

V/21

VRBA

1076/1 - 71 ✓

IWM 2929/18

1085/2

WORLD WAR TWO - DEATH CAMPS

Dr Rudolf Vrba.

Slate 1076 take 1

Q: I'd like you to go back to the beginning/^{to}when you first was discriminated against and if you could tell me of the first discrimination that was made against you and which was at school I think but to explain to us what that discrimination was the way you reacted to it and try to explain how you reacted when they started to remove the young - what you thought the significance of that was.

A: Well in the first I think it is a question of how we define discrimination, for instance if you are living in London you have got here a lot of people who feel discriminated, if somebody calls them a yid or something like that you know, or somebody doesn't let them into a certain golf club, not to speak about there are a certain number of Jewish clubs and nobody is let in who is not Jewish but they don't consider this discrimination. So I would say that anything on a social level this is a frame, existing role cannot be considered as discrimination it is very difficult therefore for me to tell you the exact part of discrimination. I would say that everybody is inclined to a certain amount of discrimination as it is perfectly human to discriminate, we know very well that the Scots have got a certain English the English have got certain the have got certain to Irish and the Irish have got to everybody but this is not discrimination I think that everybody's entitled to like or have dislikes it means nothing but if on the basis of the likes or dislikes somebody's excluded from the school and not on the basis of the achievement of the school, this is discrimination. If it is done for reasons of race or class

Q: So what happened to you, I mean what did they do
This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word. It is not the primary source, and it has not been checked for spelling or accuracy.

A: Well I think the first was the introduction of the - the first was introduction of Nuremburg laws which in the first act of discrimination was my exclusion from the so called which would be in English terms called High School but it was something different on the continent it meant an automatic ... who finished at school to (not clear) and then there came on the basis of the Nuremburg laws it was defined suddenly that somebody who is Jewish or not and it did not depend on what he professes to be but he was so to say by law defied without him is really or without his approval, or without his consent or whatever he was defined as a Jew, on the basis of what were his parents because I think that to say that it was racial would be rather a nonsense because I can't see a common racial feature of Jews of Europe, the French Jews are so similar to the French and the English Jews well a Jew who is a shiek in is certainly different than Lord Rothschild from Cambridge, understand me, both by appearance by habits by culture and background I think that Jews as such actually do not exist it would be very difficult to define then antropologically

Q: So there came a day when they said

A: They called me they say they defined me as a Jew and they say - which didn't bother me very much because as long as they can find a definition at that time anybody a definition of this time everybody's private affair what sort of definition from. But there was a definition published and there then was published a definition a law of this definition that anybody who is in the frame of the definition is forbidden to go to school beyond elementary level, this means that my schooling can be finished at the age of 14 I am given a paper in which it was said that they can't attend the next year of school this was discrimination. This happened in 1939.=

Q: Where was that

1076 take 1 cont.

minorities.

Q: How many - how did you go about ...

A: My nationality was, my nationality was officially Czechoslovak that how I felt as Czechoslovak nationality

Q: But how many of your friends in the place where you lived thought of themselves as Jews

A: Well er quite a considerable percentage you see in the town of there are about 100,000 citizens out of which were about 50,000 jews. I would say that out of this approximately one third it was more educated part of the Jewish population this means the people who didn't - to schools but they visited schools where which are not but belong to the state. Religion was not - was optional anybody in our school according to Czechoslovak law could opt voluntarily or the parents could opt voluntarily if they wanted religious tuition whould be included in the education and if so which religion, and then we had in our school, in my class there were about 50 pupils of age of 15 and I think that about just over - there were five groups, there was one group which requested tuition in catholic religion, er tuition so called evangdic religion which was Luther religion protestant called here then there was a group which requested tuition in Jewish religion and then there was a group which requested no tuition in any religion, I belonged to that group.

Q: Can I jump on to the point at which they started

A: Pardon

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Q: Can we go on to the point at which they started to depart

1076 take 1 cont.

deport the young men.

A: Well this ~~happened~~ happened only three years later after I had been excluded from the school and this was rather a longish process because from the exclusion of school, from the school until the deportation this takes three years. That's the first deportations which were followed by a slow sequence of discriminatory laws, for instance first came a law which defined the Jews as such and said they're different from other people, this was based on the well known Nuremburg law and ... racial basis which is a biological nonsense it is based on some mystical beliefs you know which is a biologist, ~~known~~ no modern biologist would accept you see it was a biology not of Darwin but of Now after this definixtion has been made and was given an adage that the Jew cannot visit schools because of this racial inferiority, then came slowly other adages for instance then came an adage that a Jew can travel only ^{with a permit} from one place to another. Okay they ask for permits which were issued, you had to give a reason why you ~~why~~ want to go from one town to another, then came a law which said well they can travel but only in certain wagons of the train so that the population at large is not contaminate by or offended by the presence of the Jews because it might offend the public.

cut.....

discrimination is concerned

A: Now as far as/I would like to

A: As far as discrimination is concerned I would like to tell you one thing which is very important in understanding what was supposed to happen next. The discrimination was not uniform but there were already from the very start introduced for a population which by law was defined as Jewish, different degrees of discrimination for various jews. This was a very important part of the whole process of introducing the discrimination ~~fact~~. The next step of discrimination was that Jews couldn't live on certain streets

Q: (not clear)

A: There was a law that a Jew cannot travel from one place to another, but they said that

Q: Can you repeat that we had a lorry going past.....
Can you explain what you mean about different levels of Jewish

A: Jews in principle shouldn't travel ~~because~~ ^{because} it offends the none Jewish public by mixing with them in a train. So therefore they should travel only when it is absolutely necessary and they should ask for a permit and they can travel in a particular wagon. However there are certain Jews who are very necessary for whom travel is very necessary in a part of the function of society because they are not deprived of their function in the society it is only made certain measures to protect the society from the

Q:

A: For instance it was immediately said the Jews who are lawyers or doctors of medicine or connected with production of agriculture especially

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1077 take 1 cont.

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should get a permanent travel permit and don't need athis means they could travel quite freely, so you had already immediately the introduction of discrimination two groups of Jews of those who were discriminated and those who were discriminated ~~formally~~ ^{formally} because they had a paper which said that they exempt from discrimination so there was immediately a division and was natural that the most influential part of the Jews those who had influence on basis of their social status were officially discriminated but not practically and were more ~~amiable~~ ^{of} amiable to approve/this discrimination. In other words something for them and there was already the thrown in. Now this was a very important process because this process was continuously so to say amplified, this process of division between the Jews.

Q: What you're saying

A: That's right this was the first thing, second thing was that the Jews should not be allowed to enter and office of the catholic Slovak state don't forget in Slovakia it was catholic in other countries not but in Slovakia the president the new president was a catholic minister and so as the population on the whole was catholic and Christian so if they had any doubt something is right or wrong the population was because it was catholic wouldn't doubt if something was right if says so as long as it is known that the Pope does not condemn in public ~~what~~ on the contrary receives his so the population which was catholic said well the catholic priest who is approved of the Pope can't be wrong. The population who was not catholic said well you know those catholics they are , you know they, but however you know this is - they were a minority the protestants so they were more critical of the whole thing, now the division the next thing came that Jews are not allowed to live on the main streets because the main streets you know they are too much on the eye of the population and they had to vacate the flats on the better streets for flats in streets, but it was still said that they can live where they want except on certain streets. This creates a number of flats in better streets

This is a verbatim transcript of a spoken document. It is not a transcription and has not been checked for spelling or accuracy.

