

KZ Ebensee
International liberation commemoration 2009



This ceremony is being held every year on the anniversary of the KZ liberation but in fact it is a memorial day for the thousands who died and suffered in the camp. This is obvious and should be so in order to teach the next generations what happened here and what we mean when we say "NEVER AGAIN". I hope it will be held for many more years to come even long after there will be no longer any survivors and witnesses around.

I personally come here to celebrate the event of my liberation. As a member of the "Counterfeit Commando" I have no bad memories from Ebensee. We were brought here on the 4-th May 1945, two days before the liberation. Previously while we worked at the fully isolated printing workshop we had somewhat better conditions compared to other KZ prisoners but always felt as being condemned to death in order to take the secret with us. We knew that only a miracle could save us, and this miracle, happened here in Ebensee. I feel that here is where I got a new life. For me it is like a second birthday and Ebensee is like a second birthplace.

In my first life I lived well but in a country where I always was unwanted. I was taught in school and even by my father that Hungary is our home land. My father was so proud of the decorations he got in WW I as an officer in the Austro-Hungarian army that he never believed something bad could happen to him and his family. But he was wrong.

In my second life I have raised my new family in my true homeland ISRAEL and I can teach them now to appreciate freedom and independence.

My first life ended when we were pushed by the Hungarian gendarmes into the cattle wagons. Or was it three day later on the ramp of Auschwitz-Birkenau, where our families where separated by the finger of the diabolic Dr. Mengele, who pointed slightly with his thumb to the left which meant immediate death in the gas-chambers or slightly to the right which meant probably death from hard work and hunger. Or may be it was when the gate of the barracks 18-19 in KZ Sachsenhausen closed behind us and we understood that we are in a "Sonderkommando" in order to print there counterfeited money.

My new life started on the 5-th May 1945 in Ebensee after the well known roll call where ten thousand prisoners refused to obey the command of the Lagerführer Anton Ganz to enter the Stollen (tunnel). We were kept separated from all the other prisoners at a barrack on the hill after our arrival to Ebensee for a sleepless night. Through the small window we could see but not hear and not understand the events on the Appellplatz. We heard about it only later, but it is sure that if all the prisoners would

have obeyed the order and entered the Stollen, we would have been forced to enter as well and the SS guards would have blown up the only exit as the Lagerführer Ganz probably intended to do.

A short time after the Appell the barrack door opened and our SS-guard said to us: "Meine Herren, es ist soweit, dass wir Sie dem Lager übergeben." Unbelievable, an SS guard would say to Jews-"Meine Herren". It could have been one of those lies the SS used to tell to hide a murder action. But after a few minutes we stood in front of the camp gate which was already under the control of the Wehrmacht and an armed member of the Häftlings Komitee. They could not understand why we wanted to enter the camp without any written command. Their duty was to keep the order until the arrival of the American troops but not to accept new prisoners. They refused to let us in, but we wanted to get rid of our SS guards and begged them to open the gate. Only the tattooed numbers on the arms of some of us convinced them to let us enter. When we rushed in and scattered among the other prisoners we felt finally safe. That was the miracle we waited for, my new "birthday" at Ebensee, the beginning of my new life.

Coming here to celebrate it with my sons and my youngest grandson is my victory over the Nazi evil.

SS Sachsenhausen

Fälscherkommando

Block 18-19



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