

## **Slave**

*John Chillag, a Hungarian Jew at Bochum Verein KZ,*

*August 1944 – March 1945*

### Numbered

not shipped, not whipped (though some were).

Hit and thumped by German foremen,

fed on potato peel, thin as sheet steel

you forged gun barrels thicker than oaks.

### Young

not broken, not smoke (though most soon were),

you sweated below the presses, Hans above.

You hatched a scheme: he'd lower the hoist,

crush your toes. Plaster: no roll call, no work.

### Survivor

unlike Hans, unlike your father, unlike most.

Forty years to forge the unspeakable.

Then you raise the hoist, stop the press,

lift out the white hot rods.