

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:44,730

2
00:00:44,730 --> 00:00:47,740
What would the word be?

3
00:00:47,740 --> 00:00:48,500
Aw.

4
00:00:48,500 --> 00:00:50,050
[LAUGHTER]

5
00:00:50,050 --> 00:00:52,000
At the end, you can do
that if you're good,

6
00:00:52,000 --> 00:00:53,985
if you do everything they say.

7
00:00:53,985 --> 00:00:57,710
[LAUGHTER]

8
00:00:57,710 --> 00:00:59,510
The big sister.

9
00:00:59,510 --> 00:01:00,340
How much older?

10
00:01:00,340 --> 00:01:01,780
She's not weak.

11
00:01:01,780 --> 00:01:03,790
Believe me.

12
00:01:03,790 --> 00:01:04,390
The big--

13
00:01:04,390 --> 00:01:06,862
A half hour older.

14

00:01:06,862 --> 00:01:08,320

I mean, you can't
tell she's older?

15

00:01:08,320 --> 00:01:10,490

Her recollection is
much better than mine.

16

00:01:10,490 --> 00:01:11,860

I absolutely can.

17

00:01:11,860 --> 00:01:14,680

But was just thinking, jeez,
that half hour really--

18

00:01:14,680 --> 00:01:16,750

that was a lot.

19

00:01:16,750 --> 00:01:18,952

For my mother, I'm
sure it was a lot.

20

00:01:18,952 --> 00:01:21,610

[LAUGHTER]

21

00:01:21,610 --> 00:01:29,680

Well, if we could go back and if
you could again, Rene, describe

22

00:01:29,680 --> 00:01:31,690

the opening of the
doors of the train

23

00:01:31,690 --> 00:01:37,360

and what you remember
feeling from that scene.

24

00:01:37,360 --> 00:01:42,670

When we got to Auschwitz and
the train doors open, slid open,

25

00:01:42,670 --> 00:01:46,000

there was a cold rush
of air coming in on us.

26
00:01:46,000 --> 00:01:50,180
Extremely cold but extremely
refreshing, as I recall it.

27
00:01:50,180 --> 00:01:55,240
And at that point,
people started going out.

28
00:01:55,240 --> 00:01:57,700
They had to almost fall
out because there was not

29
00:01:57,700 --> 00:02:00,070
enough room in there
to contain everybody.

30
00:02:00,070 --> 00:02:02,690
But there were officers outside.

31
00:02:02,690 --> 00:02:07,030
The German soldiers shouting
raus, raus and schnell,

32
00:02:07,030 --> 00:02:08,080
schnell.

33
00:02:08,080 --> 00:02:09,430
Schnell I think means "quick."

34
00:02:09,430 --> 00:02:12,190
Raus, I think "get out"
or something like that.

35
00:02:12,190 --> 00:02:15,610
And it was
refreshing, but that's

36
00:02:15,610 --> 00:02:19,810
all I recollect other than
dogs barking occasionally

37

00:02:19,810 --> 00:02:24,900

and people just pouring
out, out of these cars.

38

00:02:24,900 --> 00:02:29,000

Did you have any
sense of relief,

39

00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:30,650

like you had gotten
to some place--

40

00:02:30,650 --> 00:02:33,890

like the worst part was--
did you have any feeling

41

00:02:33,890 --> 00:02:38,060

or recollection of, Thank
God, the worst part is over

42

00:02:38,060 --> 00:02:40,800

and now we're going
to be OK again?

43

00:02:40,800 --> 00:02:43,160

Or did you have
any sense of that?

44

00:02:43,160 --> 00:02:45,970

45

00:02:45,970 --> 00:02:46,470

Irene?

46

00:02:46,470 --> 00:02:52,600

47

00:02:52,600 --> 00:02:53,830

Sorry, I hear my cat.

48

00:02:53,830 --> 00:02:55,040

[LAUGHS]

49
00:02:55,040 --> 00:02:56,770
Do we need to let the cat in?

50
00:02:56,770 --> 00:02:57,760
I think might.

51
00:02:57,760 --> 00:02:58,450
We can do that.

52
00:02:58,450 --> 00:02:59,090
We can do that.

53
00:02:59,090 --> 00:02:59,590
OK.

54
00:02:59,590 --> 00:03:00,740
Sure.

55
00:03:00,740 --> 00:03:01,420
Too bad.

56
00:03:01,420 --> 00:03:01,660
Too bad!

57
00:03:01,660 --> 00:03:02,160
[LAUGHS]

58
00:03:02,160 --> 00:03:04,240
You don't like Oscar?

59
00:03:04,240 --> 00:03:04,823
He does like--

60
00:03:04,823 --> 00:03:05,698
I don't like the cat.

61
00:03:05,698 --> 00:03:07,160
I don't like to
live with animals.

62
00:03:07,160 --> 00:03:08,200
That's my thing.

63
00:03:08,200 --> 00:03:08,900
I don't.

64
00:03:08,900 --> 00:03:11,650
And because they put too
much pressure on you.

65
00:03:11,650 --> 00:03:16,650
It's not worth it, really,
because "but he loves me."

