



FORTUNATELY FOR ME, MOM WOULD EVENTUALLY FEED ME SOMETHING I LIKED, AND THROW AWAY THE OLD FOOD WHILE YOU WEREN'T LOOKING.

YES. ANJA WAS TOO EASY WITH YOU ALWAYS.



HMMH. THANKS FOR THE DINNER, MALA. IT WAS DELICIOUS.



PFEH - THE CHICKEN WAS, I THOUGHT, TOO DRY. COME, WE'LL TALK BETTER IN THE LIVING ROOM.

OKAY - I'LL GET MY NOTEBOOK.



... I TELL YOU, WITH MALA I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. SHE -

PLEASE, POP! I'D RATHER NOT HEAR ALL THAT AGAIN. TELL ME ABOUT 1939, WHEN YOU WERE DRAFTED.

1939? YES...WE WERE GIVEN ARMY TRAININGS FOR A FEW DAYS AND THEN, BY THE START OF SEPTEMBER WE WERE ON THE FRONTIER.



...WE WERE ALL DIGGED INTO TRENCHES NEAR A RIVER. ON THE OTHER SIDE IT WAS GERMANS.



WAIT A MINUTE. THEY ONLY TRAINED YOU FOR A FEW DAYS BEFORE SENDING YOU INTO COMBAT?

WELL, THE FIRST TIME I WENT INTO THE ARMY FOR 18 MONTHS WHEN I WAS 21. THEN EVERY 4 YEARS I WENT TO LUGLIN FOR A MONTH TO TRAIN.



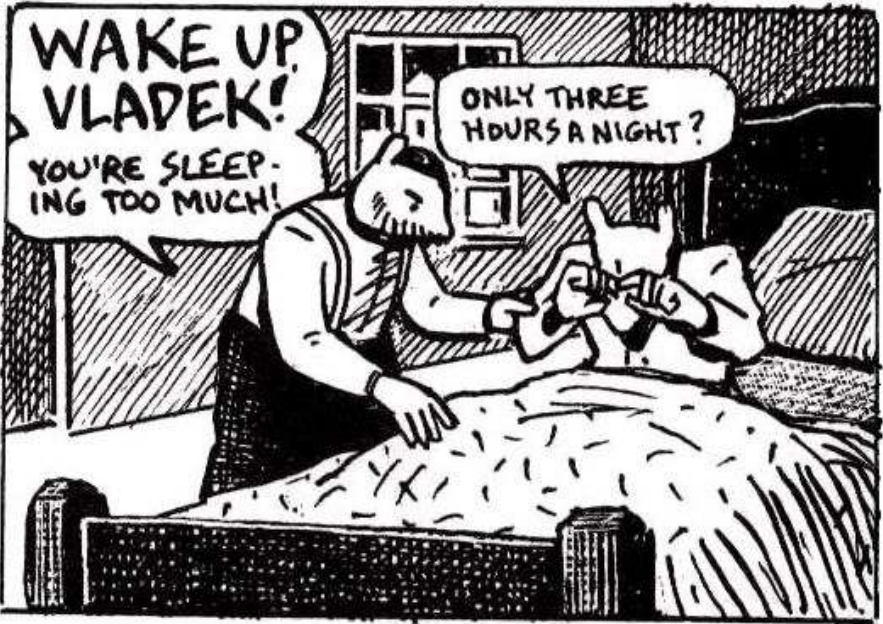
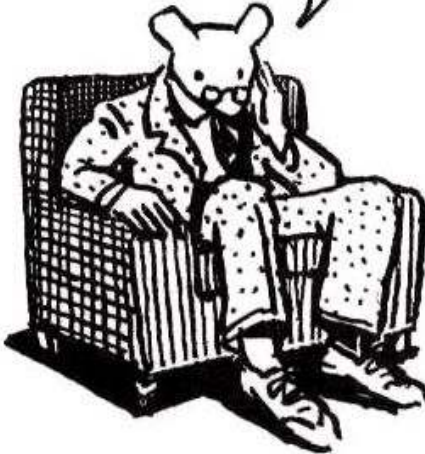
...BECAUSE WHEN HE WAS YOUNG, HE HAD THEN TO GO INTO THE RUSSIAN ARMY. ...AND THERE THEY TOOK YOU FOR 25 YEARS. ...TO SIBERIA!

