



## Eugene's Story, Chapter 4

I remained in Auschwitz about ten days and then one morning - I didn't work in Birkenau - then one morning we got lined up on Appel and then we got selected. There were a thousand of us selected and we were ordered into the same cattle trucks. Two barrels again, the train set off and it took three days before the train stopped. We had no food given us, only what we had the day before we set off and the train stopped, we didn't know where we were. Doors opened, the place lit up again, "Raus, raus, varfluchte Jude", there was the SS and dogs. We were lined up, 5 in a row, 20 in a block so you had 100 in a block, and we were marched off. As we got nearer they saying the name of Buchenwald. We arrived in Weimar Buchenwald. There are steel gates which are still there to this day because I went back three year ago. The gates opened, we were marched through.

Buchenwald was a massive camp. Buchenwald opened in 1937 and it was the second largest camp what Hitler built. We marched a good kilometre within Buchenwald itself what was a smaller camp called the Little Camp. There were about 20,000 prisoners there. I was allocated in Block 62. Counting again, same procedures. All the Jews and Gypsies were put into the Little Camp and life in there was different, for us a lot stricter because we were classified as just animals.

Now briefly let me just a little bit explain the procedure, what it was in the camp itself. Every camp was internally run by fellow prisoners and we were identified with different labels on our overall, on our left hand side of our uniform on our jacket and on right hand side of our trousers. Jews were yellow with a JUDE on it. The red used to be the Communists, green the criminals, then maroon homosexuals, so everybody was labelled so they knew exactly who they dealt with. Now there was two sorts of camps where the internal command were Communist, which most of them were already in prison for 10, 12 years, and the other one was the criminals with the green on. So if you happened to be like Buchenwald was a Communist run, internally by Communists, life was a lot easier or a lot better I should say, just the same we had to starve, than in another camp where it was run by criminals.