

Six, actually.

Yeah.

Channel six. Five, too.

All right.

Yeah, OK.

So, you were going to tell me about being put on the boxcars and being deported?

Right, deported to Auschwitz.

Where?

Deported to Auschwitz. And we came to Auschwitz. We came at night.

Tell me about how they took you to the train and what it was like--

Well, they marched us to the train. We were march to the train. You know, they count to make sure that everybody is there. And we marched to the train. And as we come into Auschwitz, there was this scream, that commander, [NON-ENGLISH], this scream, crazy, like I never heard in my life. Outside, so many kommandos over there, you know. And that was late at night.

And as we marched-- Auschwitz was a little bit higher. You walked up a little bit. You can see commander Hoss whatever his name is, Hoss with the full collar. When he said something, I didn't want to listen then. He says, [NON-ENGLISH]. That's a joke. He says, this is Auschwitz. Arbeith macht frei. [INAUDIBLE] you have a [NON-ENGLISH]. You know? But I was kind [INAUDIBLE].

[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]. If you cannot walk, we have trucks. And that says I never go on that truck. I never go on that truck because I'm an old timer. I knew all the tricks already. Those who went on the truck, I never seen them.

Finally, as we walk into our barrack-- I didn't even know which barrack it was. In our barrack, we were marched in to take a shower, like you take a shower. German are calling the badehaus of whatever, badehaus whatever. Take a shower and not too many, probably 100 at the time. You take a shower.

But we can't get no water. Which, you know something? We wait, and wait, and wait, and wait, and wait till the morning. And there's no shower. Because when people would tell you-- listen, let me interrupt a minute. When people tell you-- if you go to the left, you die, or you go to the right, you lived-- that's baloney. You don't know where you go. That's nonsense.

They take you from whatever place they want to take you. Whenever they make those kind of remarks, that's nonsense. So as you walk into the place, you're in the nude, right? You have nothing on you. And if you had something to tell your [NON-ENGLISH]. Leave this.

I have nothing with me, especially the ring. I know I cannot keep it. So it must have been my mother's wedding ring or something. It was a very little, tiny something. In the morning, and we still had nothing, we're tired. And this guy over there got a convulsion. They know some of them. They know why he's scary this. Then finally, you can hear, in German, screams.

See, I spoke German very well, and I understand. He says, [SPEAKING GERMAN]. You know it means? They have no Zyklon. [SPEAKING GERMAN]. Let the dogs out. We have no Zyklon. We can do nothing with them.

What's Zyklon.

Zyklon means Zyklon B, the gas, to kill us. You know, right? So unbelievable. I just-- thinking about sometime at night is this, how the hell I survived that? We haven't got the Zyklon. They didn't have the Zyklon B, whatever. I used to work for IG Farben. And out.

When they open the door, listen, you don't need nothing. Everything is closed on you so everybody is weak. So I fell to the ground. And a guy looked at me. He says, give him a number.

He tried to be-- but maybe I had a-- I was young. And probably, he had pity on me. He had pity on me and says, give me a number. And my number was 143 or 511. And this arm, in the army, I just covered it up because of certain reason. I shouldn't, I made a mistake, but it's covered. I put the 101 Airborne Division that's a signal here.

How did they put the number on you?

I don't even know now. They just-- with a needle, they poke it. I don't know how they're going like this, whatever. You cannot scream. Forget it. They put the number on you, and that's all. Not one-- many, many, and all our prisoners, too. I don't remember. I think they marched me to camp C10. And that's why I met-- Dr. [? Hodes ?] was there, I remember.

And that's why I met [? Thurenberg ?] in the Air Force [INAUDIBLE] field, whatever. That's why I seen him over there. And over there, that was terrible, unbelievable, the smell and everything. I don't know-- the smell.

But finally, I got a slice of bread. Six loaf of bread, finally I got. When they give you the bread, and if the guy thinks that you're not going to live too long, they hold your two fingers in your throat so you die, so they can take your piece of bread away. This is dog-eat-dog.

What do you want me to do? Dog eats dog. That's what they did. To me, Auschwitz was something new. I've never seen.

They give you a stripe, and they give you a number here with a red arrow that says, I'm a political prisoner. I want to overturn the government. I notice something, you know. Finally, what they gave me entprechung When I ask him what they're giving me, they give me an extra piece of bread. They say I should have strength to work. And guess where they send me after a while? They gave me typhus but I had typhus.

OK, wait. Wait a second.

Yeah.

Can we get into giving you the typhus shots.

