

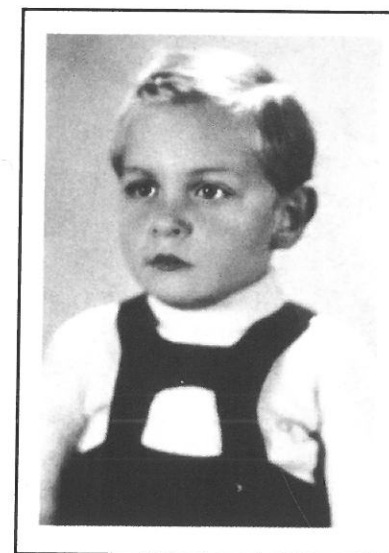
II
MAUS



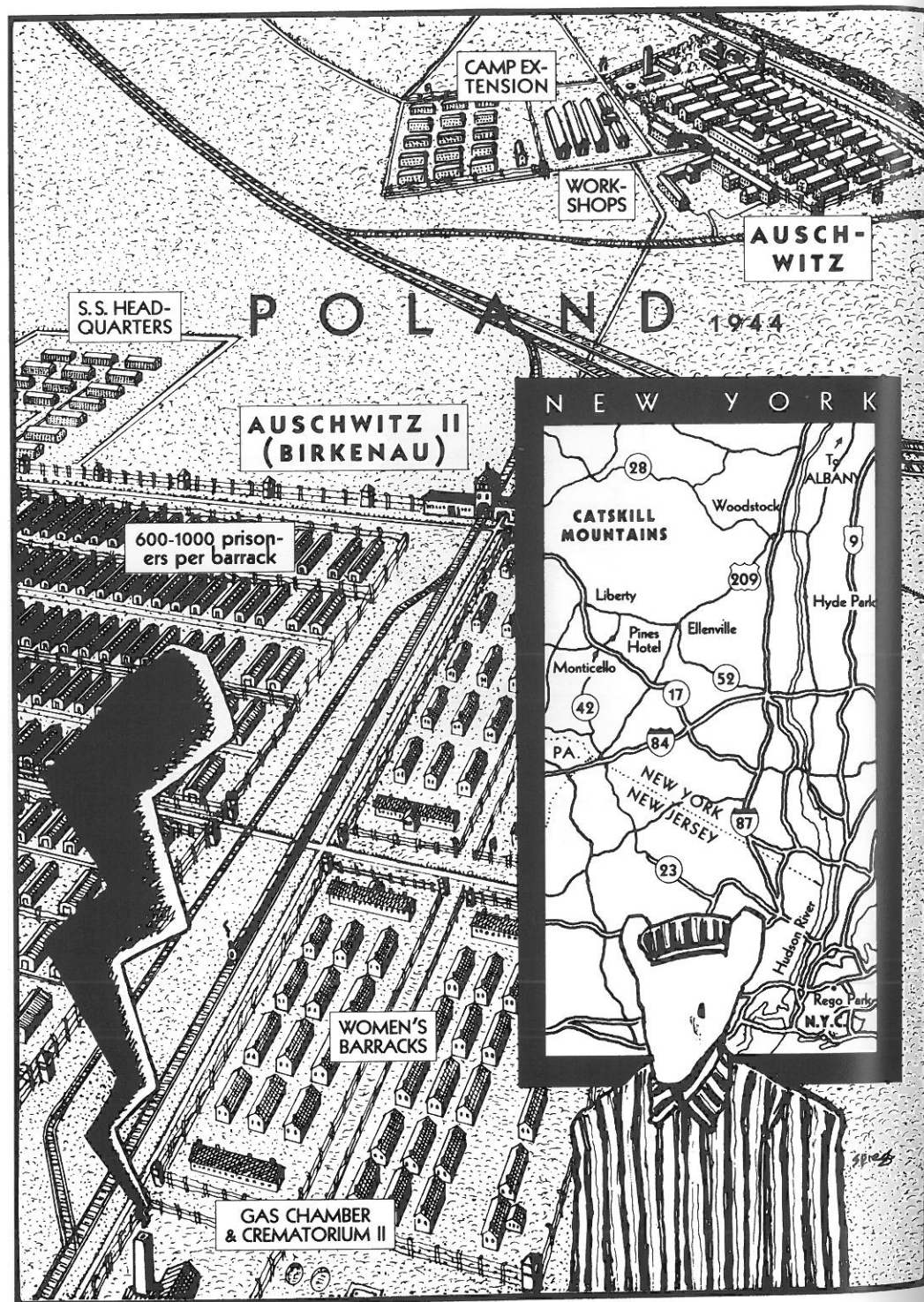
"Mickey Mouse is the most miserable ideal ever revealed....Healthy emotions tell every independent young man and every honorable youth that the dirty and filth-covered vermin, the greatest bacteria carrier in the animal kingdom, cannot be the ideal type of animal.... Away with Jewish brutalization of the people! Down with Mickey Mouse! Wear the Swastika Cross!"