66
00:03:16,650 --> 00:03:17,240
Baloney.

67
00:03:17,240 --> 00:03:18,337
I don't believe that.

68
00:03:18,337 --> 00:03:19,650
[LAUGHS]

69
00:03:19,650 --> 00:03:21,800
I know the feeling
because we have a dog.

70
00:03:21,800 --> 00:03:27,290
And my son lives elsewhere
and we have joint custody.

71
00:03:27,290 --> 00:03:28,680
Oh, right.

72
00:03:28,680 --> 00:03:30,790
You do everything.

73
00:03:30,790 --> 00:03:31,290
Right.

74

00:03:31,290 --> 00:03:33,432
But it's like when he
goes away for the weekend,

75
00:03:33,432 --> 00:03:35,390
it's like the kid's going
away for the weekend.

76
00:03:35,390 --> 00:03:36,200
It's like, oh, OK.

77
00:03:36,200 --> 00:03:39,490
Now I don't have to get up and
walk him and do all this stuff.

78
00:03:39,490 --> 00:03:41,810
Somebody else can
do that for one day.

79
00:03:41,810 --> 00:03:42,320
I know.

80
00:03:42,320 --> 00:03:44,210
Well, I was willed these cats.

81
00:03:44,210 --> 00:03:46,790
My kids left them for me.

82
00:03:46,790 --> 00:03:47,790
It's very sweet of them.

83
00:03:47,790 --> 00:03:48,332
That's right.

84
00:03:48,332 --> 00:03:50,340
Lucky you.

85
00:03:50,340 --> 00:03:56,500
But so what I was
asking was did you

86
00:03:56,500 --> 00:04:00,850

feel like this was the end of
the journey and that you were--

87
00:04:00,850 --> 00:04:03,590
there some relief now, or?

88
00:04:03,590 --> 00:04:07,610
I can't say that
I felt any relief.

89
00:04:07,610 --> 00:04:10,580
As I said, when the
doors first opened,

90
00:04:10,580 --> 00:04:14,240
everybody kind of
came tumbling out.

91
00:04:14,240 --> 00:04:16,550
Again, it was at night.

92
00:04:16,550 --> 00:04:19,370
And there was a lot of shouting.

93
00:04:19,370 --> 00:04:21,079
There were dogs barking.

94
00:04:21,079 --> 00:04:25,040
And it was a sea of
humanity, really.

95
00:04:25,040 --> 00:04:29,480
And again, my vision
was, again, only

96
00:04:29,480 --> 00:04:32,600
the bottoms of people's legs.

97
00:04:32,600 --> 00:04:38,840
And I do remember following an
entire crowd with our mother

98

00:04:38,840 --> 00:04:43,550
and Rene to this
house where we were--

99
00:04:43,550 --> 00:04:48,630
barrack, barn, whatever --where
we would be spending some time.

100
00:04:48,630 --> 00:04:52,880
I don't think as a four-year-old
I had any concept of what

101
00:04:52,880 --> 00:04:53,880
was going on.

102
00:04:53,880 --> 00:04:58,090
This was my life and it
was just playing out.

103
00:04:58,090 --> 00:05:00,800

104
00:05:00,800 --> 00:05:03,650
I did not anticipate
anything horrible.

105
00:05:03,650 --> 00:05:07,160
I didn't anticipate
anything good.

106
00:05:07,160 --> 00:05:10,430
I didn't know, really.

107
00:05:10,430 --> 00:05:12,740
I must make a
correction on that.

108
00:05:12,740 --> 00:05:17,150
We were five years old, almost
finishing our sixth year.

109
00:05:17,150 --> 00:05:21,110
Because our birthday was

December 21, and I know

110
00:05:21,110 --> 00:05:23,990
we got there a couple
of days before.

111
00:05:23,990 --> 00:05:27,720
So we were five plus.

112
00:05:27,720 --> 00:05:30,030
We are almost six at that point.

113
00:05:30,030 --> 00:05:30,820
Right?

114
00:05:30,820 --> 00:05:34,290
So at least five, we were.

115
00:05:34,290 --> 00:05:35,640
Sorry to do this to my--

116
00:05:35,640 --> 00:05:37,110
Older sister.

117
00:05:37,110 --> 00:05:37,770
--older sister.

118
00:05:37,770 --> 00:05:45,000
[LAUGHS] You said you
went into the lager.

119
00:05:45,000 --> 00:05:47,490
What were those conditions like?

120
00:05:47,490 --> 00:05:50,190
What kind of a place was it?

121
00:05:50,190 --> 00:05:52,650
How many people were there,
if you can describe it?

122

00:05:52,650 --> 00:05:55,350

123

00:05:55,350 --> 00:06:01,410

It was just like a big
barn and there was--

124

00:06:01,410 --> 00:06:05,964

125

00:06:05,964 --> 00:06:06,940

Can you start--

126

00:06:06,940 --> 00:06:11,520

[LAUGHS] I knew you were
going to ask me that.

127

00:06:11,520 --> 00:06:14,180

And tell me, when you say
"it," rather than say "it"--

128

00:06:14,180 --> 00:06:15,660

Right, I understand.

