

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM  
UWRF

Henry OERTELT

Tape 1 of 2

1921 - Born - Berlin - saw rise of concentration camps.  
Terezin (near Prague) + Aushwitz.

1923 - Mein Kampf - Aryan race theory.

1933 - He was 12 - Hitler came to power 40% unemployed - since Treaty of Versailles - no production for war material.

Dachau - 1st concentration camp.

Book burning.

He was excluded from school activities - b/c Jewish.

Kids learned marching - got uniform and knives - children taken over easily.

Classroom has race pictures up. Indoctrination began early.

Discrimination against Jews - beating, dehumanizing. People listened to Hitler because he gave Jobs/paid well. He saved

us...

Jew - thought me he was in power, he would stop it.

1935 - 14yrs. - he had to stop public school - worked as apprentice for furniture maker.

1936 - Annexed Czech/Austria.

1938 - Krisstalnacht - Jews beginning - going to concentration camps.

1939 - Nov. - into Poland.

Beginning of WWII - he was 18 years - all Jews must do manuel labor - he worked on road building. 50% of \$ made -

went to government - 50% to worker - but taxes too 25-30%.

Jews couldn't buy anything - had to use rations for food, clothes only minimum - dehumanization, no cars, no pets, no bicycle.

1941 - Workers - some got to be professional again - but worked from homes. - Jews only with Jews.

He was put in a factory - making furniture - meanwhile many Jews were taken in these years. In 1943 80% of Jews were gone. One night SS-men came - gave them 15-min. to pack and taken to collection center (burned out Synagogue) - waited

there until enough people to be put on train. Taken to

Terezienstadt - Danish Jews/German Jews.

Tells story of Danish King.

He stayed there for a year - he war put on train, send to

work camp. No food- no toilet.

People died - pile people up that died - rode for 2 1/2 days fair - five rows dead people.

Arrived in Aushwitz - every child under 12 - taken away, no child survived in here.

1944 - 23 years old.

Lost mother - taken with sick people away - got striped to be tattooed. He got a job there to make furniture.

Tape 2 of 2.

Others worked in stone quarries.

1945 - January - Russians came close to Aushwitz.

People were either marched to Birkenau or to other camps.

Flossenburg - he went there - overcrowded.

1945 - April 20th - All Jews were ordered to line up to march - taken on another march, anyone who fell from weakness... would be shot.

1945 - April 23th - American vehicles coming in - Germans took off - gave food - many prisoners died from eating.