1077 take 1 cont.

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in which er er became available to people who were ~~unavailable~~^{amiable} to collaborate in the new regime. Then came an adage which said that a Jew cannot be trusted as far as his honour is concerned as for running a business and therefore the business should have an ~~xx~~ adviser who will so to say watch out his honesty is being kept in other words each Jewish shop has got an ~~x~~adviser who had an access to the till and everybody knew that the advisers job is ~~xx~~ to take a cut from the till. So there again was a certain agreement because certain Jewish shops were just closed and the better shops considered to be too important to be closed and advisers have pickings there, so there again between the business people there is a division of those who are important and those who are unimportant and those who are more important and they didn't have to close their shop but just get an adviser whom they knew how to treat in other words they knew that he can't advise a chap who doesn't know the shop, got a custom to give him his card and so

18 00"

Reel 2

Q: Yeah I mean one wants to ask immediately the moment people start to hit your money then you start to see a common interest why no resistance

A: Well because some people have made who were in bigger business continue to make a very good money it was wartime and boom ~~XXXXXXXX~~ economically you know every war brings a certain economic boom you have to sell buttons to soldiers and you have to sell shoes to soldiers and you there is a trade in leather, there is a trade in in rags and there is a trade in things like that you see, well the small greengrocer is not important so the small greengrocer was said well the shop is closed, or but the big fellow you know, the big businessman they said well this shop is very important for leather and so on it is economically important part of this economic system the Jew knows how to run the shop but we can't perfectly well trust him so he gets an adviser who usually was a member of the facist party and very rarely knew anything about the running of the business. It was obvious that the member of the facist party is being paid from Jewish funds. And this is a verbatim transcript of spoken word. It is not the primary source, and it has not been checked for spelling or accuracy. And this enables the richer Jewish businessman to carry on in business by giving

1077 take 1 cont.

who usually before that did have nothing or was just a member of the and in the very frequent cases (not clear) or to go into coffee houses which he could not afford or to move in social circles that he did not have access and suddenly had enough money for for throwing parties, drinks for his friends and he wore a uniform and he was very important protecting the nation from the Jewish racket and naturally the Jewish businessman was making ~~such~~ business just as usual he ~~is~~ just knew that the adviser got his cut and er of course the smaller businessman was not so important I don't know if you have seen the shop on the high street the famous film it was very nicely shown this whole process. The class distinctions were of enormous importance so you had finally ~~as~~ as the time went on you had groups ~~in~~ who were excluded from school at the sametime your Jewish doctors were excluded from any discrimination because they were needed, you see Slovakia didn't have so many doctors to dispense with three or four hundred Jewish doctors who were in business, I mean for reasons

cut.....

1078 take 1

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Q: Let's move on to the point ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ at which ~~xxxxxx~~ they started the deportations

A: Well before ~~that~~ came to be accomplished they created two things, first things they ~~introduced~~ introduced a marking of the Jews on the street, they said the population should be warned in advance anybody who has been defined as a Jew has to wear a Jewish star which has to be yellow and it was perfectly well defined how large it should be it was about six inches diameter, it was the David's star which had to be and it was again defined the minimum amount of stitches on any clothes, so that this already created er er breach between the Jewish population and that part of population which was not very enthusiastic about the whole thing because if somebody was seen talking to a person with such a star he was suspect of anti state activities ~~that~~ perhaps he's plotting with the Jews. So in order to avoid er the population at large in order to avoid their a....

cut.....

1078 take 2

A: The star was very important because those who took the whole Jewish discrimination as a joke from the population in general suddenly when they were visiting, speaking to a Jew on the street were subject to doubts from the facists organisations to be exposed as perhaps Jews perhaps people who are not aware of their national indemnity who mix with them and so on so that a certain division between the Jews and the non Jewish population had been created because it was risky to speak with a Jew on the street, because somebody could label as a plotter against the regime with the Jews about who's plotting against regime of the new era free of Bolshevism and Anglo American Jewish and Jewish

1078 take 2 cont.

that here they might be involved in this plot and this was a dangerous thing, so the population started to keep out and keep off from the Jews who were so marked and labelled at the sametime the government introduced^a/small Jewish star which was only one inch in diameter for those Jews who were so to say very important and this gave sign to the facists, street gangs not to touch a Jewish doctor or a Jewish economist or a Jewish grand businessman and then it was said that the Jews have no right to offend by their presence administration, er any office er hospitals, schools, police whatever it is public administration and although they and they should do that through their own councils, so Jewish councils have been created and they were naturally very important they could freely and wear very small stars and wear apapers which practically protected them from any sort of discrimination. Not to speak about the fact that any rich Jew would for the favour by either inviting them to lavish parties because money was still around or by attempting to I haven't seen actually how the money changed hands.

Q: Let's go back to what then happened to you when you realised people started to be taken away and that was presumably the next thing

A: Well not yet because first it was necessary, how could the Germans know who is a Jew and who is not a Jew. It only Jews who know who is a Jew and who's not a Jew so the Jewish council was given the job to for administrative purposes to make a list of Jews

Q: And you had to go and register yourself

A: And it was said that whoever Jew does not register will be committing a crime, so I had to register myself and take out so called Jewish papers which were ..,..... by the Jewish council. And this means that the Jewish council has the least of all Jews, then came an order that the Jewish council should make a list of proper and then came the order that the Jewish council should make

1078 take 2 cont.

a list of the Jews who are very important for economical reasons, for the country, this means they can choose either those who are really very important or those whoby the Jewish council who had the money for it. And then it was said that the nation is fighting against Judo British Bureaucratism and Jdo and the Jews are not being into the army and this is no justice ~~was~~ so perhaps it would be good if the Jews would do something useful just as well why should they take advantages mortified for saving the civilisation of Europe against these two big enemies on east and west, the threat of Jewish in the east and the threat of Jewishin the west. Bureaucracy in the west. So they should do something as well you see they can't be trusted with arms but perhaps they could ~~work~~ ^{work} and if they can't fight perhaps they can help to build of the civilisation which after all they are discriminated but it is also/their own interests, so perhaps it would be good if ~~was~~ those Jews say in the age of 16 and 30 who could actually serve in the of civilisation against those uncivilised enemies in the east and the west er they can't be trusted with guns but they can be trusted perhaps by some useful ~~work~~ ^{work} and they are anyway an element where war is work er they should be also educated to work and they should be say sent to places where they would be given the opportunity to prove themselves as worthy of enjoying civilisation and the blessings of the civilisation by contributing these manual war and not with those Jewish drinks. And the Jewish council was given ~~was~~ order to make the list of those young Jews who are between the age of 16 and 30 and who are not absolutely necessary to be kept in Slovakia for economical reasons, who will be sent ~~was~~ to suitable places in Poland probably where they could contribute by the war in a ~~was~~ creative manner and hat has has been drawn by the Jewish councils and handed over and various peoples have been called up in a manner similar to be called up for duties army, this means that letters have been issued saying you should ~~was~~ come on such and such day and such and such hour to such and such place you can take with you 25 kilo you're not ~~was~~ supposed to take any gold or something like that because gold has to be given away to the state it is gold which has been acquired

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by Jewish tricks and not by honest work and therefore it belongs to the Slovak nation

1078 take 2 cont.

