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| Roman Kent was born on April 18,1929, in Lodz, Poland. He was incarcerated in the Lodz ghetto and was later imprisoned in the Flossenbürg, Auschwitz, and Gross-Rosen concentration camps. Roman was also imprisoned in the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp. His interview was conducted in the United States. When the war began, Roman was ten years old. |
| Leon Bass was born on January 23, 1925, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1943, after his high school graduation, Leon voluntarily enlisted in the United States Army. In April 1945, Leon was told to drive a truck to Buchenwald, a recently liberated concentration camp near the city of Weimar, Germany. His interview was conducted in the United States. When the war began, Leon was fourteen years old. |
| Penina Bowman was born on April 19, 1927, in Cluj, Romania. Penina and her siblings were members of a Zionist youth group that advocated for an independent Jewish state. In August 1940, the northern part of Romania, where Penina and her family lived, was ceded to Hungary. Penina was survived two concentration camps, Auschwitz and Weisswasser. Her interview was conducted in the United States. When the war began, Penina was twelve years old. |
| Bernard Broclawski was born on January 27, 1917, in Pabianice, Russia (now Poland). When Bernard was ten, his father asked him to help financially support the family. Bernard worked as a textile worker part-time until he graduated from elementary school at age 13. Bernard was drafted into the Polish army in 1939. In 1943, Bernard was arrested for a speech he gave. He was in prison for eight months and was then sentenced to hard labor. He was released only after WWII ended, in 1948. His interview was conducted in the United States. When the war began, Bernard was twenty-two years old. |
| Ivan Deutsch was born on November 13, 1921, in Budapest, Hungary. Before the war, Ivan worked as a furrier’s apprentice. Ivan was sent to Ercsi, a work camp in Hungary, in November 1942. He worked as a forced laborer until 1944. Ivan was deported to Balf, a work camp in Hungary. Later, Ivan was deported to Mauthausen and Gunskirchen, concentration camps in Austria. His interview as conducted in the United States. When the war began, Ivan was eighteen years old. |
| Regina Eisenstein was born on October 26, 1925, in Działoszyce, Poland, and grew up in Bedzin Poland. Regina was imprisoned in the Bedzin ghetto, where she sewed gloves, hats and army uniforms. In the fall of 1943, Regina was deported to the Auschwitz camp complex in Nazi-occupied Poland. While Regina was a prisoner at Auschwitz, she dug ditches, sorted clothing, and worked in an ammunition factory. On January 27, 1945, Regina was liberated by the Soviet armed forces. When the war began, Regina was thirteen years old. |
| Vera Gissing was born on July 4, 1928 in Prague, Czechoslovakia (now Czech Republic). Vera was a student at the Gymnasium (high school) in Celakovice, and was very proud to be a Czech citizen. Shortly after the German occupation of Celakovice, the family was forced to house a newly appointed town commandant. Vera and her sister were registered for the Kindertransport, the organized movement of refugee children, most of them Jewish, from Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia to Great Britain. When the war began, Vera was eleven years old. |
| Pinchas Gutter was born to a Hasidic (ultra-Orthodox) family in Lodz, Poland on July 21, 1932. Alongside his twin sister Sabina, he grew up in a religious Jewish community. Pinchas and his family were imprisoned in the Warsaw ghetto, and they were later deported to Majdanek, a concentration camp and killing center in Nazi-occupied Poland. Pinchas was also imprisoned at Skarżysko-Kamienna, Tschenstochau, Colditz and Theresienstadt. When the war began, Pinchas was seven years old. |
| H. Henry Sinason was born on August 26,1925, in Berlin, Germany. He did not experience life in the ghettos or concentration camps. In 1939, Henry, along with his brother, fled to France to live with their uncle. After the Nazis entered France, both Henry and his brother were sent to live in an orphanage and later fled to the United States. When the war began, Henry was fourteen years old. |
