

The Spring

Interviewer: Steven G. Tebor (7/7/87)

Beatrice and four other women observed white smoke coming out of the spring, when they were walking to their farm in lower Nyos. The spring is located northeast of the spillway over the ridge.

Beatrice, on June 20, 1987, you saw a cloud of smoke coming out of that spring to the North East of Lake Nyos, Tell me what you saw?

- **Something was coming out of the spring like smoke.**
Was the smoke coming out of the water or from the ground?
- **The smoke was coming out of the water.**
The smoke was floating on the water.
- **Yes**
How high was the smoke?
- **It was not high**
Was it this high? (30cm)
- **Yes**
Did you enter the water?
- **No**
What color was the smoke? Was it blue?
- **No it was white.**
So, it was white like your shirt. Was the smoke moving very fast? Or could you walk faster than the smoke?
- **It was moving very slow, I could walk faster than the smoke was moving.**
So, it was moving softly softly.
- **Yes**
Did you feel anything on your skin?
- **Yes my skin felt hot.**
What, your skin felt hot?
- **Yes**
Where on your body did you feel the heat?
- **On my feet**
Your feet felt hot, did you enter the water?
- **No**
How close were you to the water, like from here to that tree
- **Yes**
So you were 6 or 7 meters away from the water. If you felt heat, how come I did not see any burns on your feet?
- **No, there are no burns on my feet.**
If you said it was hot where are the burns?
- **I was afraid, I ran.**
How many women saw this smoke? Three?
- **No, there were five women including myself.**

So all of you ran back up the hill to Nyos Palace? Did you smell anything?

- **Yes**
What did you smell?
- **I smelled something like petrol.**
Like petrol, like gasoline?
- **Yes**
Was the smell strong?
- **Yes**
Is there anything else we have not talked about?
- **No**
When you were close to the water you felt a lot of heat.
- **Yes**
But you have no problems now?
- **Yes**
Did you have any problems with your eyes?
- **No**
You did not have any problems with your eyes. You came back to the same place later in the afternoon? (It was not because she was curious, but she had to walk past this spot to get to her farm).
- **Yes**
There was nothing? Correct? You did not see or feel any heat?
- **Yes, there was nothing.**
Do you know what you saw?
- **No**
What did you see?
- **I don't know!**
You don't know? Now was it Mama water, small Mama water, or picken (child) for Mama Water?