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say where it was distributed to those who this means the local facists leaders
And they should do so voluntarily and as long as they do so voluntarily naturally the
Slovak state will take protection of their families and protection from some
this means that the mothers or grandmothers or people like that will be given
protection for their work which they are doing for the nation outside in Poland and
er

Q: But you saw through that

A: Well it was clear to me that if they can take me away they can
tomorrow in other words if they can deport me, this was connected with a law which
said they are losing citizenship, this means er the law of loss of citizenship was
issued which also looks very you know, it is only an administrative measure but
loss of citizenship means that somebody can be deported anytime and the law of
loss of citizenship has been issued for Jews in general so they are not citizens=
anymore but just foreigners in the society on basis of Christian humanity.

Q: What made you see through that, what worried you about that

A: Well it sounds very plausible but er I didn't have any illusions
about the intentions of the Nazis.

R2 14 00

cut.....

Q: What I want you to tell me about is the realisation16 to 30 year olds.....

A: Well here with the realisation it was a very difficult thing, because here comes the ideainto it. This played er..very important rolemovement of Europe played a very important role in the mass extermination of the Jews. Indeed I believe it would have been a much more difficult task. It works approximately the following way. The Jews of Czechoslovakia, this Czechoslovakia being a liberal free state in the sense of Western liberalism as it exists now in the 70's have made...have made from the Jews citizens of a particular religion nothing else. But there was between the Jews a small group of fanatics of Jewish fanatics or who were called Jewish fanatics, who said that he are not Czechoslovaks, or we are not Germans, we are not French, we are Jews and we must as Jews go back to our country to Israel or to Pallestine and found our state, make a foundation for our State, so that it preserve the heritage and cultural heritagethat's people who are very funny for the mass of the Jews in Europe, because a German Jew said well, H.er... Jew was a gxxxi German poet and G.....was axgxxxi German poet and er... we have got good German school and we speak at home German and not Hebral. And those people who are telling us that we are not belonging to Europe or so we are living here for thousands of years or something like that, they're just out of their minds. Then came the Nuremberg law which was a law, ifwhich says that Jews do not belong to Europe but to Pallestine. And Jews being mainly middle class in Europe, I mean the mass, you had the extremes of both sides, but the mass was middle class, they sadly realised that the.....

INTERVIEW WITH DR. RUDOLF VRBA cont..

A: cont ...it may appearso they couldn't be so stupid. ..All.the.big lawyers of Germany say that Jews basically belong to Pallestine and the~~and the Sxxxx~~ are always saying that the Jews belong to Pallestone than it would be foolish of us to keep the S.....in despise after history has shown that they are right. So on one platform the Nazism and S.....had something in common, they both preached, the Jews don't belong to Europe but to Pallestine, and therefore Nazis said they are reasonable Jews they understand and they made the Jewish counsels from S..... who suddenly acquired perfect ability between Jewish masses, because what they were preaching became a law. In other words what is law is.....in other words one has to do what they say, and naturally the Germans said, you see the Jews may not trust us, but they will trust youbecause they have seen that they have always told naturally the truth...that you ~~is~~ belong to Pallestine, that you are a foreign element here . So because you are such reasonable people who understand the issue who understand that you are not Europeans, you're not Czechs, Germans, French, but that you are Jews you shall have their Jewish counsels, and the Jew said yes that's right they're clever people if you would have only listened to them, the history gave them R.....and so the Jewish Counsels were preferably selected from.....and because the.....became respectable many Jews who were respectable anyway became.....so they formed Jewish Counsels from45 but respectable members of society. Top lawyers, top business people, top economists, and that was the Jewish; counsel. Now they had to administer the affairs of the Jewish population, and the Jewish population has been explained ^{that} they were always their friends, they were always caring for their future,

A: cont .. In other words the Jewish population was inclined to see and hear the Facists that created something perfectly reasonable and they thought that it would be reasonable to heed advice of the.....Jewish Counsels which of course was the reasonableattitudes that were promised by the Germans or by the .Local Facist ~~gxxxxxxx~~government to be protected from any discrimination because they are needed administering of the Jewish affairs. So there was given the list of ^{deputation} A ...not ^{deputation} A a voluntary joining of the.....in the East. The living.....were not included, and their sons who were of military age were not sent away, because this would upset their family life which is so important for successful.....for the management of the Jewish affairs in general. so you had here already in force by money of big Jewish businessman who would be prepared to go along with a discrimination against the masses of the Jewish population because were neitherand in other words did not belong to the.... so there was already made a strict division.

Q: TOO FAINT..

A: I beg your pardon?

Q: TOO FAINT...

What I want to ask you then is um...when they started ^{to remove} /.....the young men they didn't.....it still sounds plausible what was it that aroused your suspicion about the...

A: Well the first time I ask myself who are those not Slovak scientists who are convincing me that I'm/a ~~Slovak~~, I have been speaking my Slovak language from/birth, and I have been in in Slovakia

INTERVIEW WITH DR RUDOLF VRBA cont..

A: cont ..educated as a Czechoslovakian.....
 child, so I didn't trust.... and in spite of the fact that the Nazis
 came then theafter the Nuremburg ^{loss} ~~loss~~. I considered them
 plain facists, and I considered them from the very start as
 dispicable creatures who deal with the facists and take profit out
 of it in order to be exempted from discrimination
 against the other. So I didn't trust the Nazis anymore or any less
 than to the JewishCounsels andthey realised that the
as the Nazis are approximately identical enemies of mine.
 Who have got both one thing in common, to get me out from home
 with 25 kilos to.....place and to leave my mother completely
 defenceless,Because I couldn't see any reason why they can't
 do with my mother or with my sister whatever they want if I were
 there, because if they do something to them if I was there I can
 lose my temper, I can do something about it which would make the
 things ^{more} ~~was~~ difficult and I knew that the others who didn't see my
 way would do the same, when it comes to sad things like security
butsaid Look the government has promised
 us to protect your families as long as you don't make any troubles
 and do your duty, so the population and mass believe
 who became respectable, in other words in the name of conformity
~~xixixix~~ this was sadly law and order - Nuremburg law and ideas...
 Jews belonged to Palestine their foreign element and on the West
 conditions we have to adapt ourselves , and/we can't deal with the
 Nazis(TAKING TOGETHER)
 You see the crucial point was boarding the train and this
 was a special

