

Now, Mrs. Dessen, I'd like you to tell me, firstly, about your parents and your childhood and youth in Germany, please.

Well, I was eight years old when Hitler came to power, so my whole childhood was under this impression. I went to school, and in the small town where we lived I was the only Jewish girl. So I was always different than everybody else.

And I had a few friends at first, and later on, they turned away from me. And I was always on my own.

Well, at school, the one teacher I remember most-- he was in the Party--

In the Nazi Party.

--in the Nazi Party, and I remember often he used to talk about the Jews, and how bad they were, and so on. And then everybody used to look at me when he mentioned the word "Jew," and then he used to say, oh, you mustn't look at Lottie Behrens because there are some exceptions, which really made it even worse.

Were there many Jewish families in your town?

There are about 15, I would say. And, well, eventually, there was November, the Crystal Night.

Well, before we get to that, was your family in that town for a long time?

Well, my grandfather already had lived in that house where we lived, and they were all very respectable citizens. And my father had been fighting in the war on the German side, and he had--

In the First World War?

In the First World-- and he had the Iron Cross. And he was very proud of it, and--

First or Second Class?

Not the one-- not the not the highest one. The second one was probably. But they were very respected.

What did your father do then?

We had a business with bicycles and repair garage for motor cars. He also sold cars and spare parts, a workshop, repair workshop. Anyway, there were nine sisters and brothers in that house. It used to be where my grandfather lived. He had nine children.

And, well, they all married and moved away, and only my father-- our family lived in that same house. And what else would you like to know then.

Well, you had friends during the-- from '33 onwards. You said they turned away.

At first I had, yes, there was [? Franki, ?] this girl across the road. But as I say, she later on didn't want to know me. And there was one other Jewish girl in the town of my age group, but she went to the little higher school. She was a bit older than I.

I went to the primary, and there was an in-between gymnasium in the primary. There was something else for girls mostly that we went if they didn't want to really study for a profession. And we were friendly, but they emigrated. At least the girl was sent away to Belgium to her family.

So you didn't have any friends during the '30s.

No. But I was very close to my parents and my aunts.

And they all lived in Gardelegen.

Yes. And I didn't really miss it that much. And that's how it went until the Crystal Night. Then I remember my-- I remember like yesterday.

You were 13 on Kristallnacht?

Yes. Yes, '38. That's right. They took my father away and all the other men to the police station, and they smashed the window of our shop, and we were very scared and frightened. But eventually we were allowed to bring food to the men who were kept for 10 days, I think. They were first kept a few days there, and they were sent away then to concentration camps.

Which camps were they sent to?

One of them-- was it Buchenwald?

Yeah.

Buchenwald, that's right. And then my father came back. I don't remember now. He was about three weeks or something. And I only remember when he came back, he looked terrible, and the coat he had worn and still wore was filthy with mud. And he had his head shaved, his hair.

Shaven.

Shaven, yes.

And had he been tortured or beaten?

He must have. I don't know if he was beaten himself, but he must have been treated very badly because he didn't see a thing. And at night, he had nightmares.

How did he-- was he freed? Did you--

They let him free. A certain amount of people-- they let them out again after that.

Yes, but most people had to take some step which shows they would emigrate, such as getting a visa and so on.

Yes, and he did. We did try very much after that to emigrate.

You didn't have to send evidence of a visa to anywhere to get him freed?

To let him get out? It could have been. I was a young girl at that time. And we might have had a letter from my uncle in South Africa that he wanted him to come out.

But you don't remember anything specific.

No. And then after that they tried very hard to get out, to emigrate.

Where did you try to emigrate to?

Before that, my father always said it can't go on like that. He said, the German can't be that bad. He just trusted them always. And living in a small town, we didn't have the facilities to make contact with other countries, you see.

What do you mean? You could write letters.

Yes, but how long did they take, those letters? But in Magdeburg, which was the nearest larger city, and Berlin, they had a committee set up who were looking after the people and helping them to get out and so on and to get hold of the money that they needed to be deposited somewhere.

And that was very difficult in a small place, and as I say, my father just didn't think it could go on like that. He was just too optimistic and trusted the German people and thought they couldn't be led astray by this one man, [BOTH TALKING]

Was he of all German Jewish stock?

Yes.

They were not Austrian?

No, no.

Pure German?

--- We have got-- what do you call it-- history of our family, back, 1500, written down.

You have it?