| Margaret Lambert was on April 12, 1914, in Laupheim, Germany. Margaret’s love and mastery of sports, which included skiing, skating, running, and climbing, led to her acceptance to study physical education at a German university in 1933. However, due to the rapidly changing political climate, she was advised to postpone her studies. In the fall of 1933, Margaret accepted an opportunity to study in London; she later returned to Germany and became part of the national team. She was the only Jewish athlete on the team, selected so that other nations would not boycott the 1936 Berlin Olympics. As soon as other Olympic teams were en route to Berlin, Margaret was dropped from the team. When the war began, Margaret was twenty-five years old. |
| Henry Laurant (born Hans Werner Levy) was born on May 28, 1924, in Königsberg, Germany. In 1938, during the Kristallnacht Pogrom, Henry, his mother, and sister took refuge in a friend’s house while his father purposely hid elsewhere. Shortly after Kristallnacht, in December of 1938, Henry’s parents arranged for him to go to England as part of a Kindertransport. When the war began, Henry was fifteen years old. |
| Judith Becker was born on September 8, 1928, in Stettin, Germany. Life began to change for the family in 1938; the Gestapo came to arrest Judith’s father, but he managed to hide in the attic above the family apartment. Judith, her mother and siblings were later expelled from Stettin and their German citizenship was revoked. They immigrated to Poland and Judith went to school in Radom. The family lived in the Radom ghetto from 1941 until 1943. Judith was later deported to five concentration camps, including Majdanek, Auschwitz-Birkenau and Ravensbruck. When the war began, Judith was eleven years old. |
| Esther Clifford was born on December 5, 1920, in Munich, Germany. She did not experience life in the ghettos or concentration camps. After escaping deportation to Poland, Esther hid in the homes of family members. Later, Esther fled to England. When the war began, Esther was eighteen years old. |
| Alfred Caro was born on July 27,1911, in Samter, Germany (today Szamotuly, Poland). He was imprisoned in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp and later fled to France. After the Nazis entered France, Alfred fled to Colombia. When the war began, Alfred was twenty-eight years old. |
| Frank Shurman was born on January 8,1915, in Hildesheim, Germany. He was imprisoned in the Buchenwald concentration camp and later fled to Kitchener Camp, a refugee camp in Richborough, England. When the war began, Frank was twenty-four years old. |
| Herman Cohn was born on September 8,1921, in Essen, Germany. He did not experience life in the ghettos or concentration camps. In early 1939, Herman fled to the Netherlands. Toward the end of 1939, he was reunited with his parents and they immigrated to the United States. When the war began, Herman was seventeen years old. |
| Margaret Lambert was born on April 12,1914, in Laupheim, Germany. She did not experience life in the ghettos or concentration camps. In 1937, Margaret fled from Germany to the home of a family friend living in the United States. When the war began, Margaret was twenty-five years old. |
| Julia Lentini was born on April 15,1926, in Eisern, Germany. She was imprisoned in the concentration camp of Schlieben and the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp. When the war began, Julia was thirteen years old. |
| Kurt Messerschmidt was born January 2,1915, in Werneuchen, Germany. He was forced to live in the Theresienstadt ghetto and later imprisoned in the concentration camps of Flossenbürg, Sachsenhausen, Golleschau, and Ganacker. Kurt also was a prisoner in the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp. When the war began, Kurt was twenty-four years old. |
| Alfred Gottschalk was born on March 7,1930, in Oberwesel, Germany. He did not experience life in the ghettos or concentration camps. In 1939, Alfred, along with his mother, fled to the United States. When the war began, Alfred was nine years old. |
| Ellen Brandt was born on May 10,1922, in Mannheim, Germany. She did not experience life in the ghettos or concentration camps. In 1938, Ellen, along with her parents, fled to the United States. When the war began, Ellen was seventeen years old. |
