

Displaced Persons Camps

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Displaced Persons Camps: Theme Overview

Jews found themselves displaced along with millions of other non-Jews in the post-war chaos of Europe. Displaced Persons (DP) camps were established in Germany, France, Italy and Belgium, often on the sites of former labour or concentration camps. Initially, many Jewish DPs were housed behind barbed wires, guarded and exposed to humiliating treatment. Nutrition, sanitary conditions and accommodations were poor. In cities they were sometimes lodged in requisitioned houses or public buildings.

At first, the basic necessities of food, clothing and medical supplies were provided by the Allied Forces and the United Nations Rehabilitation and Relief Administration (UNRRA). By the fall of 1945 the relief effort was taken over by Jewish welfare organizations. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) provided emergency aid and ran child-care centres, hospitals and trade schools.

The Society for Rehabilitation and Training, known as ORT, ran schools and provided training programs for the displaced persons. Zionist organizations and kibbutzim (collective farms) taught farming skills and Hebrew to those planning to immigrate to Palestine.

By 1946 conditions began to improve in the DP camps. The camps began to function as self-contained societies. There was an influx of Polish Jews recently released from the Soviet Union. People married and thousands of births were recorded. Most worked or took part in a variety of training programs. Schools, sports and cultural clubs were formed.

By 1947 there were a range of political organizations active and more than 70 newspapers published in Yiddish and many other European languages. Many displaced persons waited several years in these camps before being finally admitted into countries such as Canada, the United States and Palestine.

		<p>Newspaper Page 1 of 3: description and translation</p>
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Newspaper belonging to Robbie Waisman. Paris, France, Spring 1947.

This newspaper was circulated among the survivors of Buchenwald. It helped us keep in touch with each other. I think that those who published the newspaper thought that they had to help record our memories of the Holocaust and our experiences afterwards. As a child survivor of Buchenwald, I used to read this newspaper while I was living in an orphanage in France after the war.

On the front page of the newspaper there is a speech given by the president of our society. On the back is a form to be filled in by survivors of Buchenwald in order to join the Society of Those Deported to Buchenwald.

Robbie Waisman

BUCHENWALD - The Quarterly Bulletin of the Buchenwald Society of Deported Patriots and Resistance Members

April - May - June 1947

We Continue. . .

Two years have already passed since that day when the camp was liberated and we welcomed the American troops led by General Patton.

Two and a half months later, on July 1st, 1945 we founded the Association of Patriots and Members of the Resistance Deported to Buchenwald.

At the opening of the inaugural meeting, I was given the opportunity of speaking and I said:

My dear comrades,

It is with mixed emotions that I speak to you. Today, we are the beneficiaries of an atmosphere in which those deported are highly regarded and honoured, but tomorrow we will be tolerated and the day after merely endured. History repeats itself. Such was the fate of those who fought [in World War I] from 1914 - 1918.

My dear comrades, let us remember this recent page of history, let us affirm and stake our rights; I say to the young, to those who were not heroes, but victims of this tragedy: learn from this lesson, do not listen to enchanting voices that promise you "lots of butter on fresh bread" and will only permit you to eat "stale bread." I say to you: Do not forget the victims, honour our dead, assist our elderly, our handicapped and our sick; let us not forget the parents, the widows, the orphans either, let us remain closely united; forget or ignore petty disagreements, forgive past offences, and rise above this in order to accomplish the great task that lies ahead.

The deportees are and will continue to be, IF THEY SO CHOOSE, a select group. We will enhance our profile and occupy an important place in the nation if we know how to remain faithful to our martyrs, and worthy of the goal that we seek to attain, if we know how to work for the revival of our fatherland.

So, my dear comrades, that is what I said on July 1st, 1945 when I urged you, inmates of Buchenwald, to found YOUR own association. It is said that no one is a prophet in his own country, but I believe that we should modify that proverb so that it reads, "no one follows a prophet in his own country:" the point is not that the prophet is wrong, but that no one follows him!

I would like today to be in a position to urge you to 'continue'; instead, I must urge you to decide to 'begin' it is high time, believe me, if we want to retain our prestige, to group ourselves and act: not only at the 'national' level, but also at the 'departmental' level; let there be created in each department a section that will give life to THE SPIRIT OF THE MEN OF BUCHENWALD, that will come to the aid of the most unfortunate among our comrades, give support to those who have no-one left to support them, and to proclaim everywhere, and in all circumstances that WE DO NOT WANT WHAT HAPPENED TO EVER HAPPEN AGAIN!

To work, my dear comrades and with brotherly thanks.

Frédéric-H. MANHES, President

BUCHENWALD

10, rue Leroux - PARIS (16^e)

AVRIL - MAI - JUIN 1947

Tél. : KLE. 71-50 - 87-52

Bulletin trimestriel
DE L'AMICALE DES
DÉPORTÉS PATRIOTES
ET DE LA RÉSISTANCE
DE BUCHENWALD

Nous Continuons...

