

Henry Eisenberg was born in 1922 in Poland. He was one of eight siblings; two were sisters and the remaining six were boys. At age 17 in 1939, Germany invaded his town and the war began. Two years later, the Germans took him and two of his brother to a camp. They wanted young boys because they were the most efficient in the labor camps. When the Germans picked them up to work in the mission factories, he was in Ukraine and could not return home any longer. People paid money to work in the factories to protect themselves from being shipped off to a far camp. Due to this influx of people wanting jobs, those who were physically sick or homesick had the ability to volunteer to go home, so Henry and his brother harmed their hands to appear sick. His brother put a piece of iron in his hand and it swelled up. Henry scratched between his fingers with nails and allowed it to get infected. Henry and his brother were in the group of people that were sent home. At this point, Henry believed that he still had a family to go home to.

When Henry and his brother first went to the camp, it was 1941 and the Jewish people were not being sent to the death camps yet. But, by the time they had the ability to go home, it was 1942 and the persecution had already begun. His brother squeezed the infection out of his hand but this was not a possibility for Henry and his scratches.

Henry and fifteen other boys were marched into the Jewish town. They stayed in the town that Friday night. Henry remembered that he had an uncle in that town and left to go look for him. His uncle was prepared to go to temple, and did not want to be disturbed on his way to temple and told his wife to bring Henry challah. He was left in a strange place without anyone.

There were rumors that the Germans would come to take the Jewish people away soon. Henry went to stay overnight at the homeless shelter as directed by his uncle. The shelter was covered in lice and Henry could not sleep. During his overnight stay, Henry went to a Jewish bakery and asked for food. Luckily, the nice shopkeeper gave him the food but with warning: tomorrow the Jewish people will no longer remain in that town and will be taken away.

Henry returned to the homeless shelter to stay overnight. When he left in the morning, he saw his brother searching for him, despite being uninjured and able to leave. Henry was upset that his brother gave up the opportunity to survive for him. His brother said, "Whatever will happen to you, will happen to me." His brother asked if he visited his uncle and Henry explained the past events along with taking him to the homeless shelter. A few days after being in the town, they are awoken by the sounds of shooting and screams. The Germans and police officers rounded up the Jewish people onto trucks. The two brothers met a young women and her children during the round up. They promised that they will stay with her, and help her with her children; unfortunately, a friend serving as a Jewish policeman offered Henry and his brother work and they were split up from the lady.

The Eisenberg brothers, and others sent to work, stayed overnight in an apartment building by the train station. In the apartments, remnants of the people's lives remained. Henry began by changing his clothes into the owner's clothes, and had to clean out the rest of the owner's belongings. After six weeks, he felt like a thief. Soon, buses came to pick up some people. Due to the lack of room, the people were split up. Those who could continue to work, like the Eisenberg brothers, remained in the town to continue to clean up. When there was no more to clean up, they were shipped off to the factory.

They stayed at the neighboring camp and worked at the factory until 1944; when the factory closed and the brothers escaped. When they did work, the factory was intermingled with both Jews and Polish Gentiles. After work, the Poles would return to their homes, and the Jewish people to the barracks. The Polish people would inform their Jewish coworkers about what is going on with the war. When the factory closed, the Poles informed the Jews that they will go to Auschwitz. They knew that if they didn't escape that they would be killed.

In the middle of the night, a few of the young men cut through the barbed wired and tried to escape. When it was time for Henry and his brother to jump, the German guards began to fire. The

young escapees scattered. Luckily, Henry and his brother were unscathed. The middle of the next day, the men in the camp were lined up. They were threatened that if anyone tried to escape again that they will end up shot and dead. The young men were dismissed to their barracks. Instead of doing as told, Henry and his brother went back to the barbed wire where they tried to escape the night before. The shooting immediately began but they jumped and ran. They had escaped.

They were in woods outside the camp and waited for the shooting to stop. Once the shooting stopped, they collected themselves as a group of 16 boys. At this point in the war, the Germans were fighting hard against the Russians. With the Russians being such a distraction, the group of boys easily travelled across highways without attracting German attention.

