



## Eugene's Story, Chapter 7

So we arrived in Belsen. There was 514 of us who went through the gate. Well I wasn't even aware of it existed. Now if we were in a hellhole in Auschwitz or in Dora, Bergen Belsen was a hellhole. There were people lying all over the place. We were marched into number 2 camp which had like military, used to be a German military barracks. Of course the main camp was absolutely full so there were about 60,000 prisoners in Belsen and 30,000 perished of typhus and in number 2 camp where they put the Hungarian Jews, Gypsies and Russian prisoners of war into the same area people were just dropping like flies. That's something I will never forget. I witnessed fellow prisoners, what I haven't done myself, taking a jacket or a pair of trousers off a prisoner who was dead because it looked better than he was wearing. What I did do is going through the pockets looking for a bit of crumb. We had grass, even that became short because we were eating it. Typhus became rife. Bread, the last 7 days we didn't get anything. That loaf became 8 to a loaf, 8 prisoners to a loaf. Some days we got nothing at all. The soup was just rotten cabbage and a rotten two little potatoes if there was any and that was our intake. Sanitation, you just did it where you were. Matter of fact to go back to Dora all we had in the tunnel, holes dug and a wooden board across it. Of course you suffered of diarrhoea. I became just about five stone in Belsen.

Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 1945, 3 o'clock in the afternoon we got liberated by the British army. We weren't aware of it, I certainly didn't know who they were. Well the next 2 hours I will never forget because hell let loose. See the camps employed prisoners as Kapos. Kapos were like managers or foremen and they had privileges for being cruel to us, crueller than actually the SS were some of them. Well by 5 o'clock there were 168 Kapos, what the figure I'm quoting I didn't discover till many years later, and they were killed, torn to bits by fellow prisoners. I took no part in that, I could hardly stand up.

I suffered of scurvy, scabies, you name it I mean I still got marks on me which they never healed up. But at least I survived through a miracle.