

From the Testimony of Olga Albogen about The Death of her Father at Auschwitz

...When we arrived to Auschwitz we had no idea what that was at Auschwitz. Auschwitz. So it's Auschwitz. We had no idea what it was. And then when Mengele came and selected the young people here and there, my father didn't want to separate from his father, he's not going to let a seventy-seven-year-old father go alone wherever they're going. We didn't know where he was going to go. So my father at forty-seven went with him. And then the two brothers of mine, fifteen and seventeen, two young boys who could go with the young people and work, they went with the father and the grandfather. And I know this for sure. I have a letter here from a friend of ours, the rabbi's son who went back, who survived. He came in the same wagon with us to Auschwitz. And after the war when I was in Sweden and he didn't know what's what. There is no way to go back to Hungary and I didn't want to go back, I wrote to Balkany, to whoever is home, whoever is there, so this guy - he was married guy with, I don't know, four little children, and he survived, he was home - and he wrote me a letter - heartbreaking.

Q: What did he write? Maybe you will read to us.

A: I don't know. I can't, I am just crying whenever I read it.

Q: I can imagine.

A: Look at this. So he tells me the exact time when we have the "yahrzeit", to light the candle.

Q: He knew when your father...

A: He was there. He went to the right side, he was somewhat younger. My father would have gone with him if not my grandfather.

Q: Could not leave him.

A: Couldn't leave him.

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