Reel 3

INTERVIEW WITH DR. RUDOLF WRDA

10'00

A: Well there comes a time when it was agreed that er
the young people the core of resistance is always 16 to
30 every soldier they are the best material for fighting
using their right hands you see I don't say that the leader
should be of that age you know but this is the best age for
we know that. It is one of the principles now this core
has been eliminated and it was pretty clear to me that the
core of potential resistanceSo er I was
flabbergasted by the by the fact that er thewho
pretended to be the protectors of the Jews the first thing
which they agreed to was to let go away a potential core
of resistance who could in the last resort protect the families.
This force if necessary. However, as they explained it
programmes would be organised if order wouldn't be wouldn't
be observed and er so when I didn't obey that order er the
Jewish councils which were now called Jewish Councils and
had a.....core er would undertake everything in order
to stretch me down which means that I couldn't trust them
as far as I wanted to escape the deportation to 3 organisation
and I had to turn to such organisations which
definitely had got nothing to do with the middle class
.....c roles or with the Nazis like for instance
Communists and er I tried er to make contact with this
part of population which was definitely/anti-Nazi social
democrats and so on you know but in other words I think
units which were ne ther fascist nor.....but either
Communist or loyal to the Czechoslovak government and their
laws. But this was made difficult by the number of circumstances

SLATE 1080 TAKE 1

INTERVIEW WITH DR. RUDOLF VRBA

A: (CONTD.) er like for instance that the Jewish councils mean high provided the German authorities with my photograph with my description etc. etc. and finally I landed up where others landed up in the same train except that er I had been a bit damaged on the face and other parts of the body until they get me there in and er that was all so in other words we were put into a sort oftransit camp and because in the transit camps there was again quite er strong force of young people or of peopleresistance this camp was divided again into parts and one part was promised that they will work on the spot and stay in Slovakia whereas the other part goes into the unknown destination and because I have been of course a naughty boy who tried to avoid his duty against both the state and the Zionist nation and and the Jewish nation and by my lack of discipline instead of obeying er doing what others do I tried to cross the border towards Hungary into Yugoslavia and er really became ashamed of the Jews by my lack of discipline and understanding well of course I haven't been selected for the better in Slovakia but it was decided that it would be better for me if I go to the place where discipline will be taught to me and because it was known that I'm a bit lacking discipline so the train was one day drawn up to er to this transit camp and er I could see that er meanwhile the situation has changed.

INTERVIEW WITH DR. RUDOLF VRBA

A: (CONTD) due to my avoidance of the law 3 months past and I wasn't deported with the young people because they had to hunt me ~~xxx~~ up and down the country and by that time the young people are all gone and I saw that I am boarding a train with thousands of women, children and old people . When there was necessary only 2 or 3 guards for such a train because old people watched the children and the children watched their parents and the whole bunch kept together you know just inone from another . So there was not much trouble with telling them to go on the train because they you know and er so the only things they had to do was to put two soldiers with machine with tommy guns by me and I shouldn't do some special trouble on this occasion and in quiet and peace the train was boarded you know if it was a bit slow here and there somebody got hit in front of the children so everybody tried to be disciplined because it upsets the children this lack of discipline and I'd be standing between two guys with tommy guns who said "Well mate you see the thing is so that if you move you are a dead duck so you better do it and we are going to travel with you and we won't move from your seat one yard and er we do hope that we will not have to usearms in case you would try to stir up the peaceful population who understands discipline" Well so I kept discipline and travelled

R3
16 30"

Real 4

Q: Now what was that journey like

SLATE 1030 TAKE 1

Reel 4

INTERVIEW WITH DR. RUDOLF VRBA

A: Well you see er what surprised me first was that they started to board the train you see and then they boarded more people into the waggon and then they boarded again more people into the waggon and again more people into the waggon until the waggon was sort of say bunged up with people children, packages, parcels, men, women and children and er undisciplined gangster like me with er taking up special space at the expense of the others you see because they had to make a bit of space for me more or less because those two chaps didn't want to be inconvenienced with those Tommy guns either you know and er on the whole it was er rather er I wouldn't say that it was like first class train so er then there were no not very much sanitation conditions and on the way the train picked up still some people you know which on various stations you know and then old ladies were hoisted into the waggon er I remembr very dignified old lady full of those er old fashioned er ornamentations on you know those white you know Elizabethan type lady she was about 60 and they had to hoist her into the train and she was very embarrassed because there was only one bucket for everybody and you know those physiological things don't stop to function at the at such occasions you know and they were very I think the old lady was very embarrassed because of that you see because she was not accustomed to this sort of thing but she took it with rather dignity and the train rolled

on and it reached the Slovak border under a guard of er Slovak fascists which were in black uniform and this was in

INTERVIEW WITH DR. RUDOLF VRBA (CONTD.)

A: (Contd) border between Slovakia and Poland.

And then the Slovak ~~government~~ guards went down and I saw detachments of SS . And they boarded the train and the Slovak guards went back. Well that's it, that was approximately the train journey

Q: However, later on when you went on from that then am I not right in thinking that you were trying to work out where they were going so they didn't really know by this time and people started to compare letters that they'd had from relatives

A: Well you see, many had already been deported you see and they have got letters which were I may use a simplification written on gun point from deported people to the people who have not yet been deported in which they were informing them that the government have kept their promise and so on and because er much of the young people has already been deported the older people had been promised to be sort of say in the name of Christianity to be unified with their families . It was very funny you see because sometimes if I may call it funny I don't know it was a touch of German/Nazi humour I am not anti German I am just not a Nazi er a touch of Nazi humour er that for instance many

SLATE 1030 TAKE 1

INTERVIEW WITH DR. RUDOLF VRBA (CONTD.)

A: in the gas chambers was transported thousands of people from Bohemia and when they were gassed in pocket of each of them was a ticket in which the German authorities promised them that on their arrival everything will be done that they should join the members of their family, which were gassed in the same gas chambers a year ago. So that the promise was kept. Well there was a sort of apprehension

CUT

R 4 4 30"

INTERVIEW WITH DR. RUDOLF VRBA (CONTD.)

Q: Now the train was a very important part of the whole procedure because the first hour it was only or the first six hours or the first 12 hours it was er that there was a discussion going on where we are actually going and what for and how will it be and er very many people were worried about various things like for instance it was forbidden to have gold on punishment to smuggle out gold. Now somebody came to me and er started to ask me quiet voice well it seems that I'm a bit more experienced what he should do with his golden ring which he managed to smuggle through. Another one said asked me what to do with 20 cigarettes which he smuggles through because it was forbidden to smoke to take cigarettes and one said well it was not forbidden but I had got on me french letters and I don't know if this is not the British law it is not gold it is not cigarettes but it was not particular permitted you see . Now this went on for about 12 hours or so but after 24 hours in the train and I took notice that the train is going on very slowly and making long stops and I couldn't make out the route, the route didn't make to me any logic . It was a winded route with long stops and unfortunately the train stopped when it stopped a very far from any source of water so that about after 24 hours there was not one drop of water. Now the children started to be thirsty now people had to er sort of say perform

INTERVIEW WITH DR. RUDOLF VRBA (CONTD.)

