

...THE NEXT YEAR FATHER WANTED I WOULD AGAIN DO THE SAME THING, BUT I BEGGED HIM AND AT 22 WENT INTO 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!

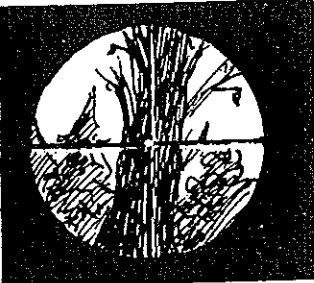
THEN BULLETS CAME
IN MY DIRECTION.



I DUG DEEPER MY TRENCH
BUT I STOPPED TO SHOOT.



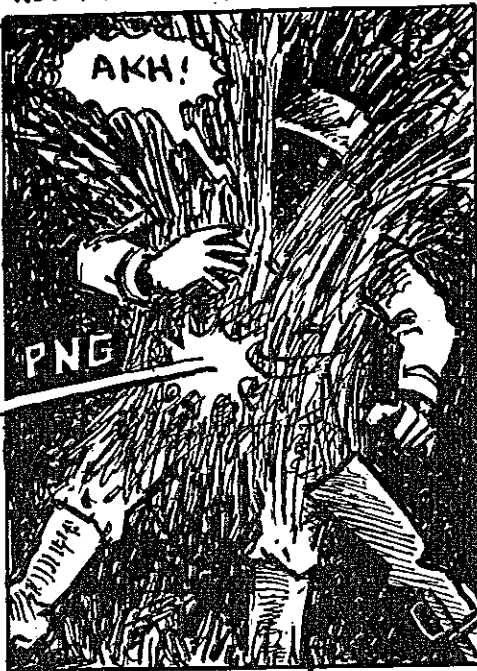
BUT WHEN I LOOKED IN
MY GUN, I SAW... A TREE!!!



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.



GET UP!

GIVE ME YOUR GUN!



IT'S HOT! YOU WERE SHOOTING AT US!

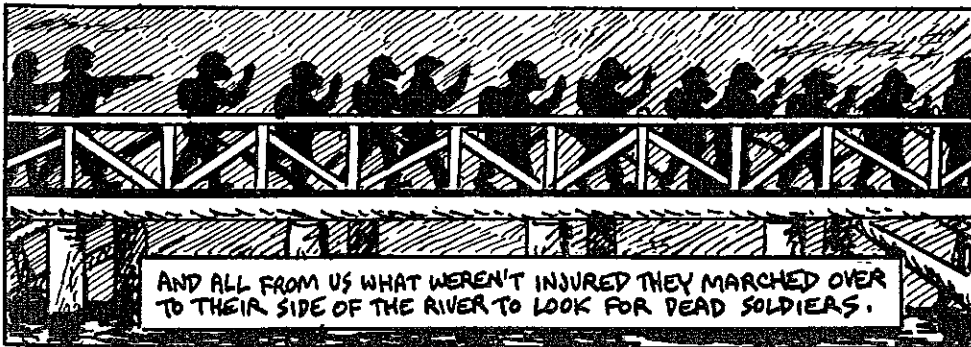
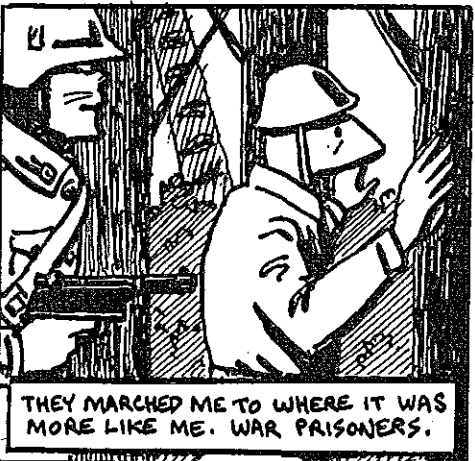


MY COMMANDER MADE ME SHOOT. I ONLY FIRED IN THE AIR!