129

00:06:15,660 --> 00:06:19,770

130

00:06:19,770 --> 00:06:22,500

The lager was like a big barn.

131

00:06:22,500 --> 00:06:28,960

And there were beds in two
or three tiers worth of beds.

132

00:06:28,960 --> 00:06:31,770

We were together with
many, many other people.

133

00:06:31,770 --> 00:06:33,510

We were with our mother.

134

00:06:33,510 --> 00:06:38,582

And it was a mixed lager.

135

00:06:38,582 --> 00:06:40,290

In other words, there
were other families

136

00:06:40,290 --> 00:06:45,120

there with mothers, fathers,
other children possibly.

137

00:06:45,120 --> 00:06:49,590

And as it turned
out, we later on

138

00:06:49,590 --> 00:06:53,040

found out that this was a
very special barrack, special

139

00:06:53,040 --> 00:06:55,660

for the Czech families.

140

00:06:55,660 --> 00:07:00,630

And it was called the
Czech family lager.

141

00:07:00,630 --> 00:07:02,550

And there we were
with our mother.

142

00:07:02,550 --> 00:07:05,790

143

00:07:05,790 --> 00:07:12,120

Again, I remember having some
kind of drawing and learning

144

00:07:12,120 --> 00:07:22,300

some Hebrew songs, learning
something about Israel.

145

00:07:22,300 --> 00:07:23,835

I don't know from where, or?

146

00:07:23,835 --> 00:07:27,000

147

00:07:27,000 --> 00:07:30,840

But I also remember
very unpleasant things.

148

00:07:30,840 --> 00:07:38,120

I remember the guards
hitting people.

149

00:07:38,120 --> 00:07:49,060

And I distinctly remember seeing
one person kind of hanging.

150

00:07:49,060 --> 00:07:53,260

But I didn't know.

151

00:07:53,260 --> 00:07:55,600

I didn't put it in any context.

152

00:07:55,600 --> 00:07:58,440

I really didn't know
what was going on.

153

00:07:58,440 --> 00:08:01,750

154

00:08:01,750 --> 00:08:07,290

Unfortunately, somebody
was honking their horn.

155

00:08:07,290 --> 00:08:10,880

Tell me again that
one image that you

156

00:08:10,880 --> 00:08:12,730

recall, having seen somebody?

157

00:08:12,730 --> 00:08:18,370

I remember seeing, I think
it was a man and he was naked

158
00:08:18,370 --> 00:08:24,970
and he was hanging from the,
I guess the ceiling, the roof.

159
00:08:24,970 --> 00:08:29,250

160
00:08:29,250 --> 00:08:34,049
But I didn't understand
or comprehend

161
00:08:34,049 --> 00:08:35,850
what exactly was going on.

162
00:08:35,850 --> 00:08:41,630

163
00:08:41,630 --> 00:08:51,390
How long were you together
in the family barracks?

164
00:08:51,390 --> 00:08:56,760
We were together for about
four months, I believe.

165
00:08:56,760 --> 00:09:05,790
At which time there
was an action called.

166
00:09:05,790 --> 00:09:14,370
And a few twins and perhaps
some doctors and nurses

167
00:09:14,370 --> 00:09:16,350
were separated.

168
00:09:16,350 --> 00:09:20,910
And Rene and I were at that
time separated from our mother.

169
00:09:20,910 --> 00:09:24,010

170
00:09:24,010 --> 00:09:37,760
And I can only recall a soul
piercing cry from our mother.

171
00:09:37,760 --> 00:09:42,920
And I know we didn't
want to let go,

172
00:09:42,920 --> 00:09:48,320
but we were forcibly
taken from her.

173
00:09:48,320 --> 00:09:52,915
And then we were also
separated from each other.

174
00:09:52,915 --> 00:10:02,120

175
00:10:02,120 --> 00:10:04,840
It was only later
on that we learned

176
00:10:04,840 --> 00:10:12,700
that that entire lager,
about 3,700 people,

177
00:10:12,700 --> 00:10:14,260
were all killed that night.

178
00:10:14,260 --> 00:10:21,700

179
00:10:21,700 --> 00:10:23,050
Your mother among them?

180
00:10:23,050 --> 00:10:25,468
Yes, our mother among them?

181
00:10:25,468 --> 00:10:30,730

182
00:10:30,730 --> 00:10:33,400
Do you recall this
separation as well?

183
00:10:33,400 --> 00:10:40,120
Yeah, that seems to be the point
where I awoke again and began

184
00:10:40,120 --> 00:10:45,910
remembering this emotional
scar or hurt that took place

185
00:10:45,910 --> 00:10:47,710
when we were separated.

186
00:10:47,710 --> 00:10:51,700
And from that point
on, we were apart.

187
00:10:51,700 --> 00:10:53,170
And I'd start--

188
00:10:53,170 --> 00:10:59,350
I now by myself in a men's
lager, in a men's camp.

189
00:10:59,350 --> 00:11:03,970
And I start-- I'm
now awake sort of

190
00:11:03,970 --> 00:11:06,790
and I'm remembering things
that happened there.

191
00:11:06,790 --> 00:11:08,330
What do you remember?