Deux années déjà se sont écoulées depuis le jour où ayant libéré le camp, nous avons accueilli les troupes américaines du regretté général Patton.

Deux mois et demi plus tard, le 1^{er} juillet 1945, nous fondions l'Association amicale des déportés résistants patriotes du camp de déportation de Buchenwald.

Dès l'ouverture de la séance inaugurale, la parole me fut donnée et j'ai dit :

Mes chers camarades,

C'est animé de sentiments divers que je prends la parole. Aujourd'hui, nous bénéficions d'une auréole, les déportés sont considérés, honorés, mais, demain, on les tolérera et après-demain, on les supportera. C'est l'éternelle histoire, celle qu'ont connue les combattants de 1914-1918.

Mes chers camarades, souvenons-nous de cette page d'histoire encore proche, affirmons et faisons connaître nos droits; je dis aux jeunes, à ceux qui n'ont pas été les héros de cette aventure mais qui en ont été les victimes : profitez de la leçon, n'écoutez pas certaines sirènes à voix charmantes qui vous promettent « beaucoup de beurre sur du pain frais » et qui ne vous permettront de manger « que du pain très sec ». A vous je dis : N'oublions pas les victimes, honorons nos morts, aidons nos vieux, nos mutilés nos malades; n'oublions pas non plus les parents les veuves, les orphelins, restons UNIS étroitement, oublions ou négligeons les petites dissensions, pardonnons les

offenses passées, sachons nous hausser jusqu'au niveau de la grande œuvre à accomplir.

Les déportés constituent et continueront d'être S'ILS LE VEULENT, une sélection dans le pays.

Nous nous grandirons et nous garderons une grande place si nous savons rester dignes de nos morts, dignes du but que nous désirons atteindre, si nous savons veurer sans défaillance à la renaissance de la patrie.

Voilà, mes chers camarades, ce que j'ai dit le 1^{er} juillet 1945 en vous invitant à créer VOTRE Amicale de Buchenwald; on prétend que nul n'est prophète en son pays, je prétends qu'il faut modifier le proverbe et dire : « Nul ne suit un prophète en son pays », car le prophète ne s'est pas trompé, mais nul ne l'a suivi!

Aujourd'hui, je voudrais pouvoir vous dire : « Continuons », et je dois vous inviter à prendre la décision de « commencer »; il est grand temps, croyez-moi, si nous désirons ne pas perdre notre prestige, de nous grouper et d'agir; non seulement à l'échelon « national », mais encore à l'échelon « départemental »; dans chacun de nos départements, une section doit être créée pour faire vivre l'ESPRIT DES HOMMES DE BUCHENWALD, pour aider nos camarades plus malheureux, pour venir au secours de ceux qui ont perdu leurs soutiens, pour crier — en tous lieux, en toutes circonstances — QUE NOUS VOULONS « QU'ON NE REVOIE PLUS JAMAIS ÇA ! »

A l'œuvre, mes chers camarades, et fraternellement merci.

Frédéric-H. MANHES,
président.

Et le rideau se leva sur le premier acte de la célèbre pièce d'Edmond Rostand, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, interprétée par la troupe de la Comédie-Française, les principaux rôles étant interprétés par le doyen Denis d'Inès (*Cyrano*), Marcel Bourdel (*Comte de Guiche*), Louis Seigner (*Ragueneau*), Jean Marsan (*Christian de Neuvillette*), Jacques Servière (*Le Bret*) et par Mmes Lise Delamare (*Roxane*), Andrée de Chauveron (*mère Marguerite de Jésus*), Marcellé Gabarre (*Lise*).

Cette remarquable interprétation fit de notre soirée un très beau succès dont nous sommes infiniment reconnaissants à tous les artistes; nous ne saurions manquer de réitérer nos remerciements aux dames sociétaires qui voulurent bien jouer, avant le spectacle, un rôle complé-

mentaire, celui de vendeuses de programmes.

Ainsi se présente sous les meilleurs auspices la renaissance de notre Amicale qui fut quelque peu en sommeil depuis sa création, le 1^{er} juillet 1943. Il suffit de fournir, chacun, un léger effort pour que l'Association prenne la place et joue le rôle que nous devons à la mémoire de nos camarades morts là-bas.

Nous vous invitons à lire attentivement l'appel que vient de nous faire parvenir notre président qui est aussi le président de la Fédération nationale des déportés et internés résistants et patriotes, et président d'honneur de la Fédération internationale des anciens prisonniers politiques.

Notre Bulletin

Après de longs mois d'absence, notre bulletin reparait, nous espérons que vous l'avez lu complètement et qu'il vous a plu.

Ce bulletin paraîtra désormais tous les trimestres, il sera le lien entre les rescapés et les familles de nos chers disparus, il sera l'outil au service de nos buts, il permettra le regroupement de tous ceux qui, hier, ont travaillé et souffert pour le même idéal, de tous ceux qui ont lutté pour la grande cause de la libération de la France.