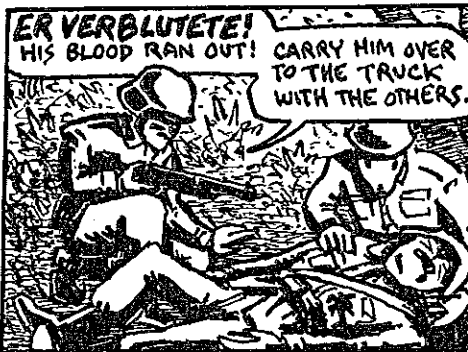


I ANSWERED IN GERMAN AND HIS PARTNER STOPPED HIM FROM BEATING ME.

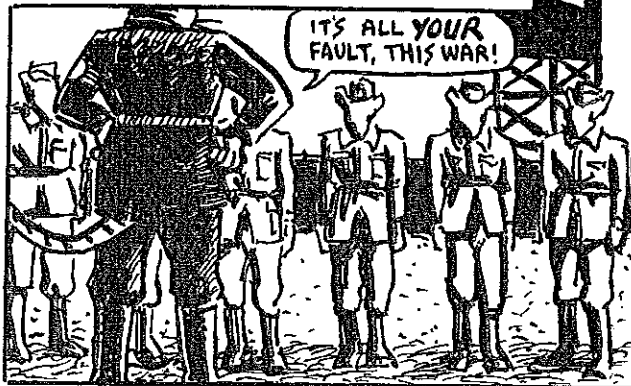
THEY MARCHED ME TO WHERE IT WAS MORE LIKE ME. WAR PRISONERS.



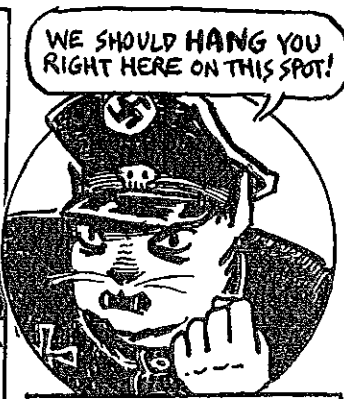
AND ALL FROM US WHAT WEREN'T INJURED THEY MARCHED OVER TO THEIR SIDE OF THE RIVER TO LOOK FOR DEAD SOLDIERS.



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.



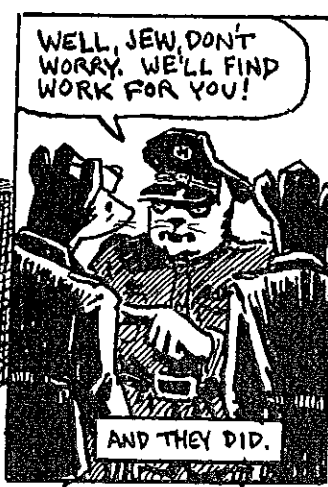
DO YOU EXPECT TO DO SOME BUSINESS HERE? SHOW ME YOUR HANDS!



YOU NEVER WORKED A DAY IN YOUR LIFE!



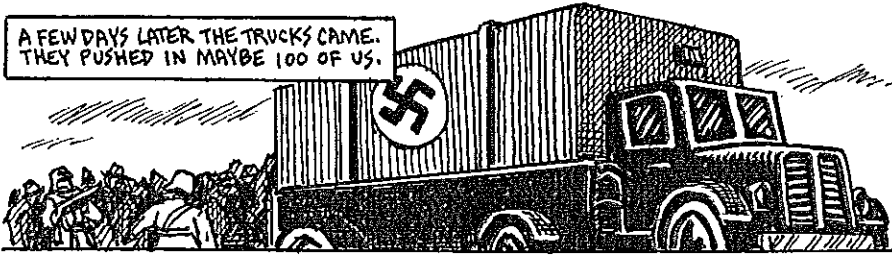
LIKE YOU, ARTIE, MY HANDS WERE ALWAYS VERY DELICATE.



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

AND THEY DID.

A FEW DAYS LATER THE TRUCKS CAME.
THEY PUSHED IN MAYBE 100 OF US.



ONE MORE TIME I WAS TOGETHER WITH ANJA.

HERE, DARLING, I HAVE
A PRESENT FOR YOU...