| Joseph Morton was born on July 11, 1924 in Lodz, Poland. He was forced to live in the Lodz ghetto and later imprisoned in the Kaufering, Auschwitz, Mühldorf, Dachau, München-Allach, and Landshut concentration camps. When the war began, Joseph was fifteen years old. |
| Leo Berkenwald was born on August 31,1923, in Lodz, Poland. He was forced to live in the Lodz ghetto and later imprisoned in the Dörnhau, Auschwitz, and Eule concentration camps. When the war began, Leo was sixteen years old. |
| Ellis Lewin was born on May 22,1932, in Lodz, Poland. He was forced to live in the Lodz ghetto and later incarcerated in the Augsburg, Dachau, München-Allach, and Kaufbeuren concentration camps. Ellis was also imprisoned in the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp. When the war began, Ellis was seven years old. |
| Milton Belfer was born on August 24, 1922, in Lodz, Poland. He was forced to live in the Lodz ghetto and later imprisoned in the Auschwitz, Siegmar-Schönau, and Hohenstein-Ernsttahl concentration camps. When the war began, Milton was seventeen years old. |
| George Shainfarber was born on January 4, 1927, in Lodz, Poland. He was forced to live in the Lodz ghetto and was also imprisoned in the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp. When the war began, George was twelve years old. |
| Eva Safferman was born on April 15, 1928, in Lodz, Poland. She was forced to live in the Lodz ghetto and imprisoned in the Hamburg-Sasel, Auschwitz I, and Bergen- Belsen concentration camps. Eva was also a prisoner in the Auschwitz- Birkenau extermination camp. When the war began, Eva was eleven years old. |
| William Good was born on April 27, 1924, in Stolpce, Poland. After William finished elementary school, the family moved to Vilna, then part of Poland, where William could attend a Hebrew language high school. In June 1941, Vilna was occupied by Nazi Germany. On July 8, 1941, William was grabbed off a street in Vilna and forced on a death march to Ponary, a forest outside of Vilna. William pretended to get shot and faked his own death. At night, he escaped from Ponary and found shelter in the home of a Polish peasant. William was liberated in July 1944, in a forest near Niemenczyn, about 12 miles northeast of Vilna. When the war began, William was fifteen years old. |
| Abraham Bomba was born on June 9, 1913, in Beuthen, Germany. Living on the Polish border, Abraham’s family was among the first to witness the German invasion of Poland in 1939. Two years later, his family was forced into the Czestochowa ghetto in Poland. In September 1942, Abraham was deported to the Treblinka extermination camp, where he was selected as a forced laborer. He became involved in resistance activities and eventually escaped from Treblinka in January 1943. When the war began, Abraham was 26 years old. |
| Itka Zygmuntowicz was born on April 15, 1926, in Ciechanow, Poland. She was forced to live in the Nowe Miasto ghetto and later incarcerated in the concentration camps of Ravensbrück and Malchow. Itka was also imprisoned in the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp. When the war began, Itka was thirteen years old. |
| Paul Parks was born on May 7,1923, in Indianapolis, United States. As a member of the United States Armed Forces, he, along with his fellow soldiers, liberated the Dachau concentration camp. When the war began, Paul was sixteen years old. |
| Katsugo Miho was born on May 15, 1922, in Kahului, Hawaii. In March 1943, Katsugo enlisted in the army. He became a member of the 442nd Infantry Regiment, a unit made up of Japanese-Americans from Hawaii and the mainland United States. In April 1945, Katsugo and other members of his unit helped liberate a sub-camp of Dachau, a concentration camp in Germany. When the war began, Katsugo was 17 years old. |
| Charlotte Chaney was born on October 15, 1921, in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. Charlotte did not have money to go to college, and in February 1940, she began training to become a nurse. As a nurse, she enlisted in the Army Air Corps and then the Army’s ground forces. She was sent overseas in January 1945. Charlotte’s unit helped run a hospital at Dachau, a former concentration camp in Germany. When the war began, Charlotte was 18 years old. |
