

Vera Federman

Video Transcripts

Video 1: Vera Federman Arrival to Auschwitz

The train crossed the Polish border, and at the end of three days, I turned 20 on the cattle car. And at the end of three days or so, we arrived somewhere at dawn. And we looked out and we saw lights you know, and we're on there for—for several hours. Finally they—they opened the doors, and they told us to get down. And, I looked across and I saw a group of men who were being beaten by sticks you know, around their heads and shoulders and I said to my dad, "Please dad, let me kiss you good-bye now," and I—I didn't want to see him beaten, and I said, "I will see you later." And he disappeared you know, across, and my mother and I followed the women's line that was going in a direction.

Video 2: Vera Federman Separated

After the—the German guard—guard, some officer or something—and without a word, you know he pointed my mother to the left and me to the right. Well you know, I had no idea what—what's on the left or what's on the right, but I didn't want my mother to go somewhere where I couldn't go with her—I didn't want her to be alone. So I said very quickly and I spoke Ger—good German—I said, "Please I want to go with my mother, I'm only 13 years old," without even knowing that 13 and 14 was the age where they certainly went there with their mothers, but he shook his head—he didn't even shake his head—he just pointed me.

Video 3: Vera Federman "Let the little one go"

And he said to me, "You won't do, you're too thin, go that way," which was left, and I didn't go all the way there. I was watching Susie and her sister—what was going to happen and they—he let them go, you know, to the line where—was a good line. And then I came back, and he said to me, "I already told you, you're too thin, you won't do. Get out, get out," and I said, "Oh, but I'm very"—I spoke German very well—I said, "But I am very strong"—which was kind of ridiculous to say—I said, "I'm very strong and I can work." "Go." And then a German woman was standing next to him, and she was a guard. As to me, you know, to everybody she looked like a goddess because she had beautiful hair. Well, all our hair was gone you know, they—they uh—shaved our heads and our whole bodies. And uh—she was there and she leaned to him, and she said, "Lass das kleine gehen." And he did. He did. And I joined that group.