—newspaper article, Pomerania, Germany, mid-1930s

FOR RICHIEU



AND FOR NADJA
AND DASHIELL

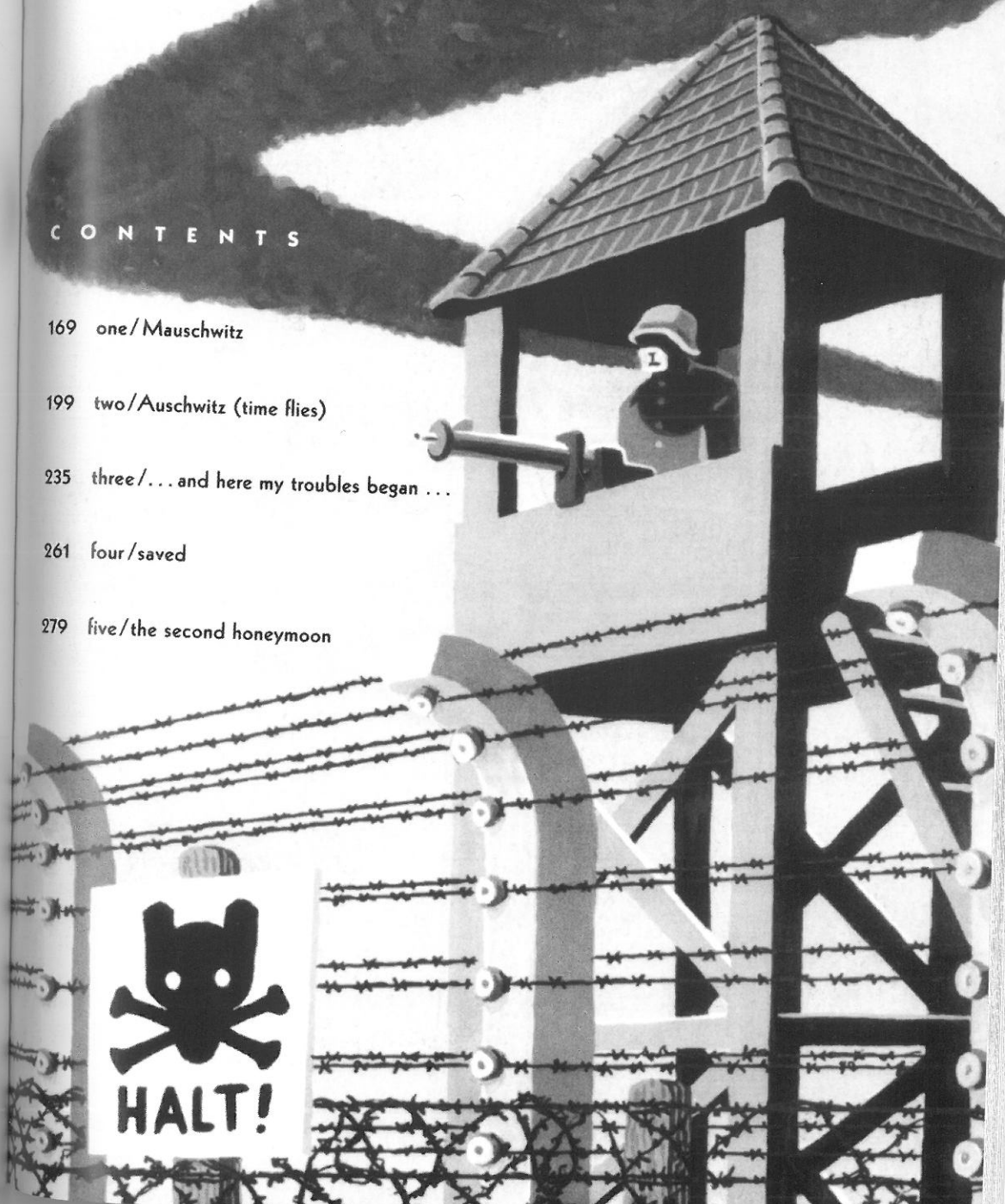


AND HERE MY TROUBLES BEGAN

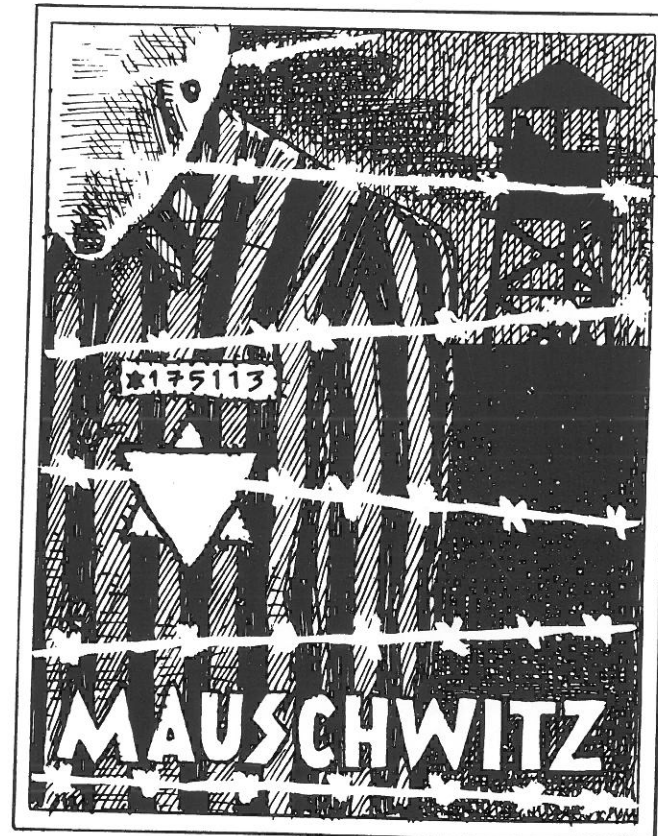
(FROM MAUSCHWITZ TO THE CATSKILLS AND BEYOND)