Right

So what was this Camp 10. What--

That block 10 was a terrible camp. I think there was some woman over there. I don't remember anymore because nobody pay attention. They had their machines over there with the X-rays, whatever. There's a lot of things. What my luck was they needed 25 people to another camp, and they grabbed me.

They grabbed me to a camp. I don't know. It's Auschwitz three. They're called Monowitz. And over there, my job was I was supposed to be a schlosser. A schlosser is somebody who is a mechanic. You know, fixes the-- [LAUGHS] Every time they ask me, I fix bicycles.

I knew how to work with bicycles, with the spikes, and how to center them. This was I learned when I was a kid. From

stores, I used to go after school. How to put spikes, how to make sure they're even. So I was a schlosser already. But my job was to carry pipes. The pipes was-- let me explain something. What a pipe--

Wait, before you tell me about the pipes, you were going to tell me about the typhus shot. Was that in block '10 or--

That's on block 10. Everybody got shot.

OK, well, you have to explain that to me, because you didn't tell me that.

Yeah we should get shots. entsprechung they call it.

All right, I want you to start over and tell me. In block 10, one of the things that they did was-- And tell me the things they did.

I know one. I'm not sure, 1 or 10, I can't remember. Or was it 1 or 10? But by a pimple, this is what happens. I'm so lucky. I've told you about the 25 people, and they shipped me out on a broken down pickup truck. And I went to Monowitz. I don't know how--

Yeah, you told me about that. But you didn't tell me about the typhus shots--

I don't know what kind of shots. I have no idea. They gave me one needle, and they took out another. They give me a shot and then take our blood.

I want you to start over.

Yes

Because I'm losing the story.

OK, go ahead.

You have to help me.

Yeah, I will help you.

I'm in block 10. You're in block 10. You have to tell me that you're in block 10, and you have to tell me what sorts of procedures they did on you there.

They took me to a place where they had all kinds of machines, like X-ray machines. Now I know X-ray. Before, I don't know what an X-ray-- what is it for. You know why? I had no idea.

And a lot of kids were there. Not only twins in that block. There were young kids-- my age, some a little bit older. And [? Thurenberg ?] and Schumann they were not such a good people.

They were definitely Jew haters. Because you ask me-- you know why I know? You ask me. [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]. You know [NON-ENGLISH] means? Are you a German Jew? You know, because I'm blond.

I don't answer. I answer him in Polish. I say, I don't understand, in Polish. But I never look to the eyes. I always put my head down because they shouldn't pick me for something else. So I always look down.

You know why? Not to face them, so maybe they'll let me go. That's why I always-- since I was liberated, all the time I did whenever I was find that I'm going to get hurt, I always look down. And then, I don't know.

Those-- [? Thurenberg ?] and Schumann, they went to another camp. But I didn't know was another camp, Birkenau. I

just learned after. I had no idea about Birkenau. So they shipped me to-- what do you call it? To Monowitz. But they didn't call Monowitz. They called Auschwitz III. Huge, huge. They had the [INAUDIBLE] over there. They had--

All right, hang on a second.

Yeah.

You still haven't told me the part-- unless it hasn't happened yet in the story, you still haven't told me that they were shooting you with typhus, and you didn't get sick because you had already had--

Right, that's what they did.

Well, you have to tell me that. We don't know that. The cameraman--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

That's what they did.

OK. But you have to tell me that story.

They're shooting me with typhus. I always had-- no problem.

Start over

Yeah

I want you to tell me how--

[INAUDIBLE] actually--

The Kapo came, and put your head in there, and beat you up with a stick. When they come in the morning and everybody is outside in sitting, kneeling position, right? And then when the commander comes over-- hauptsturmfuhrer, he wants to know how many. So we have hats, right?

We got up, and he screams that your hats got to be down. We look at him in the count, [SPEAKING GERMAN]. You know what I'm talking about? [GERMAN], you know?

And then he says [GERMAN], 20 dead. He says, that's all? You know what I'm talking about? More than is the [? fieldman. ?] He says, tomorrow, you want to see more dead than this? Otherwise, the Kapo gets-- whatever they do with him, I have no idea.

Listen, I know exactly in German whatever they said. But I kept to me. He says [INAUDIBLE] 20. He says, that all? And then I had no-- you ask me about the typhoid shots. I got typhoid shots.

They give you a syringe. They don't even give you-- they break the top. They give you a syringe, and they let blood out. And I didn't even feel it.

All my friends could not hold the-- what you call it? Could not hold the feet. They were toppled. You know what I'm talking about?

