

EXCLUSIVE TESTIMONY OF A SURVIVOR FROM THE DEATH CAMPS

« 3 WEEKS AFTER THE BEGINNING OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR , PARIS WAS OCCUPIED BY THE NAZIS. WE WERE RICH SO IT WASN'T A PROBLEM TO FIND FOOD, WE DIDN'T SUFFER FROM THE EFFECTS OF FOOD SHORTAGE. DAY AFTER DAY, SOME OF OUR JEWISH FRIENDS DISAPPEARED AND WE HAD TO WEAR A YELLOW STAR. WE LIVED IN THE FEAR OF BEING ARRESTED AND DEPORTED.

THIS IS THE INTERVIEW OF SALOMON GRIMBERG, A 94-YEAR-OLD MAN WHO WAS 10 YEARS OLD AT THAT TIME.

I was 10 years old when the war was declared (3rd September 1939) and today, I'm 94 years old.

How and when did your arrestation take place ?

I was arrested on 8th June 1942 in Paris during my birthday party with my family and my friends because we were Jewish.

Can you relate the different steps of your deportation ?

After my arrestation, I went to Drancy during 9 months. Then we were deported to Auschwitz by livestock wagon. We arrived on 5th April 1943 at Auschwitz-Birkenau for 1 year and 4 months. During the summer 1944, I was in the death march to Dora with my father who died.

How was the life in Auschwitz-Birkenau ?

Can you describe the conditions ?

The living conditions in Auschwitz-Birkenau were horrible. We slept on top of each other. If we showed weakness we were killed. There wasn't enough food for us.

How did your family die ?

My younger sister died in the train for Auschwitz-Birkenau. Finally my mother and my other sister were killed in the gas chambers and my father died during the death march to Dora.

How did you feel when a member of your family was killed ?

I felt torn apart. Can you move to the next question please ? It's impossible for me to describe my inner feelings after this awful loss.

When were you liberated ?

I was liberated on 11th April 1945 from Dora Camp by the American army. At that time we were only 20 000 people still alive.



The Liberation of Dora camp in Germany on 11 April 1945

How was your life after the war and without your family ?

After the war, I decided to integrate French army. Then in 1949, I joined the peacekeepers' troops in the UN (United Nations).

Why did you choose to get into the French army ?

It's was to defend my country against the sort of situation of invasion.

Do you still have your tattoo number from Auschwitz ?

Yes, it is on my left arm. I have the number 109406.

Have you a message to relay to people who will read us ?

Yes, keep your free will and your critical mind in order not to live this situation again. Spend time with your family while you still have

Enjoy life because you don't know how tomorrow will be. Never give up or despair.

Thank you very much for this interview Mr.Grimberg and goodbye !

*You're welcome !
Goodbye !*



The death march from Auschwitz-Birkenau to Dora camp in summer 1944