A: (CONTD.) In the normal physiological functions likeand things like that. Now the whole waggon became suddenly a mass there was a fight for the one and only bucket which was not allowed to be emptied er the parents were bound suddenly obsessed by ~~thax~~ quieten down the children just through the journey just through the journey shouldn't the journey the children/suffer too much. The old people shouldn't suffer too much and people suddenly stopped to be preoccupied either with the past or with the future but with surviving the journey . Now the thirst became over-riding because food was allowed to be taken with. So the people first are hungry so they're eating and then they were thirsty and there was no water and there was no water for the children and there was a terrific desperations suddenly for water . Now you can imagine a waggon with about 60 or 70 people pressed in on top of their luggage er after two days those people were obsessed with one idea 'Water' Nobody thought anything about the past and nobody thought anything about the future . Here suddenly you had a 'Hell on Wheels' and no Slovak guards but some funny people in German SS Uniform . And if you put out the hand from the window it was shot off sort of thing everybody it was pretty clear. The slightest resistance where it ocured was without discussion as were the shots , in other words I explained constantly to the people you are not going to be shot but we have

SLATE 1031 TAKE 1

26.

INTERVIEW WITH DR. RUDOLF VIŠA (CONTD.)

A: (CONTD.) to keep discipline its not our fault that the train is stopping outside of the station and we can'tso be patient if you can't be patient be good, if you can't be good we hit you over the head. So slowly you get a de-humanisation inside the waggon starts a fight, a fight for access to the, to the bucket inevitable bucket. The attempts to empty the bucket through some windows which were anyway closed with iron bars which led to soiling of somebody's luggage which led to quarrels about their future or mutualaccusations or mutual accusations of being inconsiderate to children or being inconsiderate to old people. Because those who are with children old people canfor the old people and there was a question of moral issue who had got the preference an 80 year old lady or a 1 year old child and everybody believed that if the 80 year old lady was his mother she has got the first right somebody who had a one year old he thought he had the first right. The whole thing started to lose any semblance of any civilisation after a very short time because there was a pressure of suffering of very small children of old people of iron lack of sanitation of iron torture by thirst and the people slowly turned into some you know into something considerably different to what they have been at home. After 2 or 3 days in such a train

SLATED 1031 TAKE 1

INTERVIEW WITH BR. RUDOLF VRBA (CONTD.)

A: (CONTD.) and I have seen train arriving in Auschwitz after 11 days journeyemptying waggons where 30 per cent of people were dead and they were probably dead for 4 or 5 days in the trainsomething like that. So you can imagine the that there were great variations but the basic principle was one and the same thing . To break the people during the journey in an anonymous way so as to pretend that the people are exposed to the torture unintentionally the SS was there only to keep order it is not their fault, that there is no water it is not their fault that there or if the train stops it stops for 16 hours outside a station or it is not their permission to go and to fetch the bucket because they are ordered to stay on the train, they are not wanting to be violent as nobody does something like putting out the hand from the window or trying to do something undisciplined so all simply they didn't open the doors occasionally at all and pretended not to see us or something like that you see, so the doors were locked but inside the hell went loose so very soon came a point when all those people inside were driven near to insanity because it is not like when you mis-maltreat a group of men there were children, there were old people and men in between you see and the overriding need for water so that finally when the strain stopped and it was announced that this is the last stop, well it was not even

announced actually. Suddenly the doors were opened I have

INTERVIEW WITH DR. RUDOLF VRBA (CONTD.)

A: (CONTD.) made the journeyI was going to my.....but I couldn't make out anything of it because from my knowledge of geography I could see that the train goes some ways in the direction of Auschwitz then it was turned somewhere to the direction of East then I suddenly saw through the windows that I am passing the station ofwhich was again West. In other words the train was being shovelled around . And when there was no free passage obviously so it looked because military trains were passing by and so on the train was simply shovelled out of some bline line and kept there 15 hours 16 hours 8 hours 20 minutes you never knew how long, but it was definitely kept out of reach of water and sometimes in reach of water, but there was nobody to fetch the water because it was close so that you could see say water flowing in big streams into a locomotive of some transport which was passing by in quite in the distance and er no water in the wagon

Q: I mean still with all that what happens is that people start to fight each other they tend to the evidence and say this is terrible.....

INTERVIEW WITH DR. RUDOLF VRBA (CONTD.)

A: No, no they fight with each other because they think well we are going to be re-settled this is an unfortunately badly organised journey the organisers of this journey were obviously stupid and they don't understand that problems of such a journey that was their reaction because they wouldn't think that somebody would invent to torture children with thirst. In other words they considered it a special case of mis-management. Thousand and thousand trains were believed made to they didn't know that ^{it happens in 1,000's}trains. Each of the victims saw only one train and that was the last he saw in his life usually.

Q: Tell me, when you first saw your first concentration campwhat struck you about that first people that you saw people that you knew in that place you suddenly saw people who had been there for some time what struck you about that.

A: Well you see before we came to the train suddenly stopped as it stopped many times and this time something happened somebody opened the doors and there were machine guns in front of us and er somebody said 'old man between 16 and 45 (TALKING TOGETHER).....will be shot on the spot, so now some women tried to join their husbands or something like that. But this wasthe shots or.....sowere broken er hands were broken some child was killed, things like that were happening

SLATE 1031 TAKE 1

INTERVIEW WITH DR. RUDOLF VRBA (CONTD)

A: (CONTD.) but it was always said that this is not
our principle we are doing it only because you are making
us er life difficult you see we have got orders that
the men should go out so if you

R 4 15' 15"

Reel 5

Q: (NOT CLEAR)

A: Well you see the thing is as follows now I will speak not about my personal experiences as far as my journey is concerned but about my later experience when I have seen hundreds ofcoming and I have been sort of say the reception committeethat I have to clear up the mess, and I had been present during the selections and so on so we can jump over about my particular trade which has soeverybody else perhaps, perhaps I didn't see the whole trick of it but that particularI was in everybody thought that this journey was just organised by some particular idiot now later when I have been on this sort of reception committee this means I was in the squad of the prisoners who create up the mess er which remained when the people wereand it had to be spot clean because the transport was sometimes coming in one or two hour intervals and the new coming transport was always coming was spot clean without any trace of transport was coming for two years to Auschwitz sometimes five a day sometimes two a day sometimes one a day sometimes a day without transport sometimes 16 a day and every transport contains 3,000 people or 2-3,000 people . So you could see the process of this voyage of which er1,000 to 20,000 people and I realised of course quite clearly by being on this job for a