MY FATHER PULLED OUT 14 OF HIS TEETH TO ESCAPE. IF YOU MISSED 12 TEETH THEY LEFT YOU GO.

SO WHEN MY BROTHER MARCUS GOT 21 YEARS, FATHER PUT HIM ON A STARVATION DIET. ALWAYS MARCUS WAS SICKLY-SO THIN. AND WHEN HE WENT FOR THE ARMY EXAMINATION...THEY DIDN'T TAKE HIM.

A YEAR LATER WHEN IT CAME MY TURN, FATHER WANTED TO MAKE TO ME THE SAME THING. IT WAS SOMETHING TERRIBLE!...

THREE MONTHS BEFORE THE EXAMINATION HE STARTED WITH ME...



WAKE UP, VLADEK!
YOU'RE SLEEPING TOO MUCH!

ONLY THREE HOURS A NIGHT?



STOP, VLADEK. YOU MUSTN'T EAT SO MUCH!

BUT I'M HUNGRY!

OKAY- HAVE ONE MORE HERRING.



FOR THREE MONTHS I ATE ONLY SALTED HERRING AND NO WATER TO LOSE WEIGHT.



AND A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE EXAM, NO SLEEP AND NO FOOD...

GOOD BOY- JUST A LITTLE MORE COFFEE!

ONLY A GALLON COFFEE A DAY FOR MY HEART.

AND WHEN FINALLY I WENT FOR MY MEDICAL EXAMINATION...



HERE'S A HEALTHY ONE.

UM!...



NO... THERE SEEMS TO BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH HIM.

BUILD YOURSELF UP FOR A YEAR, YOUNG MAN, AND WE'LL REVIEW YOUR CASE AGAIN.

...THE NEXT YEAR FATHER WANTED I WOULD AGAIN DO THE SAME THING. BUT I BEGGED HIM AND WENT IN 1922 TO THE ARMY...

...BUT LET'S GET BACK TO 1939!

YES. YOU SEE HOW YOU MIX ME UP?
...IN 1939 WE WERE ON THE FRONTIER,
DIGGED INTO TRENCHES BY A RIVER.

IT WAS QUIET UNTIL NEAR MORNING.
THEN I HEARD SHOOTING ON BOTH SIDES.

AN OFFICER SNEAKED OVER TO ME.

DIG IN DEEPER.
YOU'LL GET KILLED.

YOUR GUN IS COLD!
WHY AREN'T YOU SHOOTING?

I DIDN'T SEE AT WHAT TO SHOOT...

KPOK!
KPOK!
KPOK!

...BUT I DIGGED DEEPER
AND STARTED TO SHOOT!

THEN BULLETS CAME
IN MY DIRECTION.



I DUG DEEPER MY TRENCH
BUT I STOPPED TO SHOOT.



BUT WHEN I LOOKED IN
MY GUN, I SAW... A TREE?!!!



AND THE TREE WAS ACTUALLY MOVING!



WELL, IF IT MOVED, I HAD TO SHOOT!