All those where I was with them for a while-- not for a long time. So I know they-- yeah. But I was lucky. When I got to that pick up truck and going to Monowitz, you know something? I almost didn't make it. I was kind of fainting spell.

And they grabbed me by the arm. They throw me on their truck. Some inmates like me. When I got to where--

Now, why-- let me ask you something. Why didn't you get typhus, like the others?

Well, because I had one already.

Well, you have to tell me that. People don't know--

Oh, I had to typhus in [INAUDIBLE]. I was learning how to walk. You know that. I'm learning how to walk.

And it took me a long time. I walked like a baby. And on top of it, I had the bronchitis, you know, coughing.

Yeah, but I need you to tell me, because people don't hear my question.

Yeah, OK.

So I need you to tell me--

Go ahead.

--that other people in the barracks got typhus, and you didn't because you had already had it. And--

Right, right. I don't know that everybody didn't live. I know that I survived from the needles with the rest of them, because I was not too long with them. When you stayed too long in one place, your chances to survive is nil. You cannot be Auschwitz, or later, I know, Birkenau. You cannot be too long with them, because they like henchmen.

You know why? They're looking-- and God forbid, if all the SS men come together, they're brutal. They tell more people--

Are you, or aren't you going to tell me that you didn't get typhus--

I didn't get typhus.

--because you had already had it.

Yes

I want you to tell me that, OK?

OK, OK. I didn't get typhus because I already had it.

OK.

I want you to start over, and tell me that they gave you typhus shots. You think they were typhus, and you didn't get it because you had it before.

Yeah.

You need to explain that.

I had typhus shots, and I had it before, and I was immune to it, and I didn't get it. OK? That solved the story?

Yeah.

OK, let me repeat again.

It sounds like they're protecting you.

So explain to me that they-- just explain what happened.

When I came into the barracks, there was a lot of kids. A lot of kids there. And they were in the nude. And some of them were laying on the floor. And so some doctors came over. They were prisoner doctors, and the SS men were watching them. And they gave me shots.

And then I found out they gave me typhus shots, which I had already. I had those shots already, and I was immune to it. So I wasn't feeling so bad.

But they were giving you shots, too, so that you would get typhus?

Yes.

[INAUDIBLE]

They were giving me shots to get typhus, but I was immune to the shots because I had already typhus in [Place name] So I did not-- whatever you say. It did not-- what's the word for it?

You didn't get typhus.

No. I had typhus shots by the doctors over there in Auschwitz, but I was immune to those shots they gave me, and it did not take. So finally, I was moved away from over there. Thank God, I was moved away.

And they sent me to Monowitz. Monowitz was a huge, huge camp. Very huge camp. I would say, my God, there's so many factories over there. I don't even know-- that Siemens name, I remember. I know Goering [? Werke. ?] They were making howitzers. You know, howitzers? They're making guns. Howitzers is on the two wheels, I know. And then the IJ Farben in there. And there's some other names, which I cannot remember.

But as a schlosser they gave me pipes to carry. So the shape of the pipes like an S. The next one was like a T. You know what I'm talking about? All different shapes and types. And then I don't know. And they were building, and they were putting into a structure. You understand? So probably it must have been for something chemical or whatever.

Then after a while, I lost all my friends from typhus. There was straw. I was sleeping three in a bunk, three. But everybody is dying, destroyed, because he was lifted from the lice. You know why? He was lifting me up, too, next to the guy. He doesn't move.

You know, everybody's dying on him, you know? And then they said that barrack has to be closed. So they put me-- I don't know whether I was 27 or 1. And from there, they gave me another job to carry cement.

Visualize me to carry cement. I'm very short. I know I'm a midget, and the cement is about 100 pounds. So on top of that, listen what happened. When I toppled, the bag broke, so I took the paper, and I tried to put it under my in the back to keep me warm.

Gestapo passes by with a Panzer car. With a Panzer car means they have those-- it's not a Jeep, it's a car with the metal, with steel, those steel automobiles that they had. They called it Panzer. And he says, [SPEAKING GERMAN], sabotage I did or something.

You know something what they did? I believe they had a crematorium over there. I'm not too sure, but I was shipped, loaded with Gestapo, loaded. I don't know what's inside, but I think it was cans with Zyklon. I'm not so sure. Because I've seen this and I know this dead.

And they ship me to guess where? To Birkenau. They ship me to Birkenau. And I never knew about Birkenau. I have no idea but on the gypsy camp.

