

Anytime. Yes.

You were speaking on being associated with a group or alone in the camps.

There-- most of the time, as I said, I was with my father. And that was a great stimulating support for both of us, because we could talk about thousands of things. And, you know, prisoners spent a lot of time talking about food and talking what they did, but we talked about many other things, about what kind of world it was going to be like, or what are things worth doing, or what is significant in life.

What is it that he would have liked to have done, and what it is that I would like to do. And we talked about history and politics and various things, art and music. He liked music very much. He played the piano, and occasionally he would hum tunes and remind me of things.

We-- and that was wonderful. And as I said, most places I knew, one or two people moved in a group. Then when I was liberated, I was-- I had been with a group of guys in Dachau who also came from Transylvania. Not exactly my hometown, but we all spoke the same language. And that was a supportive group.

And I don't remember their names now. We were liberated together, and we traveled together because I spoke English and they didn't. And I translated for them. A number of them went back, and then we broke up because we went in different directions.

And I got a job as an interpreter, and they wanted to go back. And I didn't want to go back. By that time, I knew my father died, and I heard from other prisoners that my mother died. And I decided not to go back.

I figure, everything had been stolen. And they all thought that they wouldn't get back their family holdings. And I don't know whether they did or didn't, but I didn't go-- want to go east, and I went west.

I think you said you had a question.

Yeah. What was your intuitive feeling about chances of survival in the camps?

Children really don't think in those terms. I mean, even young teenagers. The advantage of being young is that you don't think of perpetual Monday, that Monday will always come, and the weekend will be over, and you're going to have to go to work and so on.

The advantage of being young is that a negative event doesn't really change your basic optimistic outlook. And I think that contributes to survival a great deal. It's positive. People who are adults tend to see every negative act projected over time in the future, and that detracts from their ability to withstand hardship and to survive.

I think that probably people who had very strong faith in some positive power, I think that does help them survive. Because they have an unshakeable positive attitude and optimistic attitude, and there is no doubt that an optimistic attitude is better survival than a pessimistic attitude.

And that's sort of known, I think in my people work with others, except it's not formalized.

You talked about different prisoner situations where people were kind and sharing in a terrible situation.

Well, for example, when people-- when prisoners march in groups, in most groups that I was in, the weak ones marched in the middle. Because the two outside people can then pick them up. And everybody becomes weak, sooner or later.

And picking people up, literally making them walk just a few steps sometimes means that they don't fall down at the last minute. A guard after them won't beat them to death or shoot them or whatever.

And we did see those things. And when their corpses piled on each other and you see somebody moving, you pull them out. And they may survive. And that does happen.

You just have to have enough people who are strong enough to do that, also. There are cruel things that happened. There is inconsiderate, to put it mildly, between prisoner to prisoner. And there are appeals to compassion.

And they work, sometimes. They don't always work, but they certainly do work sometimes. Knowing there are some guards that if you scream when they beat you are encouraged by the scream. And there are other guards who will stop because of the scream.

That's why you have to make an assessment about what kind of person is beating you. And it's a terrible judgment to make, but you have to make that judgment.

That was one of the things that I wanted to ask you was whether you experienced kindness, in whatever form you want to define it, from guards or non-guards.

Yeah, there were some guards who would give you a crust of bread or give you some leftovers and such, who would be nicer to kids, for example, than adults, and others who were not. Yeah, there were.

I haven't seen guards rescuing prisoners. I've seen American guards, you know, of prisoners rescuing others. I've seen people who put themselves at least somewhat at risk to help somebody who's down, who's they're really guarding. But I didn't see that among the guards that I encountered. But I know other prisoners have, but it was not my experience.

Well, perhaps we should just end here and begin next time with the move from Kaufering to Dachau.

Mm-hmm. OK, sure.

Well, again, thank you very much.

Oh, you're welcome. Great. I just hope I'll get the tapes.

You haven't gotten the first one yet?

No.

Oh.