

## The Holocaust year by year?

### 1944 The long march to Germany: video transcript

I've been in concentration camps for three years. I came to the ghetto and then after 15 months we left for Auschwitz. It was the worst concentration camp I ever saw. I have been to several concentration camps 'til now.

In Auschwitz millions of our people were killed by gas. They had different methods – but gas was the easiest one. When we came there 5000 of our people had been there for six months and the exact date when the six months were fulfilled they went to the gas. From the day of this we knew the date of our death. I myself was making marks on my bedstead how many days I had to live still. And every night I went to sleep I undercut one mark and so it was one day gone and one day less to live.

The first months I hoped there would be a miracle. The second month we thought 'why – all the people before us went to gas why we not – it's our fate – you can't change anything on that.' Then when you are young, I am 21, you want so terribly to live and you never know what value life has got than when you lose it, the exact date. But the people who had the little children were under terrible condition. These little children of six years knew by hearsay that they were going to be exterminated. And they went to their mothers and said 'Listen mummy you won't leave me, you'll stay with me.' And most of them stayed with the children and went to the gas; but some of them loved life more than their children and made up their mind to leave them.