

Honorable Mention

Division I – Writing

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Every Breath is a Rebellion

Word Count 473

Every Breath is a Rebellion

I am the Sobibor Killing Center.

I was built to destroy,

To weaken,

Built of concrete, wire and smoke-

Thought out well as part of a bigger picture.

Every day I saw people,

But they weren't the same.

The horror I witnessed everyday.

Forced labor,

Many murders,

Many deaths,

Many new people coming,

Many old people who disappeared.

I was meant to swallow breath.

I was meant to end resistance before it began,

but they found it before I could end it.

So every morning,

I hear an inhale.

They breathe when I tell them not to.

They breathe when they shouldn't be able to.

I heard people talk.

Talk about their hopes for the future,

Their hopes that one day this would all be over.

Their hopes that one day they would be free.

Their hopes that they could stop these horrific tragedies.

Their hopes that they could fight back.

Their hopes that they wouldn't die.

Their hopes to plan and show everyone what they have been through.

Everyday was a new chance to fight.

Fight for who they are.

Fight for their purpose.

Fight for their rights.

Fight for every wrong they have experienced.

They passed stolen weapons,

Gunpowder stolen grain by grain,

Uniforms from killed officers,

Photos kept and admired.

I saw everything, but kept silent.

Then rose against me.

This was planned,

But I'm sure they are capable of random attacks.

With guns,

With fire,

With axes.

All used by warriors,

who refused to die without a fight.

They knew it might fail.

They knew there could be consequences.

They knew they could die at any moment.

They knew it took courage,

But they knew they had the courage.
They knew this could make a difference,
So they knew they should strike anyway.
They attacked not to survive,
But to show they had lived.
To show they weren't useless.
To show they had a reason to live.
To show they never gave up.
To show they weren't giving up.
To show they had hope in the future.

Their spirit lives on,
even if they didn't.

They fought.

They prayed.

They rescued.

They aided.

They attacked.

They killed.

They chose defiance.

Some died,

But some survived.

In the end,

They killed 11 members of the SS staff at Sobibor.

Seeing people come together like that really showed me a lot.

The fact that a tragedy like this can bring people together.

The fact that people can come together to show a sense of fighting against wrong doings.

The fact that people can work together through these events and survive.

The fact that people fought back shows a lot about what was going through their minds.

Every breath was a fight.

And every weapon used,

Every attack planned,

Every person still alive,

Every person who died,

It was all a rebellion.

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