned.

258

00:22:41,930 --> 00:22:44,540
That we knew immediately.

259

00:22:44,540 --> 00:22:48,140
I mean we could figure
that out immediately.

260

00:22:48,140 --> 00:22:54,920
When my turn came, he
pointed to the right side.

261

00:22:54,920 --> 00:23:00,650
And then we had
some time waiting.

262

00:23:00,650 --> 00:23:06,830
The SS people came and
said, give us your watches

263

00:23:06,830 --> 00:23:10,700
and whatever hat you
have, your rings and so.

264

00:23:10,700 --> 00:23:13,830
And we said, oh, no, we want.

265

00:23:13,830 --> 00:23:16,820
They said, you want
get rid of them anyway.

266

00:23:16,820 --> 00:23:18,470
But we didn't.

267

00:23:18,470 --> 00:23:20,000

We sat there.

268

00:23:20,000 --> 00:23:21,930

Some people had
something to eat.

269

00:23:21,930 --> 00:23:29,970

And we had a last
half hour of peace.

270

00:23:29,970 --> 00:23:31,350

It was good whether.

271

00:23:31,350 --> 00:23:33,240

The sun was shining.

272

00:23:33,240 --> 00:23:40,120

And we didn't know,
fortunately what awaited us.

273

00:23:40,120 --> 00:23:49,600

And then after a short time,
we were called together.

274

00:23:49,600 --> 00:23:52,720

We're brought into
a building where

275

00:23:52,720 --> 00:23:59,910

we had to disrobe
everything except the shoes

276

00:23:59,910 --> 00:24:10,780

and then were led
into a bathroom.

277

00:24:10,780 --> 00:24:15,700

And there, the water came.

278

00:24:15,700 --> 00:24:19,720

279

00:24:19,720 --> 00:24:25,220

And we got washed up.

280

00:24:25,220 --> 00:24:29,660

And we didn't know at the time
that sometimes something else

281

00:24:29,660 --> 00:24:36,580

came out of the holes up there.

282

00:24:36,580 --> 00:24:39,140

You know, it was gasses.

283

00:24:39,140 --> 00:24:41,060

But we were led.

284

00:24:41,060 --> 00:24:45,230

We had to go out again,
got some new clothing.

285

00:24:45,230 --> 00:24:49,930

286

00:24:49,930 --> 00:24:54,970

We got a shirt, a jacket.

287

00:24:54,970 --> 00:25:00,490

We didn't get a real
inmates uniform yet.

288

00:25:00,490 --> 00:25:04,360

We had to leave
everything behind which

289

00:25:04,360 --> 00:25:08,455

we had when had to undress
before we got into the shower.

290

00:25:08,455 --> 00:25:14,810

291

00:25:14,810 --> 00:25:19,500

We had a jacket, old
jacket, where in the back

292

00:25:19,500 --> 00:25:21,920

there was something
cut out, and there

293

00:25:21,920 --> 00:25:29,210

were some something from
the regular uniform put in,

294

00:25:29,210 --> 00:25:31,640

these blue stripes.

295

00:25:31,640 --> 00:25:41,820

And the underpants were made
out of a tallis, which was,

296

00:25:41,820 --> 00:25:47,940

you know, just to bother us.

297

00:25:47,940 --> 00:25:51,090

But at that time we
were already at a point

298

00:25:51,090 --> 00:25:53,130

where we couldn't get battered.

299

00:25:53,130 --> 00:25:56,160

300

00:25:56,160 --> 00:26:02,595

And then we were
put into a camp.

301

00:26:02,595 --> 00:26:05,310

302

00:26:05,310 --> 00:26:07,020

We were not really in Auschwitz.

303

00:26:07,020 --> 00:26:12,420
We were next to Auschwitz
in Birkenau, which was--

304
00:26:12,420 --> 00:26:13,680
it was the same thing.

305
00:26:13,680 --> 00:26:15,330
It was Auschwitz.

306
00:26:15,330 --> 00:26:21,030
And there were several
what they called camps.

307
00:26:21,030 --> 00:26:27,570
There were long
stretches, which road

308
00:26:27,570 --> 00:26:35,280
in the middle and barracks and
either side, big, huge, wooden

309
00:26:35,280 --> 00:26:37,440
barracks.

310
00:26:37,440 --> 00:26:44,520
And there were where we were
about five next to each other,

311
00:26:44,520 --> 00:26:47,100
five of these camps.

312
00:26:47,100 --> 00:26:53,640
We came into Camp E,
which was the last one.

313
00:26:53,640 --> 00:26:57,560
And that was called
the Gypsy camp,

314
00:26:57,560 --> 00:27:06,140
because there were Gypsies, that
was occupied by Gypsies, who

315
00:27:06,140 --> 00:27:09,650
were enemies of the state
too, of course, because they

316
00:27:09,650 --> 00:27:12,380
were not Aryans.

317
00:27:12,380 --> 00:27:16,160
But in August of '40--

318
00:27:16,160 --> 00:27:17,840
we are '44 already, yes--

319
00:27:17,840 --> 00:27:21,260

320
00:27:21,260 --> 00:27:25,910
in August of '44, they
were taken care of

321
00:27:25,910 --> 00:27:28,250
and all exterminated.

322
00:27:28,250 --> 00:27:31,100

323
00:27:31,100 --> 00:27:32,570
But the name stuck.

324
00:27:32,570 --> 00:27:38,660
It was still the Gypsy camp,
the Zigeunerlager, when we came.

325
00:27:38,660 --> 00:27:45,710
And that was where we
were kept now for a while.

326
00:27:45,710 --> 00:27:51,720
By the way, in the late '70s,
there was a TV program "Barney

327

00:27:51,720 --> 00:27:52,220

Miller."

328

00:27:52,220 --> 00:27:54,710

I don't know if

you remember that.

329

00:27:54,710 --> 00:27:56,960

Maybe you are too

young for that.

