

Janine Webber, born L'viv, now Ukraine 1932:

There were people dying, there were corpses around. It was terrible. And occasionally they would come and gather people, gather the corpses, and then they were looking for people who were ill and just throwing them on top of the corpses.

Discuss:

1. Where did Janine experience these conditions?
2. Why did the Nazis set up ghettos across occupied Europe?

Connecting Questions:

1. Why are ghettos considered a Holocaust site?
2. What can ghettos tell us about the Holocaust and how it developed?

Steven Frank: 39 hours in a cattle truck. No sleep. No water. No food. And I can remember the stench that built up in this cattle truck. If you can imagine a mixture of vomit, of human sweat, of faeces, of urine, all muddled in together. And then, suddenly it was dark, the train stopped, and I can remember hearing this great big 'room, room' as this cattle truck door was slid open. And I can remember so clearly this waft of ice-cold air that came into the cattle truck....

Discuss:

1. What can this extract tell us about the conditions of deportations?

Connecting Question:

1. Why did the Nazis use freight wagons (sometimes known as cattle trucks) for deportations?
2. Does this method of deportation challenge or fit with what you know about antisemitism?

Mala Tribich: We had to undress, our heads were shaved, we went through cold, communal showers, and when we came out at the other end, they gave us a concentration camp, sort of, garb, the striped jackets and skirts. And when we looked at one another, we really could not recognise each other. I can't begin to describe what the effect was on us. We just all looked exactly the same, and it was like we had been stripped of our personality. We were just numbers. It was as if they had taken our very soul.

Discuss:

1. How does Mala describe the arrival process of Ravensbrück concentration camp?

Connecting Questions:

1. What was the impact of the prisoner uniforms on Mala?
2. What can this tell us about the Nazis' treatment of Jewish people?

Manfred Goldberg's Journey: It is very difficult to give people an understanding, or even an insight, into what a powerful impact hunger makes on one's mind. There comes a point when you're unable to think about anything at all except, how can I get hold of a bit of food to keep my stomach from paining me? It becomes all-encompassing.... some people turned into, quite literally, I'm not exaggerating when I say, living skeletons. There was quite literally nothing to the person except bone and skin. There was nothing to them. They didn't have the strength to stand on their legs any longer.

Discuss:

1. How does Manfred describe the impact of hunger?

Connecting Questions:

1. How did hunger and starvation fit with the Nazis' treatment of Jewish people?
2. How does the effect of this impact the struggle to survive?

Janine Webber: There was six planks and chairs and a bulb hanging from the ceiling and the bucket. We had to take it in turns, either to lie on the plank or sit on the chair. There was no room for walking. It's very hard living underground and I remember just wearing my underwear. There was very little food. My auntie would go out at night, the following day she would buy some food and come back the following night and I remember eating slices of dry bread with chopped up raw onions and I thought it was delicious. I stayed in that hole for a year.

Discuss:

1. Why did Janine have to be hidden?
2. What risks did her auntie face by going out at night?

Connecting Questions:

1. Janine being offered a hiding place was an act of rescue. What challenges or obstacles were there to acts of resistance and rescue?
2. Does this suggest anything about the different roles people played in the Holocaust?