| Anton Mason was born on April 19,1927, in Sighet, Romania. He was forced to live in the Sighet ghetto and was later imprisoned in the Buchenwald, Gleiwitz, Auschwitz, Auschwitz I, and Auschwitz III-Monowitz concentration camps. Anton was also incarcerated in the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp. When the war began, Anton was twelve years old. |
| Gerda Klein was born in Bielsko, Poland on May 8, 1924. Gerda was incarcerated in the Bielsko Biala ghetto; she was later deported to six concentration camps. In January 1945, Gerda was sent on a death march; this march continued until May 1945, when she and a group of prisoners were liberated in Volary, Czechoslovakia. Her memoir about her Holocaust experience and survival, All But My Life, was first published in 1957. When the war began, Gerda was 15 years old. |
| David Abrams was born on December 8,1928 in Dej, Romania. He was forced to live in the Dej ghetto, and later imprisoned in the Mauthausen, Gunskirchen, Gusen, and Auschwitz concentration camps. When the war began, David was ten years old. |
| Rachel Huber was born on November 16, 1925, in Cernauti, Romania (now Chernivtsi, Ukraine). Romania was a member of the Axis powers, and Romanian Jews were persecuted by the Iron Guard, a fascist military group. After escaping deportation, Rachel and her parents hid in a movie theatre. When the war began, Rachel was 14 years old. |
| Malwina Moses was born on October 3, 1928, in Wadowice, Poland. After the German invasion of Poland, the family went towards Eastern Poland, where they knew Soviet forces had invaded Poland. The family was sent to Siberia and later to Uzbekistan. They remained in the Soviet Union until May 1945. When the war began, Malwina was 11 years old. |
| Malka Baran was born on January 30,1927, in Warsaw, Poland. She was forced to live in the Częstochowa ghetto and later incarcerated in the concentration camp set up on the site of the former ghetto. When the war began, Malka was twelve years old. |
| Daniel Geslewitz was born on August 14, 1924, in Lodz, Poland. He was forced to live in the Lodz ghetto and later imprisoned in the Braunschweig, Watenstadt-Hallendorf, Ravensbrück, and Wöbbelin concentration camps. He was also incarcerated in the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp. When the war began, Daniel was fifteen years old. |
| Helen Fagin was born on February 1,1922, in Radomsko, Poland. She was forced to live in the Lodz, Warsaw, and Radomsko ghettos. Helen escaped during a deportation and then went into hiding in Poland. When the war began, Helen was seventeen years old. |
| Ruth Brand was born in 1928 (exact date unknown), in Cuhea, Romania. She was forced to live in the Dragomiresti ghetto and later imprisoned in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Ruth was also imprisoned in the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp. When the war began, Ruth was eleven years old. |
| Arie Van Mansum was born on March 5, 1920, in Utrecht, the Netherlands. According to Arie’s church, Nazism was anti-Christian. With the help of his church, Arie was active in the resistance throughout the war. He found hiding places for Jews, and created counterfeit food stamps and false identity cards. Arie was arrested by the Gestapo for his resistance activities, and he spent time in prison and at concentration camps. When the war began, Arie was 20 years old. |
| Renee Scott was born on February 13, 1906, in Calais, France. In 1938, the family moved to Paris, where Renee began to work for The Belgian Chamber of Commerce, and with her boss’s help, Renee began working for the underground. They helped hundreds of Jews by providing false identity papers. Renee was arrested by the Gestapo and spent time in prison and at Ravensbrück, a concentration camp in Germany. When the war began, Renee was 33 years old. |
| Kristine Keren was born in Lwow, Poland, on October 28, 1935. She had one younger brother, Pincas. Kristine spent her early years playing in her parents’ textile store. In 1941, the German army entered Lwow. Kristine and her family were forced to vacate their apartment and move into the ghetto in Lwow. Kristine and her family were helped and hidden by a Catholic sewer worker; they lived underground for over a year. When the war started, Kristine was almost four years old. |