192
00:11:08,330 --> 00:11:13,060
Well, a roll call was
one of the things.

193

00:11:13,060 --> 00:11:16,360

Early, early in the morning--

194

00:11:16,360 --> 00:11:18,040

the sun wasn't even up yet.

195

00:11:18,040 --> 00:11:19,330

It was dark outside.

196

00:11:19,330 --> 00:11:25,630

And they would line us up and
took some kind of a roll call.

197

00:11:25,630 --> 00:11:31,560

And every once in a
while, somebody was hurt.

198

00:11:31,560 --> 00:11:33,880

You know, shot with
a rifle butt and dogs

199

00:11:33,880 --> 00:11:36,022

barking if they didn't
respond properly

200

00:11:36,022 --> 00:11:38,230

or they weren't standing
straight enough or something

201

00:11:38,230 --> 00:11:38,770

like that.

202

00:11:38,770 --> 00:11:41,560

203

00:11:41,560 --> 00:11:45,180

Later in the
morning, as I recall

204

00:11:45,180 --> 00:11:50,730

towards the end of our
stay there in the mornings,

205
00:11:50,730 --> 00:11:54,870
some prisoners were
taken out of the group

206
00:11:54,870 --> 00:12:01,880
and lined up against
the ditch and shot.

207
00:12:01,880 --> 00:12:04,940
So and that was it.

208
00:12:04,940 --> 00:12:08,030
Once the shots were
fired, that was it.

209
00:12:08,030 --> 00:12:12,350
Everybody went about their
business, whatever that was.

210
00:12:12,350 --> 00:12:15,020
Myself and some
other kids, boys, we

211
00:12:15,020 --> 00:12:16,700
were curious about this.

212
00:12:16,700 --> 00:12:22,100
So we went close
to the pits to see

213
00:12:22,100 --> 00:12:24,650
what had happened to these
people that were standing

214
00:12:24,650 --> 00:12:26,612
and now were--

215
00:12:26,612 --> 00:12:30,580
and there was life
still in their bodies.

216

00:12:30,580 --> 00:12:34,720
So you could see
twitching, movements.

217
00:12:34,720 --> 00:12:36,250
Some were really moving.

218
00:12:36,250 --> 00:12:42,460
There was one case I remember
that the prisoners pulled

219
00:12:42,460 --> 00:12:44,910
this one man out
because he wasn't dead.

220
00:12:44,910 --> 00:12:49,760
He had a huge
swelling in his head.

221
00:12:49,760 --> 00:12:53,350
Which I assume, now, is was
a bullet lodged in there.

222
00:12:53,350 --> 00:12:55,960
Not deep in, but just.

223
00:12:55,960 --> 00:12:58,790
And they brought him in.

224
00:12:58,790 --> 00:13:01,100
I don't know what
happened to him.

225
00:13:01,100 --> 00:13:04,790
But that was a
frequent occurrence

226
00:13:04,790 --> 00:13:08,700
in the mornings at the
end of our stay there.

227
00:13:08,700 --> 00:13:13,410
Do you recall feeling afraid

or feeling numb or feeling--

228
00:13:13,410 --> 00:13:15,840
I mean, how did
you get through it?

229
00:13:15,840 --> 00:13:18,330
It was just curiosity
I felt. I don't

230
00:13:18,330 --> 00:13:23,410
think I had a mature
fear that I would have

231
00:13:23,410 --> 00:13:27,150
if I saw something or today.

232
00:13:27,150 --> 00:13:30,790
It was curiosity.

233
00:13:30,790 --> 00:13:35,710
I remember having my
kids, my children today,

234
00:13:35,710 --> 00:13:37,640
had the same type of curiosity.

235
00:13:37,640 --> 00:13:42,460
Which I'll explain the
surrounding of that.

236
00:13:42,460 --> 00:13:44,170
We were on Fire Island.

237
00:13:44,170 --> 00:13:48,520
And when the fishermen
came in with their catch,

238
00:13:48,520 --> 00:13:52,240
they would take these flopping,
live fish and skin them

239

00:13:52,240 --> 00:13:54,050
and behead them and whatever.

240
00:13:54,050 --> 00:13:57,160
And this was a
little harsh for me.

241
00:13:57,160 --> 00:14:00,470
But they looked at it
and they felt nothing.

242
00:14:00,470 --> 00:14:02,200
They just-- there was curiosity.

243
00:14:02,200 --> 00:14:07,450
And I can connect it
to something like this.

244
00:14:07,450 --> 00:14:12,040
I'm not sure if it's valid,
but that's my feeling on it.

245
00:14:12,040 --> 00:14:16,690
Do you recall in that lager
you were with just boys?

246
00:14:16,690 --> 00:14:17,740
Were you with men?

247
00:14:17,740 --> 00:14:19,240
What were you eating?

248
00:14:19,240 --> 00:14:20,185
How did you sleep?

249
00:14:20,185 --> 00:14:21,680
What were the conditions there?

250
00:14:21,680 --> 00:14:24,790

251
00:14:24,790 --> 00:14:30,850

The barrack was
tiered with bunk beds

252
00:14:30,850 --> 00:14:32,620
on both sides of
the length of it.