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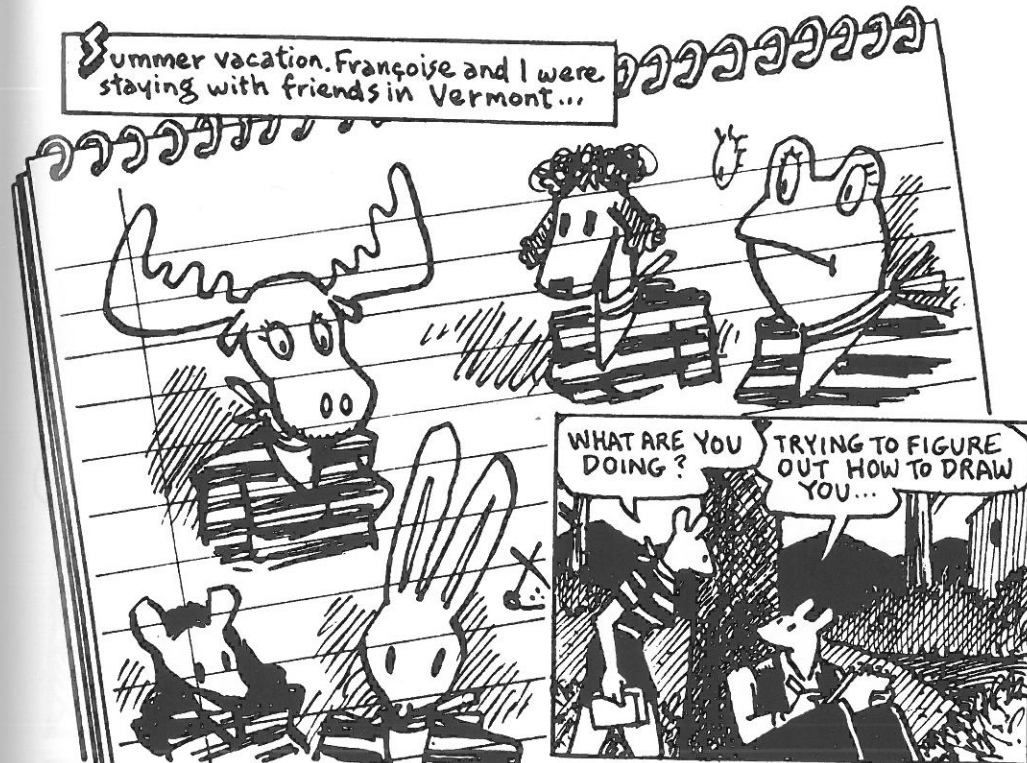
- 169 one/Mauschwitz
- 199 two/Auschwitz (time flies)
- 235 three/... and here my troubles began ...
- 261 four/saved
- 279 five/the second honeymoon