| Eric Richmond was born on June 27, 1924, in Vienna, Austria. On March 12, 1938, German troops entered and occupied Austria in an event known as the Anschluss. Following the Kristallnacht Pogrom, there was a collective effort to bring nearly 10,000 refugee children to Great Britain. These transports are known as the Kindertransport, or “children’s transport.” Eric left Vienna on a Kindertransport on December 10, 1938. When the war began, Eric was 15 years old. |
| Lynne Orne was born on October 18, 1926, in Vienna, Austria. After the Anschluss, the German annexation and occupation of Austria, life began to change for the Lynne’s family. Following the Kristallnacht Pogrom, there was a collective effort to bring nearly 10,000 refugee children to Great Britain. These transports are known as the Kindertransport, or “children’s transport.” In January 1939, Lynn was sent to England on a Kindertransport. When the war began, Lynn was 12 years old. |
| Irene Gut-Opdyke was born May 5, 1922 in Kozienice, Poland. After World War II began, Gut was captured by the Russian army. Upon escaping, she returned to Poland and made her way to Nazi-occupied Tarnopol, where she worked as housekeeper of the German commander, Major Eduard Rugemer. In 1943, Irene learned that the ghetto was to be evacuated and was concerned about the fate of the Jews working in the household. Without Rugemer’s knowledge, she made the decision to the Jews in the villa’s basement and gazebo. When the war began, Irene was 17 years old. |
| Barbara Fischman Traub was born on September 7, 1925 in Sighet, Romania. She was the youngest of four children. She attended school until her education was interrupted by the 1944 German invasion of Romania. In April 1944, Barbara’s family was ordered into the Sighet ghetto. The ghetto was liquidated in mid-May 1944 and Barbara, along with other ghetto inmates, was deported to the Auschwitz II-Birkenau death camp in Poland. She was later transferred to the Weisswasser concentration camp in Czechoslovakia, where she was liberated by the Soviet armed forces in May 1945. When the war began, Barbara was almost eight years old. |
| Ibolya Grossman was born on December 10, 1916, in Pécs, Austria-Hungary. During the Holocaust, Ibolya was in the Budapest ghetto. When the war began, Ibolya was twenty-two years old. |
| Dennis Urstein was born on February 24,1924, in Vienna, Austria. He was incarcerated in the Buchenwald, Sachsenhausen, Ohrdruf, Auschwitz I, Mechelen, and Dachau concentration camps. Dennis was also imprisoned in the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp. When the war began, Dennis was fifteen years old. |
| Dora Iwler was born on July 1, 1923, in Chodorów, Poland. She was imprisoned in Chodorów and Lemberg-Janowskastrasse, a forced labor and transit camp in Lwów. When the war began, Dora was sixteen years old. |
| Silvia Grohs-Martin was born on October 1, 1918, in Vienna, Austria-Hungary. She was imprisoned in three concentration camps—Mechelen, Auschwitz-Birkenau, and Ravensbrück—and was a member of the resistance. When the war began, Silvia was twenty years old. |
| Liesl Loeb was born on June 17,1928, in Rheydt, Germany. She did not experience life in the ghettos or concentration camps. In May 1939, she fled to the United Kingdom and later to the United States. When the war began, Liesl was eleven years old. |
| Sol Messinger was born on June 16,1932, in Berlin, Germany. He was imprisoned in the Agde internment camp in France, and later fled to the United States with his family. When the war began, Sol was seven years old. |
| Jan Karski was born in 1914 (exact date unknown), in Lodz, then a part of the Russian empire. After the fall of Poland in 1939, he joined an underground organization and was chosen to become a courier for the Polish government-in-exile. He was smuggled into the Warsaw ghetto and the Izbica camp to observe conditions. He was sent to the United Kingdom and United States to report on the situation of the Jews in Poland. When the war began, Jan was twenty-five years old. |