Before the war, his brother was a horse handler and had interactions with the Polish Gentiles, so his brother had the means to get the boys into a Polish village. The boys split up from each other to more easily procure food. Henry and his brother were very close to their home. They decided to visit their mother in the cemetery. After that, they went back into the village and a lady took them in. Russians took over their hometown, making it safe to return. When they returned, their home was still standing, a Polish woman and her children were living there, but it was still standing.

Henry and his brother stayed in their original home with the woman and her children. As it turned out, the woman hid three Jewish boys in the upper portion of the house.

Henry and his brother went to a town across the way and began to work in a flour mill. They stayed there until 1945. Then, they went to Lurch to try to find survivors. Henry's future wife and his second cousin, recognized their names and they were reunited. They got married in August of that year. Henry worked as a peddler in the flea market. They stayed in Lurch until November.

Then, they went to Germany which allowed them more opportunities for emigration. They stayed in Germany until 1949, when they came to America. Henry, his wife and his three year old son lived in the Bronx, where Henry worked as a tailor.

Henry and Ruth, his second wife, have been married for 22 years. His legacy is all that he accomplished after such horror. He was able to raise a great family and be a good person in life.

Ruth Eisenberg was born in 1932, in modern day Ukraine, as the youngest of six children in an Orthodox household. Her family was quite wealthy, but spread it around. Ruth describes her family as very close knit and all very good to her. Ruth was supposed to start school in 1939, but never did due to drastic changes in everyday life.

In 1941, the Germans invaded her town, and when life changed drastically for the worse, each house made a bunker; her family's was in her basement that doubled as a refrigerator. If sirens were heard they would all run into bunkers. Ruth and her family were afraid of actions--the rounding up of Jewish people. During one of the last actions, Ruth and her family were over a neighbors house. Her eldest sister had her baby there and it began to cry during this action. The Germans surrounded their bunker. Ruth's brother and two friends pushed through the back of the bunker and allowed for some of them to escape, but her father, two of her sisters and her sister's baby were all never seen again. Ruth and her mother ran and hid in a horse food barrel until the action was over. It was horrible living because it felt as though each day was going to be their last day.

In June of 1943, it was declared in her town that no Jew could live there any longer: leave or be killed. Ruth and her good friends, those that escaped through the bunker wall, worked together with Gentile friends on a honey business. It was beneficial to all involved because the Germans wanted to keep the business open, so they kept their freedom to walk around and even made money. Ruth's sister would hide her in the bed of her apartment to prevent her from going to work in the labor camp, as Ruth was still small enough to remain hidden under the covers. When she could not be hidden there any longer,

her friend came with a horse and buggy and took her to a Gentile friend's house. He hid her for three months. Life was taken away. Everything was at a standstill.

In March, the war ended and she was free from hiding. She lived in her home town for five or six more years, just wandering with her sister and brother. They had the goal of reaching--what would soon be--Israel. After, in 1945, they were in Italy at a displaced persons camp. It was an old army camp. Ruth had an uncle in America. In 1947, she left the camp for America. Luckily, she was not given as hard of a time as many others due to her young age. She was 14 years old, left, without either of her siblings, to live with an uncle that she never met. She stayed with him in Massachusetts. She had a difficult time catching up in school with language. But her cousin began taking her to night school to work on her English. Between day and night school, Ruth caught up with her education and even began to excel. After a year, she left her aunt and uncle to move in with another relative in Brooklyn. The move to Brooklyn was incredibly beneficial. Many of the teachers and administrators were Jewish, and gave her a break knowing her situation. In 1950, she graduated junior high and in 1953 she graduated high school at age 18. In 1949, Ruth's sister came to America. Years later, Ruth married her first husband, the boy from hiding that broke through the wall during the German action. Sadly, he died and later Ruth married Henry. They are still happily married and hope to live long lives together. Ruth wants everyone to tolerate each other. Even after everything that happened, she does not have a hatred towards anyone. Although the Poles aided the Germans, there cannot be an overall hatred for the people. Some people were good people and should not be included with those that helped the Germans.