

Benjamin Hildesheim

RG-50.106*0023

Born Beniek Hildesheim on August 21, 1929 in Sieradz, Poland (50km from Lodz)

Father Avraham, an ardent Zionist, died suddenly in 1937

Fall 1939 - walked to Zdunska Vola, then back to Sieradz

Spring 1940 - put into Sieradz Ghetto, forced to clean German houses

August 1942 -Ghetto was liquidated

900 people put in a monastery, no sanitary conditions

Torn away from mother and taken to railroad station to go to Lodz

Others taken to Chelmno

Lodz Ghetto - had breakdown there from being taken from mother

After 3-4 months - adopted with 9 other children by Chaim Rumkowski

Lived in a 7 room house - better conditions and more food than others

Visited by Rumkowski every weekend

Taught the iron works profession, was part of a reading circle

August 1944 - put in sealed cattle car to Auschwitz

Went through selection, disinfection

Put into Gypsy barracks - stood naked at Appel for hours

Sent to satellite camp Babice - given number B 7605

Lived in barracks, wore striped uniform, stripe shaved in middle of his head

Worked on farm - ate potatoes and beet roots

December 1944 - went by foot to Gleiwitz railroad station, loaded on to open wagon

January 1945 - arrived in Buchenwald - had frozen legs and gangrene

Sent to camp in Zeiss near Weimar

Death March to Czechoslovakia

April 1945 - Theresienstadt

Followed English and American POWs to Prague - hospitalized

To Budapest - Hebrew Brigade smuggled him from Graz, Austria to southern Italy

October 1945 - ship to Haifa

went to agricultural school, featured in Israeli film "Adama" in 1947

fought in 1948 War of Independence, 1956 Sinai War

1957 - married, went to Brazil

1958 - moved to the United States