

RG-50.407.0054

Summary

Ludwig (Lale) Sokolov (Nee Eisenberg) – Born October 28, 1916, in Krompachy, Slovakia.

No names given for parents or siblings – father owned delivery business; brother a dentist; sister a government worker (survived in Slovakia b/c hidden by a family); Lale the youngest. Attended school in Krompachy then 2-year business school. Worked for Bata Factory until 1939; then went to Bratislava, stayed for 6 months but too much anti-Semitism so went home. April 1942 – on first transport from Slovakia to Auschwitz via Poprad, then to Birkenau. Became “man servant” to German kapo, then chosen by Peppin to be tattooist. His “boss” Ukrainian - Buganov (?) Got money, jewels, etc. from inmates who searched murdered peoples’ belongings – used it to get supplies for people in camp. In Birkenau till 1945, then sent to Mauthausen.. From there, given new uniform with red triangle and sent to Vienna. When Russians came, kept in Vienna because spoke German. Ran away to Budapest, then to Slovakia. Met sister there. Changed name to avoid anti-Semitism. Got married in Bratislava in 1945 to Gita Forman whom he met in camp. Issued industrial permit from Australia. Took over textile factory in Womelsdorf. Then came back to Slovakia. Got false papers to get out of Slovakia. Went to Vienna, then Paris, then sailed from Marseilles and arrived in Australia in September 1949.