

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:01:04,819

2
00:01:04,819 --> 00:01:10,610
Then from this ghetto
in [Place name]

3
00:01:10,610 --> 00:01:13,600
they took us to Auschwitz.

4
00:01:13,600 --> 00:01:17,600
I didn't know a soul
between any of these people

5
00:01:17,600 --> 00:01:23,360
except these two old people
that I knew for about a week.

6
00:01:23,360 --> 00:01:28,490
And I guess you probably
heard many times

7
00:01:28,490 --> 00:01:33,170
of how the trip to Auschwitz
was, It was in cattle cars,

8
00:01:33,170 --> 00:01:37,070
very tightly packed.

9
00:01:37,070 --> 00:01:45,650
And for elimination they put
up two pails or something

10
00:01:45,650 --> 00:01:48,097
and everybody wanted
to be close to it.

11
00:01:48,097 --> 00:01:49,430
If not, they couldn't get to it.

12
00:01:49,430 --> 00:01:52,460

13
00:01:52,460 --> 00:01:56,030
Things were happening
on that train

14
00:01:56,030 --> 00:02:00,660
that also is very interesting.

15
00:02:00,660 --> 00:02:01,580
I think.

16
00:02:01,580 --> 00:02:05,750
A young couple got
married because they

17
00:02:05,750 --> 00:02:09,949
thought if they get married
they won't separate them.

18
00:02:09,949 --> 00:02:13,250
The parents were there,
and they got married right

19
00:02:13,250 --> 00:02:14,716
by the pail of elimination.

20
00:02:14,716 --> 00:02:18,530
How long were you on the train?

21
00:02:18,530 --> 00:02:21,860
It's very hard to
guess I think it

22
00:02:21,860 --> 00:02:25,400
was about four days,
approximately four

23
00:02:25,400 --> 00:02:26,630
days and nights.

24
00:02:26,630 --> 00:02:27,620

Maybe longer.

25

00:02:27,620 --> 00:02:29,930

So they got married
next to the bucket.

26

00:02:29,930 --> 00:02:32,480

Yeah, they got married.

27

00:02:32,480 --> 00:02:37,340

And I remember they
were saying mazel tov.

28

00:02:37,340 --> 00:02:39,810

We all felt like crying.

29

00:02:39,810 --> 00:02:41,780

Why are they getting married?

30

00:02:41,780 --> 00:02:44,240

And then there was a
young woman who was just

31

00:02:44,240 --> 00:02:46,430

married for a very short time.

32

00:02:46,430 --> 00:02:49,110

And things like that.

33

00:02:49,110 --> 00:02:54,060

And they felt like maybe
they won't separate them.

34

00:02:54,060 --> 00:03:01,010

There also they didn't
give us enough water.

35

00:03:01,010 --> 00:03:03,470

Just once in a great while
they gave us some water,

36

00:03:03,470 --> 00:03:05,480

and people would fight over it.

37

00:03:05,480 --> 00:03:10,920

Then we got to Auschwitz
after all of this.

38

00:03:10,920 --> 00:03:13,610

And people were bewildered.

39

00:03:13,610 --> 00:03:15,800

They didn't exactly
know what was happening.

40

00:03:15,800 --> 00:03:18,440

This was pretty much
in the beginning

41

00:03:18,440 --> 00:03:22,580

that they were taking
the real Hungarian Jews,

42

00:03:22,580 --> 00:03:23,930

the very first ones.

43

00:03:23,930 --> 00:03:27,350

44

00:03:27,350 --> 00:03:28,400

I kept a journal.

45

00:03:28,400 --> 00:03:32,960

When I came back from
Poland, I decided

46

00:03:32,960 --> 00:03:37,640

I will write everything
down that I remember.

47

00:03:37,640 --> 00:03:40,880

So I kept a journal,
and I was so loyal to it

48

00:03:40,880 --> 00:03:45,890
that I would never miss writing
what was going on with me,

49
00:03:45,890 --> 00:03:47,360
my feelings and all of that.

