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Four who lived through Hitler's horrors

Profiles of survivors who appear in the "Why We Remember" documentary:

ANDREW SCHOT, 76

A Jewish native of Leeuwarden, the Netherlands, Schot's family nightmare began in 1941, when his family was forced to move to Amsterdam, where they moved in with his maternal grandmother. One year later, his father and older brother were rounded up by the Nazis. He never saw them again.

Schot fled to the countryside with his older sister when he was 11 and she was 17. They pretended to be farmworkers by day and slept in barns at night. But by 13, Schot had been arrested and sent to a slave-labor camp called Papenburg, his sister to the concentration camp Dachau. Both survived, as did his mother.

"As far as I know, I'm the youngest of the survivors in Tucson," Schot said. "There are other survivors in the country younger than me, but most were so young that they don't remember much. ... All we have to do is learn to get along whether we are Jews or African-Americans, or whoever we are. All this discrimination is baloney."

ROSA FREUND, 80

Freund, a Hungarian Jew, will never forget July 9, 1944.

After days in transport on crowded trains and getting caked in mud when she was forced to sleep outdoors, Freund, 17, her aunt, her younger sister and her mother arrived at the notoriously cruel Auschwitz-Birkenau. There, guards told the newly arrived prisoners whether they'd go to the right or the left. Freund's aunt went to the right. Freund remembers looking back and seeing her mother, Melvina Jonas, 47, who was weak from poor health.

"They grabbed her by the arm and threw her onto the truck like a rag doll. That's the last time I saw her. They took her to the crematorium."

Freund and her younger sister, Klara, were sent to the left. They slept on a bed with 14 other children and had nothing but a thin dress as clothing — no underwear or shoes.

Her sister did not make it. She was among 500 children sent to the gas chambers. By the end of the war, Freund weighed 70 pounds.

"The hardest thing was to answer my eldest daughter when she was little. She said, 'Mommy, why do we have no grandparents, aunts or uncles?'"

IRVING SENOR, 82 and SELMA NEUHAUSER, 81

Senor was 17 when he was sent to Auschwitz. He spent most of the war cleaning bricks in Warsaw for the Nazis. He lost all of his immediate family — two brothers, a sister and his parents. He married a fellow Jewish survivor, and their marriage lasted 54 years until his wife's death.

Neuhauser was 12 when her parents put her on a train in her native Vienna, Austria as part of the "kindertransport" that placed Jewish children in other countries during the war. Neuhauser, an only child, went to Sweden.

"There were 30 girls who lived with me in Gothenburg. We all walked in as refugees and walked out as orphans," Neuhauser said.

Neuhauser's parents died in Auschwitz. After the war, she married a fellow survivor and the marriage lasted 51 years until her husband's death.

Senor and Neuhauser married in 2000. Both are active in speaking to local schoolchildren about what they witnessed.

"Humanity took a leave of absence in these years. It is a universal lesson, not just a Jewish story," Neuhauser said.

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