330

00:27:56,960 --> 00:28:02,480

And that was played in a

police station in New York.

331

00:28:02,480 --> 00:28:05,930

And it was very interesting.

332

00:28:05,930 --> 00:28:13,850

Hal Linden was

the officer there.

333

00:28:13,850 --> 00:28:18,650

And there was one

day, there came a man.

334

00:28:18,650 --> 00:28:20,960

There were some complaints.

335

00:28:20,960 --> 00:28:24,290

And he said I was in Auschwitz.

336

00:28:24,290 --> 00:28:25,820

I was in the Gypsy camp.

337

00:28:25,820 --> 00:28:26,660

I am a Gypsy.

338

00:28:26,660 --> 00:28:28,670

And I was in the Gypsy camp.

339

00:28:28,670 --> 00:28:32,870

And he told the whole story,
which was very interesting,

340

00:28:32,870 --> 00:28:35,555

because it was true.

341

00:28:35,555 --> 00:28:37,940

We knew it.

342

00:28:37,940 --> 00:28:40,790

So in any event,
we were led there

343

00:28:40,790 --> 00:28:43,910

into one of these big barracks.

344

00:28:43,910 --> 00:28:47,090

And there is almost
nothing in there,

345

00:28:47,090 --> 00:28:52,580

except shelves, four
high on each side.

346

00:28:52,580 --> 00:28:58,430

It was a long barrack, long
building, wooden building.

347

00:28:58,430 --> 00:29:00,840

And there is nothing.

348

00:29:00,840 --> 00:29:04,160

Now, as I said, we didn't
hear anything anymore

349

00:29:04,160 --> 00:29:08,960

that belonged to us, even
our own wedding rings.

350

00:29:08,960 --> 00:29:11,150

Everything went.

351

00:29:11,150 --> 00:29:18,320

And, yes, I forgot to say, we
were shorn, not only the head,

352

00:29:18,320 --> 00:29:25,090

but any place on the body
where you found hair.

353

00:29:25,090 --> 00:29:30,020

And that was not
supposed to grow.

354

00:29:30,020 --> 00:29:36,670

It was not supposed to grow
so much that you could grab it

355

00:29:36,670 --> 00:29:38,800

with your fingers.

356

00:29:38,800 --> 00:29:49,000

And the hair was too
long, then you either

357

00:29:49,000 --> 00:30:03,480

were got a good sleighing
there or they put you away

358

00:30:03,480 --> 00:30:06,720

to the gas.

359

00:30:06,720 --> 00:30:12,570

I remember once,
some people saw--

360

00:30:12,570 --> 00:30:20,970

some of the guards saw men
which had too much pubic hair.

361

00:30:20,970 --> 00:30:26,450

So he took some open
light and burned it off.

362

00:30:26,450 --> 00:30:28,410
Of course, it hurts quite a bit.

363
00:30:28,410 --> 00:30:33,300
But that was the way we
were treated from now on.

364
00:30:33,300 --> 00:30:42,810
And then there was nothing to
get familiar with because there

365
00:30:42,810 --> 00:30:44,460
was nothing.

366
00:30:44,460 --> 00:30:48,690
We got a piece of bread in
the morning and the soup

367
00:30:48,690 --> 00:30:50,100
in the evening.

368
00:30:50,100 --> 00:30:52,500
But the soup is in a big bowl.

369
00:30:52,500 --> 00:30:56,670
And that was for more than one--

370
00:30:56,670 --> 00:30:57,720
two or three people.

371
00:30:57,720 --> 00:31:00,000
And we just had to
slurp it, because we

372
00:31:00,000 --> 00:31:02,100
didn't get any spoon.

373
00:31:02,100 --> 00:31:07,950
And then we had to lie down
on one of these shelves.

374
00:31:07,950 --> 00:31:10,230

We got a blanket.

375

00:31:10,230 --> 00:31:12,330

But that was it.

376

00:31:12,330 --> 00:31:19,120

And that was where we stayed
then for the next weeks.

377

00:31:19,120 --> 00:31:24,460

We didn't have any name anymore.

378

00:31:24,460 --> 00:31:26,340

We didn't have any number.

379

00:31:26,340 --> 00:31:29,900

We were just cattle.

380

00:31:29,900 --> 00:31:35,640

The only thing we
could do, we could

381

00:31:35,640 --> 00:31:40,200

go to the latrine,
which separately.

382

00:31:40,200 --> 00:31:43,620

And we could do
this by ourselves

383

00:31:43,620 --> 00:31:46,470

whenever we wanted to.

384

00:31:46,470 --> 00:31:48,060

During the day,
during the night,

385

00:31:48,060 --> 00:31:52,020

they had a pail standing
there, were we could--

386

00:31:52,020 --> 00:31:53,130

whatever.

387
00:31:53,130 --> 00:32:01,720
And then every
morning was a count.

388
00:32:01,720 --> 00:32:08,050
We had to stand up there again
assembled in rows to five.

389
00:32:08,050 --> 00:32:11,080
And then we were counted.

390
00:32:11,080 --> 00:32:13,660
And that was easy.

391
00:32:13,660 --> 00:32:17,740
But sometimes somebody
was missing or so.

392
00:32:17,740 --> 00:32:22,870
Then the foreman there had to--

393
00:32:22,870 --> 00:32:27,610
they got one from
the next barracks.

394
00:32:27,610 --> 00:32:31,360
And he came in the back and
the SS man came in the front,

395
00:32:31,360 --> 00:32:32,710
and everything was all right.

396
00:32:32,710 --> 00:32:35,740
The number was all right then.

397
00:32:35,740 --> 00:32:38,440
And that was not so bad.

398
00:32:38,440 --> 00:32:41,380
But then every other

day about there

399

00:32:41,380 --> 00:32:44,530

came something which
was quite a selection.

400

00:32:44,530 --> 00:32:47,330

We again had to
stand at attention.