A: (CONTD.) considerable amount of time
but this was systematical. But you see suddenly this journey
lasts say 5 days but there were journies which lasted 3 days
and there were journies which lasted 12 days I would say .
Er there might be aggrevating circumstances like for instance
frost in Europe the frost can be pretty tough and I think that
the transport was geared to the type of population which was
being transported. For instance these Dutch people they they
were very highly civilised, / ^{any} deviation from normal bourgeois
standards was incredible to them, whereas people from the
aristoc who went through the last 20 30 years through all sorts
of revolutions in region of Bolshevik in regions of.....
gangs and regions ofin regions of
..... They were prepared for all sorts of things
and they were proper people who.....
twelve days so that, but mainly thex first thing was the
following . The people inside the train who are cut off
from civilisation and exposed to utter degradation in front either
of their parents or their children or in front of their wives
or in front of their husbands . Now this means that the normal
emotional barrier between people which are based on certain
things I will be quite explicit you see I've got a relationship
say with a woman now however much you like this woman it is not
.....also you know that something like
that might happen that she isbut you don't she
doesn't do it and if she starts doing it the emotional attachment
you know that's how the human are being made we don't want to know

A: (CONTD.) about certain things which are quite obvious and you have got in this train in such a wagon a woman who are having menstruation and er you have got er children who are having the diarrhoea and you have got even women who are having diarrhoea and you are having the overwhelming and you are exposed to an utter incredible degradation and in order to decrease the degradation the people are fighting for something between themselves because they are suddenly the whole world is limited by the space of the waggon and then you see people you arecivilised guard of Europe not somewhere in far Siberia or in Asia you see and you can't understand why people who you considered civilised er and who are going around with water in quite near of your train don't hand you a glass of water when children are begging them and you don't know that many have been already shot and they want to live as well. So the feeling of those people inside is an utter degradation not only in front of themselves but a complete rejection from the outer world which they don't understand because they don't know that before they have transport some other transport went and somebody tried to hand in the water and his family with his wife and children was mowed down by the Germans. By the Nazis I beg your pardon. So er those unexperienced people who do not understand these tricks arrived at a point at the point finally in a state of mind which has got nothing to do ~~with~~ with the state of mind which is er believed to be characteristic for civilisation. In other words er systematic process of dehumanisation which is connected with a loss of freewheel and free thinking complete domination by either from the mental physiological needs or

A: (CONT'D.) incredible emotional stress in relationship
human relationship I mentioned before deprives them of any any any
anything to think but that that journey will end and the error
will be clarified . The mistake.....it is beyond their
comprehensions that somebody has thought this out worked this
outthey think it is a mistake that it happened
only in this particular waggon this particular transport but
that they don't understand that it is a part of the system
well thenand suddenly the waggon out
and now everything has to go quick because all who once they
are concentrated and they are being received by
~~like~~ perfectly civilised officers ~~with~~ with wide.....who'd either
speak to them madam and please and do this and do that now from
don't speak it is forbidden to speak well who doesn't speak
doesn't speak who opens his mouth gets clubbed down in front of
the children, the children start crying the rest stop speaking
the potential resistance is immediately without communication
there is no resistance. And you can see that the..chaps.....
are basically ~~xxxxxx~~ civilised they are normal officers
you know and er very clean and spotless and very polite as long
as you don't provoke them by not obeying the order

Q: Can I ask you a very direct question. You and
people like you if you were prisoners you knew what was going
to happen so what would have happened if you had warned them
.....

A: Because it was incredible for them to take
don't forget that by the time we were prisoners we didn't look
like people whom they knew for them we were people dressed in
criminals uniform er with shaven heads unwashed not er smelling
at all spice I should say and absolutely frightening to them
whereas the others looked civilised to them looked like what
they were accustomed to . Who we are they didn't know
they probably thought the first idea was when they saw the
prisoner who are being takenin order/clear up the
mess to do the menial jobs connected with ^{To}.....the extermination process
Well obviously for such a job all the criminals can be used.
For they would trust to a nice German officer who was speaking
his civilised language and not to some gangsters like these
and er so if somebody when they have said look you are going
to be gassed or something the idea ^{for a} ~~where~~ mother being told
by a gangster after this terrible journey that her children
are going to be gassed was a utter outrageous idea in her
mind because after all what she suffer here comes the gangster
who wants to increase her suffering so she was tempted to go
immediately to next neat officer and say that this man says
sir that my children are going to be gassed. He says Madam
do you think we are barbarians

1083 TAKE 1

RS 10' 50"

Q: (NOT CLEAR)

A: There was a certain leeway but certain things were standardly and routinely made so for instance when we were in Auschwitz when the transport arrived in the town which was called M.....which was about 30 miles from the arrival place the full truck which was the last ~~place~~ station nearthere came already a telegram and this meant immobilisation and certain things were done in a perfectly standard way . First came a detachment ofwith tommy guns which surrounded theso that the train when when the train stopped the train was automatically surrounded by cordons of tommy guns ss and they has nothing to do there except watch out, nobody goes out from this cordon . It was pretty Secondly the cordon was already standing imagine a naked empty place with railways in the middle of the cordon first that cordon was standing there no others was ever allowed inside it, to.....^{wear} a tommy gun or a gun on the shoulder the guns or tommy guns were by order and regulations always worn in the hand loaded it was forbidden to shout hold it was forbidden to give any warning. Any step which was against regulation and the people who came in there

A: (CONTD.) not told what the regulations are but who didn't understand the regulations was shot on the spot .

Now, then came the prisoner detachment who was supposed that was acommand which was er the Germans had always er euphemism and the euphemism was ourwhich was clearing up command and this was er detachment in which I had been to which I had been shall we say put er and stayed there about a month .

When we were was it day or was it night brought to the ~~frank~~ truck sometimes at 2.0'clock afternoon sometimes, 2.0'clock morning sometimes, 5 o'clock morning, sometimes 11 o'clock in the evening.

It seems that the..... around Auschwitz now the train if necessary was halted somewhere in front of the cordon if everything was not ready for the nearest station and it was just another stop for the people in the train they didn't know that the last stop is now coming. And when everything was ready and the prisoners of thecommandocommando were standing in attention 200 - 100 - 300 according to what sort of transport and how many were expected that day . And they were er you know ^{standing}in a military formation sort of prisoner formation when then comes a commission of ~~xxxxxx~~^{SS} this was SS officers and then they there came the non-commissioned officers .

The normal SS they were standing the cordon around and had no other function but to prevent anybody to get out of the cordons through the cordon couldn't get them out . Now the train stopped, the people in the train couldn't see a station or nothing now the snag was that all waggons were opened simultaneously when the train stopped that each waggon was standing inwho had the keys to the locks the waggons were locked . Now they opened

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word. It is not the primary source, and it has not been checked for spelling or accuracy.

A: (CONTD.) with the key of the lock and now the prisoners were ordered to shove open the door those were heavy. Now the prisoners knew that they are supposed to open the doors and back into their columns not to get in touch with the people who came back. Any contact with the prisoners and their rifles might talkor anything of that sort was punished by death full stop. And because this was done frequently the prisonersvery much . You understand me the SS was standing was standing at the entrance at each entrance of the waggon . The two prisoners jumped to the waggon they were.....every times which one to first which one to second which one to third the whole job was to open the door and jump away if they didn't they could be killed on the spot . There was no opportunity for the prisoner under normal conditions to speak

Q: Did prisoners ever

Page 16-30
Reel 6

A: This this was very difficult I'm telling you the process , the process was the order was that prisoners stand aside they do the job of opening the door without opening their mouths and once the door is opened they run back to their formation no walking was allowed, anybody who will walk from the prisoners would be clubbed to death or shot. The order was that only runningbeing kept. Which means they had to run to the waggons open the door run back any hesitation around the waggons at that moment was answered by shots or hit with clubs which were.....^{deadly}There are no jokes at that moment.