C H A P T E R O N E



Summer vacation. Françoise and I were staying with friends in Vermont...



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO DRAW YOU...

WANT ME TO POSE?

I MEAN IN MY BOOK. WHAT KIND OF ANIMAL SHOULD I MAKE YOU?

HUH? A MOUSE, OF COURSE!

BUT YOU'RE FRENCH!

WELL...HOW ABOUT THE BUNNY RABBIT?

NAH, TOO SWEET AND GENTLE.

I MEAN THE FRENCH IN GENERAL. LET'S NOT FORGET THE CENTURIES OF ANTI-SEMITISM...

HMMPH.

I MEAN, HOW ABOUT THE DREYFUS AFFAIR? THE NAZI COLLABORATORS! THE —

OKAY! BUT IF YOU'RE A MOUSE, I OUGHT TO BE A MOUSE TOO.

I CONVERTED DIDN'T I?



WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS NOW, POP?

WE'LL WALK OVER TO THE PINES HOTEL AND THEN BACK



I MEAN, IN GENERAL, NOW THAT MALA IS GONE. MAYBE WE'LL TOGETHER STAY TO THE END OF THE SUMMER HERE ... IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL...



I TOLD YOU-FRANÇOISE AND I CAN ONLY STAY THROUGH THE WEEKEND.



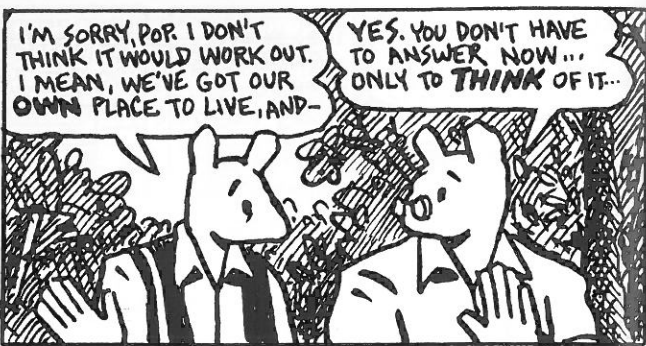
SO? THEN WHEN YOU GO BACK, I ALSO WILL GO. WHAT HAVE I HERE TO STAY ALL ALONE?



AND THEN? NU? MAYBE YOU'LL WANT WITH ME IN QUEENS TO STAY?



TO HAVE YOU WITH ME, IT'S ALWAYS A PLEASURE. ...REMEMBER, MY HOUSE IT'S ALSO YOUR HOUSE TOO.



I'M SORRY, POP. I DON'T THINK IT WOULD WORK OUT. I MEAN, WE'VE GOT OUR OWN PLACE TO LIVE, AND- YES. YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER NOW ... ONLY TO THINK OF IT...



UM-CAN I ASK YOU MORE ABOUT YOUR PAST... ABOUT AUSCHWITZ?



WELL...WHAT HAPPENED WHEN YOU AND MOM ARRIVED THERE AND WERE SEPARATED?



WHEN WE CAME, THEY PUSHED IN ONE WAY THE MEN, AND SOMEWHERE ELSE THE WOMEN. OUT!

I WAVED VERY FAST GOODBYE TO ANJA.



