

Harry Olmer



I was born on 15 November 1927 in a town called Sonsowiec, Poland. My parents were called Hirsch and Chana Olmer. I was the fourth child in a family of six children. Of the other five children, three perished in the Holocaust.

After the outbreak of the war, I ended up in Plaszow Concentration Camp near Krakow, which became infamous following the Spielberg film, Shindlers List. In 1943, I was moved to Skarzysko munitions factory, where I was forced to pour liquid sulphur into bomb shells.

In July 1944, I was sent to the Buchenwald Concentration Camp, where I spent two weeks, following which I was transferred to Shlieben, a satellite camp to Buchenwald where I continued to work in terrible conditions in another munitions factory.

In April 1945, I found myself transferred to Theresienstadt, where I was liberated by the Russian Army on 8 May.

After the war I was brought by the Central British Fund, an Anglo Jewish Relief organisation together with several hundred other youngsters who survived the Camps to Windermere, to recuperate and from there to begin the road to reintegration into life studying and working in Glasgow.

I studied in Glasgow for the equivalent of O and A Levels and then qualified as a Dentist in 1953. After National Service in the Royal Army Dental Corp in Hanover, Germany, I married Margaret, a Kindertransport refugee from Vienna. We now live in North London and have four children and eight grandchildren.



Harry Olmer's Story



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