

**David P. Boder interviews Roma Tcharnabroda**

*Munich, September 24, 1946*

Roma Tcharnabroda: And the physicians predicted that I will die in ten days.

David Boder: Yes.

Roma Tcharnabroda: I had thirty two kilos after liberation [weighed thirty two kilograms].

David Boder: How much do you weigh now?

Roma Tcharnabroda: Now? [laughter] Approximately over sixty. My height is one meter, sixty four [cm].

David Boder: Hm.

Roma Tcharnabroda: And I had thrity-two and in spite of that I pulled through. After liberation still very many died. From diarrhea. Because they started eating. It was terrible. People saw food for the first time [smiling].

David Boder: In what lager was that, in Landsberg?

Roma Tcharnabroda: That was in the lager, I was in lager one at the end.

David Boder: But you were in the hospital in Landsberg?

Roma Tcharnabroda: No, no. First I was in Holzhausen. There they cared for me very well. And from Holzhausen—to Landsberg—to Schwabing in Munich.

David Boder: Where did you lose your feet?

Roma Tcharnabroda: ...the lower leg, twenty centimeters below the knee. Right here, touch it.

David Boder: Yes. Twenty centimeters under the knee. So.

Roma Tcharnabroda: That is called lower leg amputation.

David Boder: Yes.

Roma Tcharnabroda: ... both are lost, yes.

David Boder: Yes.

Roma Tcharnabroda: And now I walk very well. In spite of the fact that the Germans said I won't be able to walk.

David Boder: And what are you doing here at the university?

Roma Tcharnabroda: I study pharmacy.

David Boder: Yes. And how are things here?

Roma Tcharnabroda: I am very satisfied with the university. The professors are very good to us, and they are so friendly. The relations between professors and students is so great, that indeed one could not find it at any other university.

David Boder: And how do the students get along?

Roma Tcharnabroda: Very well. It is interesting. One was able to see that it is possible to live together. And when man lives with man then nationality plays no part. What matters is the person not the nationality.

Roma Tcharnabroda: Yes that is all that I want to say...

David Boder: What do you want to tell to the American students?

Roma Tcharnabroda: [laughingly] So what do I want to tell the students? I want to say we have learned very much. Still we are not pessimists. That is we have come to learn...

David Boder: Yes.

Roma Tcharnabroda: ... that there is only one reality. The reality of the Evil. But in spite of that we are not pessimists. We have also learned that the potentiality of the human soul is very great. One can stand very much [laughter]. And that is told by a human being who runs around on false limbs. Life is more interesting than death, possibly not easier.

Source:

Voices of the Holocaust, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago

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