BUT YOU UNDERSTAND, NEVER ANJA AND I WERE SEPARATED! NO??



NO! THE WAR PUT US APART. BUT ALWAYS, BEFORE AND AFTER, WE WERE TOGETHER.



NOT SO LIKE MALA, WHAT GRABS OUT MY MONEY!- AUSCHWITZ, POP. TELL ME ABOUT AUSCHWITZ.



AUSCHWITZ WAS IN A TOWN CALLED OSWIECIM. BEFORE THE WAR I CAME OFTEN HERE TO SELL MY TEXTILES. ...AND NOW, I CAME AGAIN.



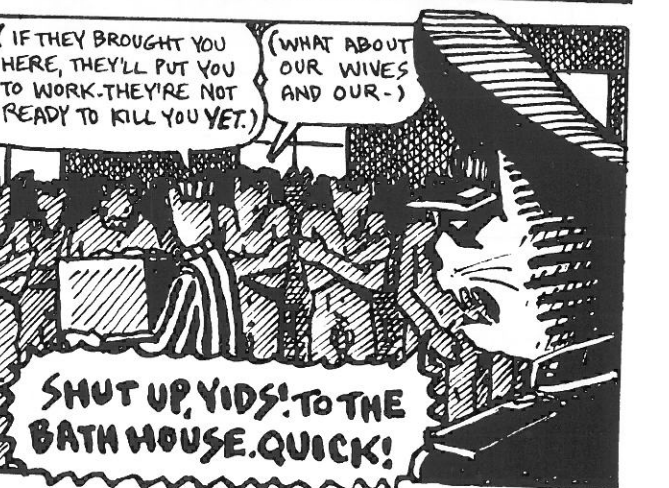
WE CAME TO A BIG HALL AND THEY SHOUTED ON US. GET UNDRESSED! LEAVE YOUR VALUABLES! LINE UP! SCHNELL!

I WAS, AT THAT TIME, STILL WITH MY FRIEND MANDELBAUM.



THEY TOOK FROM US OUR PAPERS, OUR CLOTHES AND OUR HAIR.. (PSS- WH-WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO US?) (DON'T WORRY..)

WE WERE COLD, AND WE WERE AFRAID.



(IF THEY BROUGHT YOU HERE, THEY'LL PUT YOU TO WORK. THEY'RE NOT READY TO KILL YOU YET.) (WHAT ABOUT OUR WIVES AND OUR-)

SHUT UP, YIDS! TO THE BATH HOUSE. QUICK!

EVERYWHERE WE HAD TO RUN—SO LIKE JOGGERS—AND THEY RAN US TO THE SAUNA...



IT'S FREEZING! JUST THANK GOD IT'S NOT GAS!

HERE IT WAS THE LIVE SHOWERS, NOT THE DEAD GAS SHOWERS WHAT WE HEARD SOMETIMES RUMORS.

IN THE SNOW THEY THREW TO US PRISONERS CLOTHINGS.



SCHNELL! SCHNELL! SCHNELL!

THEY NEVER EVEN LOOKED ON WHAT SIZE THEY THREW.

ONE GUY TRIED TO EXCHANGE.



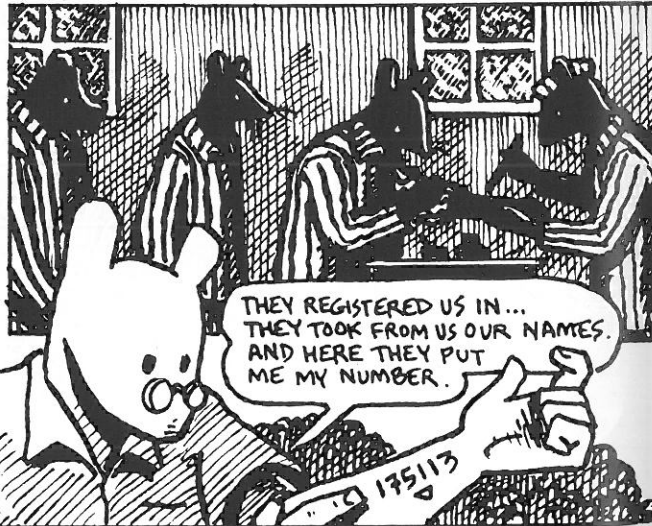
E-EXCUSE ME. THESE SHOES ARE TOO SMALL.