My brother has it in England, actually an old Bible we have, old Bible. And in that Bible the great-great-great-grandfather put a little saying, "I give this to my son," and the son again put something in it up to my father. And he did say, "We have now to leave. We are being sent away. And I give this to my son, and I don't know what is going to happen to us."

And how many children did your parents have?

Just the two, my brother and myself.

Was the older or younger?

Yes, he was-- he is five years older. And we couldn't get the papers ready. We tried to emigrate, but that was between '38 and '39. The war started.

And was your-- your brother then was 18 on Crystal Night?

Yes.

Was he taken away?

No, he managed to emigrate.

Before Crystal--

Before just-- no, no, before the war started.

But he wasn't taken--

Crystal Night, he wasn't home. He was near Berlin an apprentice, in an apprenticeship as an electrician with a half-

Jewish man, and that was another small place near Berlin. And I suppose because it was a small place they didn't take him at the time.

But your town was not so small?

It was also small, yes.

But that was a smaller town, the other one was?

Well, it was a small town near Berlin, you see, far away. That is 200 kilometers away from where we lived.

I see. So maybe he wasn't on the list.

No, he wasn't. I don't think they made a list in those smaller places, also because of the master where he was working was half-Jewish, and the wife wasn't Jewish at all. So they somehow didn't perhaps know that he was Jewish.

And when did your brother go? In '39?

Yes, just before the war started.

What, in August?

The it started in September. Well, I think it was April or something. My father's oldest brother was already in Johannesburg, and he tried very much to get all his other brothers and sisters out. But he needed a lot of money to be deposited, 100 pounds for each person. Somebody had to guarantee over there for each person.

So he managed to borrow 300 pounds, and he deposit that for my brother and the two sons of the other brothers. So the three cousins managed to get out and were supposed to then get the money for the parents to come out.

But they didn't--

[BOTH TALKING] No.

They didn't have enough time.

[INAUDIBLE]

And what happened to you then after Kristallnacht?

I stayed at home for two months, three months out of school. We were thrown out of school. In November '38?

Yes.

Not before?

No. And I had to then go to a Jewish school, and so I was sent to a school near Hanover, Arnhem. That was also--

Well, this Arnhem was a Jewish horticultural school, and because I was interested to become a horticulturalist later on, I was sent there to-- was the idea, when I finish my schooling to go into that horticultural school.

In Germany?

In Germany, near Hanover.

Now, were you planning to do this in Germany?

Yes, yes.

Or to go to emigrate to Israel and--

No, no, just because that was the one profession that I would have liked to do. Well, I went to the school there.

When did you go there? In '38 still or in '39?

Must've been '39, yes. It was about July, I would think. It must have been a bit earlier because I was out of school about two, three months. It must have been April, I would think. And in September, the war started, but I was still there at that place.

And when I was 15, I-- [INAUDIBLE].

You were 15--

I was--

--in September 1940.

Yes. Well, I was still there and there was a household school to train young girls.

Well, you can say it in German.

Yes, in a haushaltungsschule. So after I finished the schooling, there I went into that--

Home economics.

Yes, home economics. Because I wanted to go into the gardening department, but there were only boys, men.

And it was a Jewish school?

And there was only one girl there, Jewish, yes. All--

They were all Jews--

All Jews.

--in the school. And the school was still going in 1940?

Yes.

In September 1940.

Yes, because most of them wanted to immigrate to Israel, it was like a hakhshara camp.

It was a hakhshara.

No, not altogether, half-half. Those people who intended to go to Israel lived in different buildings and under different--  
--conditions.

[INAUDIBLE], and so on. And we just had teachers and trainers for our department. So I suppose it was, at first, just a hakshara place, but then later on they took all the other people in just to put them up somewhere, people who were thrown out of school like myself.

And where they-- were your parents during that time, from Kristallnacht until--

They were--

--September 1940?

Yes.

They were not molested?

They were. They had to get out of their houses, all those Jewish people, and they were all put into one big building out of town.

In Gardelegen?

In Gardelegen. And they each had a room for each family and were not allowed to go out without permission or had to be back at 5 o'clock or some time in the evening. We were very restricted.

Did they-- what happened to their business?

It was taken away. They had to--

Did they get compensation?

Well, they had to sell the house and the business and got hardly any money for it under, you know.

[INAUDIBLE], that was in 1939.

Yes. They were evacuated in '42, and [INAUDIBLE] had promised them that I would be able to go with them together. We knew we were all going to be sent away.