EGGS?! CAKE???
WHAT? HOW?...

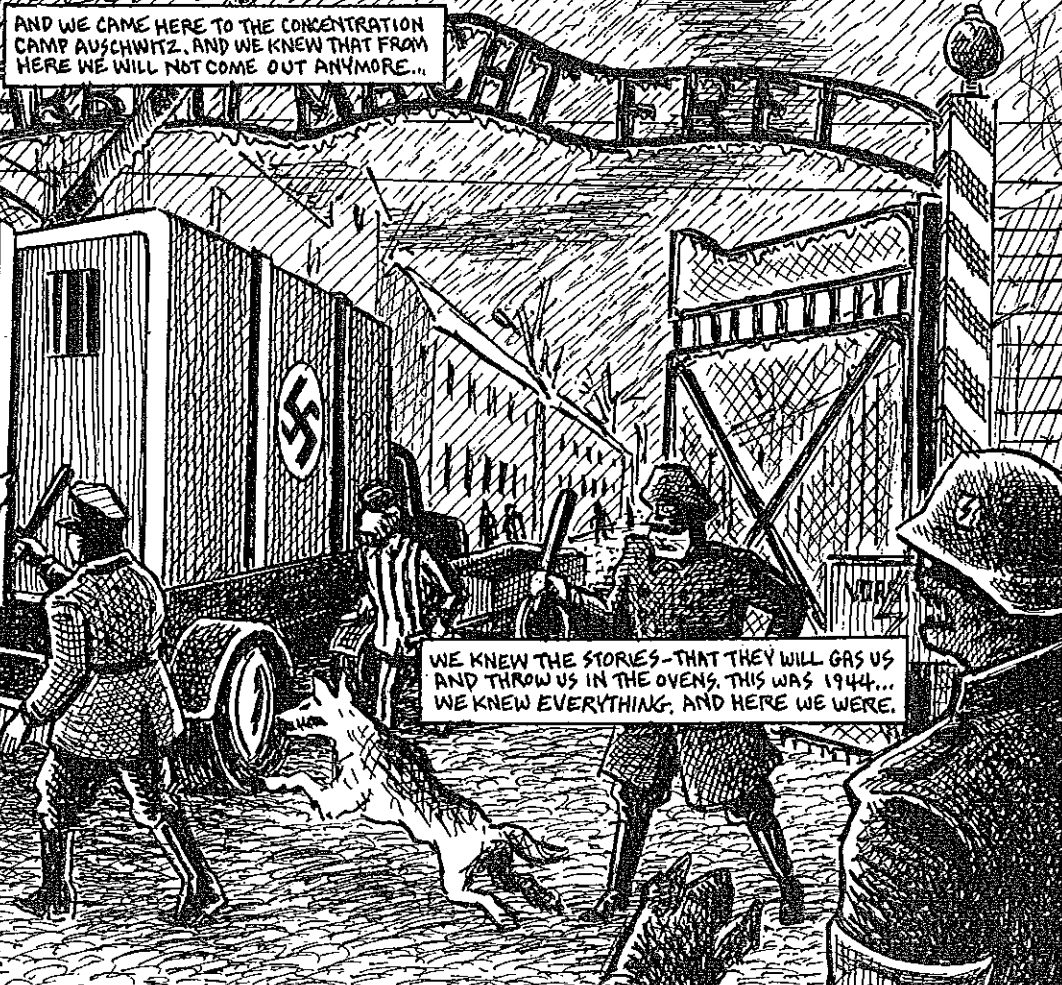
NO... YOU KEEP IT... I'M NOT HUNGRY.

HERE...
AT LEAST
TAKE HALF
FOR LATER.

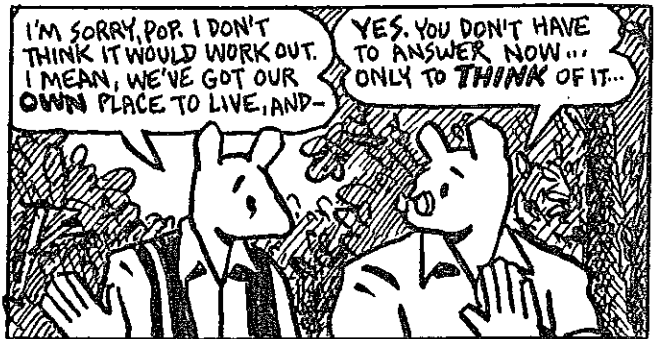
I HAD STILL THINGS I GOT
BY WRITING THIS LETTER.