50
00:03:47,360 --> 00:03:50,210
It was pretty difficult to
be in a strange country,

51
00:03:50,210 --> 00:03:54,590
strange people anyway
after I lost my own family.

52
00:03:54,590 --> 00:03:58,220
And even it doesn't matter
how nice they were to me,

53
00:03:58,220 --> 00:04:05,510
I still was difficult.
Especially when I was sick.

54
00:04:05,510 --> 00:04:09,590
And I was worried
about my mother also.

55
00:04:09,590 --> 00:04:16,130
So when we came to Auschwitz,
I was holding on to my journal.

56
00:04:16,130 --> 00:04:19,940
I didn't care about anything
else, but that I wanted.

57
00:04:19,940 --> 00:04:24,620
It was very important
to me to have it.

58
00:04:24,620 --> 00:04:28,760
We got off the trains,
and as you probably

59

00:04:28,760 --> 00:04:34,040
heard it many times before,
the Germans were standing there

60
00:04:34,040 --> 00:04:37,430
with the dogs and with their
nightsticks and you go here,

61
00:04:37,430 --> 00:04:43,310
you go here, right, left,
right, left, right, left.

62
00:04:43,310 --> 00:04:47,630
And they followed this person
then we followed somebody

63
00:04:47,630 --> 00:04:50,600
and they took us to a bathhouse.

64
00:04:50,600 --> 00:04:54,620
The other ones they took to
the crematorium straight.

65
00:04:54,620 --> 00:04:57,020
They took us to a
bathhouse and it

66
00:04:57,020 --> 00:05:00,830
said on the top of it,
Arbeit Macht Frei, which

67
00:05:00,830 --> 00:05:04,580
means "Work Makes You Free."

68
00:05:04,580 --> 00:05:09,590
It was written in big
letters, Arbeit Macht Frei.

69
00:05:09,590 --> 00:05:15,680
And it was like a big, big
stall with double doors.

70
00:05:15,680 --> 00:05:17,750

We went in the
back, and they told

71
00:05:17,750 --> 00:05:23,330
us to take off all
our clothes and shoes

72
00:05:23,330 --> 00:05:30,260
go here, dresses go here, and
whatever your bundles go here.

73
00:05:30,260 --> 00:05:34,370
And we weren't supposed to
have anything in our hands,

74
00:05:34,370 --> 00:05:37,110
completely naked.

75
00:05:37,110 --> 00:05:40,040
We got completely
undressed, completely naked,

76
00:05:40,040 --> 00:05:42,420
nothing in your hands.

77
00:05:42,420 --> 00:05:44,990
Not a pin, nothing.

78
00:05:44,990 --> 00:05:48,650
And I think the whole time I
was thinking about my journal.

79
00:05:48,650 --> 00:05:51,950
I wanted my journal.

80
00:05:51,950 --> 00:05:56,000
If I could have found a place
to hide it or something,

81
00:05:56,000 --> 00:05:59,340
it was so important to
me because I kept it

82

00:05:59,340 --> 00:06:03,390

for all of the other
stuff I lived through.

83

00:06:03,390 --> 00:06:13,620

So we went into the shower
room and they shaved--

84

00:06:13,620 --> 00:06:19,380

From the ceiling were hanging
clippers, hair clippers.

85

00:06:19,380 --> 00:06:22,590

They cut our hair
off completely,

86

00:06:22,590 --> 00:06:26,460

shaven completely the hair off.

87

00:06:26,460 --> 00:06:29,580

Then they cut every
other place also.

88

00:06:29,580 --> 00:06:30,930

We have to bend down.

89

00:06:30,930 --> 00:06:35,010

Then they pumped on us
gasoline or something,

90

00:06:35,010 --> 00:06:36,250

some disinfectant.

91

00:06:36,250 --> 00:06:40,470

I guess, I don't know, but
it was stinking like crazy.

92

00:06:40,470 --> 00:06:47,340

Then we went under the
shower for a few minutes.

93

00:06:47,340 --> 00:06:50,010

They didn't give us towels
to wipe or anything.

