

## From the Testimony of Olga Albogen Describing Life in the Krakow-Plaszow Workcamp

...[T]hey took us to Krakow-Plaszow the first time after three days in Auschwitz.

Q: You were only three days in Auschwitz?

A: The first time. And we thought, “Ah, that’s going to be wonderful. Out of here and we’re going to work and we’ll get food” and that’s it, we didn’t want anything else. Krakow-Plaszow wasn’t very good either.

Q: What did you do there?

A: Chopping mountains. I really don’t know what for, but they were chasing us to do it quick and fast. A young - some of us were fifteen, sixteen - thin little kids and holding those big heavy tools and chopping mountains. Can you imagine how easy that was? For what? We don’t know. They wanted to build something and the mountain was in the way or whatever. They just made us work to work us out, that’s all.

Q: And what were the conditions there? How did you sleep there?

A: Well, in “breeches”, you know, in three, four layers. Ten, fifteen people on each, on straw.

Q: And what about food? What was the food like? Or did you eat at all?

A: Well, the food was in the morning we got like a...it looked like dishwater. We called it “coffee”. We got a glass of something liquid. And then the food, I don’t know, they cooked it from grass or whatever. It was bitter, horrible food, but we tried to it so we knew that...only survival.

Q: How long did you stay at Plaszow and Krakow.

A: Three and a half months. When the Russian front was advancing there, the Russians were coming there and the Germans, of course, were afraid and they didn’t want to leave us there. They thought we’re going to have it much too good by the Russians, so they didn’t want to have that. They had orders from high-up to take us march.

Q: In a death march?

A: It was a bad march. It was horrible. It was cold. That was January. Where was there, from Krakow? No, I'm talking about the factory. Krakow-Plaszow. They herded us into cattle cars again back to Auschwitz.

**Source: Yad Vashem Archives O.3-10335**