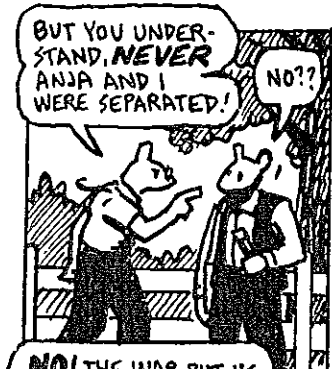
WE CAME TO THE TOWN OF OSWIECIM...
BEFORE THE WAR I SOLD TEXTILES HERE.

AND WE CAME HERE TO THE CONCENTRATION
CAMP AUSCHWITZ. AND WE KNEW THAT FROM
HERE WE WILL NOT COME OUT ANYMORE...



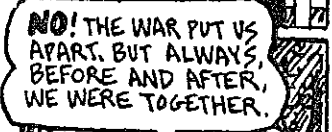
WE KNEW THE STORIES - THAT THEY WILL GAS US
AND THROW US IN THE OVENS. THIS WAS 1944...
WE KNEW EVERYTHING, AND HERE WE WERE.



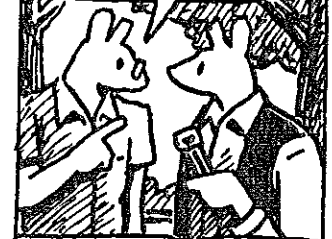


BUT YOU UNDERSTAND, NEVER ANJA AND I WERE SEPARATED!

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 UNDRRESSED! LEAVE YOUR VALUABLES! LINE UP! SCHNELL!

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

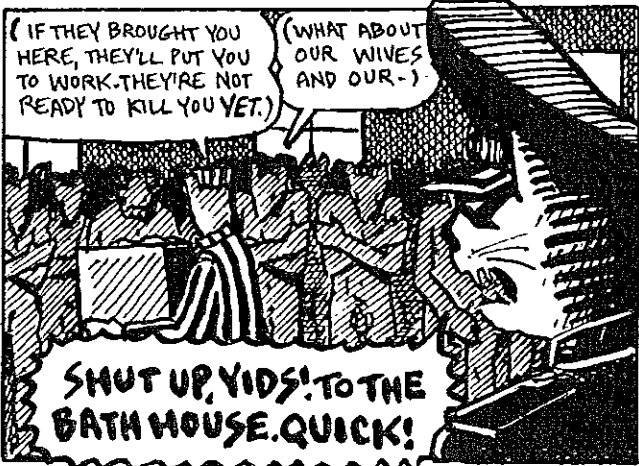


THEY TOOK FROM US OUR PAPERS, OUR CLOTHES AND OUR HAIR-

(PSSST- 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 ...



IN THE SNOW THEY THREW TO US PRISONERS CLOTHINGS.

ONE GUY TRIED TO EXCHANGE.



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



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

HERE WAS ABRAHAM - MANDELBAUM'S NEPHEW!



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



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



YOU SEE THOSE CHIMNEYS? ...

OKAY. SO I WAS MORE SAD.



NOBODY EVEN LOOKED



WHY ARE YOU CRYING, MY SON?



SHOULD I BE HAPPY? AM I AT A CARNIVAL?

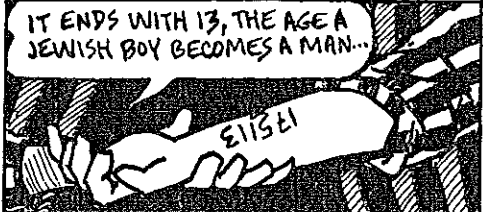
LET ME SEE YOUR ARM...

HE WAS A PRIEST...