| Edith Coliver was born on July 26,1922, in Baden, Germany. She did not experience life in the ghettos or concentration camps. In 1938, she, along with her family, fled to the United States. When the war began, Edith was seventeen years old. |
| Belle Zeck was born on February 22, 1919, in Port Henry, New York. After graduating from Fordham Law School, she began working for the U.S. Treasury as general counsel. Belle was a prosecutor at the Nuremberg Trials. When the war began, she was twenty years old. |
| Fritzie Fritzshall was born on August, 27, 1931, in Klucarcky, Czechoslovakia. She was incarcerated in the Itzky ghetto and was later imprisoned at concentration and slave labor camps, including Auschwitz. When the war began, Fritzie was eight years old. |
| Sam Gottesman was born on October 20, 1923, in Iršava, Czechoslovakia. He was imprisoned in the Iršava and Mukačevo ghettos, and was incarcerated in four concentration camps. He survived two death marches. When the war began, Sam was fifteen years old. |
| Joseph Berger was born on September 20, 1937, in Subotica, Yugoslavia. He was imprisoned in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. When the war began, Joseph was one year old. |
| Brothers Joseph and Sol Gringlas share memories of their miraculous reunion during the Holocaust. |
| Rachel Slagter was born on April 3, 1940, in Apeldoorn, Netherlands. During the war, she was forced into the Amsterdam Ghetto and then went into hiding. Rachel was born after the war began. |
| Rena Bernstein was born on April 3, 1938, in Krakow, Poland. Between September 1939 and June 1941, Rena lived in Soviet-occupied Poland. Her hometown was invaded by the Germans in 1941. To escape persecution from the Nazis, she adopted the false identity of Irena Konkol, a Polish-Christian girl. Rena was just over a year old when the war began. |
| Liron Velleman was born on March 11, 1995 in London, England. His maternal grandfather was a Jewish survivor of the Holocaust from Poland. While attending the University of Leeds, Liron was very involved in the Jewish Society and the Union of Jewish Students. During this time, he experienced multiple instances of in-person and online antisemitism. |
| Andy Reti was born on July 16, 1942, in Budapest Hungary. He was an only child. During the war, Andy’s father was taken to a labor camp. He died in February 1945, when Andy was only 2 years old. Andy and his mother were two of the lucky survivors saved by Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish Diplomat who saved thousands of Jewish lives. When Andy was born, the war had been underway for almost three years. |
| Ruth Pearl was born in Baghdad, Iraq, on November 10, 1935. In June 1941, she witnessed the Farhud — an attack on Jewish homes and businesses in Iraq in which hundreds were killed or wounded. In the aftermath of the Farhud, Ruth’s family fled to British Mandatory Palestine, later Israel, where they stayed in a refugee camp. She would later join the Israeli Navy, and study at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology. |
| Moshe Zwi Shamir was born on April 17, 1922, in Cernăuți, Romania. He attended a four-grade Yiddish school, was a member of the Gordonia Zionist youth movement, and sang in the Jewish Choral Temple choir. During World War II, Cernăuți was under Soviet and German occupation.  During German occupation, he was in six ghettos and two concentration camps.  When the war began, Moshe was 17 years old. |
| Regina Clipper was born on February 1, 1924, in Radom, Kielce, Poland. After the Nazis invaded her hometown, she was forced into Radom Ghetto. During the war, she was deported to multiple concentration camps; she was liberated from Bergen-Belsen, a concentration camp in Germany. When the war began, she was 15 years old. |
| Anneliese Nossbaum was born on January 8, 1929, in Guben, Germany. In 1942, Anneliese and her parents were deported to Theresienstadt, a camp-ghetto in Czechoslovakia. In October 1944, they were deported to the Auschwitz camp complex in Nazi-occupied Poland. Anneliese was later sent to labor and concentration camps in Germany and Austria; she was liberated from Mauthausen, a concentration camp in Austria, in May 1945. When the war began, Anneliese was ten years old. |
