

From the Testimony of Zelda Moyal about the Death March from Gothendorf

...We was there, like, also a few months and I think then the Russian or the American, they was closer already, something or what. Then the Germans took us from this camp Gothendorf and we was walking three days and three nights. They wanted...they didn't have how to kill us. They wanted to take us to the ocean and we will go in the ocean. They didn't have already strength to go - you can imagine how the group of people - on the meantime they took other people from other camps, all the group of people what they came to our group and they took us in another place, but up to when we came to the other place - the place in Chinow where we went - but up to when we was there we was going three days and three nights and this we know, everybody knew - this is already the end. They are going or to shoot us...

Q: This is the "Death March"?

A: "Dead March". This was a "Dead March" because then we didn't care what we was doing. A lot of people from hunger and from cold, then they was walking a little bit and they fall down and they shoot them. They fall down, they couldn't walk, and they shoot them. They shoot a lot of people near mine - I was stepping on them, near me and I was stepping on the people. And like this we was walking three days and three nights. I didn't care already because nobody was caring whatever they will do, but the instant they told us: "Go" then we was going. Anyway we know they are going to kill us now. And one time passed by a wagon and they was over there potatoes and something for the cows to eat, like - I forgot the name what they call this. I - whatever what will be with me will be - I will go and I will steal - and like this other people, too. And I took, like, two potatoes and another woman near me was taking two potatoes. Then he wanted to kill me, then maybe the bullet went to the other woman and the other woman falled near me and I don't know where I took the strength and right away I run away and went into the group and he didn't find me. And from where I took all the strength I don't know. We did two potatoes - one fall down and then I brought just one potato and it was hurting me - how

one and then the one I was giving one bite and one bite my girlfriend Shoshannah. Like this, whatever we can steal then we was trying to steal, I and Shoshannah, for and for you to be together.

Q: When somebody just died like this, like this woman, you feel something or...?

A: No. By us the heart was already like this because I was stepping on dead people and the heart was like this what I didn't...I don't know where the feeling was. Now, when I see just a little bit blood, then I will start to cry. And then, I was going on - the feeling was not there. And again we was walking - this was a day after. We didn't have what to eat and the Germans they was tired. They was also walking with us together, but they was having the rifle and if something happened...they was having with them what to eat and what to drink. We didn't have. And we was thirsty, too. I didn't have time to take, to drink the snow, clean snow - the horses was drinking of them and I was drinking also the dirty snow, what the horses was drinking, and nothing happened to me. I was not sick. And all the dirt - we didn't have water - what it was on the snow, I didn't look, but used to have something - we didn't have what to eat. Just to have this and the same thing, the other people was doing the same thing. The march was the three days and the three nights was like three hundred years because we was asking: "Oy, G-d, let them shoot us already. Why we have so much to suffer before they want to kill us? Why not kill us now?"

Q: Was it snowing there?

A: It was snow and we was walking on snow. People was going without shoes because, like I said, they called this "*klumpes*". It was underneath wood and vinyl from the top and always the wood was catching the snow. Then you was walking very high and it was just vinyl. The wood went down and you was going barefoot.

Q: You had new "*klumpes*"?

A: In this camp, Gothendorf, they give us...I was going, like, two years with one dress. In Gothendorf they was giving us another dress. But it didn't took long - again it was dirty and full with lice - "*kinim*" - and with this we was living.

Q: You had stockings?

A: Stockings, no. I didn't know - just this. I didn't know what is stockings. Nobody knew what is stockings. Like this, people was, not just from the bullets, but just from cold what people was dying. And when we walked again, let's say on the third night, then again I saw when the Germans was riding on their horse and they was eating like a cracker or what and fall down a piece I didn't care that they kill me and I was running to pick up the piece - I was just looking where I can steal. And again, I saw a wagon pass by and I saw they was having over there - I don't remember what was, maybe potatoes again - and again I went running over there to steal and not just I again - other people - and they were shooting them and I survived. Went inside together with the other people, he didn't find us. And like this we was walking three days and three nights up to when we came to a place what the place called Chinow. Over there they took us in like in, where the cows and horses, in a big - how you call this? - where you put the horses and cows...

Q: Stable.

A: In a stable they put all the people in there and the Germans was very tired, too, and we was over there two days and we didn't hear nothing, not one word from the Germans, not one word something. Nobody was there and we was afraid - who knows what they want to do with us together with the horses and with the cows and we was lying there. Later we was hearing, like, talking, talking like Russian tongues. Then we was thinking, maybe they wanted to make like a trick for us, to go out and they will kill us and we was still over there in the stable we was. One from the people went out and just to look a little bit because we heard something like heavy tanks are coming. Then the Russian came. This was February 10 in 1945 and they liberated us.

Source: Yad Vashem Archives 0.3- 8679