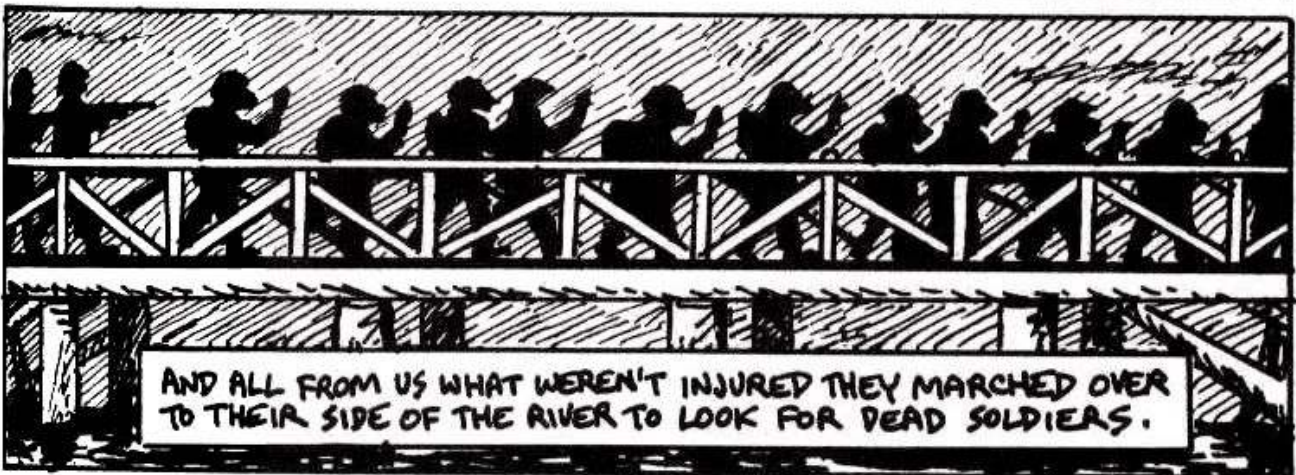


IT HELD UP A HAND TO SHOW
IT WAS HURT. TO SURRENDER.



BUT I KEPT SHOOTING AND SHOOTING. UNTIL FINALLY THE TREE STOPPED MOVING.
WHO KNOWS; OTHERWISE HE COULD HAVE SHOT ME!

AFTER TWO HOURS OF FIGHTING, THE NAZIS OVERCAME OUR SIDE OF THE RIVER.





ATTENTION! ALL PRISONERS WILL
CARRY OUR DEAD AND WOUNDED TO
THE WAITING RED CROSS TRUCKS.



YOU! WHERE DO YOU
THINK YOU'RE GOING?

I-I THOUGHT I SAW A
BODY OVER BY THE RIVER!

I KNEW WHERE THE ONE I
SHOT SHOULD BE LAYING.



YES, HERE!



ER VERBLUTETE!
HIS BLOOD RAN OUT!

CARRY HIM OVER
TO THE TRUCK
WITH THE OTHERS.



HIS NAME WAS JAN ...

... AND I KNEW THAT I KILLED HIM.



AND I SAID
TO MYSELF:
"WELL, AT
LEAST I DID
SOMETHING."

THEY TOOK US TO A PLACE NEAR NUREMBERG WHERE IT WAS MANY WAR PRISONERS. THE JEWS THEY MADE TO STAND SEPARATE.



IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT, THIS WAR!

WE SHOULD HANG YOU RIGHT HERE ON THIS SPOT!



OF COURSE, NOBODY OF US SAID A WORD.



PUT DOWN ALL YOUR VALUABLES!

HE CAME UP TO ME... I HAD MAYBE 300 ZLOTYS.



WHY SO MUCH MONEY, JEW?

MANY OTHERS HAD ONLY 5 OR 6 ZLOTYS.



DO YOU EXPECT TO DO SOME BUSINESS HERE? SHOW ME YOUR HANDS!



YOU NEVER WORKED A DAY IN YOUR LIFE!



LIKE YOU, ARTIE, MY HANDS WERE ALWAYS VERY DELICATE.



WELL, JEW, DON'T WORRY. WE'LL FIND WORK FOR YOU!

AND THEY DID.

ANOTHER GERMAN TOOK 4 OR 5 FROM US TO A STABLE.



SEE THIS MESS? IT BETTER BE SPOTLESSLY CLEAN IN ONE HOUR. UNDERSTAND!

IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO DO IT IN ONE HOUR!

WE REALLY WORKED VERY HARD. BUT, AN HOUR LATER...



SO!



NOT FINISHED YET?



THIS WILL COST YOU YOUR SOUP, YOU LAZY BASTARDS!

AND SOMEHOW WE DID MAKE THE JOB IN ONLY AN HOUR AND A HALF, BUT LOOK WHAT YOU DO, ARTIE!



HUH?



YOU'RE DROPPING ON THE CARPET CIGARETTE ASHES. YOU WANT IT SHOULD BE LIKE A STABLE HERE?

OOPS. SORRY.

CLEAN IT, YES? OTHERWISE I HAVE TO DO IT. MALA COULD LET IT SIT LIKE THIS FOR A WEEK AND NEVER TOUCH IT.



AND SHE KNOWS HOW WITH MY SICKNESSES IT'S HARD NOW FOR ME TO DO SUCH THINGS.

OKAY, OKAY. IT'S CLEAN.

