

Rene Tressler

RG-50.106*0061

Born - April 16, 1927 in Strakonice, Czechoslovakia. Moved to Aussig when Hitler occupied the Sudetenland. Family then moved to Prague.

Was expelled from high school, then went to a Jewish school

Belonged to Ha-Gibor Sports Club run by Freddie Hirsch

Brother Harry left voluntarily for Theresienstadt to become a member of the Board of Elders in November 1941.

Rene helped carry people's luggage to transports.

November 20, 1942 - Rene and his mother went on transport CC with 1000 people to Theresienstadt. 843 did not survive the war. He lived in the Dresden garrison with other children and played soccer. Saw Jacob Edelstein. Was protected by his brother's position.

December 18, 1943 - Went on 5 day train journey to Auschwitz, given #170955. Was placed in BIIb Family Camp. Worked in Children's Camp under direction of Freddie Hirsch who committed suicide after first group of children were gassed.

June-July 1944 - Taken to Blechhammer. Dug ditches, was beaten.

January-February 1945 - Death March to Gross-Rosen, drank melted snow. Stayed 3 days, then taken to Dresden. 900 prisoners died in the bombing that night. Went to Buchenwald.

April 11, 1945 - American Army arrived

May 19, 1945 - went to Prague, saw father's notice. Mother came 3 months later from Bergen-Belsen. Rene recuperated at a resort, later went to Switzerland, then to Israel

Returned to Prague, lived for 20 years under Communist rule

1965 - Immigrated to US

Writes about his Holocaust experience

Never considered having his number removed

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Bibliography

Berenbaum, Michael and Gutman, Yisrael - Anatomy of the Auschwitz Death Camp
pp. 5-33 and pp 428-440 (Family Camp)

Encyclopedia of the Holocaust Prague
Theresienstadt
Auschwitz
Blechhammer
Gross-Rosen
Buchenwald

USHMM Maps - Czechoslovakia, Poland, Germany