

The Holocaust year by year

1941 The 'Final Solution' agreed: video transcript

I was sitting in a restaurant in Frankfurt and and I spoke to a medical friend of mine about all things I had seen. Hitler must be the biggest murderer in the world now had been overheard by informers of the Gestapo. They rang through to the headquarters and a couple of minutes later I was arrested and the men marched me down to a huge hall in Frankfurt.

I saw already arrested the previous hours before nearly 4000 men of all ages – men from 60, 70, 80 years old; and as well boys from 13, 14 and 15 years old.

We had to go on now to climb on lorries and they brought us to the concentration camp about a 1000 feet high. We stood in front of the door got the order march into it, ran into it or perish you swine and again in a panic the men were running for their poor lives.

And about 10 o'clock now the Gestapo came in to collect men for murdering just like swine. They took the men out into the night and now you could hear exactly the same as in the tunnels the smashing of beams and of batons, crying of the men and moaning until next day before they died – that was our second night in the camp.

And so we had to work very hard. Two men had always to carry stones. And when they collapsed on the way they were hit, they again carried a hundred weight of stones and again they felt always the whip.

Aim to the middle of December the thermometer went deep under the freezing point. The men - no shoes and boots anymore; running around in snow and in ice in bare feet and it happened they got frozen toes and fingers and now a couple of doctors and myself we started to operate the men with razor blades. With razor blades we cut off toes and fingers to save the life of the men. And for bandage we had to use the dirty shirts of the men who died the hours before so done 1939.