253
00:14:32,620 --> 00:14:37,680
Through the center was a stove
or some kind of a heating.

254
00:14:37,680 --> 00:14:40,590
I think it was a stove.

255
00:14:40,590 --> 00:14:45,010
I was mostly with, I
think, a special group.

256
00:14:45,010 --> 00:14:48,290
Because we were twins and
we all stuck together.

257
00:14:48,290 --> 00:14:49,630
We were put there together.

258
00:14:49,630 --> 00:14:52,570
And the older ones--
and all of them

259
00:14:52,570 --> 00:14:56,620
were just about older than I
was --were taking care of me

260
00:14:56,620 --> 00:15:00,650
and other younger
ones than them.

261
00:15:00,650 --> 00:15:03,280
So we sort of stuck together.

262
00:15:03,280 --> 00:15:09,120
As far as food, I'm sure I ate.

263

00:15:09,120 --> 00:15:13,440
But my only recollection really
of doing something with food

264

00:15:13,440 --> 00:15:22,220
was going on to some garbage
heaps and pulling out potatoes.

265

00:15:22,220 --> 00:15:29,160
And they were sliced and
put on the stove to bake.

266

00:15:29,160 --> 00:15:31,760
And I remember that.

267

00:15:31,760 --> 00:15:33,470
I still like potatoes or fries.

268

00:15:33,470 --> 00:15:36,560

269

00:15:36,560 --> 00:15:43,350
So this-- did you know that
you were in this barracks

270

00:15:43,350 --> 00:15:45,030
because you were a twin?

271

00:15:45,030 --> 00:15:47,820
Did you have any idea why
you were with these people

272

00:15:47,820 --> 00:15:48,930
and not with other people?

273

00:15:48,930 --> 00:15:50,830
Or were you too
young to understand?

274

00:15:50,830 --> 00:15:52,140
I didn't know that.

275

00:15:52,140 --> 00:15:59,890

I just knew that we were somehow
a little special in the sense

276

00:15:59,890 --> 00:16:02,110

that every time
it was, let's say,

277

00:16:02,110 --> 00:16:05,620

time for me to go
to the infirmary,

278

00:16:05,620 --> 00:16:09,790

I was sort of
spiffed up, readied,

279

00:16:09,790 --> 00:16:14,830

cleaned in whatever sense
that I was made presentable.

280

00:16:14,830 --> 00:16:17,900

And somebody would
take me there.

281

00:16:17,900 --> 00:16:21,860

This was some boy, younger
man, or somebody from the group

282

00:16:21,860 --> 00:16:23,010

would take me there.

283

00:16:23,010 --> 00:16:28,620

And so that was special
because the rest of the camp,

284

00:16:28,620 --> 00:16:30,170

I mean, that that was different.

285

00:16:30,170 --> 00:16:32,400

It was totally different.

286

00:16:32,400 --> 00:16:37,640

And I did get a
pair of boots once.

287
00:16:37,640 --> 00:16:42,350
I remember a pair of brown
boots from some older,

288
00:16:42,350 --> 00:16:44,030
I imagine it had to be a twin.

289
00:16:44,030 --> 00:16:48,840

290
00:16:48,840 --> 00:16:52,740
That was special in
that setting to have

291
00:16:52,740 --> 00:16:56,340
a pair of shoes that not
necessarily fit, but were dry

292
00:16:56,340 --> 00:16:58,350
on the inside.

293
00:16:58,350 --> 00:17:00,420
What happened when you
got to the infirmary?

294
00:17:00,420 --> 00:17:04,170
What sorts of procedures
did you go through?

295
00:17:04,170 --> 00:17:10,140
Well, mostly what I recall
is getting undressed.

296
00:17:10,140 --> 00:17:10,640
I'm sorry.

297
00:17:10,640 --> 00:17:12,680
Could you start by saying when--

298

00:17:12,680 --> 00:17:16,190
When I got to the infirmary,
mostly what I remember

299
00:17:16,190 --> 00:17:21,310
is you always had to get
undressed at least up to here,

300
00:17:21,310 --> 00:17:23,349
maybe further too.

301
00:17:23,349 --> 00:17:29,830
And being put between two
cold plates, which I know

302
00:17:29,830 --> 00:17:31,670
were called rontgen machines.

303
00:17:31,670 --> 00:17:34,200
I think that's X-ray.

304
00:17:34,200 --> 00:17:37,950
And measured and weighed
and poked and pushed.

305
00:17:37,950 --> 00:17:44,600
But nothing much more than that,
nothing much more than that.

306
00:17:44,600 --> 00:17:46,750
Do you remember any of
the doctors or nurses

307
00:17:46,750 --> 00:17:48,070
in that place?

308
00:17:48,070 --> 00:17:48,820
No.

309
00:17:48,820 --> 00:17:50,350
Oh, they were there.

310

00:17:50,350 --> 00:17:56,130
There were figures
dressed in white coats.

311
00:17:56,130 --> 00:17:58,920
But not specifically, no.

312
00:17:58,920 --> 00:18:03,310
Not faces or anything like that.

313
00:18:03,310 --> 00:18:04,720
Irene, what about you?

