



Edith's Story, Chapter 7

And why do you speak to schools now Edith?

Well I think it's essential that they know what went on because I mean I think they learn a little bit now in school but very little. My granddaughter said to me the other day that the lecture that the history teacher gave was about the boy in the striped pyjamas which is pure fiction. So they don't know anything and the teacher should have more training. It is all history but if they don't teach it right it doesn't come out right does it?

I think the power of how you speak is you speak to children of a similar age to you

Yes. I mean I haven't had all the experience that some of the older people have who've been in the camps. I mean it's important that they know what's going on. I mean the footballers just had a rude awakening going to Auschwitz. They didn't realise until you go. I mean I never wanted to go back, I'll be quite truthful. And for years if anything came on it was switched off. But as you get older I think you realise you've got to see these things. I couldn't when I went to Israel I couldn't go to Yad – well I had to run out of Yad Vashem. I couldn't stay. As it hit me as you go in when you see the German all round the wall I just couldn't face it, I had to come out and that was already 30 years ago. Over 30 years ago. You have to change, you have to go with the flow haven't you?

I gave the Spielberg interview many years ago and I once had a letter from them, would I go and talk to the children in the school in Kaiserslauten, that's about 20 years ago but I didn't want to. I couldn't then. I couldn't do then what I could do now. For years we never spoke about it.

Two years ago I met a man who was with my father in the camp and he always used to talk about his two little girls that he had and he wanted to speak to my sister, many years ago, she wouldn't. She won't discuss it at all. She'll talk to me which I didn't – to be honest with you I didn't realise she knew as much as she did because I once said when I'd been to Teschenmoschel I said "Do you remember where the school was?" she said "Yes of course, up the hill". So she knew a lot more but she would never talk about it, not even to me. But I think a lot of us never spoke about it. We didn't start speaking till we were here about 20, 30 years.