| Anita Lasker Wallfisch was born on July 17, 1925, in Breslau, Germany. She and her sisters grew up in a religious but assimilated Jewish household. During the war, she attempted to conceal her identity, but was caught and deported to Auschwitz II-Birkenau, a concentration and death camp in Nazi-occupied Poland. She was later transferred to Bergen-Belsen, a concentration camp in Germany; she was liberated there by British armed forces. When the war began, she was 14 years old. |
| Dave Rich is the Director of Policy for the UK-based Community Security Trust. He was born in Manchester, England in 1971 and received his PhD from Birbeck College in Government and History. He is a leading expert on antisemitism in the world today. |
| Judah Samet was born on February 5, 1938, in Debrecen, Hungary. In March 1944, the Nazis entered Debrecen and his family was deported to Bergen-Belsen. They were there for about six months, and then they were sent on a transport to an unknown location. This transport was liberated by the American Army. When the war began, Judah was just over one-year-old. |
| Mohammed Dajani Daoudi was born on March 19, 1946 in British Mandate Palestine (now Israel). Although a Muslim, Mohammed attended a Quaker school in Ramallah; his schooling had a profound impact on him. As an adult, Mohammed started to focus his work on reconciliation, middle ground, and peacebuilding between Palestinians and Israelis. Among other activities, Mohammed began Holocaust education among Palestinians who had strongly denied the Holocaust. |
| Lillian Eckstein was born on March 22, 1926, in Nižní Verecky, Czechoslovakia. When the Nazis invaded Czechoslovakia, Lillian and her family were forced to live in the Mukačevo ghetto. She was deported to Auschwitz II-Birkenau, a concentration and death camp in Nazi-occupied Poland, and later transported to Bergen-Belsen, a concentration camp in Germany. There, she was liberated by British armed forces. When the war began, she was 13 years old. |
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| Jair Melchior was born on October 27, 1982, in Oslo, Norway, and was raised in Israel. After becoming a rabbi, he moved to Copenhagen, Denmark, where he worked as the chief rabbi at the only synagogue in the city. On February 15, 2015, the synagogue was the target of a terrorist attack. He was interviewed as a witness of this antisemitic incident. |
| Jirayr Zorthian was born on April 14, 1911, in Kutahya, Western Anatolia, Ottoman Empire, the oldest sibling of three boys. After the Armenian genocide, the family moved to Italy and then settled in the United States. Jirayr graduated from Yale University with a Master of Fine Arts degree. He spent the last 57 years of his life working on his ranch. When the Armenian Genocide began, Jirayr was four years old. |
| Live Wesige was born in Brussels, Belgium on August 8, 1983. A week after his birth, Live and his family were sent to Kigali, Rwanda, where he was raised. At the beginning of the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, Live witnessed machete attacks, the burning of neighbors’ homes, daily massacres, and mass graves. Live’s home was attacked several times by Interahamwe militia. On the way to find refuge, Live shares memories of being captured by militia and surviving several near-death experiences. Live, his father, and younger brothers eventually fled to Congo and stayed in refugee camps. When the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda began, Live was ten years old. |
| David Faber was born in 1926, in Nowy Sacz, Poland, to an Orthodox Jewish family. After the German invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, David and his family fled to Tarnów, Poland. He was the sole survivor of two Nazi shootings in Tarnów. He performed forced labor at Putskow concentration camp in Poland and was incarcerated at Auschwitz II-Birkenau, Bergen-Belsen, Buchenwald, Glesch, Jawischowitz, Mittelbau-Dora, and Szebnie. When World War II began, David was thirteen years old. |
| Sara Pol-Lim was born in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in 1966. When the Khmer Rouge took power in 1975, she and her family were forced from their home and forcibly displaced to a camp deep in the Cambodian jungle. Sara and her three brothers were separated from their parents; her three brothers died from malnutrition. Sara was brought to a children’s camp, where she befriended an older girl who helped her to escape through the jungle and reunite with her mother. When the Cambodian Genocide began, Sara was nine years old. |