314
00:18:04,720 --> 00:18:12,490
When you were separated from
your mother and your brother,

315
00:18:12,490 --> 00:18:13,870
where did they take you?

316
00:18:13,870 --> 00:18:17,490
And what kind of
conditions were you in?

317
00:18:17,490 --> 00:18:20,940
Well, when I was separated
from my mom and Rene,

318
00:18:20,940 --> 00:18:27,420
I found myself in a lager
full of women, only women

319
00:18:27,420 --> 00:18:31,860
and young girls possibly.

320
00:18:31,860 --> 00:18:36,150
I do not recall that I
was with other twins,

321
00:18:36,150 --> 00:18:38,940
but it's possible,
other twin girls.

322

00:18:38,940 --> 00:18:40,740

But it's possible that I was.

323

00:18:40,740 --> 00:18:47,850

But I only recall older women.

324

00:18:47,850 --> 00:18:51,690

And the barrack was
very much like what

325

00:18:51,690 --> 00:18:59,160

Rene described, both sides of
a large barn with tiered beds.

326

00:18:59,160 --> 00:19:04,170

And a large brick oven
running down the center.

327

00:19:04,170 --> 00:19:06,840

328

00:19:06,840 --> 00:19:14,330

And though I don't remember
a whole day in sequence,

329

00:19:14,330 --> 00:19:20,240

my memory is rather sporadic,
but the things that I remember

330

00:19:20,240 --> 00:19:26,090

are indelibly etched on my mind.

331

00:19:26,090 --> 00:19:28,460

I do remember being hungry.

332

00:19:28,460 --> 00:19:33,290

And I do remember that
all there was to eat

333

00:19:33,290 --> 00:19:39,260

was some black bread
that was handed out

334
00:19:39,260 --> 00:19:44,030
towards the end of
the day, and some--

335
00:19:44,030 --> 00:19:51,340
I don't know if it was a soup
of some sort --I guess soup.

336
00:19:51,340 --> 00:20:02,830
And I remember that I thought I
was being rather clever, that I

337
00:20:02,830 --> 00:20:06,850
would save some bread for the
morning when I was hungriest.

338
00:20:06,850 --> 00:20:08,680
So I wouldn't eat all of it.

339
00:20:08,680 --> 00:20:12,040
And then in the morning,
the bread would be gone.

340
00:20:12,040 --> 00:20:15,430
And I-- it's only
subsequently I figured out

341
00:20:15,430 --> 00:20:18,790
we had rats in Auschwitz
that were probably

342
00:20:18,790 --> 00:20:20,170
as hungry as I was.

343
00:20:20,170 --> 00:20:24,160

344
00:20:24,160 --> 00:20:29,290
I do remember being
very cold times.

345

00:20:29,290 --> 00:20:32,900
I was very lonely.

346
00:20:32,900 --> 00:20:35,380
I thought about Rene.

347
00:20:35,380 --> 00:20:37,150
I knew he was alive.

348
00:20:37,150 --> 00:20:42,610
And in some way, I
think that gave me

349
00:20:42,610 --> 00:20:49,700
the will to just continue
in whatever this was.

350
00:20:49,700 --> 00:20:55,230
I had no comprehension of
what was really happening.

351
00:20:55,230 --> 00:20:58,340
I just, by this
time, I was beginning

352
00:20:58,340 --> 00:21:01,220
to understand that bad
things were happening.

353
00:21:01,220 --> 00:21:03,680
Because I could hear
the older people

354
00:21:03,680 --> 00:21:07,370
whispering about this and
that, and people dying,

355
00:21:07,370 --> 00:21:11,720
and people being gassed.

356
00:21:11,720 --> 00:21:21,110
And I remember myself
going to the showers

357
00:21:21,110 --> 00:21:29,820
and having to stand outside
naked in the cold waiting

358
00:21:29,820 --> 00:21:33,870
to be inspected by the Germans.

359
00:21:33,870 --> 00:21:41,350
And also, by this
time, understanding

360
00:21:41,350 --> 00:21:45,760
that sometimes you never
came back from the showers.

361
00:21:45,760 --> 00:21:51,250
So it was always a question
of would I be coming back?

362
00:21:51,250 --> 00:21:55,900
Or was this-- whatever
--the last time?

363
00:21:55,900 --> 00:21:59,650

364
00:21:59,650 --> 00:22:03,940
But I was also a
little brazen child.

365
00:22:03,940 --> 00:22:08,860
And I, the very first time
that we were lined up,

366
00:22:08,860 --> 00:22:13,540
I had a locket around
my neck from my mother.

367
00:22:13,540 --> 00:22:20,810
And I knew that if it was
found, I would probably

368

00:22:20,810 --> 00:22:22,340
be punished severely.

369

00:22:22,340 --> 00:22:27,320
Or I really had no concept,
but I knew it was not--

370

00:22:27,320 --> 00:22:30,200
it would not go well for me.

371

00:22:30,200 --> 00:22:34,530
And so like a
six-year-old I said,

372

00:22:34,530 --> 00:22:36,570
OK, I'll take it off my neck.