401

00:32:47,330 --> 00:32:55,420

One of the SS people came,
went through each row, looked

402

00:32:55,420 --> 00:33:01,690

for anybody who has
not shaved, whose hair

403

00:33:01,690 --> 00:33:05,560

was too long, whose
hair was too gray,

404

00:33:05,560 --> 00:33:16,380

or whose face was so that
the SS man didn't like it,

405

00:33:16,380 --> 00:33:23,050

they were selected, had
to go out, were led away

406

00:33:23,050 --> 00:33:26,710

and never seen again.

407

00:33:26,710 --> 00:33:29,130

So we had to get shaved too.

408

00:33:29,130 --> 00:33:33,910

And there are some people
who had some razor.

409

00:33:33,910 --> 00:33:38,110

And they stood there on
the street next to one

410
00:33:38,110 --> 00:33:38,990
of the barracks.

411
00:33:38,990 --> 00:33:41,860
And you had to give
him a piece of bread,

412
00:33:41,860 --> 00:33:46,510
which you could hardly miss,
but you had to do that.

413
00:33:46,510 --> 00:33:50,950
And they shaved you so that
you could look all right.

414
00:33:50,950 --> 00:33:54,400
And you even had to get
a haircut too, but not

415
00:33:54,400 --> 00:33:56,740
during these first two weeks.

416
00:33:56,740 --> 00:34:00,010
And, by the way, there
were other people

417
00:34:00,010 --> 00:34:04,630
who were standing there
next to the barracks.

418
00:34:04,630 --> 00:34:12,489
They were all Jews who
somehow saved a prayer book.

419
00:34:12,489 --> 00:34:19,000
And they stood there and prayed,
some kind of a view, you know.

420
00:34:19,000 --> 00:34:24,640
But I'm telling you only
what I still remember.

421

00:34:24,640 --> 00:34:30,190

422

00:34:30,190 --> 00:34:34,030

We could move more
or less freely

423

00:34:34,030 --> 00:34:39,400

during the day on that
street, and that middle street

424

00:34:39,400 --> 00:34:51,610

in the camp, unless one of the
SS people or one of the Kapos--

425

00:34:51,610 --> 00:34:56,260

the Kapo was an inmate too
who was elected because he

426

00:34:56,260 --> 00:35:00,550

was very strong and mean.

427

00:35:00,550 --> 00:35:03,700

And he went usually
with a big stick and hit

428

00:35:03,700 --> 00:35:07,540

everybody who he didn't like.

429

00:35:07,540 --> 00:35:13,120

But when we were careful not
to run into one of those,

430

00:35:13,120 --> 00:35:15,880

then we could move there freely.

431

00:35:15,880 --> 00:35:19,840

And there every day came a
new transport there, usually

432

00:35:19,840 --> 00:35:22,030

from Theresienstadt too.

433
00:35:22,030 --> 00:35:31,060
And I remember we once met
a young guy who was already

434
00:35:31,060 --> 00:35:34,300
in several camps before.

435
00:35:34,300 --> 00:35:38,710
And so we were naive, newcomers.

436
00:35:38,710 --> 00:35:41,500
And we asked him which
one was the best camp?

437
00:35:41,500 --> 00:35:49,160
And he said, believe me, every
place you are not is better.

438
00:35:49,160 --> 00:35:52,940
Very good, very philosophical.

439
00:35:52,940 --> 00:36:00,070
And that's why I remember
it, because it's true.

440
00:36:00,070 --> 00:36:06,800
Every place you are not is
always better, in this case.

441
00:36:06,800 --> 00:36:19,740
So there was nothing for us
to do, just sit around, talk,

442
00:36:19,740 --> 00:36:23,760
wait for other people who may
have come from Theresienstadt.

443
00:36:23,760 --> 00:36:28,040

444
00:36:28,040 --> 00:36:34,650

I was there together with some friends from Theresienstadt.

445

00:36:34,650 --> 00:36:43,630

Then after a while they formed some subgroups.

446

00:36:43,630 --> 00:36:46,390

447

00:36:46,390 --> 00:36:49,810

I don't recall what the other people were,

448

00:36:49,810 --> 00:36:53,510

but they asked for college graduates.

449

00:36:53,510 --> 00:36:56,260

That was one group by itself.

450

00:36:56,260 --> 00:36:59,290

And I was so proud that I was a college graduate,

451

00:36:59,290 --> 00:37:03,130

so I did this.

452

00:37:03,130 --> 00:37:09,400

And I was put to one side and to another barracks

453

00:37:09,400 --> 00:37:13,810

away from my two friends there.

454

00:37:13,810 --> 00:37:16,930

And they thought that's the end.

455

00:37:16,930 --> 00:37:27,700

They separate the college graduates because they cannot

456

00:37:27,700 --> 00:37:28,850
be used for anything.

457
00:37:28,850 --> 00:37:31,550
And so they will
be taken care of.

458
00:37:31,550 --> 00:37:32,950
Best not.

459
00:37:32,950 --> 00:37:38,790
Then I found out
if you volunteer

460
00:37:38,790 --> 00:37:44,200
to help in the kitchen to get
the garbage out of the kitchen

461
00:37:44,200 --> 00:37:49,540
and clean it out and whatever,
you may get some more food.

462
00:37:49,540 --> 00:37:52,570
And, of course, food was
written with a capital

463
00:37:52,570 --> 00:37:57,980
F. That was a main
thing to worry about.

464
00:37:57,980 --> 00:38:02,170
So I volunteered for that
and went with a little cart

465
00:38:02,170 --> 00:38:05,110
hard and cleaned everything out.

466
00:38:05,110 --> 00:38:09,070
And I collected more food.

467
00:38:09,070 --> 00:38:14,380
Then after about two
weeks, a new transport

468

00:38:14,380 --> 00:38:16,870
came from Theresienstadt.

469

00:38:16,870 --> 00:38:24,550
And one of the boys who was
in my home in the youth home

470

00:38:24,550 --> 00:38:30,530
said, hey, you know who
came with my transport?

