Leonard Cheshire Resonate Project

File Title: Visit of Sue Ryder and Leonard Cheshire to Poland, 1964. Includes singing and interview with concentration camp survivor

Duration: 14 mins 25 secs. This edited clip 2 minutes 59 seconds.

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Start of Transcription

10:31: SR: Pani Hanke. Here in Majdanek we have Pani Hanke, one of the few women survivors. She was … arrived here in 1943 and was later transported to Auschwitz and Ravensbruck concentration camps. Pani Hanke: could you bear to say a few words?

11:01: PH: [Unclear 11:01]. I arrived here with a transport of 500 men – women – and 1500 men from Pawiak in Warsaw. We were sent in cattle trucks. It was on the 18th of January ’43. The night was extremely cold and we were mare marched from Lublin station this way and we arrived here. Here the men were separated and put in fields 1-4, whereas the women were sent to the field number 5. We were driven into such barracks, where we were put to sleep on wooden bunks.

13:08: SR: Majdanek was one of the largest extermination camps in eastern Europe. It was only one of over 3000 such camps that were dotted about all over the continent of occupied Europe. Today it’s very difficult for any of the survivors who themselves were prisoners here to give an adequate description of what such a place was like. Many of the barracks have gone, the electric barbed wire, and in its place there’s green grass and trees. There’s an air of desolation and great sadness, and we have to remember that no less than 1 ½ million people, including thousands of very small children of 26 different nationalities died here in Majdanek.

14:19: Speech ends

14:25: End of recording

End of transcription