

INTERVIEW WITH NANETTE BLITZ KONIG

I'm Nanette Blitz Konig, I was born in Amsterdam, Netherlands, in 1929. I'm an economist. We were arrested by the end of September 1944 and we were sent to Bergen-Belsen.

**Six millions Jews were murdered. Behind every single victim there is a story.
"Nenhuma Ideia Uma Vida", memories of Holocaust survivors.**

Bergen-Belsen was a concentration camp in Germany where more than 70 thousand were killed during the Holocaust. It was where Nanette Konig stayed between September of 1944 and June of 1945, when the camp was released by the English Army. Nanette lost everything there: her parents, her brother and her human condition.

Bergen-Belsen was never released. The Nazi and the English army made a deal. When the soldiers entered the camp they were shocked. The first thing they did was give us water and food. But lots of prisoners died because they couldn't digest food anymore.

More than once Nanette faced death in the camp. First, she was taken from the line in which Nazi counted the prisoners. Second, a soldier pointed his gun to her head. What saved her? Not caring about dying anymore.

We had a routine that was called "Appel", which could last the whole day. We were standing there to be counted by the soldiers and one of them took me out from the line. We didn't know what they could do. They could have killed me, tortured me or send me to other camp. But luckily nothing happened. By the end of war, I was waiting in line to have some water and one Nazi soldier took me from the line again and pointed his gun to me. At that moment I was indifferent. "You want to kill me? Whatever". I didn't care anymore and this indifference saved my life.

Nanette was forever marked by a sound. When she heard it, she was sure that someone wouldn't be alive in the following day.

It was awful. When someone was dying they made a terrible sound. Every single night we heard someone snoring and we all knew that that person would be dead by dawn. It was the death snore. We knew that our lifetime was finite.

In the camp of Bergen-Belsen the prisoners received just one meal per day, if they received. It was usual to be hungry for days. Nanette says the victims used to recite recipes and dream about what they would eat after being released from hell. Even after many decades, Nanette still has hunger sequelae.

It was another problem. Until today I can't eat pasta, mashed potatoes or bread. I can't digest. The doctors say that I will never eat a lot of food again. I was weighing about 68 pounds, I was too weak, I couldn't think about a future. I didn't know what had happened with my mother, my brother. I was really weak. After being released I was in the hospital for three years due to tuberculosis.

Auschwitz is the most famous Nazi camp of WWII's history. More than 1 million people were murdered in the ovens, gas chambers and shootings. Nanette believes that she is alive nowadays just because she has never been in Auschwitz.

I think I'm the exception to the rule and survived to Bergen-Belsen, because maybe I was more resistant, I don't know. I also didn't go to Auschwitz. Auschwitz was the end...

One of the most famous symbols of Holocaust is the girl Anne Frank. She was Nanette's classmate at school. After going to Auschwitz, Anne and her sister, Margot, were sent to Bergen-Belsen. There, they saw Nanette, who was shocked by their health conditions.

Anne Frank was my classmate. It was a coincidence too, but I met Anne. I was in the small camp for women and she was in the larger camp for women, they were neighboring. I found Anne and Margot over there. And she told me everything about Auschwitz, the hiding place, how they managed to live there and also that she was writing in her diary. She said that after war she wanted to write a book about it. Anne was in a terrible situation. She was covered by a thick blanket, shaking. She couldn't stand her clothing, because it was full of lice. It was her ending. Anne and Margot couldn't survive when they got sick with typhus.

Nenhuma Ideia Vale Uma Vida

MEMORIES OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

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Anne Frank and her story were eternalized by her diary, found after war. Anne's father couldn't imagine how important his daughter's diary would be. Anne and Nanette's stories reinforce how important is to remember the Holocaust. After all, those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it.

We have to be aware what's going on in any country that there are Jew people. Europe was anti-Semitic and still is. I mean, we need to be aware, we need to know what's happening in order to prevent that a new persecution takes place again. I hope it won't ever happen again.