SO WE LIVED AND WORKED A FEW WEEKS IN THE STABLE UNTIL THEY TOOK US TO AN EVEN BIGGER PRISONER OF WAR CAMP.



BRRR. THE POLISH PRISONERS GET HEATED CABINS.

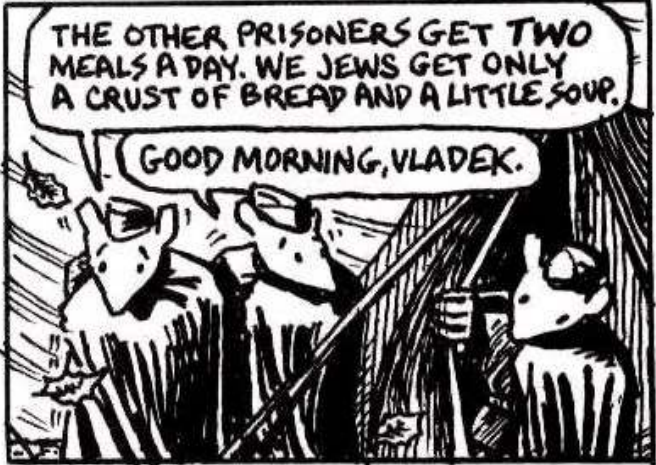
YES, AND WE'RE JUST LEFT TO FREEZE IN THESE TENTS.

IT WAS TERRIBLE COLD THAT AUTUMN. ALL OVER EUROPE IT WAS SO FREEZING THAT BIRDS FELL FROM TREES.

TO KEEP WARM WE HAD ONLY OUR SUMMER UNIFORMS AND A THIN BLANKET.



AT LEAST IF THEY GAVE US ENOUGH TO EAT.



THE OTHER PRISONERS GET TWO MEALS A DAY. WE JEWS GET ONLY A CRUST OF BREAD AND A LITTLE SOUP.

GOOD MORNING, VLADEK.



WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

TO BATHE IN THE RIVER.



YOU'VE GONE CRAZY.

BRRR I'LL BE CLEAN! AND I'LL FEEL WARM ALL DAY BY COMPARISON.

MANY OTHERS GOT FROSTBITE WOUNDS. IN THE WOUNDS WAS PUS, AND IN THE PUS WAS LICE.

EVERY DAY I BATHED AND DID GYMNASTICS TO KEEP STRONG. ...AND EVERY DAY WE PRAYED.



I WAS VERY RELIGIOUS, AND IT WASN'T ELSE TO DO.

OFTEN WE PLAYED CHESS TO KEEP OUR MINDS BUSY AND MAKE THE TIME GO.



I HAD A SET MADE FROM STONES AND BREAD CRUMBS.

AND ONE TIME A WEEK WE COULD WRITE LETTERS THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS.



Dear Anja,
I am fine.
I miss you.

ONLY IN GERMAN. AND VERY CAREFUL.

AND THROUGH THIS IT CAME A PACKAGE...



CHOCOLATE BARS!
CIGARETTES!
JAM!

IT WAS SO TREASURING FOR ME THIS PACKAGE.

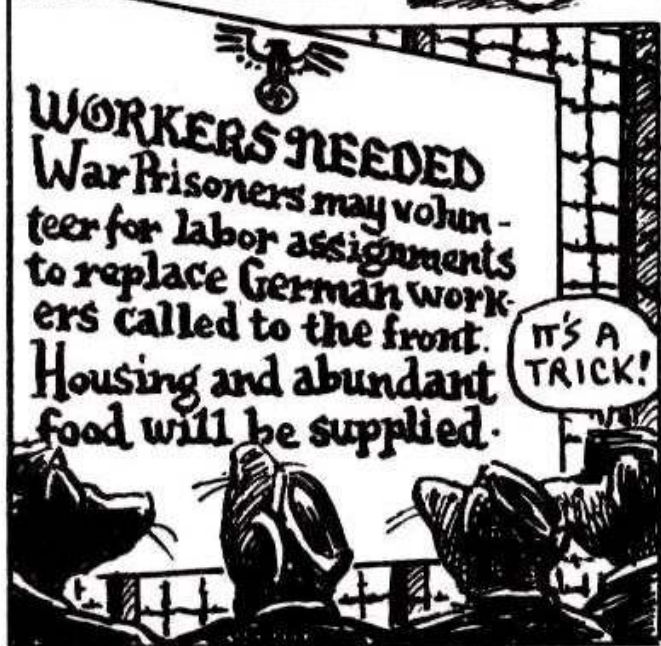
I HAD A SIGN MY FAMILY WAS SAFE, AND— BECAUSE I NEVER SMOKED—I HAD CIGARETTES TO TRADE FOR FOOD.