MAYBE NOW THEY'LL FIT!

THE SHOES WERE WOOD SHOES!

I WAS A LUCKY ONE. EVERYTHING FITTED ME A LITTLE. ONLY THE SHIRT WAS TORN AND TOO BIG FOR ME...



THEY REGISTERED US IN... THEY TOOK FROM US OUR NAMES. AND HERE THEY PUT ME MY NUMBER.

175113

ALL AROUND WAS A SMELL SO TERRIBLE, I CAN'T EXPLAIN... SWEETISH... SO LIKE RUBBER BURNING. AND FAT.



UNCLE! UNCLE!

WHEN WE CAME INSIDE THE GATES SOMEONE RAN TO US FROM FAR AWAY.

HERE WAS ABRAHAM—MANDELBAUM'S NEPHEW!



SO, UNCLE... YOU'VE ENDED UP HERE TOO.

YOU TOLD US TO COME!



YOU WROTE US ABOUT HOW HAPPY YOU ARE IN HUNGARY—THAT WE SHOULD JOIN YOU RIGHT AWAY! WELL... HERE WE ARE.

HUNGARY. HAH!

THE POLES WHO ARRANGED OUR "ESCAPE" UNDERSTOOD YIDDISH. SO THEY KNEW YOU WERE WAITING TO HEAR IF I WAS SAFE.



IN BIELSKO THE POLES PICTATED THAT LETTER WHILE THE GESTAPO HELD A PISTOL UP TO MY HEAD.

WHAT COULD I DO? THEY'D HAVE SHOT ME THEN AND THERE.



WELL... SO HERE'S OUR HUNGARY...

AND THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY OUT OF HERE FOR ALL OF US... THROUGH THOSE CHIMNEYS.

ABRAHAM I DIDN'T SEE AGAIN... I THINK HE CAME OUT THE CHIMNEY.



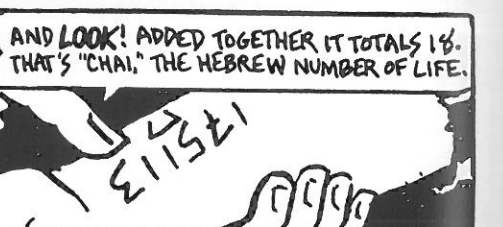
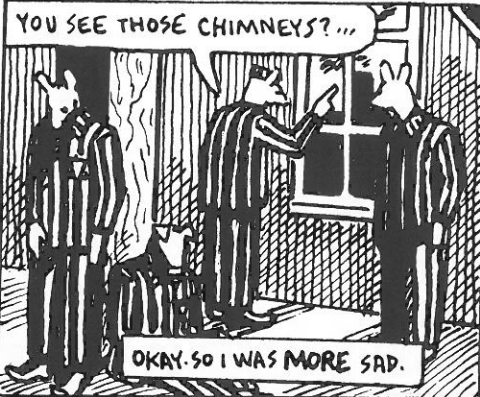
BUT I SAW AGAIN ONCE THE POLES WHO BETRAYED US.

THE GERMANS DIDN'T NEED THEM. SO THEY FINISHED ALSO IN AUSCHWITZ.

WE NEWCOMERS WERE PUT INSIDE A ROOM. OLD-TIMERS PASSED AND SAID ALL THE SAME.

I WAS WORN AND SHIVERING AND CRYING A LITTLE.

BUT FROM ANOTHER ROOM SOMEONE APPROACHED OVER



FOR ME IT WAS HARD HERE, BUT FOR MY FRIEND MANDELBAUM IT WAS MORE HARD.





SO, MANDELBAUM AND I WERE TWO IN A BED. WE DIDN'T KNOW WHY, SINCE IT WAS SPACES LEFT.

BUT A DAY AFTER, THEY PUSHED IN A SHIPMENT OF MAYBE 400 MORE JEWS THERE.



IT WAS ROOM HARDLY TO MOVE. ONLY TO GO DOWN TO THE TOILET WAS 15 MINUTES WALKING ON THE UNLUCKY ONES SLEEPING ON THE FLOOR.

AND COMING BACK I COULDN'T FIND AGAIN WHERE IS MY BED.

