

## **Noemi Ban**

### Video Transcripts

#### **Video 1: Noemi Ban House in the Ghetto**

[The law?] came. First of all, the other Jewish people who lived in other part of the city had to leave everything behind—just the very personal things to bring, and they were housed in the houses which were already under territory of the assigned ghetto. Our house was one of them. Our house was on the border line and our windows looked on the other side of the street where it was freedom still. And they housed about eight families in our house. Every single room was occupied- the hallway was occupied. They took the piano away. And I remember when four people came without any paper—anything to say. Just came in—took that piano on their shoulder.

#### **Video 2: Noemi Ban Arriving to Auschwitz**

Finally they got down on the ground. We had to line up in pairs. I was standing with my mother who had the little baby in her arm and behind me, my dear grandmother who was hardly standing on her feet, and I don't know if she knew where- where she was or who she is. And my little dear sister next to her. Then slowly, that long, long line started to move ahead. Before we started to move however, they took all the men. The little boys and old men to another line. So. we were only women then. And the line slowly, slowly moved ahead not knowing where are we going. When finally as I looked ahead. I did see that the very end of the line dividing for some reason. Well, we still didn't know what happening, but we did see however a lot of SS officers, and one of them stood in the middle. And then our turn came. I looked up and I did see a young officer, shiny uniform, white gloves on his hand, and a horse whip. And then I looked up, I remember, and he signaled to his left. And my mother, my grandmother, my little sister, and the little baby in my mother's arm. One more signal and I found myself on the other side. So. I turned around, I remember I—I—In my mind I can see them there and my mother bending forward with the baby in her arms. What her eyes was saying to me was. "Take care, love you, goodbye." I didn't know that time that I will never saw them again but I didn't ever.

#### **Video 3: Noemi Ban The Window**

From morning to night in shine or rain or shine [?]. Dust and dirt and mud, whatever. Was nothing to do, so, as I was wandering and coming and going between the barracks, I looked up and I noticed that a girl is coming toward me. And I looked up and I said, "Oh, who is she? She is so familiar but where is her name? Where did I see her before?" And as I was going, proceeding to go closer to her barrack, I looked

up and I realized that I'm seeing myself in the reflection of the window. That was the first time I saw myself as a skeleton. That was the first time I saw myself without hair. I didn't recognize myself. Was such a surprise.