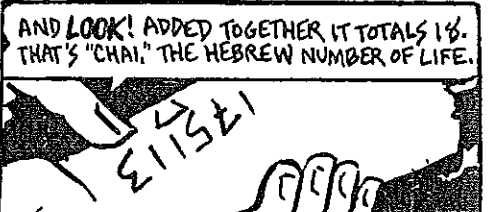
HMM--YOUR NUMBER STARTS WITH 17. IN HEBREW THAT'S "K'MINYAN TOV." SEVENTEEN IS A VERY GOOD OMEN...

HE WASN'T JEWISH - BUT VERY INTELLIGENT!



IT ENDS WITH 13, THE AGE A JEWISH BOY BECOMES A MAN...

EISEI



AND LOOK! ADDED TOGETHER IT TOTALS 18. THAT'S "CHAI," THE HEBREW NUMBER OF LIFE.

CHAI



I CAN'T KNOW IF I'LL SURVIVE THIS HELL, BUT I'M CERTAIN YOU'LL COME THROUGH ALL THIS ALIVE!

I STARTED TO BELIEVE. I TELL YOU, HE PUT ANOTHER LIFE IN ME.



AND WHENEVER IT WAS VERY BAD I LOOKED AND SAID: "YES. THE PRIEST WAS RIGHT! IT TOTALS EIGHTEEN.

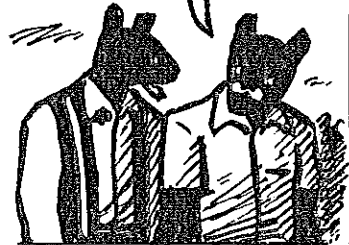
WHY. THAT GUY WAS A SAINT!

YES... I NEVER SAW HIM AGAIN.

FOR ME IT WAS HARD HERE,
BUT FOR MY FRIEND MANDEL-
BAUM IT WAS MORE HARD.



IN SOSNOWIEC, EVERYONE
KNEW MANDELBAUM.
HE WAS OLDER AS ME...
NICE...A VERY RICH MAN...



...BUT NOW, IN AUSCHWITZ, MANDELBAUM WAS A MESS.

HIS PANTS WERE
BIG LIKE FOR 2
PEOPLE, AND HE
HAD NOT EVEN A
PIECE OF STRING
TO MAKE A
BELT. HE HAD
ALL DAY TO
HOLD THEM
WITH ONE
HAND...



ONE SHOE, HIS FOOT
WAS TOO BIG TO
GO IN. THIS ALSO
HE HAD TO HOLD
SO HE COULD
FIND MAYBE
WITH WHOM TO
EXCHANGE IT.

ONE SHOE WAS
BIG LIKE A BOAT.
BUT THIS AT LEAST
HE COULD WEAR.

IT WAS WIN-
TER, AND
EVERYWHERE
HE HAD TO
GO AROUND
WITH ONE
FOOT ONTO
THE SNOW.

CAN I USE YOUR SPOON,
VLADEK?

OF COURSE,
BUT WHERE'S
YOURS?



I DROPPED IT, AND BY THE
TIME I BENT DOWN, SOME-
ONE STOLE IT.

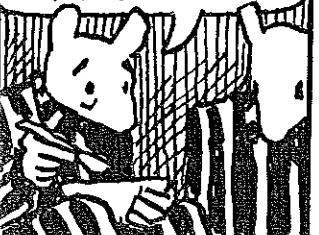


FOR A SPOON YOU COULD
GET A HALF DAY'S BREAD.

I SPILLED MOST OF MY
SOUP, TOO. WHEN I ASKED
FOR MORE, THEY BEAT ME!



I HOLD ONTO MY BOWL
AND MY SHOE FALLS DOWN.
I PICK UP THE SHOE AND
MY PANTS FALL DOWN...



BUT WHAT CAN I DO?
I ONLY HAVE TWO HANDS!



MY GOD. PLEASE GOD...
HELP ME FIND A PIECE OF
STRING AND A SHOE THAT FITS!



BUT HERE GOD DIDN'T COME.
WE WERE ALL ON OUR OWN.