

From the Testimony of Dora Love on the Conditions at Stutthof Concentration Camp

...then you walked out and they said: "*Anziehen*." [get dressed] These were the striped horror clothes. If anybody had put dress with nails on the inside on you, that's what it would have felt like. They scratched you to pieces. You didn't have fat on you, at least I didn't. It scratched and made my skin bleed. That's what you put on. Over there is a row with what they called shoes. They were wooden soles with flat boots. Nobody cared what size you needed. You put those on and you went. All I kept looking for was where are the others - my sister and mother. That was my total worry. We walked out and obviously the shoes that I had were such that it took a lot of attention after the war, orthopedic gadgets and help to stretch the toes because the shoes had been too small.

We were first in a barrack together. Most of the barracks were a wooden stable. You've seen that, three people to a bunk. In the center there were four bunks. The horse blanket, the gray blankets that we called horseblankets were so rough. In any case, you got one to a bunk. You do me a favor and tell me how you share that, three people to a bunk. Nobody knew how to share it. The number of inmates decreased. People died like flies. We were again faced with this lack of water, lack of lavatories. There were latrines right over in the fields. They were just holes in the ground. You couldn't see in the dark. You were afraid to fall into them. It was slippery especially when the winter came and it all froze over. You got a mug of coffee. I always say this black water that was called coffee and after that you saved some to wash yourself. You have very good intentions at first. You really think you are going to rinse your mouth. Dental hygiene is very important. It wasn't then because you actually need the fluid in your body. So cleanliness goes to hell. Food you haven't got that would sustain you. After the first couple of days, you were being lined up to go to work or by that time, some looked worse again and so the number got smaller. It was again right, left, right, left...

Interviewer: You knew already about gas at that time?

Dora Love: At Stutthof?

Interviewer: Yes.

Dora Love: Stutthof was a total extermination camp.

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