When you say "evacuated," where were they evacuated?

To Warsaw, eventually.

What do you mean "eventually"?

First tried to-- first to Magdeburg.

They had to-- that was a collecting place, Magdeburg. That was the nearest--

--large town.

--larger city, yes.

And how long did they stay in Magdeburg?

I think a few days only. That I don't know because at that time-- well, I think by that time I had already moved away again from Arnhem.

--the school.

That school was closed up.

When was it closed?

I can't think of it now, but it must have been '41, I think, because my parents were sent away '42, and when they were sent away I was already in another place which is Briesen. That is near Berlin or it's not far from Berlin.

And what was that? A school?

And that-- no, that was a sort of a forced labor camp there. They made use of us as laborers, of the Jewish people.

Did all the students that were remaining go there?

Some no. Some managed to still emigrate.

Where to? Where to?

And some went to their home places.

Where did they immigrate, those who managed to--

Perhaps to Israel, or to Shanghai, or--

You're not sure.

No, I don't know. Even before the school was closed they tried to get out.

Well, [BOTH TALKING]

I had to go home then after the school was closed. I was at home again for a little while, and then--

In this forced residence or in your old home?

I was already in the forced residence, too. It could have been that when I came back for a holiday I was there. I'm not sure now. I moved along with them. And anyway, I had to do work. You see, everybody here to work. And so they sent me to that place where there were other Jewish people doing forced labor.

What did you do?

I worked in a battery factory, and--

And that--

--in the forest. And in the forest we worked.

I see. Batteries, what, for--

Making batteries--

--cars or for machines?

No, for torches, torch batteries.

Oh, small batteries.

Yes.

Was it any brand that you remember? Was it--

Any what?

What brand?

What the name-- yes, yes.

I'm trying to find what industrialist--

Yes, that's right. [COMPANY NAME}

And did you get paid for this?

We got paid, yes, but then that covered our board and lodging. And we got some pocket money also. And then part of the time we had to work in the forest.

Doing what?

Planting trees and digging up-- making holes for the trees and also weeding. And in winter, the soil was frozen, so it was pretty hard.

You planted trees in winter?

Well, in spring you have to do that. And to dig up the ground was pretty hard. But we had a young man there as well, and I remember at first when I came there my hands were completely full of sores. I had to go to the doctor. I couldn't work for a few days and had some plaster on. And eventually they hardened up, and we were quite happy there.

Were all the people there Jewish?

Yes.

Or were they also [INAUDIBLE] people [BOTH TALKING]

No, no, no, only Jewish. That was, again, all supervised by Jews. We had our own people in charge, and only the forest master-- I don't know what you call it in Germany.

In English you mean.

A German, the people who used to be in charge of the forest, the Germans, the--

The forester.

The forester. He was sort of very much above the Jewish man who was in charge of us. But they were quite decent people, really. They weren't really Nazis sort of.

Were you fed well?

Yes. We had our own cooks and our own Jewish people in charge of us. And it was quite a good life under the

circumstances. We weren't allowed to travel except on the special paths. When I had to go to the dentist, also I had a special pass. But they left us alone.

And that was from when to when? The approximate dates.

It must've been from '42 to '43, I would say.

One year.

Yes.

You don't remember the month.

Not really, no.

Well, I have got a few dates in the diary which I put on there. The time-- the date, 20th of April, Hitler's birthday, we were sent away from there.

From Briesen.

Yes.

20th of April of '43.

The whole--

1943?

Yes.

And where were you sent then?

To Auschwitz. First to Berlin, and there we were kept again, I think, in the hospital, Jewish, in Hamburger Strasse, I think, Kleine Hamburger Strasser. That was [INAUDIBLE] lager. You know? Shall I put that down?

Yes.

That was a-- they made all those hospitals Jewish places-- they made them for collecting camps where people--

That was a Jewish hospital?

A Jewish school.

Do you remember what its name was before the war?

I only know it was Hamburger Strasse and that everybody knew what it was, Hamburger Strasse.

What do you mean everybody knew?

That was a-- it was a hospital, I think, a Jewish hospital, and that was converted into a camp.

And your parents, meanwhile, had gone to Warsaw in 1941?

Yes. Yes, they had been taken to Magdeburg, and I still had-- and they were under the impression that I would be

allowed to go with them. And they even sent a telegram and made a phone call to me in the camp. But I didn't manage to talk to them, but the other chap in the office did and say-- and we didn't-- he didn't get permission to let me go. He said I am more needed there. So they had to go along with the rest of the people there.