471

00:38:30,530 --> 00:38:31,030
Inge.

472

00:38:31,030 --> 00:38:33,870

473

00:38:33,870 --> 00:38:37,050
So what could I do, you know?

474

00:38:37,050 --> 00:38:41,430
I was sorry, but I couldn't
do anything about it.

475

00:38:41,430 --> 00:38:42,360
That's what you think.

476

00:38:42,360 --> 00:38:44,980

477

00:38:44,980 --> 00:38:47,710
The next day, I
went to the latrine.

478

00:38:47,710 --> 00:38:50,770
And the latrine was
not just a latrine.

479

00:38:50,770 --> 00:38:58,000
It was an assembly
place for everybody,

480
00:38:58,000 --> 00:39:00,150
especially the old timers,
who could stay there

481
00:39:00,150 --> 00:39:01,830
for a long time.

482
00:39:01,830 --> 00:39:04,080
And they even had a
little stove there

483
00:39:04,080 --> 00:39:06,270
where they could
cook something, which

484
00:39:06,270 --> 00:39:08,710
I don't know how they got it.

485
00:39:08,710 --> 00:39:16,080
And one of them when I was
in there cried out, who

486
00:39:16,080 --> 00:39:18,730
wants to go to a women's camp?

487
00:39:18,730 --> 00:39:20,201
Aye, woman's camp.

488
00:39:20,201 --> 00:39:22,380
I said, yes, I want to.

489
00:39:22,380 --> 00:39:23,370
But he didn't know me.

490
00:39:23,370 --> 00:39:24,855
So he said, who
do you have there?

491
00:39:24,855 --> 00:39:26,460
I said, my wife.

492

00:39:26,460 --> 00:39:27,240

Fine.

493

00:39:27,240 --> 00:39:28,920

You come with me.

494

00:39:28,920 --> 00:39:33,150

We have to carry some blankets.

495

00:39:33,150 --> 00:39:34,710

I don't recall

any more if we had

496

00:39:34,710 --> 00:39:38,850

to carry the blankets from

our camp to their camp

497

00:39:38,850 --> 00:39:40,620

or from their camp to ours.

498

00:39:40,620 --> 00:39:42,480

Didn't matter.

499

00:39:42,480 --> 00:39:49,530

Anyway, we got these little

carts and went over from Camp E

500

00:39:49,530 --> 00:39:54,270

to Camp C. And everybody

else knew what to do

501

00:39:54,270 --> 00:40:00,330

and where to look for

his wife or whatever.

502

00:40:00,330 --> 00:40:03,240

And as soon as we came

there into the camp,

503

00:40:03,240 --> 00:40:08,970

they just disintegrated.

504

00:40:08,970 --> 00:40:11,670

But I didn't know
what to do, because I

505

00:40:11,670 --> 00:40:13,750

didn't know where Inge was.

506

00:40:13,750 --> 00:40:19,200

And all of sudden, I
saw a troop with women

507

00:40:19,200 --> 00:40:23,400

come down the street,
that camp street.

508

00:40:23,400 --> 00:40:28,800

And I saw her, I recognized
her first when the first row.

509

00:40:28,800 --> 00:40:36,450

She was from our youth
room in Theresienstadt.

510

00:40:36,450 --> 00:40:40,410

And all of a sudden, from
the last row somebody

511

00:40:40,410 --> 00:40:43,710

came running down toward me.

512

00:40:43,710 --> 00:40:45,810

It was Inge.

513

00:40:45,810 --> 00:40:50,650

And so, of course, we
stood a little bit apart.

514

00:40:50,650 --> 00:40:55,380

We were glad that we saw each
other and that both of us

515

00:40:55,380 --> 00:40:58,370

were still alive,
until one of the Kapos

516
00:40:58,370 --> 00:41:04,040
came and wanted to hit us.

517
00:41:04,040 --> 00:41:05,960
So she left again.

518
00:41:05,960 --> 00:41:10,220
I went back to my blankets
or whatever we had.

519
00:41:10,220 --> 00:41:15,660
But we knew at least that we
at that time we both of us

520
00:41:15,660 --> 00:41:17,060
were still alive.

521
00:41:17,060 --> 00:41:21,020
And I think we were
the only couple who

522
00:41:21,020 --> 00:41:23,090
could see each other there.

523
00:41:23,090 --> 00:41:30,300
It sounds unbelievable.

524
00:41:30,300 --> 00:41:31,110
But it isn't.

525
00:41:31,110 --> 00:41:33,610
It really happened.

526
00:41:33,610 --> 00:41:38,100
And that is another
case where our guardian

527
00:41:38,100 --> 00:41:43,220
angels worked, as so often.

528
00:41:43,220 --> 00:41:49,010
And we still remember that time.

529
00:41:49,010 --> 00:41:52,510

530
00:41:52,510 --> 00:41:57,970
I couldn't repeat it,
because the next day,

531
00:41:57,970 --> 00:42:03,280
an SS officer from
another camp came,

532
00:42:03,280 --> 00:42:06,850
and he needed some cattle.

533
00:42:06,850 --> 00:42:09,920
You know, we were not
treated as human beings.

534
00:42:09,920 --> 00:42:12,910
We were treated as cattle.

535
00:42:12,910 --> 00:42:18,220
And they did with us
whatever they felt like.

536
00:42:18,220 --> 00:42:23,050
So he needed some workers,
some slaves, I may say,

537
00:42:23,050 --> 00:42:27,960
for his camp, S labor camp.

538
00:42:27,960 --> 00:42:33,450
You may know that
around Auschwitz, there

539
00:42:33,450 --> 00:42:40,530
were satellite camps,

labor camps, where people

540
00:42:40,530 --> 00:42:43,150
were used up to the very
last moment, you know,

541
00:42:43,150 --> 00:42:46,110
until they really fell apart.

542
00:42:46,110 --> 00:42:50,400
And he needed some
replacements, I guess.