IN THE BARRACK WAS A KAPO-A SUPERVISOR-HE WAS SCREAMING AND KICKING, WHATEVER HE COULD.



LINE UP IN ROWS OF FIVE, YOU SHITS! STAND STRAIGHT!

HE WAS ALSO A PRISONER, A PEASANT FROM THE GERMAN PART OF POLAND.



NOW LIE ON YOUR BELLIES. QUICK!



STAND UP! LIE DOWN!

STAND UP! FASTER!



LIE DOWN!

WE DID SUCH "SPORT" ALL DAY-KICKING, HITTING, YELLING-TIL SOME DROPPED DEAD. THEN MORE.

ONE TIME THIS BLOCK SUPERVISOR STARTED SCREAMING ON US:



WHO KNOWS ENGLISH? RAISE YOUR HAND!

(YOU SHOULD RAISE YOUR HAND, VLADEK.)

(NO...)

(I DON'T WANT TO GET TOO CLOSE TO HIS STICK.

BESIDES, LOOK AT ALL THE HANDS UP ALREADY...)

MANY FRENCH JEWS HERE KNEW TO SPEAK ENGLISH.

HE TOOK THEM APART. BUT SENT THEM SOON BACK.

IT WAS 8 OR 9 OF US. EACH HAD TO SPEAK A FEW WORDS.



WHO KNOWS ENGLISH AND POLISH?

NOW IT WAS VERY FEW HANDS, SO I APPROACHED.



WHERE... IST... DER PEN?... DER PEN IST... IN... DER TABLE...

NEXT.

WHAT I HEARD THE OTHERS SPEAK I SAW I HAD A CHANCE.

I SPOKE ONLY ENGLISH TO HIM: FOR POLISH, I HAD A GOOD ENGLISH

YES. I GAVE PRIVATE LESSONS OF ENGLISH WHEN I LIVED THEN IN CZESTOCHOWA.

YOU MANAGED TO GET THE BERLITZ BOOKS HERE! YOU STUDIED ALREADY TO CONJUGATE VERBS?



HE WANTED TO LEARN HERE ENGLISH!



AND HE KEPT ME ASIDE THE REST.

LISTEN-THERE ARE TOO MANY PRISONERS HERE-THE SS WILL LINE YOU ALL UP TOMORROW. ...BE SURE TO STAND ON THE FAR LEFT.



IN THE MORNING, THE S.S. CHOSE WHO TO TAKE FOR THE DAY TO WORK. WEAK ONES THEY PUT ON THE SIDE TO TAKE AWAY FOREVER. BEFORE THEY CAME TO ME, THEY TOOK ENOUGH.



THE KAPO PUSHED THOSE REMAINING TO CLEAN UP IN THE BLOCK.



WAIT! SPIEGELMAN - YOU COME WITH ME!



IT MUST BE IT'S HIS BREAKFAST. SEE HOW HAPPY HE HAS IT HERE!



I WAS AFRAID TO LOOK. I WAS SO HUNGRY, I COULD GRAB ALL OF IT!



WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? SIT DOWN AND EAT!



I ATE, ATE, ATE AS HE WATCHED. THEN I TAUGHT HIM A COUPLE HOURS AND WE SPOKE A LITTLE.

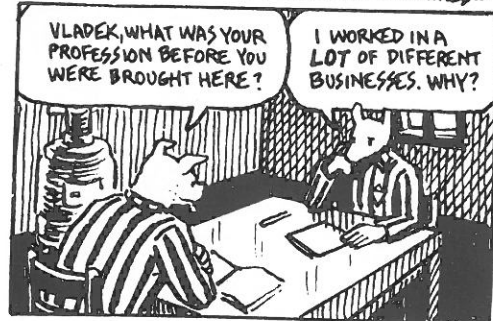


I EXPLAINED HIM EVERYTHING ABOUT MANDELBAUM.

I'M TELLING YOU - I WAS AMAZING WELL-OFF!



OF THE GROUP WHO ARRIVED, ONLY I REMAINED...



VLADEK, WHAT WAS YOUR PROFESSION BEFORE YOU WERE BROUGHT HERE?

I WORKED IN A LOT OF DIFFERENT BUSINESSES. WHY?