And they went to Warsaw, to the Warsaw Ghetto?

Yes, because I had a few letters from there, and I even sent them a few little parcels. They sent me--

And did they receive the parcels?

Yes.

You heard from them, and they received the parcel?

Yes, yes, through the Red Cross, I think, with these later.

What sort of things could you send?

I sent spices. We couldn't buy much in Germany, foodstuff, at all, but like cinnamon and different things. And they could sell that there, and they got money for it in the camp. And they were always very hopeful. They said, we can work, and we want to work, and we go--

And did they work? Did they work in the ghetto?

I don't know. I think my mother must have been doing some cleaning work or something. They said they were willing to work, and I don't know what they did there.

Do you remember where they were lodged, the address in Warsaw, or anything like that?

No, no. And then one day they say in the letter that they're going to be sent away to Trawniki. Trawniki.

And where was that?

In Poland. It was a concentration camp. I don't think I ever had a letter from there. But somehow--

But you had a letter later from somebody--

--I knew--

--who had known them there.

That's right, who didn't know them but who knew what happened to the people of that camp. I don't know why I--

And they reached you. And they reached you. And where did they--

I heard of-- when I was in Auschwitz, I heard of all the time transport with people were coming in, and I heard there is a transport Trawniki. So I went to the place where they were situated, and I asked a woman. And she then told me what happened to the whole camp.

And what did she tell you?

I've got a letter here. No, she said that there were no survivors, survivors, perhaps a few only. And she said, if you want to know more, I give you a name of this-and-this woman and the address, and you write to her because--

What, from Auschwitz?

In Auschwitz-- I met this woman in Auschwitz. She must have given me the name because I wrote, when I came out of Auschwitz, to this one woman. And she wrote me a letter.

What do you remember-- were you able to keep the address in Auschwitz?

I wonder if it was-- I know it-- I didn't know how-- well, I remember [BOTH TALKING]

Well, tell me, perhaps, what--

Yes?

Tell me, perhaps, what you did in Auschwitz. You were rounded up so you went from Berlin to Auschwitz?

Yes.

In a cattle train or in a passenger train?

Yes. No, in cattle trains, all the young people.

From Briesen.

We were all from the-- we were all strong, healthy young people trained for hard work.

All German Jews?

Yes. And that, I think, is the reason why I've survived, because we were sort of trained already for this tough life.

You'd been two years there, approximately.

Yes. I was very friendly with a young chap there. He was-- how old was I then? 18.

You would've been 18.

I was 18, and he must have been 20. And we were very fond of each other, and we were-- he wanted to get engaged to me. But I said, what is the point? We don't know what's going to happen. Anyway--

Do you remember his name?

Yes, because his brother came back. I met his brother once.

Can you tell me his name?

Alfred Roberts.

And was that a German name, Roberts?

Yes, Robert. And his father was there also. And anyway, they were wonderful. The men looked after the women under the conditions there.

And when we arrived in Auschwitz, we-- in Birkenau, not Auschwitz. You know the difference between Birkenau and Auschwitz?

Yes.

Well, we had to line up, and the men were taken to one side and the women to the other. And that is the last I saw of him.

Well, and then we arrived--

Just a second, when you say it's the last you saw-- because-- were they selected for gassing or for work?

No,

For work.

And your group were--

Because we were all--

[BOTH TALKING] sent to work.

--young and able, yes. So we didn't know that at the time, but I heard afterwards that he survived till the end. In the end he didn't make it. Well, we had to see--

So you would have arrived in, say, May 1943?

'43, that's right. So [AUDIO OUT] he took a special interest in us.

Why?

Because he must have been said they could do sewing. We said we could work in the factory, we're factory workers. And that was our luck because they were building a munition factory there. And they said, you people will have to keep until the factory is ready, and then you work in the factory. That was the idea. That was one--

What do you mean that was the idea? You knew about this?

No, but that's what they told us.

Who's "they"?

What do you call-- the SS man in charge. He took a special interest in us.

Why?

Because he must have been in charge of that factory, and he wanted to staff it with some more trained people. So he said, this is what is going to be with you people. But somehow the scheme-- it took too long to finish the factory, and they lost interest on us. And we were just treated like anybody else.

Did you work while the factory was being built?

