

DORA NIEDERMAN: KEY QUOTES

“We were a small town, between the hills, and nobody came there to tell us how some things were.”

“And when he came home he was all beaten up, and they shaved his beard off, and they took his payot off. We didn’t even know who the man was when he walked in the house. His voice we recognized, by his voice. They beat him for no reason.”

“And they told them, ‘Don’t think that these are same Hungarians or Germans what was here during the First World War.’”

“It was a different breed, a different people. ‘So don’t welcome us. You Jews don’t welcome us. Because you’ll be sorry you’re welcoming us.’”

“They came in one night. We was all sleeping, and they woke us up in the middle of the night and they made us get up, and just leave the house just like we were, in night gowns. They let us finally put dress on, and our shoes. And they took us to the ghettos.”

“You couldn’t sleep. You couldn’t sit. You couldn’t use the bathroom. It was undescrivable.”

“She said, ‘No, you go to work, and maybe you will help us, to help your aunt and the children. You go to work.’ So I went to the other side. I didn’t know anything. We’re going to be gassed or killed or anything. We didn’t know nothing.”

“It was a horrible smell. Like ashes. Like tar. Even today if I go someplace, I

can't smell tar. It makes me deathly sick. And they told us, 'You see right there? There is your parents now. They're burning them. Killing them. Gassing them. And they're all burned. There won't be nothing of them,' and we couldn't believe that.

"The chimney burned all that day, twenty-four hours a day. You could see the smoke and smell the smoke always, and they told us that there are the chimneys where our parents are burned, our sisters, and brothers. My whole family, and it was horrible."

"Every time we had a roll call we had to be no clothes. We had to leave the clothes inside. And then Mengele came again. And Mengele kept on looking at us. And always Mengele."

"Mengele, the SS doctor. Every morning and every night he came. And he was as close to me and to all of us like you are. And he had a little stick. And you went this way or this way. And he always counted...wherever he went, he went with that. He never went without it."

"He was short man, chubby, round face. And always had that stick in his hand... Wherever he went, he went with that. He never went without it."

"He [Mengele] came in and we were all naked. And I had a rash. I don't know from food or from not eating, or God knows what. He took me out and he send me to the 'hospital.'"

"It was not time for me to die."

"We arrived at Stutthoff. The same thing: the SS with the guns, with the dogs. Where we going to go? We didn't even know where we were. Where we going to run away? But still they brought the dogs."

The Red Cross came. And they must have fixed up the camp for them [Red

Cross] to show how nicely they treat us.

“He always fixed us nice food. He was the nicest person you ever wanted to be with.”

“He was very good to us. Thanks to him today I think the ones who have survived, today living because of that.”

“So we got back to Stutthoff. Oh it was horrible. Hunger, lice. Everything you wanted to imagine they had there.”

“He took us in, and he kept us, and he told us, and we prayed, you know, the Christian prayers. We use to pray every Sunday. He didn’t want us to go to church. He didn’t want his people in town to know he was hiding somebody. And then the Russians came in.”

“The man had double wall where you hide people, or hide food. That’s where he hid us. The Russians came in and was raping everybody. They were first line [troops], first line, they came in. They were horrible people.”

“We both start crying, that we passed each other on the street and we didn’t even know who we were. This what the Germans did to us. I had no hair. Must have weighed maybe fifty pounds. He was still so skinny, too.”

“It was very, very painful for us to talk because you don’t want to bring back all the old memories. Because when I, I can’t watch any movies from the Holocaust. I cannot watch at all. Because if I do, I wake up in the middle of the night screaming.”

“When they go home at night, to tell their parents how much they love them, and to hug them and kiss them. When they go to school or to work to tell them same thing again, ‘We love you.’”

“People should live together as people.”