AND SO THINGS WENT FOR MAYBE SIX WEEKS, THEN...



LOOK! THERE'S AN ANNOUNCEMENT OUTSIDE!



WORKERS NEEDED
War Prisoners may volunteer for labor assignments to replace German workers called to the front. Housing and abundant food will be supplied.

IT'S A TRICK!



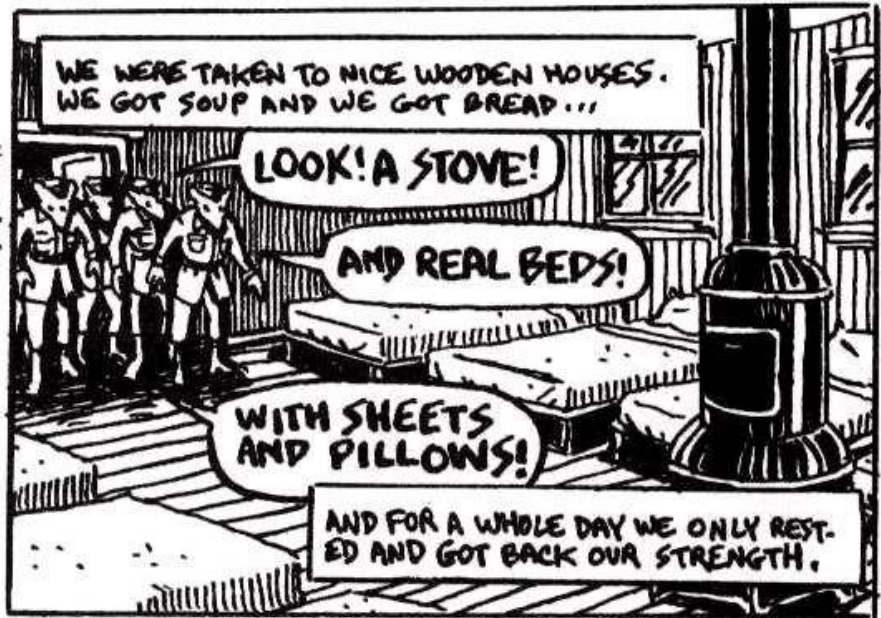
NEVER VOLUNTEER! IF WE HAVE TO DIE, LET'S DIE HERE!

NO!

I DIDN'T AGREE!



I'M NOT GOING TO DIE, AND I WON'T DIE HERE! I WANT TO BE TREATED LIKE A HUMAN BEING!



AND THE WORK WAS REALLY VERY HARD- WE HAD TO MOVE MOUNTAINS.



SOME COMPLAINED - THOSE WHAT WERE TOO OLD OR WEAK FOR SUCH WORK:



BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM, I DON'T KNOW.

STILL, EIGHTY PER CENT STAYED. THERE WAS ENOUGH TO EAT, AND A WARM BED. IT WAS BETTER TO STAY...



...ALWAYS I WENT TO SLEEP EXHAUSTED.
AND ONE NIGHT I HAD A DREAM...

A VOICE WAS TALKING TO ME. IT WAS,
I THINK, MY DEAD GRANDFATHER...



"DON'T WORRY..."



"...DON'T WORRY,
MY CHILD..."

IT WAS SO REAL, THIS VOICE...



"YOU WILL COME OUT OF
THIS PLACE - FREE!
...ON THE DAY OF
PARSHAS TRUMA."

I WOKE UP RIGHT AWAY. AND WHEN
I WENT TO SLEEP, AGAIN IT WAS:
"PARSHAS TRUMA! PARSHAS TRUMA!"

SO WHAT'S
PARSHAS TRUMA?

EACH WEEK, ON SAT-
URDAY, WE READ A SEC-
TION FROM THE TORAH.

THIS IS SO CALLED - A PARSHA...
AND ONE WEEK EACH YEAR IT IS
PARSHAS TRUMA.