94

00:06:50,010 --> 00:06:54,300
And the showers also were
coming down from the ceilings.

95

00:06:54,300 --> 00:06:58,230
And then they made
us go frontward.

96

00:06:58,230 --> 00:07:02,970
And frontward there
were two desks,

97

00:07:02,970 --> 00:07:06,180
and they were giving
us a piece of clothing.

98

00:07:06,180 --> 00:07:09,540
Some people got
shoes and a dress,

99

00:07:09,540 --> 00:07:14,640
one of their uniform
type of prison clothes.

100

00:07:14,640 --> 00:07:16,020
Some didn't.

101

00:07:16,020 --> 00:07:18,000
Like pajama-type things?

102

00:07:18,000 --> 00:07:24,000
Well, we had dresses or
pajama at different times.

103

00:07:24,000 --> 00:07:28,170
Yeah, the pajama,
the striped ones.

104

00:07:28,170 --> 00:07:30,870
But when we first came,

they didn't give us those,

105

00:07:30,870 --> 00:07:31,770

they gave us dresses.

106

00:07:31,770 --> 00:07:34,740

107

00:07:34,740 --> 00:07:39,210

But no underwear,

nothing, just that.

108

00:07:39,210 --> 00:07:41,190

And go, go.

109

00:07:41,190 --> 00:07:45,030

And here our heads

were completely white.

110

00:07:45,030 --> 00:07:48,510

It was dark-haired

people or light-haired,

111

00:07:48,510 --> 00:07:53,220

everybody looked the

same with the naked head.

112

00:07:53,220 --> 00:07:57,450

And then they took us to the

counter top, a certain amount,

113

00:07:57,450 --> 00:08:01,230

and took us to call them blocks.

114

00:08:01,230 --> 00:08:06,330

Into one block there were

supposed to be 1,000 people,

115

00:08:06,330 --> 00:08:08,490

but they put in 1,300.

116

00:08:08,490 --> 00:08:10,380

Because they brought
in so many people

117
00:08:10,380 --> 00:08:13,860
they didn't have a
place to put them.

118
00:08:13,860 --> 00:08:16,290
For the first night,
they took us first

119
00:08:16,290 --> 00:08:21,180
to the zigeunerlager,
which is the Gypsy camp.

120
00:08:21,180 --> 00:08:26,560
Then the next morning, they
took us to lager [INAUDIBLE],,

121
00:08:26,560 --> 00:08:27,940
a destruction camp.

122
00:08:27,940 --> 00:08:30,540
They didn't give us any
numbers because they

123
00:08:30,540 --> 00:08:33,720
were going to kill us as soon as
they have enough crematoriums.

124
00:08:33,720 --> 00:08:36,610

125
00:08:36,610 --> 00:08:40,419
So they piled us
up in three layers.

126
00:08:40,419 --> 00:08:43,059
They had three-layer bunks.

127
00:08:43,059 --> 00:08:45,550
The heavier people
were down on the bottom

128
00:08:45,550 --> 00:08:47,320
and then the next group.

129
00:08:47,320 --> 00:08:50,710
On the top were the
lightest weight.

130
00:08:50,710 --> 00:08:56,350
And we were supposed to be
ten in one of those bunks,

131
00:08:56,350 --> 00:09:00,910
but we ended up to be 12 and 13.

132
00:09:00,910 --> 00:09:04,450
And there were no mattresses
or straw on anything.

133
00:09:04,450 --> 00:09:05,860
There were just boards.

134
00:09:05,860 --> 00:09:09,540
And some of the boards were far
apart and part of your flesh,

135
00:09:09,540 --> 00:09:10,915
if you had some,
went in between.

136
00:09:10,915 --> 00:09:15,070

137
00:09:15,070 --> 00:09:17,560
You have no underwear.

138
00:09:17,560 --> 00:09:22,280
And the nights were very
cold, the days were very hot.

139
00:09:22,280 --> 00:09:23,800
It was like a desert place.

