

Transcript:

Ida Kilstein

A57

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Interviewer: Are you a camp survivor?

Ida Kilstein: Yes.

Interviewer: Tell me about ...

Ida Kilstein: I was in...

Female:She was in Bergen-Belsen.

Interviewer: You were how old in Bergen-Belsen?

Ida Kilstein: I don't know when it started in Germany, I was 18 years.

Interviewer: You were 18 years old?

Ida Kilstein: Yes.

Interviewer: When you went to Bergen-Belsen? Tell me about your job there.

Ida Kilstein: At work, at home, I was home at that...

Interviewer: No, no. Your job at the camp?

Ida Kilstein: At the camps. I was working in a...

Female:You were sewing, weren't you?

Ida Kilstein: No. This was in Germany, before the war in Poland.

Female:In Chzanow?

Ida Kilstein: In Chzanow. So they work in the...help me Sandra. I'm terrible.

Female:I thought you were making coats, working with coats.

Ida Kilstein: Yes, coats. This was in Germany and was...

Interviewer: In Bergen-Belsen?

Ida Kilstein: Yes.

Interviewer: You were making coats?

Ida Kilstein: Coats. This was in Germany still. Then they took me to concentration camp. They put me to the camp. Just a hard time with me. I used to say good but now I'm messed up. I don't know what. Anyway...

Interviewer: Tell me about liberation day, do you remember that?

Ida Kilstein: Liberation?

Interviewer: What camp you were at?

Ida Kilstein: Well, I was in—this was in—

Female: Neusaltz?

Ida Kilstein: Neusaltz. Yes, Neusaltz.

Interviewer: You were that at liberation?

Ida Kilstein: Yes.

Interviewer: OK. Do you remember that day?

Ida Kilstein: I remember. But I was so sick. Even though the liberation already, but I didn't wear any clothes at all, I was just naked and was—typhus, yes.

Interviewer: You had typhus?

Ida Kilstein: Yes.

Interviewer: OK.

Ida Kilstein: And I hardly knew anything.

Interviewer: Do you remember how old you were at that time?

Ida Kilstein: I don't know. How old?

Interviewer: When was she born?

Ida Kilstein: Twenty—twenty—I don't know.

Interviewer: So you're about 23 years old, 23?

Ida Kilstein: I guess so.

Interviewer: OK.

Ida Kilstein: Anyway, it wasn't so interesting...

Interviewer: You had typhus?

Ida Kilstein: Yes.

Interviewer: You were sick on the liberation day?

Ida Kilstein: Yes.

Interviewer: Is there anything about that day that you remember, the feeling that you might have had?

Ida Kilstein: I was 15 years—after liberation, this was the Germans—this was the people that was liberated.

Female: The American?

Ida Kilstein: No. Yes. But they said this was new in—I give up.

Interviewer: Would you like to stop?

Ida Kilstein: But I can't say...

Female: Do you remember who liberated you?

Ida Kilstein: Yes. But I was sick at that time. But this was the 15<sup>th</sup> of—not February.

Female: April.

Ida Kilstein: April. Yes. Liberated from Germany from...

Interviewer: Bergen-Belsen.

Ida Kilstein: Bergen-Belsen.

Interviewer: On April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1945?

Ida Kilstein: Yes. Yes. Yes. It wasn't funny but then...

Interviewer: And you had typhus?

Ida Kilstein: Yes.

Interviewer: You said you were completely naked?

Ida Kilstein: I don't know what they do to some people that—some people stayed with me. The next day, they died already. My talking is terrible. I can't talk.

Interviewer: No, no. You're doing fine. Now Bergen-Belsen became a DP camp, did you stay there for that?

Ida Kilstein: In the camp?

Interviewer: Yes. Did you stay there for that or did you go to...?

Ida Kilstein: I was there in Germany. What's that—and then they sent me then to—you know, with my friends—I give up.

Female: To Landsberg?

Ida Kilstein: Before Landsberg, there was...

Female: Munich?

Ida Kilstein: Not Munich, before Munich. It was—I forgot. I don't remember the names.

Female: Okay, just whatever you remember.

Ida Kilstein: But this was in a private house, home. Somebody's lady's was safe. My people, my friends, my brother and some friends, we were together in one room, in a beautiful room from Germany. We lived in Germany—what's the name? I forgot.

Female: Munich? Flossenburg?

Ida Kilstein: No. Not Flossenburg. This was after the war. It's no use to talk to me. Because you have—I can't talk. This is my problem.

Interviewer: No problem.

Female: Whatever you can say it.

Ida Kilstein: This is my problem.

Interviewer: That's okay. That's okay. We'll go ahead and stop.