543
00:42:50,400 --> 00:42:55,710
So he came for some
cattle selection.

544
00:42:55,710 --> 00:42:59,370
And he came to us.

545
00:42:59,370 --> 00:43:00,990
And there, of
course, we could see

546
00:43:00,990 --> 00:43:05,880
that this thing with a college
graduates was again a fake,

547
00:43:05,880 --> 00:43:10,810
because we stood
there and he said,

548
00:43:10,810 --> 00:43:13,860
I am looking for mechanics.

549
00:43:13,860 --> 00:43:14,970
Who was a mechanic?

550
00:43:14,970 --> 00:43:20,700
Not from-- I was sick and tired
of looking at these flames that

551

00:43:20,700 --> 00:43:24,000
came out of the chimneys,
and I was sick and tired

552
00:43:24,000 --> 00:43:27,615
of these selections, and I was
sick and tired of everything,

553
00:43:27,615 --> 00:43:32,410
and only out of that camp.

554
00:43:32,410 --> 00:43:35,770
And I think I don't
have to tell you,

555
00:43:35,770 --> 00:43:41,800
when I told you that Auschwitz
had this aura of gloom and doom

556
00:43:41,800 --> 00:43:49,990
and darkness, and that
was nothing compared

557
00:43:49,990 --> 00:43:53,650
to what we had in Auschwitz.

558
00:43:53,650 --> 00:43:56,170
It was so hopeless.

559
00:43:56,170 --> 00:44:02,890
And it was so dark, even
when the sun was shining.

560
00:44:02,890 --> 00:44:12,230
And it was so desperate that
we had only one feeling--

561
00:44:12,230 --> 00:44:14,000
out of here.

562
00:44:14,000 --> 00:44:16,790
It cannot get worse.

563

00:44:16,790 --> 00:44:23,150

And it's very hard
to put it into words,

564

00:44:23,150 --> 00:44:24,380

because there are no words.

565

00:44:24,380 --> 00:44:28,760

They are feelings,
which I try to express.

566

00:44:28,760 --> 00:44:29,660

But I cannot.

567

00:44:29,660 --> 00:44:34,460

Or I'm afraid I cannot.

568

00:44:34,460 --> 00:44:38,920

So there it was let's
get out of here.

569

00:44:38,920 --> 00:44:44,770

So I stood there, and I
volunteered to be a mechanic.

570

00:44:44,770 --> 00:44:50,470

So this guy asked everybody
who wanted to volunteer

571

00:44:50,470 --> 00:44:55,950

what his mechanics past is.

572

00:44:55,950 --> 00:44:57,380

Hmm.

573

00:44:57,380 --> 00:45:06,490

So the guy in front of me said,
I am a doctor of engineering,

574

00:45:06,490 --> 00:45:13,051

but then I changed my job and
I am now a medical doctor.

575
00:45:13,051 --> 00:45:15,790
Now, medical engineering--
engineering that

576
00:45:15,790 --> 00:45:16,600
would be something.

577
00:45:16,600 --> 00:45:18,340
No, he wasn't taken.

578
00:45:18,340 --> 00:45:21,360
He was too high.

579
00:45:21,360 --> 00:45:23,770
Then I came.

580
00:45:23,770 --> 00:45:26,680
What's your experience
as a mechanic?

581
00:45:26,680 --> 00:45:29,290
Oh, I said, I used
to be a teacher.

582
00:45:29,290 --> 00:45:34,180
But then I took some
classes as a mechanic,

583
00:45:34,180 --> 00:45:36,970
because I know that
this is better.

584
00:45:36,970 --> 00:45:37,900
He fell for it.

585
00:45:37,900 --> 00:45:40,180
I was taken.

586
00:45:40,180 --> 00:45:47,590
And, of course, my experience as
a mechanic was less than zero.

587
00:45:47,590 --> 00:45:53,500
Now, then the rule was
that in the very moment

588
00:45:53,500 --> 00:45:57,820
you were selected for
that, you were taken away.

589
00:45:57,820 --> 00:46:01,120
You were set apart, just like
a piece of cattle, you know.

590
00:46:01,120 --> 00:46:05,360
I mean you couldn't
think anymore.

591
00:46:05,360 --> 00:46:07,870
You were not supposed to think.

592
00:46:07,870 --> 00:46:11,060
They did with you, you didn't.

593
00:46:11,060 --> 00:46:13,640
And it's very hard
to express it,

594
00:46:13,640 --> 00:46:18,110
to make that clear what
really happened there.

595
00:46:18,110 --> 00:46:21,980
It's almost impossible,
but I hope you feel that.

596
00:46:21,980 --> 00:46:27,890
So we were taken away,
put into another barracks.

597
00:46:27,890 --> 00:46:31,100
And, of course, we had
to go through a shower.

598

00:46:31,100 --> 00:46:31,910

I found that.

599

00:46:31,910 --> 00:46:36,410

Out every time you

changed your residence,

600

00:46:36,410 --> 00:46:38,360

before you changed

your residence,

601

00:46:38,360 --> 00:46:42,360

before you were carried away,

you had to take a shower.

602

00:46:42,360 --> 00:46:44,390

And as soon as you

came to the new place,

603

00:46:44,390 --> 00:46:49,710

you had to take another shower,

only two hours difference.

604

00:46:49,710 --> 00:46:53,030

And so then we had

to take a shower.

605

00:46:53,030 --> 00:47:00,870

And then the next

morning, we got a number.

606

00:47:00,870 --> 00:47:05,100

And I guess you know

where that number is.

607

00:47:05,100 --> 00:47:06,480

I think you want to see it.

608

00:47:06,480 --> 00:47:10,700

609

00:47:10,700 --> 00:47:13,470

OK, here it is.

610
00:47:13,470 --> 00:47:17,480

611
00:47:17,480 --> 00:47:19,380
Do you have it?

612
00:47:19,380 --> 00:47:20,900
You have to face the camera?