A: (CONTD. Now, to the SS men which opened the door came another SS man there were two SS men on the two sides of the door . And they never had clubs in their hands never, they had only pistols which was a normal sign of the uniform or and they wore~~xxxxxxx~~ walking sticks, you know like gentlemen but of the more.....kind . So that the arrivals the first they saw was an SS man who was reallygentleman perfectly dressed white gloves on top everthing his walking stick and now it depended on how the SS men decided to handle the matter from this moment on . The most usual thing was the following : these people have seen many stops on their journey and they don't know that this stop is Now the first thing was that the SS men shoutedeverybody understood that.....means now some people start to get up and try to go up that moment SS men would jump with this walking stick which he has only for walking but he'sby this slow movement and hit one or two club them down on the spot which made the rest move quick, in order to get it quicker he starts hitting and shouting other people with children and so on so they see that the SS man obviouslyhe obviously doesn't know whata proper soldier . Obviously someand obvious it is mistake again, this can't happen in civilised countries . So they think the best would be to avoid any dis.....at this time its obvious its the end of the journey now we are coming to the settlement area

A: (CONTD.) here is nowat this waggon.....
Now there comes the people try to take the luggageyou see
so anybody who tries it gets hitthere was
another thing the sun was shining a beautiful afternoon the SS was
in good mood they opened the door they would come there and say
ladies and gentlemen we are very sorry for any inconveniences
which might have been caused by some misunderstanding on this
journey if happens sometimes that they are not very well organised
would you please kindly get out and avoid this squad of criminals
which is which you can see there but don't bother about your luggage
the cars are prepared here the lorries are standing there but we
are using those criminals in order to save you from the bother of
having to carry your luggage we do hope that you have got all
marked the remains of the luggage we keep these criminals in
discipline so that you don't need to worry about your property
just leave everything

CUT

1084 take 1

Q: You were describing the gentle technique we would like/^{you}to finish
that discription

A: Well you see the objective of their assessment was as follows,
the people have to get as soon as possible into the gas chamber, the healthy men
who are needed for work for until they die this means that you can work for three
months under the conditions which are prepared for them have to be selected out so
the healthy women, but not women with children, automatically sent to gas chamber
a woman with a child under any condition because she may cause trouble when the
child is taken away but this means a ~~woman with~~ ^{woman with} a child was automatically going
into the gas chamber also sometimes if we managed the prisoner to snatch away
the child from the woman's hand like also we were forbidden to speak to them by
running around and I will say immediately how it was done often it was possible
by some of them

cut.....

1084 take 2

Q: Can I ask you to describe again the

A: Well the gentle technique was a brutal technique had one objective
it was not a question of gentle technique or brutal technique it was a question that
the w people who arrive had to arrive in to the gas chamber as soon as possible and
result of which the healthy man or the healthy woman should be selected quickly out
those who were deemed fit to survive ~~the~~ two, three four months of their working
conditions which were prepared for them, in other words sufficient physical condition.
It depended also on their momentarily demand for working er force sometimes there was
no demand and there was no selection sometimes there was a bad demand and urgent

demand and there was bigger selection and sometimes they just selected 100 people and they said stop don't select anymore we have got what we need the rest can go. Now the gentle technique or the brutal technique depended on conditions, as conditions were that followed, the SS knew many transport are coming, now when there was only one transport all the time it was much more interesting than sitting in the barracks er when they were in servicings there was no free so they might grant you the gentle technique Ladies and gentlemen we are so sorry for the inconvenience which was caused by some idiot who organised this journey we had already won a case like this, we are awfully sorry, look just at this mess how do they treat people would you please get out and please don't get in touch with those criminals they are here only for taking for luggage and if you have got unmarked luggage and you are afraid that you might - it might get lost just take it with you but which you have got names on it your labels on your luggage and so on just don't worry we are keeping a good eye that none of those criminals can take anything away and our German honesty about which I hope you have got no doubt er is a guarantee that all your property will be given to you now the whole thing is to make the whole procedure - please don't make us any troubles so that we can give you water and er and allow you the basic sanitary conditions to be restored after this dismal g journey looking around at excrements and urine and blood around the wagon and er pretending that they don't realise quite/what sort of human understanding and there's a lot of humour you know and the prisoners come out and so on, there was a brutal technique when five transports were announced there was no time it had to go quick, quick, quick, = one after the other because as the next transport came so then there was other technique you see the doors were open the two SS men stand there and the sticks started to rain you know the walking sticks rouse, rouse, you know if somebody tried to pick up his luggage they just broke his hand on the spot it was smash you know the next fellow had realised that he is not expected to carry anything then some woman tried to take some bundle for the child you know so he hits the child and the next woman knew that it is not done to take anything and so on and who remained laying, remained laying you know, but this didn't matter er so the whole procedure of getting the people out in such a case in the brutal treatment was very quick.

and the brutal treatment was when they either expected a lot of transports - they expected a lot of transports because I never knew how many but from the beginning I could judge what is in the front you see, I knew that they are informed that there's transports today. Another time when it was raining and they want to get out from the rain so usually during the rain there was no gentle treatment because of raining and er so they wanted to get over it.

Q: . . . Okay they can get them out of the train - but you can't get that many people gassed

A: Oh yes you can you can - you can.

Q: How

A: Now you see the ~~British~~ precision was very simple the people got out the luggage stays there, those during the non gentle treatment got hit, they are just ~~staying~~ staying with the luggage either dying, either dead, either with just a broken leg or whatever you see, they who don't move on they just left there, now the people are being put into by five you see and they are ~~standing~~ standing lorries already, the lorries are prepared and there are about 15 to 20 lorries and the people are being lined up and they are marching in front of the commission and there is a chap with a walking stick which is turned over, he's a doctor, he has got a medical qualification and with this walking stick turned over you know, this walking stick such a thing if there is a big rush he just lets pass by those people who are told to march and takes his walking stick to the chap who seems to be a suitable by the neck or the woman by the neck and throws him out with a slick movement and you know and you know ... clear what he wants he hits him once on the back and they are already there, this man who sort them out, man here woman here, you see and there are the lorries you know and from those lorries are another two SS men and they march off to the lorries and there are steps to the lorries you know like when you go to a you know this sort of thing

which is mobile and they are driven into the lorry, you know the lorry is full it is closed. And moves away and the crematorium is approximately thousand five hundred yards away go through the big gate and er according again to what is the hurry or what is not the hurry and what is the state of the passengers, the passengers are really in a state and you can't prod them all with sticks or shouting, well it is a lorry which can be kept over you see, it's opened the driver makes it going, you know, it lifts people fall down, if they hold on you know then there is another couple of ~~xxxxxx~~ SS men again with walking sticks they are excited that somebody's not giving the discipline they break a couple of hands you know which hold on and then the chaps from er er from the gassing command no those who can go are driven on with sticks, those who can't go the commander collects - the members of command collect, bring them in guard robe everybody's ordered to dress out quick, quick, quick, shower, you are lousy you must, you can't you can't x you can't spread pest here you must get through the shower let's make it quick once you are over the shower you get water, water is not given, once you are over the shower make quick, once you are over the shower you get water, you get food and so on, now after this journey, you are lousy you are standing in sanitary conditions which can cause disease and so on so understandingly you haven't got any much time and again gentle treatment or not gentle treatment, gentle treatment is Ladies and gentlemen please make it quick because we would love to get you coffee and so on but this shower is absolutely necessary.

