



Chapter 6

I remember they woke us up –they woke me up. They brought us a blanket each so my sister and I we put one under us and we covered ourselves with another one and I can't remember whether they brought us anything to eat or drink that day. I don't remember anything, except the next morning they woke us early and we had to go out and our twice daily, this was our twice daily punishment sort of, the roll call. Because we had to stand out there 4, 5 hours. Sometimes it rained and we got wet through and by the time they let us in we were dry again. They took us out about five in the morning and we had to wait until 9 until the German woman got up, had her lovely bath, breakfast, smelled beautifully and she came and counted us up. They counted us twice a day and nobody could get out of Auschwitz. And after that we went in and they gave us some coffee, I think. And during the afternoon, yes, the afternoon roll call we would get a piece of bread which was about two inches high, square and that was for the 24 hours and on it they used to put some margarine in a corner or jam or liver pate.

Everything was substitute, it wasn't proper. The coffee was substitute. And there is nothing much more that I can tell you of Auschwitz except we walked around there like zombies and it took us probably 10 days until we started looking around and get used to our surroundings. After a week they took us into our camp, into the new camp and it was the same thing, same barracks, everything. And one day I remember it was already May, was warmer the sun was shining, and you didn't work in Auschwitz. We didn't. And I sat outside the barracks, was nice and warm, and women were milling around, imagine there were 32 barracks and in each of those barracks about 1100 women so there were a lot of women about. And as I sat there I thought to myself, "Dear lord, was I always here?" I become, you know I started thinking, I wasn't always here. I came in here and there is nothing that reminds us of outside. What I was looking for, a tiny little ant because the soil was sandy, there wasn't an animal. I never saw a dog or a cat, only the barracks, one after the other. Except the sky and the sun that was all. And then suddenly I became very clever and I thought to myself "But they can't stop birds flying over" and I was looking for birds, I remember the whole afternoon and there were no birds, birds didn't fly over us. I thought to myself, "This must be Hell". And on my left

hand side I can see those four squat chimneys belching out a pale yellow smoke that I saw from day 1. And then I started thinking, what is that? Why does it smoke? And I started smelling and the air was saturated with the smell of burning flesh and then you realise what Auschwitz is for. And after 3 months, I was very lucky, we were taken out of Auschwitz and we were brought into Germany. Right in the middle of Germany in Bavaria where there was a working camp. And the one I went in there were 1000 Lithuanian men who just arrived the month before and 200 Lithuanian women and 200 of us went in that camp. And that is where we were until a week before the liberation. We were constantly hungry, humiliated, we worked, but we knew that it, the end was coming because some of us went out into the towns to work and you saw newspapers, you knew what, how the political situation was. And we just hung on to life and a week before we got liberated they took us on a march and they marched us all over the place. Eventually they took us into a prisoner of war camp and on the 1st of May we were liberated by the Americans.