613
00:47:20,900 --> 00:47:21,875
Pardon me.

614
00:47:21,875 --> 00:47:24,240
You have to face
it to the camera.

615
00:47:24,240 --> 00:47:26,600
There you go.

616
00:47:26,600 --> 00:47:32,320
Maybe I-- you have it?

617
00:47:32,320 --> 00:47:33,540
Stand still right there.

618
00:47:33,540 --> 00:47:40,550

619
00:47:40,550 --> 00:47:42,520
Can you back up
just a little bit?

620
00:47:42,520 --> 00:47:43,900
It's too close to focus.

621
00:47:43,900 --> 00:47:46,300
Sit down.

622
00:47:46,300 --> 00:47:49,040

Just sit down.

623
00:47:49,040 --> 00:47:50,370
OK.

624
00:47:50,370 --> 00:47:51,100
OK.

625
00:47:51,100 --> 00:47:54,820
Now, if you see
the number was B,

626
00:47:54,820 --> 00:47:59,830
which stands for
Birkenau, not Auschwitz.

627
00:47:59,830 --> 00:48:04,300
Then it was 13 13 1.

628
00:48:04,300 --> 00:48:08,710
And since I always considered
13 my lucky number--

629
00:48:08,710 --> 00:48:15,770
I was born in the 13th,
as we found out last time,

630
00:48:15,770 --> 00:48:20,900
and I always figured 13
is a lucky number for me.

631
00:48:20,900 --> 00:48:23,600

632
00:48:23,600 --> 00:48:28,290
And there was a 13 from the
front and 13 from the back.

633
00:48:28,290 --> 00:48:34,400
So I knew it must have been
a lucky number, especially

634

00:48:34,400 --> 00:48:37,850
since I got it on
Friday, October 13.

635
00:48:37,850 --> 00:48:43,970
So a little bit superstition
helps sometimes.

636
00:48:43,970 --> 00:48:47,150
Then we were put into a--

637
00:48:47,150 --> 00:48:50,960

638
00:48:50,960 --> 00:48:53,150
oh, we got new uniforms now.

639
00:48:53,150 --> 00:48:58,400
We got the concentration
camp uniform

640
00:48:58,400 --> 00:49:03,260
with you know the blue stripes
along with stripes, which you

641
00:49:03,260 --> 00:49:05,750
know from pictures, I guess.

642
00:49:05,750 --> 00:49:13,140
And then we were brought to
a freight car or two freight

643
00:49:13,140 --> 00:49:23,490
cars, closed freight cars,
cattle car, and carried away.

644
00:49:23,490 --> 00:49:33,150
When we arrived at the
station where we went,

645
00:49:33,150 --> 00:49:37,200
I could see that
it said Gleiwitz.

646
00:49:37,200 --> 00:49:43,350
Gleiwitz was one of the larger
towns in that Upper Silesian

647
00:49:43,350 --> 00:49:45,780
industry area.

648
00:49:45,780 --> 00:49:48,990
And then we were
taken out of this

649
00:49:48,990 --> 00:49:51,900
and brought into a new camp.

650
00:49:51,900 --> 00:49:54,240
How long was the ride?

651
00:49:54,240 --> 00:49:57,030
I don't know, a few hours.

652
00:49:57,030 --> 00:49:59,210
A few hours at the most.

653
00:49:59,210 --> 00:50:00,120
It was not very long.

654
00:50:00,120 --> 00:50:02,610
It's not-- I even have a map.

655
00:50:02,610 --> 00:50:04,010
I don't want to do that.

656
00:50:04,010 --> 00:50:08,790

657
00:50:08,790 --> 00:50:10,590
Then we were
brought into a camp.

658
00:50:10,590 --> 00:50:14,100

I found out later
that there were

659
00:50:14,100 --> 00:50:17,550
four labor camps in Gleiwitz.

660
00:50:17,550 --> 00:50:21,210
We were in the one
called Gleiwitz 1.

661
00:50:21,210 --> 00:50:24,060
And then we were brought--

662
00:50:24,060 --> 00:50:28,240
we went to go through that
shower procedure again.

663
00:50:28,240 --> 00:50:35,730
And then we were brought to
a barracks that was empty,

664
00:50:35,730 --> 00:50:38,100
just prepared for us.

665
00:50:38,100 --> 00:50:44,535
We found out later that the
former tenants of that barracks

666
00:50:44,535 --> 00:50:48,450
was as a group of, I think,
they were Polish people, who

667
00:50:48,450 --> 00:50:52,740
tried to escape.

668
00:50:52,740 --> 00:51:02,270
And so they dug a hole into
the floor of this building

669
00:51:02,270 --> 00:51:08,350
and then dug
something underneath,

670

00:51:08,350 --> 00:51:15,940
and underneath the electrically
charged fence and escaped.

671

00:51:15,940 --> 00:51:19,600
And they were successful
in their escape.

672

00:51:19,600 --> 00:51:22,000
So, of course, we were now--

673

00:51:22,000 --> 00:51:24,760
they made it escape
proof in the meantime.

674

00:51:24,760 --> 00:51:30,250
And we newcomers, of course,
didn't know how to do it.

675

00:51:30,250 --> 00:51:32,470
We were not Polish, I guess.

676

00:51:32,470 --> 00:51:35,200
And we stayed in there.

677

00:51:35,200 --> 00:51:38,800
Our foreman was an old timer.

678

00:51:38,800 --> 00:51:41,800
He was a political prisoner.

679

00:51:41,800 --> 00:51:47,080
And he tried to be
very nice to us.

680

00:51:47,080 --> 00:51:50,050

681

00:51:50,050 --> 00:51:54,730
Oh, yeah, not only that,
we got that number here,

682

00:51:54,730 --> 00:52:00,940

but we got a number,
a little tag where

683

00:52:00,940 --> 00:52:02,920

we had to write our number.