373

00:22:36,570 --> 00:22:37,980
I'll hide it in my hands.

374

00:22:37,980 --> 00:22:40,960
And that's exactly what I did.

375

00:22:40,960 --> 00:22:45,720
And I remember I got
into the showers with it.

376

00:22:45,720 --> 00:22:49,650
But I guess I never came out
with it because I imagine

377

00:22:49,650 --> 00:22:52,940
it fell out of my hand or--

378

00:22:52,940 --> 00:22:56,030
but I thought I'd put
one over on the guards.

379

00:22:56,030 --> 00:23:01,420
[LAUGHS]

380

00:23:01,420 --> 00:23:06,290
What about-- what
medical procedures

381
00:23:06,290 --> 00:23:10,030
or quasi-medical
procedures do you remember?

382
00:23:10,030 --> 00:23:13,250
Do you remember being taken to
the hospital or infirmary or?

383
00:23:13,250 --> 00:23:20,560
Well, I remember going
to Mengele specifically.

384
00:23:20,560 --> 00:23:24,010
Actually, the very first time
that we went to the doctor

385
00:23:24,010 --> 00:23:27,160
was when our mother
was still with us.

386
00:23:27,160 --> 00:23:31,540
So we were still in the
Czech familienlager.

387
00:23:31,540 --> 00:23:36,820
And I remember it especially
because I was only concerned

388
00:23:36,820 --> 00:23:39,640
that Rene would cry.

389
00:23:39,640 --> 00:23:42,830
Because he was a cry baby
when it came to doctors.

390
00:23:42,830 --> 00:23:46,030
And I was scared
that he would cry

391

00:23:46,030 --> 00:23:49,480
and something terrible
would happen to him.

392
00:23:49,480 --> 00:23:51,370
But he got the message.

393
00:23:51,370 --> 00:23:52,810
He was good.

394
00:23:52,810 --> 00:23:54,520
He didn't cry.

395
00:23:54,520 --> 00:23:59,020
And that was the one time
he went with our mother.

396
00:23:59,020 --> 00:24:02,300

397
00:24:02,300 --> 00:24:10,840
After that, I do remember
going to the hospital,

398
00:24:10,840 --> 00:24:15,860
being in the hospital
because I was sick.

399
00:24:15,860 --> 00:24:19,450
I don't know if I was sick with
just some childhood disease

400
00:24:19,450 --> 00:24:21,910
or whether I was
sick because I had

401
00:24:21,910 --> 00:24:25,750
gotten an injection of
something that made me ill.

402
00:24:25,750 --> 00:24:31,450
But I have recollections
of blood being

403
00:24:31,450 --> 00:24:35,580
taken from my neck and my arms.

404
00:24:35,580 --> 00:24:41,180
I remember many
x-rays and injections.

405
00:24:41,180 --> 00:24:49,130
And I hate doctors.

406
00:24:49,130 --> 00:24:52,150
I hate hospitals.

407
00:24:52,150 --> 00:24:56,240
Do you remember whether
these procedures were

408
00:24:56,240 --> 00:24:59,270
painful or just uncomfortable?

409
00:24:59,270 --> 00:25:02,420
Or how did you react to them?

410
00:25:02,420 --> 00:25:05,480
The blood from the neck
was extremely painful,

411
00:25:05,480 --> 00:25:07,710
extremely painful.

412
00:25:07,710 --> 00:25:11,850
But I knew I couldn't
cry, and I didn't.

413
00:25:11,850 --> 00:25:12,810
I never cried.

414
00:25:12,810 --> 00:25:15,594

415

00:25:15,594 --> 00:25:17,226

How did you know
you couldn't cry?

416

00:25:17,226 --> 00:25:22,940

417

00:25:22,940 --> 00:25:26,270

I guess instinctively.

418

00:25:26,270 --> 00:25:29,450

Or it could have been
something our mom told us

419

00:25:29,450 --> 00:25:35,210

we were to just behave
and be good and go along

420

00:25:35,210 --> 00:25:36,010

with the flow.

421

00:25:36,010 --> 00:25:40,420

422

00:25:40,420 --> 00:25:42,310

Do you remember
specifically-- you

423

00:25:42,310 --> 00:25:47,170

say you remember specifically
meeting Dr. Mengele?

424

00:25:47,170 --> 00:25:50,410

Well, I know it was Dr. Mengele.

425

00:25:50,410 --> 00:25:52,000

I had heard the name.

426

00:25:52,000 --> 00:25:55,150

427

00:25:55,150 --> 00:25:57,160

That's, you know.

428

00:25:57,160 --> 00:26:00,370

Do you remember him or what he
looked like or how he sounded

429

00:26:00,370 --> 00:26:02,210

or how he acted?

430

00:26:02,210 --> 00:26:03,010

Not really.

431

00:26:03,010 --> 00:26:06,490

I think that one time he
did give me a lollipop.

432

00:26:06,490 --> 00:26:09,340

And I think I was
just tickled to death.

433

00:26:09,340 --> 00:26:11,170

You know, I said, oh, wow.

434

00:26:11,170 --> 00:26:12,160

What a great guy.

