

Testimony from Kalman Teigman, a survivor of the Warsaw ghetto and Treblinka

Q: You arrived at the platform. What happened to you at the platform?

A: As I have already said, they opened the freight cars and shouted at us to come out and take with us our personal belongings and parcels. A large number of people were killed on this platform or inside these freight cars, such as those who fainted or those who were not quick enough. On the double, at lightning speed, they made us run towards the courtyard in which those two huts stood. Next to the gate, men were standing, men of the SS and Ukrainians, and here, right away, the sorting began. They shouted to the women to go to the left, and to the men to go to the right. I did not want to part from my mother so soon. Precisely at the gate, I received a blow on my head from something, I think it was from a stick, and I fell down. I got up immediately, for I didn't want to receive another blow, and by then, my mother was no longer at my side.

Q: After that, did you see your mother again?

Q: After that, I did not see her again...

Kalman Teigman was put to work, and he witnessed arrivals of many transports.

Q: Did they [asking about a specific transport] go to the gas chambers?

A: They went to the gas chambers... They were told to remove their clothes, to tie their shoes well together; they were given rope, wire, and they were strict about that.

Q: That they should tie their shoes together?

A: That they should tie their shoes together.

Q: Were the people there told why they were being asked to do this?

A: Yes.

Q: What did they tell them?

A: There was also a large notice in the yard which said that all the people were going to take a bath, that they would be disinfected, and all their papers, valuables, and money should be handed into the camp safe which was there on this path that led to the gas chambers. They called it *Himmelstrasse* (Road to Heaven)... This building was a small hut. These people who had to receive all the papers, all the money, and all the documents stood there...

Q: Was it there that they told the people that they would be taken to work, and that they had to take a bath?

A: First of all, they were going to take a bath, and afterwards they should come to retrieve their belongings, and then they would go out to work.

Q: Did the people who reached that point still believe that this was the truth?

A: There were some who, I think, still believed, for at first there was no reaction.

Q: Even after the blows at the railway station, after the whipping?

A: People were confused, for it was done at tremendous speed. I think the people did not even have time to think. Each one fled and ran fast, so as not to receive blows...

Q: Please tell me, did the people who were brought in the transports undergo some kind of selection in the camp, either for work or dispatch?

A: There was no selection, apart from those who were taken out for work. Each time they took a number of people for work.

Q: Work in connection with the extermination?

A: Exactly.

Q: Was there no other work in this camp?

A: There was no other work. It was all connected with the extermination.