684

00:52:02,920 --> 00:52:13,690

And then we had to sew
it onto our uniform.

685

00:52:13,690 --> 00:52:21,220

And then there was a sign, a
special sign for every type.

686

00:52:21,220 --> 00:52:27,550

There were the red triangles
were political prisoners.

687

00:52:27,550 --> 00:52:39,200

And the violet, they were gays.

688

00:52:39,200 --> 00:52:44,010

And then some, I don't know--

689

00:52:44,010 --> 00:52:54,490

Anyway, we had a red
triangle and a yellow mixed

690

00:52:54,490 --> 00:52:55,730

into each other.

691

00:52:55,730 --> 00:52:59,230

So that it was
like a Mogen David.

692

00:52:59,230 --> 00:53:01,420

And those were the Jews.

693

00:53:01,420 --> 00:53:03,220

And then we had to
right on that slip.

694
00:53:03,220 --> 00:53:06,310
We had to write our
number, because we

695
00:53:06,310 --> 00:53:08,120
didn't have a name anymore.

696
00:53:08,120 --> 00:53:10,150
We just were a number.

697
00:53:10,150 --> 00:53:14,750
And had to sew it on.

698
00:53:14,750 --> 00:53:18,280
And at least we were number now.

699
00:53:18,280 --> 00:53:23,350
Up to that point, we
nothing in Auschwitz.

700
00:53:23,350 --> 00:53:26,810
And then the next
day we went to work.

701
00:53:26,810 --> 00:53:32,980
Yes, and I just want
to finish that up

702
00:53:32,980 --> 00:53:35,440
by telling you what we did.

703
00:53:35,440 --> 00:53:43,990
We went to about 15 minutes
away to a freight car

704
00:53:43,990 --> 00:53:50,380
repair work from the
German railroads.

705
00:53:50,380 --> 00:53:56,890
And there were all kinds of--

706
00:53:56,890 --> 00:53:59,650

707
00:53:59,650 --> 00:54:08,110
there were many of us from
this camp, camp Gleiwitz 1.

708
00:54:08,110 --> 00:54:13,060
I was assigned to a place
where the cars after they

709
00:54:13,060 --> 00:54:16,340
were repaired had to
be re-fixed again.

710
00:54:16,340 --> 00:54:22,090
That is they came ready
with their wheels on,

711
00:54:22,090 --> 00:54:25,450
but the wheels had to be
fastened by some kind of cotter

712
00:54:25,450 --> 00:54:26,860
pin or so.

713
00:54:26,860 --> 00:54:32,140
And it was not very hard work.

714
00:54:32,140 --> 00:54:39,670
And we had to see
that we fainted,

715
00:54:39,670 --> 00:54:43,540
that we feigned hard
work, because sometimes we

716
00:54:43,540 --> 00:54:46,690
didn't have anything to
do because no cars came

717

00:54:46,690 --> 00:54:49,270
from the station ahead of us.

718
00:54:49,270 --> 00:54:50,620
It was not hard work.

719
00:54:50,620 --> 00:54:56,120
But in any event, we
didn't have good food.

720
00:54:56,120 --> 00:54:58,990
We didn't have enough food.

721
00:54:58,990 --> 00:55:05,170
And we were emaciated.

722
00:55:05,170 --> 00:55:10,300
And, of course, it was
again we were slaves.

723
00:55:10,300 --> 00:55:13,450
We didn't have anything to say.

724
00:55:13,450 --> 00:55:17,350
There were non-Jewish
workers too.

725
00:55:17,350 --> 00:55:23,740
Some of them were very nice
and brought their Jewish slaves

726
00:55:23,740 --> 00:55:26,530
some extra food from home.

727
00:55:26,530 --> 00:55:31,090
But I didn't have
that good luck.

728
00:55:31,090 --> 00:55:37,330
And then, I don't know,
maybe we continue next time

729

00:55:37,330 --> 00:55:40,820
if there's a next time.

730
00:55:40,820 --> 00:55:44,310
Do you have any questions?

731
00:55:44,310 --> 00:55:48,710
Did you recall any special
friendships in Gleiwitz?

732
00:55:48,710 --> 00:55:49,210
Pardon?

733
00:55:49,210 --> 00:55:49,710
What?

734
00:55:49,710 --> 00:55:51,600
Had you any special friendships?

735
00:55:51,600 --> 00:55:53,400
Did you know the people?

736
00:55:53,400 --> 00:55:57,252
Did you form friendships
or any sort of camaraderie?

737
00:55:57,252 --> 00:56:06,890
I didn't have any,
no, not in Gleiwitz.

738
00:56:06,890 --> 00:56:16,940
I didn't have-- no,
I don't think I had.

739
00:56:16,940 --> 00:56:19,490
No friendship formed there.

740
00:56:19,490 --> 00:56:25,430
And I was there only for
about five or six weeks.

741
00:56:25,430 --> 00:56:30,500

Yeah, there were some people I
knew still from Theresienstadt.

742
00:56:30,500 --> 00:56:35,930
Yes, I remember there was
one doctor, medical doctor,

743
00:56:35,930 --> 00:56:37,570
who did the same thing I did.

744
00:56:37,570 --> 00:56:40,310

745
00:56:40,310 --> 00:56:42,960
He was very nice to me.

746
00:56:42,960 --> 00:56:44,510
He tried to take care of it.

747
00:56:44,510 --> 00:56:49,790
And, yes, but it was no
close relationships there,

748
00:56:49,790 --> 00:56:55,160
no close friendships in
Gleiwitz, sorry to say.

749
00:56:55,160 --> 00:56:58,380

750
00:56:58,380 --> 00:57:01,920
Did you have any
doubts about where

751
00:57:01,920 --> 00:57:05,415
you would be going
after you volunteered

752
00:57:05,415 --> 00:57:08,880
or at the time you
volunteered as a mechanic?

753

00:57:08,880 --> 00:57:11,085

Or were things just so
bad, you didn't care,

754

00:57:11,085 --> 00:57:12,210

you just wanted to get out?

