

Auschwitz testimonies

Armando Aaron, Corfu

The journey was terrible, no water, nothing to eat, ninety in cars that were good for only twenty animals, all of us standing up. A lot of us died.

Zdenka Ehrlich, Prague

People were screaming, crying; there were children, there were dogs, there were guards beating everybody across the head and screaming, “*Out, out, out!*”... It was not a station, no platforms, just these barracks, the barbed wire, nowhere else to go – it really was the end of the line.



© Yad Vashem

Anka Bergman, Prague

When we got into our barrack, [my friend] asked the women already there, “*Where are my parents? When will I see them again?*” And they all started screaming with laughter, “*You stupid idiot, they are in the chimney by now!*” We thought they were mad, and they thought we were mad...

Aharon Beilin, Białystok

It was terribly overcrowded, sixteen of us lay on a bunk which was intended, more or less, for six people... If someone got down during the night in order to relieve himself, he could not come back, and had to lie down on the concrete floor of the block.

Max Garcia, Amsterdam

You didn't have towels, we didn't have soap, we didn't have wash cloths, we didn't have underwear... There were no toothbrushes, there was no toothpaste. There was only cold water... You were never clean.



© Yad Vashem

Rebecca Aaron, Corfu

If you were sick, you didn't say so because the result would have been death. There were frequent selections, about once a week.

Gena Turgel, Kraków

At Auschwitz-Birkenau, every last remnant of respect and dignity was squeezed out of us. In our loose, insect-ridden clothing and with our hair cropped or shaved, we felt completely dehumanised.