Yes, but very rough work.

What sort of work?

Like cleaning the ground, the grass, just carrying rocks just to keep us busy, tough work in the rain and in the heat. As we came, they gave us nice working suits, and so we thought, that's going to be something special.

When you say "working suits--"

Khaki overalls. That was different than everybody else who got a blue-and-gray-striped uniform. But that was all because it took too long, and that chap must have lost interest in us. And we were just put together with all the rest afterwards in the same bad condition. And a lot of--

In Birkenau?

In Birkenau, yes.

What was your block?

I don't remember. We went to different blocks all the time.

Did you keep together as a group--

Not the--

--women?

Yes, as much as we could. But I must say, the group that came out from the hakhshara-- they were even there, some. They always kept together much better. They were fantastic to each other, really. But they didn't let any outsider sort of join them.

And most of the people passed by the wayside until that factory really was established.

What do you mean by "passed--"

Well, they died. They got sick. I had one girl friend-- one friend, one of our girls. She was a beautiful girl and very smart. And the minute they took her cigarettes away and they cut off her hair, she didn't want to live anymore.

She sold all her bread and food for cigarettes, and she got typhoid and eventually-- she died. And it happened to quite a few who weren't really strong enough or willing to fight.

And you were willing to fight.

Oh, yes. I was determined. I said, OK, I'm young, I'm strong and healthy, and-- and how it is sometimes, one girl-- she was-- she is 15 years older than I am. She was married and a little-- a small person. And she had kidney stones on the way there. She had the most terrible attacks. And everybody said, look, we wouldn't give a penny for her life, the way she is. She survived because she was determined.

Do you remember her name?

Yeah, she's my best girlfriend. We're still in contact very much.

What is her name?

Margaret Schmidt. Do you want me to write that down?

Yes, yes.

Anyway, we were not that friendly at that stage because she was so much older than I, but I still remember that it's only that she survived and I survived afterwards that we met up again.

And how long were you in Birkenau then? You stayed in Birkenau?

Until it was cleared, until the Russians came.

That was when?

The end-- near the end of the war.

In '45?

It must have been January or February '45, yes.

Did you go on any marches?

Yes. Then we were sent to-- then the camp was cleared.

And you never worked in a factory, in the rubber factory?

Oh, yes, I did. Eventually that factory came apart. And those few that had survived were taken and put into a special block and got much better conditions. And [BOTH TALKING]

What was the name of that block? You don't remember?

No, I can't think of it just now. [INAUDIBLE] was the name of the factory, and that was also our kommando. We all had a name when--

[? You would, yeah. ?]

--we were marching out. That's right, we knew.

And where you all German Jewish girls? Or were there others?

No, there was Hungarians, [NATIONAL GROUP NAME] Polish, and Czech. Yes.

And did you stay national groups, or did you mix?

We stayed a little bit together, I think, in national groups more or less. But we were friendly with the others. And, well, so once we got into the factory, we were better off. We got better food and better conditions.

And what did you make?

Munition, ammunition.

What sort?

I was at a machine. I had quite a--

Responsible?

--responsible job at-- I was manning one machine, pressing-- we are putting the lids on the little--

Then what were you making?

What was it? I don't know. I think for bombs.

[BOTH TALKING]

It was a little cylinder like this, a little cylinder like that, and I had to put the caps on with the machine. But I--

Was it full already?

No, it wasn't.

It was--

[INAUDIBLE] it.

It was filled somewhere else.

Yes, there were other machines where they were testing it afterwards. And--

And what was it made of, steel?

Yes.

What you made.

Metal. I put a cap on that. And I had a bit of an accident. Well, not an accident. Sometimes this thing broke. That's where I lost my finger. I had a little cut in the finger, and they didn't treat it properly. And it got septic, and they had to take that off afterwards.

During the war?

In the camp, yes.

And how did they treat you?

I was-- I was eventually-- well, they sent me to this place where they usually give bandages and so on.

Infirmery.

Yes. And they didn't know what it was until I kept on going there, and eventually somebody else said, look here, this looks very bad. And they sent me to Auschwitz, where the political prisoners were, and they had a better-equipped sort of hospital there.

And I went there, and this chap said, look, if you don't want to lose your whole arm, I take that finger off. And he did that.

Who was that?

Was that a prisoner?

Yes. They were prisoners.

It was a doctor?

Yes.

A Jewish one?