BEFORE WORK A FEW
FROM US PRAYED. IT WAS
A RABBI THERE WITH US.

...IN THE MIDDLE OF FEB-
RUARY - ALMOST THREE
MONTHS FROM NOW. WHY?

I TOLD HIM MY DREAM...

ONE MOMENT, RABBI.
WHEN WILL WE
READ PARSHAS TRUMA?

LET'S HOPE IT'S TRUE.
I'M AFRAID WE'LL NEVER
GET OUT OF HERE.



PARSHAS TRUMA?..



THREE MONTHS -
AND EVERY DAY WAS
FOR US A YEAR!





SO WE WORKED,
DAY AFTER DAY.
WE SURVIVED.
WEEK AFTER
WEEK. THE SAME.

UNTIL, ONE TIME...



LOOK-SOLDIERS!

IT CAME VERY MANY GESTAPO AND WEHRMACHT.



ATTENTION! LINE UP ON THE ROAD
IN TWO ROWS! IMMEDIATELY!

WE WERE NOT AT EASE. WE DIDN'T
KNOW WHAT THEY COULD DO WITH US.

I STOOD ALWAYS IN THE SECOND LINE.



(PSST-VLADEK.)

I DIDN'T WANT THEY SHOULD SEE ME MUCH.

SOMEONE SNEAKED
NEXT TO ME...



RABBI! DO YOU KNOW
WHAT DAY IT IS?

SATURDAY, OF COURSE.



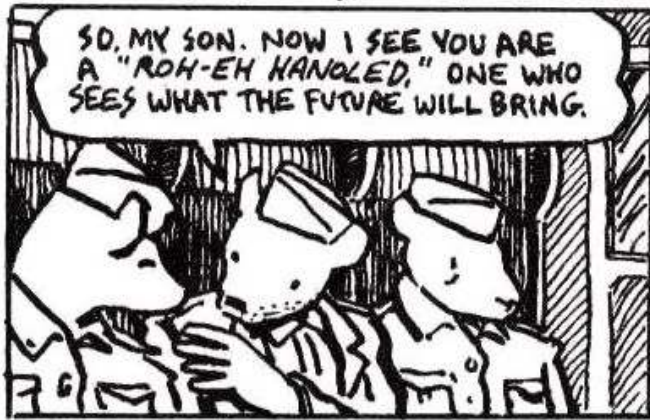
BUT DO YOU KNOW
WHAT A SATURDAY?...

IT'S PARSHAS
TRUMA!





DURING THE JOURNEY I SAT WITH THE RABBI.



SO, MY SON. NOW I SEE YOU ARE A "ROH-EH HANDED," ONE WHO SEES WHAT THE FUTURE WILL BRING.



HEY! THIS TRAIN SEEMS TO BE PASSING SOSNOWIEC!

WHEN THEY DIDN'T STOP THE TRAIN I BECAME VERY WORRIED.

YOU SEE, THE NAZIS DIVIDED POLAND INTO PIECES: PROTECTORATE AND REICH, WITH A GUARDED BORDER BETWEEN.



REICH: Annexed to Germany
PROTECTORATE: German controlled Puppert Government.

THE TRAIN WENT COMPLETELY PAST MY PART OF POLAND - THE REICH - AND STOPPED ONLY IN THE PROTECTORATE.



THOSE WITH PAPERS FOR KRAKOW - OUT!

AND, WHEN IT STOPPED IN WARSAW, THE RABBI GOT OUT.

I'LL WRITE TO YOU.



BUT I NEVER HEARD AGAIN FROM HIM. IT CAME SUCH A MISERY IN WARSAW, ALMOST NONE SURVIVED.

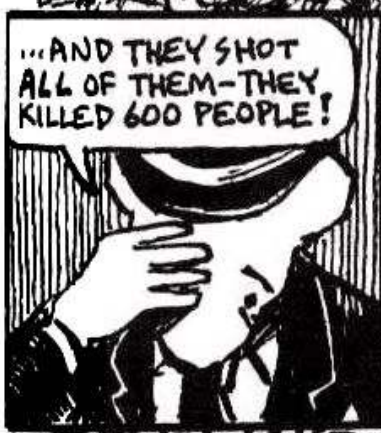


AND THE TRAIN WAS A LONG WAY PAST SOSNOWIEC. THEY TOOK ME UP, UP, VERY FAR - MAYBE 300 MILES - UNTIL WE CAME TO LUBLIN. THERE THEY UNLOADED ALL OF US FROM THE REICH.

