

Henry Kolber
RG-50.106*0008

June 2, 1923 - born Hirsch Kolber in Przysietnica, Poland on Czech border

father owned a lumberyard, 3 Jewish families in town

moved to Barzice, went to public schools

September 1, 1939 - family moved to Stary Sacz because there were more Jews there

Jews ordered to assemble in marketplace, 10 Jews shot, 100 locked up, including father who was then released went back to Barzice - Henry and father built roads, shopped stones and shoveled snow

May 1941 - Judenrat selected 100 young men to go to Rapka where there was an SS training school to build a shooting gallery for new SS recruits. Upon arrival 10 men were shot. Nearby ghettos liquidated. Henry and 89 others were grave diggers after the Aktions. The SS had whiskey, people disrobed and were shot. Henry threw disinfectant and dirt on the bodies, put sod down in the morning. 7 diggers escaped, 21 were hanged.

Parents moved to Stary Sacz ghetto - he got a permit to go and say goodbye, SS beat him at the train station. Parents were taken to Treblinka

Fall 1941 - went by truck to Cracow to prepare Plaszow camp, dug ditches, transferred to carpentry section, built barracks, poor health

Late 1943 - went with 225 people by cattle car to Auschwitz. Put in block 18 A, given h#1740609, worked in steam factory

December 1944-January 1945 - went on Death March in snow. German soldiers panicked at British planes. Prisoners were so conditioned that they followed them. Got to Polish-German border, train to Buchenwald. Put in same block as Elie Wiesel, Gustave was the Blockteste, food every other day
April 1945 - Allies close, no food, made soup out of grass and water

American Army Chaplain Rabbi Herschel Schechter organized transports to France (Elie Wiesel), Henry went to Switzerland with help of the Red Cross

1947 - came to US, settled in New Jersey

1950 - married, has sons and a daughter