

SHEP ZITLER: KEY QUOTES

“My three other sisters, with her husbands, with her children, my parents, none of them died a normal death. They were all killed by the Nazis in different ways.”

“First, I didn’t ‘join’ the Polish Army. Why would I join the Polish Army? I hated the Polish Army and I didn’t join. I was drafted into the Polish Army.”

“And the war breaks out, and I didn’t know how to fight. My first enemy was the Germans and my second enemy was the Poles.”

“But the point is that the Germans couldn’t tell that I am Jewish. They couldn’t tell. So the Poles already heard it, that they are looking for Jews especial. So they say, ‘Here is Jew. Here is a Jew.’ The Poles gave them away, so finally they got me as a Jew.”

“Ironically, in my case, I went to the war, I survived. My whole family behind me, they were all killed. That’s my Holocaust.”

“An SS came, and he want to shoot me. And he took out his gun, and then the inspector, or they called the ‘big chief’ from the farm, just came from nowhere, with a big cigar, and he told them, ‘Wait, he’s a good worker. Don’t shoot him.’ So he slapped my face and he drove off.”

“I would say then in 1944. We heard, and rumors went, then, they have exterminating in *Auschwitz*, in a camp. I mean, we didn’t know. We did hear this, we did, you know things like this goes around. We did. But we didn’t hear exactly how they did it. How it happened.”

“If you find a little - like one time he [Harry Sanders] did get a soup that was in camp and he had a big bone, a big bone like this, and he was licking, so he gave me a couple of times to lick. He kept this bone maybe for two weeks... And the bone was already dry. But I will never forget it. He kept it and he was my partner, so I could have a lick. He could have a lick.”

“I went through a cycle of hell for 5 years, 7 months. That’s what it was. But we went through [it]. It reminds me: I was stuck about 15 years ago in an elevator for an hour and a half. It’s a terrible feeling when you are stuck in an elevator, a terrible feeling. But when you’re free, you forgot all about it. Isn’t that funny?”

“Two things we are not going to do: we are not going to marry; we are not going to have children. Who would want to see Jewish children tortured like they saw it? And who would want to get married? But we got married. We got children. We have grandchildren that are giving back to the society. Life goes on.”

“I think about my being in Germany for five years and seven months. It’s things that I cannot understand how I made, how I survived 6 winters in Germany without Tylenol or aspirin, which I didn’t have it. Not good shoes, either. I don’t know how. But I did survive. I’m here. You see me right now. I’m here. I did survive. How? I don’t know.”

“If we have Israel, it cannot happen again. Because I don’t think that we would have, I don’t think they would burying the Jews in *Auschwitz* if Israel would be there. We have an Israel right now. Very strong Israel. They wouldn’t let it happen.”

“The Holocaust in my opinion cannot be understood. Nobody in this

whole world can understand the Holocaust. But I want them to remember. I owe it to my family and to my people.”

“But I did survive. I’m here. You see me right now. I’m here. I did survive. How? I don’t know.”

“If the Holocaust never existed, where are they?”