140
00:09:23,800 --> 00:09:26,140
No trees, no nothing.

141
00:09:26,140 --> 00:09:29,170
And while we were there,
when one person turned

142
00:09:29,170 --> 00:09:31,120
over the other one
had to turn over.

143
00:09:31,120 --> 00:09:33,900

144
00:09:33,900 --> 00:09:37,750
You heard people crying quietly.

145
00:09:37,750 --> 00:09:40,510
They weren't supposed
to make any noise.

146
00:09:40,510 --> 00:09:42,610
You couldn't leave the place.

147
00:09:42,610 --> 00:09:45,190
And it was both sides people.

148
00:09:45,190 --> 00:09:51,130
In the place you needed
three times as much space

149
00:09:51,130 --> 00:09:52,570
if we would stand up.

150
00:09:52,570 --> 00:09:56,140
There is no way we could
have stood up in that place.

151
00:09:56,140 --> 00:09:57,250
It was that many.

152

00:09:57,250 --> 00:10:01,540

Was about 1,300
people in our bunk.

153

00:10:01,540 --> 00:10:06,580

And I was in number 11.

154

00:10:06,580 --> 00:10:10,600

We had a Czech blockalteste.

155

00:10:10,600 --> 00:10:12,130

They called them
a blockaltestes.

156

00:10:12,130 --> 00:10:18,940

One woman took care
of that many people.

157

00:10:18,940 --> 00:10:21,460

They brought us coffee
in the morning, which

158

00:10:21,460 --> 00:10:28,630

was in one big pitcher for
each bed like, for over 30

159

00:10:28,630 --> 00:10:31,060

people, 30, 35.

160

00:10:31,060 --> 00:10:35,860

And the coffee was hot
water with some drugs in it.

161

00:10:35,860 --> 00:10:38,470

You could smell the drugs.

162

00:10:38,470 --> 00:10:40,520

It was to keep us quiet.

163

00:10:40,520 --> 00:10:44,620

164

00:10:44,620 --> 00:10:50,680

And then in the afternoons
we got some sugar beet soup,

165

00:10:50,680 --> 00:10:52,960

which was made--

166

00:10:52,960 --> 00:10:55,510

If you were lucky, you got
from the bottom of the barrel,

167

00:10:55,510 --> 00:10:57,370

you got something in it.

168

00:10:57,370 --> 00:10:59,770

If not, there was
just mostly water.

169

00:10:59,770 --> 00:11:04,360

And some other camps
provide the dishes.

170

00:11:04,360 --> 00:11:06,160

For us there were
no dishes provided

171

00:11:06,160 --> 00:11:07,960

because they were going
to kill us anyway,

172

00:11:07,960 --> 00:11:09,670

so they didn't bother with us.

173

00:11:09,670 --> 00:11:12,340

From the same picture
we all drank the coffee.

174

00:11:12,340 --> 00:11:15,680

From the same bowl we
all drank the soup.

175

00:11:15,680 --> 00:11:20,470

And then twice a week they
gave us a slice of bread.

176
00:11:20,470 --> 00:11:24,220
It was full of sawdust.

177
00:11:24,220 --> 00:11:28,840
It was a slice about
this thick, and you

178
00:11:28,840 --> 00:11:30,910
could see the sawdust in it.

179
00:11:30,910 --> 00:11:31,945
And it was scratchy.

180
00:11:31,945 --> 00:11:35,200

181
00:11:35,200 --> 00:11:39,290
So there I got to
know the blockalteste.

182
00:11:39,290 --> 00:11:42,550
What I did is because I
already went through it

183
00:11:42,550 --> 00:11:44,290
once I went to her.

184
00:11:44,290 --> 00:11:53,290
At the front she had a little
office, like 3 by 3 feet.

185
00:11:53,290 --> 00:11:53,980
Very small.

186
00:11:53,980 --> 00:11:57,100
Just enough to put her bed in.

187
00:11:57,100 --> 00:12:03,120
And I went to her

and her name was--

188

00:12:03,120 --> 00:14:02,475