No, he was a Polish man, I think, or German. But they were inmates, They were all--

Did they treat you kindly?

Yes, very kindly.

With anesthetic?

Local anesthetic. And I never forget the nurse, a male nurse who was helping him there-- he afterwards took his shawl off his neck which his mother had sent him in a parcel with his initials and gave it to me.

To--

To-- --of [BOTH TALKING]

Yes, that size. He was a German, too.

And were you given any--

I even know his name, too.

But he wasn't [BOTH TALKING]

Well, it doesn't matter.

He was a Polish Gentile?

No, a German. He was a German man, German--

A German Gentile? What was he? A political prisoner?

Yes, yes.

What was he? A socialist or communist?

Yes, I would think so, yes.

And what was his name?

[GERMAN]. That's how you remember names like that, isn't it?

Well, it was significant in your life.

Yes.

And did you have any convalescent? Or did you have to go--

No.

--straight back to work?

Straight back. They let me stay. They said I shouldn't work for a few days. But during those few days, they we are having selections, and whoever was in the block would have been taken away. So you--

You preferred to work.

A few times there were selections, and I just got away somehow. I sneaked out through the back and went back to the factory. It was the safest place.

And were you fed any better than if you--

In the factory yes.

What sort of food--

We had soup, but we did have soup every day, a thick soup with potatoes, and the peel in it, all sorts of things in it, and perhaps a little bit of meat sometime in it. But we worked 12 hours, and marching out and back, and standing for hours to be counted. But we did have a chance. At least they cared about us a little bit.

And so was the population, the working population of the factory, fairly steady?

Yes. They had the political people-- no, they had even German people coming from the outside of the camp.

To work in the factories?

Yes.

Hired people?

Yes.

And was there any mixing, or were they kept strictly in different parts of the factory?

They came to see what we were doing. You know, --

They were in charge? Or they were supervising?

Supervising, yes.

And so you were there from-- so when do you think, approximately, the factory started? Would it have been still in '43 or in '44?

No, not '43. '44, I would say.

And the whole of '44 you worked in that factory?

Yes.

Doing the same work all the time?

No, I think I was in different departments. Yes, definitely. I started off with a smaller job and eventually was put onto that machine.

And tell me about the marches.

Well, after that, when the Russians came near, they wanted to empty the place.

The Germans wanted--

They didn't want-- the Germans want us to be freed. So it went on and on. We were all loaded into wagons. I've got that written down in here, too. And we were first, I think, in the wagons for three days and three nights. They were open, and it was snowing into them.

Just so -- your diary, did you write it then or later?

I wrote it as I came out. So [? it's last year. ?]

[BOTH TALKING] to come out.

So it is-- it might be a lot more detailed, clearer.

Is it in English, or is it in German?

In German.

Well, perhaps--

I have intended--

Would you like to read some of it, perhaps?

Yeah, in German. Or --

Well, tell me it first, and then-- no, you can read it in German because it would be more accurate.

Yes.

Yes, because we have a translation [BOTH TALKING]

I've got dates sort of there.

Yes.

[INAUDIBLE]

All right, well, would you like to read some of this?

Yes. It was 1939?

1943 to [? 19-- ?]

[SPEAKING GERMAN]

1946 and 1945. I better speak German.

[SPEAKING GERMAN]

No, it couldn't be [GERMAN].

[SPEAKING GERMAN]

Just a second, who did that? Were they Jewish people?

Yes, our own people who did do this.

[SPEAKING GERMAN]

[SPEAKING GERMAN]?

[SPEAKING GERMAN]

You know, banks, bank, the square.

[SPEAKING GERMAN]

You read off that?

Revier is a-- revier is a sort of hospital block.

[SPEAKING GERMAN]

It meant when somebody got in there, he never came out.

[SPEAKING GERMAN]

They just killed it.

[SPEAKING GERMAN]

[GERMAN], what is that?

A black spot.

I see.

[SPEAKING GERMAN]

For the first few months.

[SPEAKING GERMAN]

You know, to kill the feelings.

You had that in your food?

Yes.

You knew that or you just--

We knew that too yes. It tasted very salty of it. The minute we got there, our period stopped I think also because of that.

[SPEAKING GERMAN]

Just a second.

Yes.

[SPEAKING GERMAN]

I think that was Auschwitz.

[SPEAKING GERMAN]

And what do you mean? I couldn't understand it.

I mean they made use of their strength, of their force.

[SPEAKING GERMAN]