755

00:57:12,210 --> 00:57:13,020

That's it.

756

00:57:13,020 --> 00:57:14,400

I want to get away.

757

00:57:14,400 --> 00:57:15,480

I want to get out.

758

00:57:15,480 --> 00:57:16,800

So it didn't matter.

759

00:57:16,800 --> 00:57:21,000

I didn't want to see the flames
coming out of the chimney.

760

00:57:21,000 --> 00:57:23,340

I didn't want to see the Kapos.

761

00:57:23,340 --> 00:57:26,890

I was just fed up.

762

00:57:26,890 --> 00:57:31,440

I was ready to get
away and wherever

763

00:57:31,440 --> 00:57:34,170

the first opportunity was.

764

00:57:34,170 --> 00:57:41,850

And you could see that I
could lie very intelligently,

765

00:57:41,850 --> 00:57:45,780

because I never took a class,

took a course in mechanics.

766

00:57:45,780 --> 00:57:48,470

767

00:57:48,470 --> 00:57:53,310

As my Aryan foreman in
Theresienstadt said,

768

00:57:53,310 --> 00:57:56,130

I had two left hands
and two left feet.

769

00:57:56,130 --> 00:57:59,290

770

00:57:59,290 --> 00:58:00,110

But it worked.

771

00:58:00,110 --> 00:58:04,010

772

00:58:04,010 --> 00:58:08,120

People have said that there was
a terrible odor in Auschwitz.

773

00:58:08,120 --> 00:58:11,720

It was, yes.

774

00:58:11,720 --> 00:58:16,960

And that came, not the
least, from the chimneys.

775

00:58:16,960 --> 00:58:22,540

776

00:58:22,540 --> 00:58:27,622

So, yes, there was.

777

00:58:27,622 --> 00:58:30,790

It was everything that
was in Theresienstadt

778
00:58:30,790 --> 00:58:33,280
only 100 times worse.

779
00:58:33,280 --> 00:58:35,810

780
00:58:35,810 --> 00:58:38,960
And it was this
real hopelessness.

781
00:58:38,960 --> 00:58:41,750

782
00:58:41,750 --> 00:58:50,640
The way you were surrounded
by electrically charged wire,

783
00:58:50,640 --> 00:58:54,180
you know, it was awful.

784
00:58:54,180 --> 00:58:56,500
There was one--

785
00:58:56,500 --> 00:58:58,380
I don't know.

786
00:58:58,380 --> 00:59:01,860
You go ahead, finish your story.

787
00:59:01,860 --> 00:59:06,750
I remember one group
that came from Slovakia.

788
00:59:06,750 --> 00:59:12,030
And apparently the Jews
were treated pretty well

789
00:59:12,030 --> 00:59:13,530
in Slovakia.

790

00:59:13,530 --> 00:59:14,760
They had enough to eat.

791
00:59:14,760 --> 00:59:17,220
And then they came to
Auschwitz, and when

792
00:59:17,220 --> 00:59:20,520
it was for us some kind
of a blow, then for them

793
00:59:20,520 --> 00:59:22,020
it was definitely--

794
00:59:22,020 --> 00:59:25,830
I mean, it was
just an earthquake.

795
00:59:25,830 --> 00:59:32,460
And they just didn't
know what to do

796
00:59:32,460 --> 00:59:38,310
when they came all of a sudden
into that, from a relatively

797
00:59:38,310 --> 00:59:42,800
well-kept camp there,
with, I guess, enough food

798
00:59:42,800 --> 00:59:44,760
that they came
then to this place.

799
00:59:44,760 --> 00:59:49,320

800
00:59:49,320 --> 00:59:52,890
And one of them must have
been a traitor or something,

801
00:59:52,890 --> 00:59:57,330
because he had on his jacket

something like a cross or so.

802
00:59:57,330 --> 01:00:03,000
And the next day
he was found dead,

803
01:00:03,000 --> 01:00:09,560
laid against one of these
fences, electric fences.

804
01:00:09,560 --> 01:00:18,740
So later on I slept a little
closer to one of six people

805
01:00:18,740 --> 01:00:19,580
from Slovakia.

806
01:00:19,580 --> 01:00:21,680
He was a very nice fellow.

807
01:00:21,680 --> 01:00:25,220
He was an Orthodox
Jew who didn't even

808
01:00:25,220 --> 01:00:28,560
give up his kosher food.

809
01:00:28,560 --> 01:00:31,800
That means he didn't
eat everything.

810
01:00:31,800 --> 01:00:35,250
But maybe I'll tell
you about that later.

811
01:00:35,250 --> 01:00:36,990
But I don't know.

812
01:00:36,990 --> 01:00:39,000
Did I got too much into detail?

813
01:00:39,000 --> 01:00:39,960

Never.

814
01:00:39,960 --> 01:00:41,710
I think we'll
conclude next time.

815
01:00:41,710 --> 01:00:42,450
Pardon?

816
01:00:42,450 --> 01:00:45,090
We'll continue next time.

817
01:00:45,090 --> 01:00:46,530
At least I wanted--

818
01:00:46,530 --> 01:00:47,415
is it off or on?

819
01:00:47,415 --> 01:00:49,420
Do you want it to be off?

820
01:00:49,420 --> 01:00:50,790
Really?

821
01:00:50,790 --> 01:00:53,190
All right, he wants
to say all the more.

822
01:00:53,190 --> 01:00:54,180
So wait till next time.

823
01:00:54,180 --> 01:00:59,100
No, I wanted to get at least
into Auschwitz, you know.

824
01:00:59,100 --> 01:01:00,030
You got there.

825
01:01:00,030 --> 01:01:03,698
And I-- well, I hurried up.

826

01:01:03,698 --> 01:01:05,010
OK.

827
01:01:05,010 --> 01:01:07,760
That's--

828
01:01:07,760 --> 01:03:06,000