IN LUBLIN, THEY TOOK US TO BIG TENTS...



EVENTUALLY CAME SOME PEOPLE TO SEE US FROM THE JEWISH AUTHORITIES...



I WAS VERY FRIGHTENED.

THEN WE HEARD SOMETHING TO GIVE US A LITTLE HOPE...

WE'VE BRIBED THE GERMANS TO RELEASE PRISONERS INTO THE HOMES OF LOCAL JEWS WHO WILL CLAIM YOU AS RELATIVES.



MY NAME'S SPIEGELMAN. THERE'S A FRIEND OF MY FAMILY NAMED ORBACH IN LUBLIN. I MET HIM WHEN I WAS HERE FOR ARMY TRAINING.

FINE! WE'LL TRY TO REGISTER YOU AS HIS COUSIN.



THAT NIGHT I WENT OUT FROM THE TENT.



I HAD TO URINATE.



I RAN QUICK INSIDE ...



AND THOUGHT ALL NIGHT DIFFERENT THINGS WHAT COULD HAPPEN TO US.

AND A GUARD BEGAN SHOOTING TO ME.

THEN AS SOON AS IT WAS LIGHT.



SPIEGELMAN!..
SPIEGELMAN!..



VLADEK!

ORBACH, AM
I GLAD TO
SEE YOU!

AND IN TEN MIN-
UTES, I WAS FREE!

ORBACH WAS A FRIEND FROM MY UNCLE - HE HAD
TWO BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTERS NEAR TO MY AGE.



I'M SORRY WE CAN'T OFFER YOU A BETTER MEAL,
VLADEK - BUT THE JEWS OF LUBLIN GET VERY
FEW FOOD COUPONS.

ONE MOMENT, GIRLS - I HAVE
A GIFT FOR EACH OF YOU...



OH MY GOD!
CHOCOLATE!

THESE I SAVED FROM A
RED CROSS PACKAGE.
ALWAYS I SAVED...
JUST IN CASE!

EVENTUALLY, WHEN I
CAME AGAIN TO SOSNO-
WIEC, WE SENT THEM
FOOD PACKAGES...

... WE WERE FOR A WHILE
A LITTLE BETTER OFF...
AND THEY WROTE BACK
VERY HAPPY HOW IT
HELPED SURVIVE THEM...

... THEN THEY WROTE THAT
THE GERMANS WERE
KEEPING THE PACKAGES.
AND THEN THEY STOPPED
TO WRITE.
FINISHED.



WITH ORBACHS' I STAYED A FEW DAYS
RECUPERATING. BUT I WAS RESTLESS.
HOW COULD I MANAGE TO SNEAK
ACROSS THE BORDER TO MY FAMILY?

TRAINS WERE STILL GOING FROM PROTECTORATE TO REICH. ONLY, ONE NEEDED LEGAL PAPERS. OF COURSE, THIS I DIDN'T HAVE ...



...BUT ANYWAY I GOT ON THE TRAIN IN THE DIRECTION I WANTED.

I APPROACHED TO THE TRAIN MAN, A POLE...

MAY I TALK TO YOU FOR A MOMENT?



SURE, SOLDIER.

I STILL HAD ON MY ARMY UNIFORM, AND I DIDN'T LET KNOW I WAS A JEW.

YOU'RE A POLE LIKE ME, SO I CAN TRUST YOU... THE STINKING NAZIS HAD ME IN A WAR PRISON... I JUST ESCAPED.



THE POLES WERE VERY BITTER ON THE GERMANS, SO IT WAS GOOD TO SPEAK BAD OF THEM.

I'M TRYING TO GET TO SÓSNOWIEC - BACK TO MY FAMILY.

DON'T WORRY... WHEN WE GET TO THE BORDER, HIDE IN HERE.



AND SO THE TRAIN MAN HELPED ME COME BACK TO MY SIDE OF POLAND.



I WALKED FIRST OVER TO MY PARENTS' HOUSE...

...WHAT I THOUGHT I MIGHT NEVER SEE AGAIN.

