

**Gerald Rosenstein**

**RG – 50.106\*0012**

May 21, 1927 - Born Gerhard Rosenstein in Bensheim, Germany

1934 -moved to Darmstadt, attacked and beaten by a schoolmate's father

May 1940 - father opened an office in Amsterdam, family moved there

After the German invasion, family went to Zantfortt on go to England, but had to turn back

Wore a yellow star, family car and bicycles confiscated

October 1942 - middle brother sent to Birkenau, older brother in Palestine since 1938

Sent to Westerbork - parents in different barracks, he typed out lists of transports

after 2 weeks parents sent to Bergen-Belsen, he stayed among relatives and friends

Sent to Theresienstadt - parents arrived 6 weeks later

had some schooling and did agricultural work

mother worked with mica for submarine insulation

for the Red cross film he swam in a pool

He and father deported to Auschwitz for 4 days in a cattle car

given # B12773 which was humiliating, taken to Birkenau

3 weeks later went through selection to show they were physically fit

7 weeks later - sent to Gleiwitz

made ammunition, slept on straw, stood at appel, broke his back unloading cement

January 17, 1945 - forced death march to Blechhammer

Liberated by the Russians -he had no emotional reaction because he was so traumatized by the Germans

He and father and 10 other stayed 2 weeks in an abandoned POW camp

Came to Katowicz, quartered with Polish families

Took a .Red Cross train to Czernowitz in Rumania, were taken care of for 4-5 weeks

Went to Odessa to a sanitarium on the Black Sea, he was a translator for the Dutch people

Boarded Red Cross ship to Marseilles,train to Paris

Mother repatriated to Amsterdam - he hitchhiked there in an American army uniform

Family came to New York

1949 - he moved to California

1950's - had tattoo removed

Active in religious, gay and political communities