Q: Can I ask you a naive question because I'm running out film, for two years you watched this going on certainly for 10 months why, as a humanbeing did you never protest

A: What do you mean by protesting

Q: Try to stop it that's better

A:

Well the slightest move I knew I would make at this moment was

to get ~~w~~ hit over the head if I am lucky with a club, any speech from my side was forbidden ~~and~~ but I could only be with my number written down and when everything was over I was the person who called out and slowly clubbed to death.

cut.....

1085 take 1

Q: What I'd like you to explain is why you couldn't intervene yourself for what in fact in the long term your form of resistance was - I mean to go on to ~~xx explain~~ getting out and stopping and warning people at source before they ever got on to that train

cut.....

1085 take 2

A: Well you see the problem of warning the people there was the first thing that you had been forbidden to speak with them and who violated this order had been not necessarily immediately clubbed down because such a gangster face like they looked er couldn't speak well to divide and demoralise people who were physically and emotionally exhausted by the time of their arrival and were usually they use brutal treatment was a treatment, my treatment was sort of leisurely joke but for it, but there was rarely time for it, you see so I would say that the brutal treatment was more efficient one also the fine treatment was just as good. Now naturally during the fine treatment we prisoners were out of any questions of being trusted by those arrivals because they could see the gangsters, their gangster uniforms and gangster faces er and an elegant gentleman in you know real German honourable soldier so it was obvious who they are going to believe. Now during the brutal treatment of course they would realise that there is something wrong but at that time the Germans were extremely careful that there shouldn't be any contact between us and them, this means when the load was on those lorries as I described you what remained on the wagoons around the wagons er was the people who were hit during the brutal treatment to incapacity and now started our war, the first was the next lorries came, as the lorries were loaded they were sent right up to the gas chamber and the unloading and pressing into the gas chamber meant approximately the same thing, spelling or accuracy.

that blows with sticks occasional pistol shots, occasional killing, occasional breaking of leg inducement by let's get through it, you will get water and soon on all this mixed together the mass was pressed into the gas chamber and ~~many~~ when it was full a couple of shots were fired some children were standing out, they were just thrown on top of the head of the filled up gas chamber, full of naked people you know and a couple of shots were fired as people/pressed in from fright another bunch was driven in with sticks you know and the thing was closed the gas chamber and they said well now we have time you see the gassing didn't start immediately once they were in then they gave the signal to the gassing master which was not necessarily then, they had coffee, they said well when you finished the coffee would you be so kind ~~to~~ and the because they're loaded in you see, this would last five minutes, three hours, depends what their mood was and now there were remaining at the receiving end of the ramp where the train came those people who could move ~~xxxx~~ dead, wounded, ill, a mother half dead some/with a broken leg with a child, and other who's child was hid and she was quite healthy er and now the commander the prisoners the first job was get away those people, grab those people, drag them to the lorries and load them on the lorries, put them away. Now this was a moment when they didn't care to with those people or not because well those were powerless people you know they were people who were so what I tell them that they're going to die so what they can't they're no trouble you see and er anyway they're out and the goes mostly you see so this means that when we wanted to take a woman put in to the blanket you see and carry her far to the lorry well the two chaps would come and club down two prisoners and er tell her - grab her by the legs and drag her to the lorry and you see and that was it was a favourite word of the SS. So when they were in bad mood you know, they just made it clear that no blankets are necessary and dragged the woman by the legs ^{till} ~~to~~ they get to the lorry and in running if she is dead by the time so what, okay she is not dead okay up with her. So it was perfectly clear to me that there is no possibility of organising any ~~xxxx~~ resistance on that spot and by the time, when the people

come to the camp it is all too late the resistance has to become before they enter the wagons, not after the wagons are So as far as my judgment was considered it was to explain no train is being despatched accidentally in an unfortunate way that this is and er that's how things are and in other words to say that any mother who goes in with the children in this train is absolutely convicting her children to a gas death ~~at~~ ^{at} the other end and there is no natural mother who would enter the train and result or result taking out the kitchen knife when it comes to the two children you know this is biological principle that's how mothers are and as far as a man is concerned they probably most of them feel the same biological principles, biological bonds between people are when it comes to small children very strong er even a bit because they are very strong, but that's been built in the nature, so for instance I see in British Columbia now you see even you approach you see you are in danger if the is alone you know you just walk away and he goes away. So well it was clear to me that the only possible resistance is to explain to the people who are marked or ear marked for being deported in six months time, what is expecting them to create panic within the people the panic can't be anything wrong in view of what is expected of them on the other hand in which case all of them will do what they can, this means the imagination of each individual will come, well they were in, they were ~~abandoned~~ abandoned by the Nazi government obviously, they are by the local ~~authorities~~ government obviously, they were abandoned by the prisoners from the ^{Zionist circles} Obviously, they were abandoned by the collaborators of the Zionist which are er at that time speaking equal to the collaborators with the Nazis they were abandoned, they were abandoned by their neighbours obviously because they were wearing the stars and so on so there was nothing left to them but their own resources and their own resources were still considerable because if everybody has to be driven into the train in his home town and if dead children are laying around the streets it would upset the population, this would upset the population in other words when the population, when the children are dead on the spot at their home towns in front of the neighbours it would bother the Christian neighbours you see because this

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word. It is not the primary source, and it has not been checked for spelling or accuracy: would suddenly be something different from from from eliminating er the tricky

Jewish businessman er when everybody knows that the chap in our neighbourhood has never had a business but was most of his time say unemployed you see or something like that or even if he had a business he was quite helpful in our business when it came to business dealings with the neighbours you know

Q: Can I ask you just to go back for one moment in fact the SS and the ... and so on what sort of men were these

A: No I wouldn't think that they were sadists because if you have got such a crowd like that of course you find sadism but you can't speak sadist in such great quantities they were faced with a task you see, they were mostly people as I learned later er mainly after the war when the thing was studied who belonged er to less strong people in conditions of hard competition, for instance the man of profession like teachers, or craftsmen who were during unemployment, unemployed, during the crisis, in other words, during the years of service and so on they either were already down or they slipped down in under conditions of increased competitiveness or they were understood during the Auschwitz trials which were 15 years after the war for administrative reasons nobody does administration work less quickly than most of them were never criminally punished neither before the war nor after the war.

cut.....