

Ernest Kolben
RG-50.106*0007

May 22, 1926 - Born in Vienna, Austria

father was a shoemaker, not religious

March 11, 1938 - felt an outcast, Jewish schools closed

November 10, 1938 - brother arrested and sent to Dachau, father got him released in March 1939

Ernest and fathers were grave diggers, then worked a construction company

wore a star, had to sit on benches, 4 families in one apartment, little food

mother died from stress

June 1942 - he and father sent to Theresienstadt

slept in stable with 60 people, father unloaded boxcars, Ernest did kitchen work and
gardening

September 1944 - he and father went by cattle car to Auschwitz, separated from father

1 week later - volunteered with 50 others to work at Buchenwald

arrived at Kaufering, near Dachau

carried cement bags to factory mixer, lost weight, had lice, was very weak, got work in
kitchen, slept on wooden platform

Americans bombed Munich, marched from Kaufering to Camp Allach.

saw people hung, people on wires with potatoes in their mouths

April 30, 1945 - freed from Allach, had typhus

Went to Salzburg, Americans put him in hospital for 30 days

Worked for CIC looking for SS members. worked with 7th Infantry, Rainbow Division

September 24, 1945 - went back to Vienna

1946 - married, had a son, went into the trucking business

December 1951 - came to Montreal

1960 - moved to Chicago, now lives in Vienna half of the year