Gypsy camp. There was a lot of other kids, a lot of kids over there, a lot of kids. But each time I was on the Gypsy camp, and I got-- someone would speak Polish. Some of them were German Gypsies. Some were Romanian, Yugoslavian. All different nationalities. And they're nice kids, you know? And I got acquainted.

When they came in and they took 40 out, and then didn't come back, it bothered me. Because in the meantime, the smell, the stench, you know, and the screaming in the crematoriums. I didn't know it was a crematorium, but you see the flames. It was unbelievable. It was scary a little bit.

And then it came back. Oh, and then they say to them, you're coming back, but they never showed up. Then they take another 40 or 50, because the barrack takes about 500 kids. And they never come back.

Finally, they grabbed me, and they took me out. And Schumann says-- Schumann or [? Thurnberg ?] was at that time there. He says, Deutsche Juden, I'm a German Jew, blond with blue eyes. Take care of them to Mengele.

I don't know where I'm going. I think I was going to block 14 or block 12, where he lived there. Block 14. It must be block 14, but we lived in 15. They gave us better food. And as I'm coming to that place, there is a wooden table, you know?

But man, the smell over there. You would never believe it. I never seen in my life. Wooden table. And you can see a blue eye, a green eye, and they were trying to put to one eye to another eye, changing eyes. There were twins there.

But not everyone was twins. There were twins, but they had so many kids that were not twins. But they take the mothers and their fathers away, and they take the kids in a different barrack. Because I seen it coming with the train. Like they came from-- what you call the Salonika? It's written on each train, Salonika.

Let me ask you something. Tell me again why you were there.

Now I don't know what they want to do with me. And I'm standing there, standing there, and then finally Mengele comes in. Mengele with that-- he had what you call not a sword, but like a little knife on the side with boots. Tall, very tall man. And looked at me, and looked at me.

And then I didn't realize what they're doing under the table. What they're doing under the table, they grabbed my testicles, and they gave me shots. I had to take off everything. I had to be nude, and they gave me shots.

They put me nude because they figure that, if I'm going to die, there's a kommando take you away right away to the gas chamber. You know what I'm talking about? Because they didn't do it right away to me. They did it to others.

That's how I understand what's going on. Because I didn't do it right away from me, you understand? So I understand that, when kids go like this, what is the white stuff come out from their mouth? Sometimes they want them to die. He gives them a syringe in the heart right next to me, and the kid falls. And the kommando takes him out. They grab him, and they'd fall.

So this was quite a while, because this was not so soon. And I don't know what they're going to do with me. But then I was told by the kids that they took their testicles out with a wire to tie up, and they move you, and they sterilize you this way. Take the testicles.

But to me, didn't do it. They just grabbed me. When they grab your testicles, and they give you a shot, you must not scream. You scream, you're dead.

You just must bite like you don't feel nothing. You understand what I'm talking about? That you just don't make any move or aggravate them. Otherwise, you're gone. So I had no choice. I had no choice.

But this was going for a while. They used to give me a little better food, and nourishment was not too bad. Some kids, he brought chocolate to some kids. To some kids, he was good, Mengele. But I don't know how good he was. I don't know how good.

To someone, he was good. To someone who is bad, I have no idea. But one woman over there was very, very good to me. Her name was Magda. She asked me like this, [SPEAKING CZECH] like this if I speak Czech. And I told her, Polish.

In the meantime, she'd give me a piece of bread, better food. And she asked the Gestapo, asked Mengele, there's a shipment going someplace. Get him out of here. She saved my life.

I would kiss her rear end 24 hours a day. You don't know what it means to go out from Birkenau, from this zoo camp. You know they called it? Zoo camp. That was a zoo.

You have no idea. You see a hunchback that they cut it off, leave it on the table. This was unbelievable. And I had to go to through all that. I was an old timer. I came down an old timer, and I realize-- but I still was-- well, let me put it this way. I still was-- I didn't have a mind. I did not feel.

I didn't-- I didn't-- that was my life, you understand? This was my life. I don't know nothing else. I go through these kind of procedures. I had no idea that's the kind of life this is. In order to kill you, they shoot you, and then I see people jumping on the wires outside on the electric wires and laying there on the wires.

I was afraid to go to the toilet. The toilet is so long. The guy from upstairs, from the guard, shoot you like a joke. And your body lays on this side, body lays on this side. My mind was not there, you understand? I had no mind to realize.

What other things do you remember from-- how much time to have?

Two minutes. So at two and a half.

Let's change it.

OK.

OK?