435

00:26:12,160 --> 00:26:18,080

436

00:26:18,080 --> 00:26:19,760

But specifically,
you don't remember

437

00:26:19,760 --> 00:26:21,920

any of the other doctors or?

438

00:26:21,920 --> 00:26:24,680

There were other doctors,
but not specifically

439

00:26:24,680 --> 00:26:27,060

that I can remember at all.

440
00:26:27,060 --> 00:26:27,560
No.

441
00:26:27,560 --> 00:26:28,060
OK.

442
00:26:28,060 --> 00:26:31,440

443
00:26:31,440 --> 00:26:33,063
How much time do we have?

444
00:26:33,063 --> 00:26:34,230
We have about three minutes.

445
00:26:34,230 --> 00:26:34,730
OK.

446
00:26:34,730 --> 00:26:37,950

447
00:26:37,950 --> 00:26:43,350
Did anybody tell
you, did anybody ever

448
00:26:43,350 --> 00:26:46,110
try to explain why
this was going on

449
00:26:46,110 --> 00:26:50,400
or what was happening
to either of you?

450
00:26:50,400 --> 00:26:58,830
Or was it just that you did what
you were told and that was it?

451
00:26:58,830 --> 00:27:00,630
No one explained anything.

452

00:27:00,630 --> 00:27:03,470

453

00:27:03,470 --> 00:27:06,650

I know for myself, I
just did what I was told.

454

00:27:06,650 --> 00:27:13,480

I also discovered
that if I could

455

00:27:13,480 --> 00:27:17,710

hide behind things or behind
people and if I wasn't seen,

456

00:27:17,710 --> 00:27:20,690

then that would be a good thing.

457

00:27:20,690 --> 00:27:24,370

And I did always try to
be behind somebody taller

458

00:27:24,370 --> 00:27:27,920

at roll call or stuff.

459

00:27:27,920 --> 00:27:29,420

I tried to be invisible.

460

00:27:29,420 --> 00:27:35,480

If I could have been, I
would have wished myself.

461

00:27:35,480 --> 00:27:38,460

What about you, Rene?

462

00:27:38,460 --> 00:27:44,160

I remember I must have been
questioning what was going on,

463

00:27:44,160 --> 00:27:47,090

but not exactly in what sense.

464

00:27:47,090 --> 00:27:51,290
But I questioned
who was in charge?

465
00:27:51,290 --> 00:27:52,940
Who's in charge here?

466
00:27:52,940 --> 00:27:54,680
Who's?

467
00:27:54,680 --> 00:27:56,300
And I was told, Hitler.

468
00:27:56,300 --> 00:28:01,590

469
00:28:01,590 --> 00:28:05,490
That meant nothing to me,
but that's the answer I got.

470
00:28:05,490 --> 00:28:08,910
And I'm not even sure
why I wanted to know.

471
00:28:08,910 --> 00:28:12,900
But I guess it was confusing
to what was going on.

472
00:28:12,900 --> 00:28:17,530
And I guess I want to know
who was directing traffic.

473
00:28:17,530 --> 00:28:19,870
And that's the answer I got.

474
00:28:19,870 --> 00:28:24,520
I want to mention one thing,
what Irene mentioned before.

475
00:28:24,520 --> 00:28:30,370
That I also was motivated to
keep myself going by the fact

476

00:28:30,370 --> 00:28:33,630

that I knew that she
was somewhere out there.

477

00:28:33,630 --> 00:28:35,300

I saw her once.

478

00:28:35,300 --> 00:28:40,820

I think we saw each other once
through a fence or two fences.

479

00:28:40,820 --> 00:28:41,740

Nothing was said.

480

00:28:41,740 --> 00:28:45,220

We just saw each other
and we knew we were alive.

481

00:28:45,220 --> 00:28:48,130

And always had that feeling
that she was alive-- always.

482

00:28:48,130 --> 00:28:49,990

That never left.

483

00:28:49,990 --> 00:28:52,030

And everything that
happened afterwards

484

00:28:52,030 --> 00:28:58,980

was just done basically so
I could meet up with Irene.

485

00:28:58,980 --> 00:29:01,530

Did you know already
that your mother

486

00:29:01,530 --> 00:29:03,360

had been killed at that point?

487

00:29:03,360 --> 00:29:06,120

I think we knew it when we

were separated, right then

488
00:29:06,120 --> 00:29:08,990
and there, that
that was the end.

489
00:29:08,990 --> 00:29:13,490
At least that's how I felt.

490
00:29:13,490 --> 00:29:14,505
What about you, Irene?

491
00:29:14,505 --> 00:29:16,790
Do you think you
know that your--

492
00:29:16,790 --> 00:29:19,610
I knew I would
never see her again.

493
00:29:19,610 --> 00:29:23,840
If you're asking did I
know that she was dead?

494
00:29:23,840 --> 00:29:24,560
No.

495
00:29:24,560 --> 00:29:27,700
But I knew that I was not
going to see her again.

496
00:29:27,700 --> 00:29:32,110

497
00:29:32,110 --> 00:29:34,420
What--

498
00:29:34,420 --> 00:29:36,890
So yeah, OK yeah.

499
00:29:36,890 --> 00:31:40,000