| Kizito Kalima was born June 3, 1979 in Nyanza, Rwanda. As Tutsis were stereotyped to be taller than Hutus, Kizito’s height (6’9”) was the subject of considerable racist mockery among his Hutu classmates. Kizito and a few of his relatives managed to survive the genocide by hiding in swampland until being liberated by the Rwandan Patriotic Front in late July 1994. Nine of Kizito’s ten siblings survived the genocide. When the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda began, Kizito was fourteen years old. |
| Marion Pritchard was born on November 7, 1920, in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. She was studying at the Amsterdam School for Social Work when she was arrested on suspicion of participation in resistance activities. Six months later, once released from prison, Marion continued her work with the resistance, helping approximately 150 Dutch Jews to survive the war in hiding, by supplying them with food and false papers. When World War II began, Marion was eighteen years old. |
| Freddy Mutanguha was born on August 18, 1976, in Burundi. When he was two years old, his father died in an accident. Freddy’s mother decided to bring Freddy and his sister, Rosette, to Rwanda. In April 1994, after the president’s plane was shot down, Freddy hid at his friend Jean Pierre’s house. Freddy and Rosette survived the genocide. When the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda began, Freddy was eighteen years old. |
| Arshag Dickranian was born in 1905, in Izmit (Kocaeli, Turkey). During the Armenian Genocide, Arshag, his family, and 20,000 other Armenians were transported to Eskişehir, Turkey via cow dung-laden wagons. Throughout the genocide, Arshag and his family frequently changed houses to evade capture. When the Armenian Genocide began, Arshag was ten years old. |
| Elise Taft was born in 1906 to two Armenian parents. She was among those targeted by the Ottoman government and forcibly displaced from Ottoman-controlled territories. For Elise, this meant exile from her home in Bandirma, Ottoman Empire (today Turkey) alongside her parents and siblings. When the Armenian Genocide began, Elise was nine years old. |
| Barbara Fischman Traub was born on September 7, 1925 in Sighet, Romania. In April 1944, Barbara’s family was ordered into a ghetto that was established in two areas on the outskirts of the city of Sighet by the occupying authorities. Barbara was then sent to the Auschwitz II-Birkenau death camp and then to the Weisswasser concentration camp. She was liberated by Soviet armed forces in May 1945. When World War II began, Barbara was 13 years old. |
| Theary Seng was born in January of 1971 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. She had four brothers. When the Khmer Rouge took control of Phnom Penh and the genocide began, Theary’s family was forced to leave the capital city. Both of her parents were murdered during the genocide; Theary and her brothers survived. When the Cambodian Genocide began, Theary was four years old. |
| Haigas Bonapart was born in 1899 in Malatya, Turkey (historical Ottoman Empire). After graduating high school in 1914, Haigas attended Euphrates College in Harput, Turkey, which was directed by American missionaries. In April 1915, the College was forcibly closed by Ottoman gendarmes and all students were dismissed. Haigas evaded deportation by hiding for 6 months. He was eventually adopted by non-Armenians and took the false name of “Rifat.” When the Armenian Genocide began, Haigas was sixteen years old. |
| Brigitte Altman was born in the port city of Memel, Lithuania, on August 15, 1924. She grew up in an affluent, well-educated, closely knit Jewish community. The family tried to escape to Canada, but due to her mother’s ill health they could not, and the family was forced to live in the Kaunas ghetto. A former colleague of her father’s agreed to conceal Brigitte as a domestic worker in her apartment. After the war, Brigitte was reunited with her father. When World War II began, Brigitte was fifteen years old. |