

- Q Where were you driven to ? A. The crematorium.
- Q When you reached the crematorium what happened there ? A. We left the trucks and were led into a room which gave me the impression of a shower bath. There were towels hanging round and sprays, and even mirrors.
- Q How did you leave the truck ? A. The whole truck was tipped over in the way as they do it sometimes with potatoes or coal loads.
- Q How many of you were there in the room altogether ? A. I cannot say really because I was so terrified about all these happenings that I have no idea about the numbers which were there.
- Q Were the doors closed ? A. I cannot say; I have never thought when I was there I shall leave and be here present in the court to speak about it.
- Q What happened next ? A. There were tears; people were shouting at each other; people were hitting each other. There were healthy people; strong people; weak people; and sick people, and suddenly I saw flames coming in through a window.
- Q What do you mean when you say window ? A. (on top, very small sort of windows.
- Q What effect did this have on you ? A. I had to cough very violently; tears were streaming out from my eyes, and I had a sort of feeling in my throat as if I would be asphyxiated.
- Q What happened to other people around you ? A. I could not look even at the others because each of us was only concentrated on what happened to himself.
- Q What was the next thing that you remember ? A. In that moment I heard my name called. I had not the strength to answer it, but I raised my arm. Then I felt somebody take me and throw me out from that room.
- Q When you got out did you see anyone there ? A. Then Hoessler took me on a motor-cycle - he put a blanket round me - and took me again into the hospital.
- Q How long did you stay in the hospital ? A. Six weeks.
- Q What effect did the gas have on you ? A. I have still quite frequently headaches; I have heart trouble, and whenever I went into the fresh air my eyes were filled with tears.
- Q Were you subsequently taken to the political apartment ? A. Yes.
- Q Did you receive any explanation as to why you had been taken out of the gas chamber ? A. Because I came with a transport from a prison which apparently makes a difference, and, apart from that, my husband was a Polish officer.
- Q After you came out of hospital how were you employed ? A. I came then in block number 26. Previously from that block people were sent on working parties.
- Q How were you employed yourself ? A. In the beginning I was employed in cleaning the room of the blockalterator and washing her laundry. Later on I was employed on latrine fatigues.
- Q How did you have to clean the latrine ? A. With my own hands I had to clean whatever was in the latrines, and there were no brooms or brushes or any sort of cleaning material which was given to me.
- Q Was that considered a good job or not ? A. Certainly, because sometimes we could warm ourselves near the stove and sometimes even wash one a shirt.
- Q What was your food at this time ? A. In the morning coffee; for lunch half a pint of vegetable soup, sometimes a quarter only; in the evening a ration of bread, sometimes something with it, sometimes without; and sometimes coffee.

Reference

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