I'VE KEPT YOU HERE IN THE "QUARANTINE BLOCK" AS LONG AS I CAN. YOU'LL HAVE TO BE ASSIGNED OUT TO A WORK CREW... SKILLED WORKERS GET BETTER TREATMENT.



I CAN DO ANYTHING ONCE I'M SHOWN HOW. IN THE GHETTO I WORKED IN A WOOD SHOP... IN SOSNOWIEC I WAS A TINSMITH.

A TINSMITH! I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO!



I WAS NOT REALLY A TINMAN. BUT I KNEW A LITTLE. IN SOSNOWIEC I WAS IN A TIN SHOP REGISTERED TO GET A SAFE WORK PASSPORT, AND I WATCHED HOW THEY WORKED.

ALWAYS AROUND AUSCHWITZ THEY WERE BUILDING. TO THE ROOFS THEY NEEDED GOOD TINMEN.



UH-HUH. YOU TOLD ME. WHAT I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT THOUGH, IS WHAT HAPPENED TO MOM WHILE YOU

STOP!...



WE MUST TURN QUICK AND GO BY THIS ROAD TO COME TO THE PINES! HUH?



IN THIS WAY THE HOTEL GUARD CAN'T SEE US, AND WE CAN SIT ON THEIR PATIO. IT'S PRETTY THERE TO SIT. I COME ALMOST EVERY DAY IN THIS WAY.



SOMETIMES I GET HERE FREE DANCING LESSONS, OR THEY HAVE FOR THE GUESTS FREE BINGO GAMES AND PRIZES.



DOWNSTAIRS IS A GYM WITH A STEAM ROOM AND A WHIRLPOOL... MAYBE I CAN TAKE YOU IN THERE TOMORROW.

NO THANKS. AREN'T YOU AFRAID YOU'LL GET CAUGHT TRESPASSING?



FEH. FROM OUR BUNGALOWS EVERYBODY COMES HERE ALWAYS, OR TO BRICKMAN'S HOTEL UP THE ROAD.



...I LIKE BETTER THE PINES ONLY IT'S THAT IN THE GYM HERE YOU CAN'T HAVE A LOCKER WITHOUT GIVING A ROOM KEY.



LOOK, THEY'RE GIVING NOW CARDS FOR BINGO. YOU WANT WE'LL PLAY?

UH-UH. I'LL PUT IN A NEW TAPE AND WE CAN CONTINUE.



I WON HERE A BINGO GAME ONE TIME. THE WINNER GOT A PRIZE OVER TO HIS ROOM. ...ONLY IT WAS, I HAD NO ROOM.



BEHIND ME SAT A YOUNG LADY WHAT GOT SO DISAPPOINTED THAT SHE LOST— SHE HAD JUST ONE NUMBER AWAY...

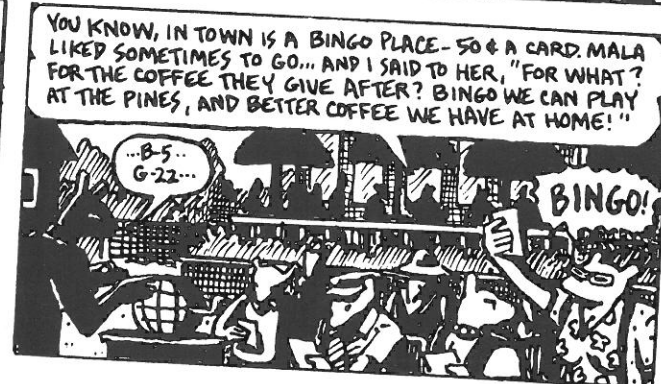


...SO I GAVE TO HER MY CARD AND SAID: "I DON'T CARE FOR SUCH PRIZES—YOU GO UP TO BE THE WINNER." ...WAS SHE HAPPY.



DID YOU TELL HER YOU WEREN'T A GUEST HERE?

WHY TO TELL?? THIS WASN'T HER BUSINESS.



YOU KNOW, IN TOWN IS A BINGO PLACE—50¢ A CARD. MALA LIKED SOMETIMES TO GO... AND I SAID TO HER, "FOR WHAT? FOR THE COFFEE THEY GIVE AFTER? BINGO WE CAN PLAY AT THE PINES, AND BETTER COFFEE WE HAVE AT HOME!"