Ce bulletin est votre bulletin, il ne doit pas être le fruit du travail de quelques uns, mais de tous.

Nous attendons vos suggestions et aussi votre aide, car notre Amicale et notre bulletin ne pourront vivre et grandir que si tous vous nous aidez financièrement et moralement.

Dans notre prochain numéro nous comptons ouvrir d'autres rubriques : pour les recherches de disparus, pour les offres et demandes d'emplois, pour le placement durant les vacances des enfants ou de camarades fatigués, etc. Nous espérons que toutes seront favorablement accueillies et nous attendons vos réponses qui doivent être envoyées à l'Amicale en mentionnant sur l'enveloppe : « Bulletin ».

Certains camarades dont nous ne possédons pas les adresses ne recevront pas ce bulletin; passez-leur le vôtre, vous nous rendrez service et vous leur permettrez d'être au courant de la marche de l'Amicale.

Aucun de nous ne doit rester en dehors de l'Amicale, celle-ci prend maintenant un nouvel essor, chacun se doit de participer à nos réalisations et l'effort commun nous permettra d'augmenter encore son ampleur.

Tous nous devons nous souvenir que nous avons des engagements vis-à-vis de nos camarades morts, que nous leur avons promis de les venger, d'aider leurs familles et de rester unis pour reconstruire la France, ce n'est qu'en étant groupés au sein de l'Amicale que nous pourrons mener à bien toutes ces tâches.

Adhérez et faites adhérer les camarades de votre région.

LE BUREAU.

Achetez Diffusez partout la Brochure

« L'ALLEMAGNE AVANT LA FRANCE »

Passer vos commandes au Service Propagande de la Fédération, et joindre 25 francs pour chaque brochure au C.C.F. 1275-11.

Lisez

QUI TROUVERA...

Tout en conservant le nom de notre bulletin, une présentation plus belle et plus expressive de son objet.

Envoyez vos projets ou idées à l'Amicale.

CAMARADES

QUI NE POSSEDEZ PAS ENCORE VOTRE CARTE AMICALE 1947

remplissez avec le maximum de précision le questionnaire ci-dessous, joignez deux photographies d'identité du modèle courant, un mandat-lettre avec le montant de votre cotisation (50 francs minimum) et envoyez le tout à l'Amicale des Déportés de Buchenwald, 10, rue Leroux, Paris-16^e.

AMICALE DE BUCHENWALD

Nom Prénoms

Date et lieu de naissance

Nationalité Profession

Situation de famille Marié

Enfants Célibataire

Adresse

Date et lieu d'arrestation

Autorité ayant procédé à l'arrestation

Motifs d'arrestation

Mouvement ou Réseaux de Résistance

Date de condamnation Condamné par

Peine encourue Prisons en France

Déporté de Date de départation

Camps en Allemagne

Kommandos Blocks

N^o matricule

Libéré le par

Témoins de moralité au camp

Etes-vous malade ou en traitement

Sports membership card belonging to Leslie Spiro. Bergen-Belsen DP Camp, Germany, 1946/47



אגודת ספורט פון חב"ד
Signature of Holder

באמערקונגען
Remarks

Bergen-Belsen שטאט **MAKABI** קלוב
Town Club

Nr. 43 מיטגלידס־קארטע
Certificate

Szpiro Laslo נאמען און פאמיליע
Name and Sur.

25. XII. 1930 געבוירן
Date of birth.

F U T B O L סעקציע
Section

H.8 אדרעס
Address

דאטע פון ארויסגעבן
Date issued

פארויזנדער
Chairman

סעקרעטאר
Secretary



פארבאנד פון יידישע ספארט־קלובן
אין דער בריטישער זאנע אין דייטשלאנד



בעלון בערגן

מיטגלידס־קארטע
Nr. 43
CERTIFICATE

Society of Jewish Sport Organisations
by the Central Com. of liberated Jews in
the British Occupied Zone of Germany.

St. Antoni 2272

יאנואר	יולי
פערבואר	אוגוסט
סערץ	סעפטעמבער
אפריל	אקטאבער
מאי	נאוועמבער
יוני	דעצעמבער

After liberation I ended up in the Bergen-Belsen Displaced Persons Camp where I spent a couple of years waiting for somewhere to go.

This card was my sports membership card. It is written in both Yiddish and English. My address was H8, which meant block 8. During the war, the blocks had been used to house the Nazis. They were better built than the barracks that I had been in at Auschwitz-Birkenau. In the photograph I am dressed in an American army uniform because I worked for the American Joint Distribution Committee at the time.

There were several futbol (soccer) clubs organized in Bergen-Belsen. I belonged to the Makabi (Macabee) team, which was the second best club in the league. The best club was called Hagibor. We played every weekend or whenever we could get the field. The field was always in big demand. I used to play right wing. I was short, but I could run fast.

Leslie Spiro

Photograph belonging to Robbie Waisman. Buchenwald, Germany, Spring 1945.



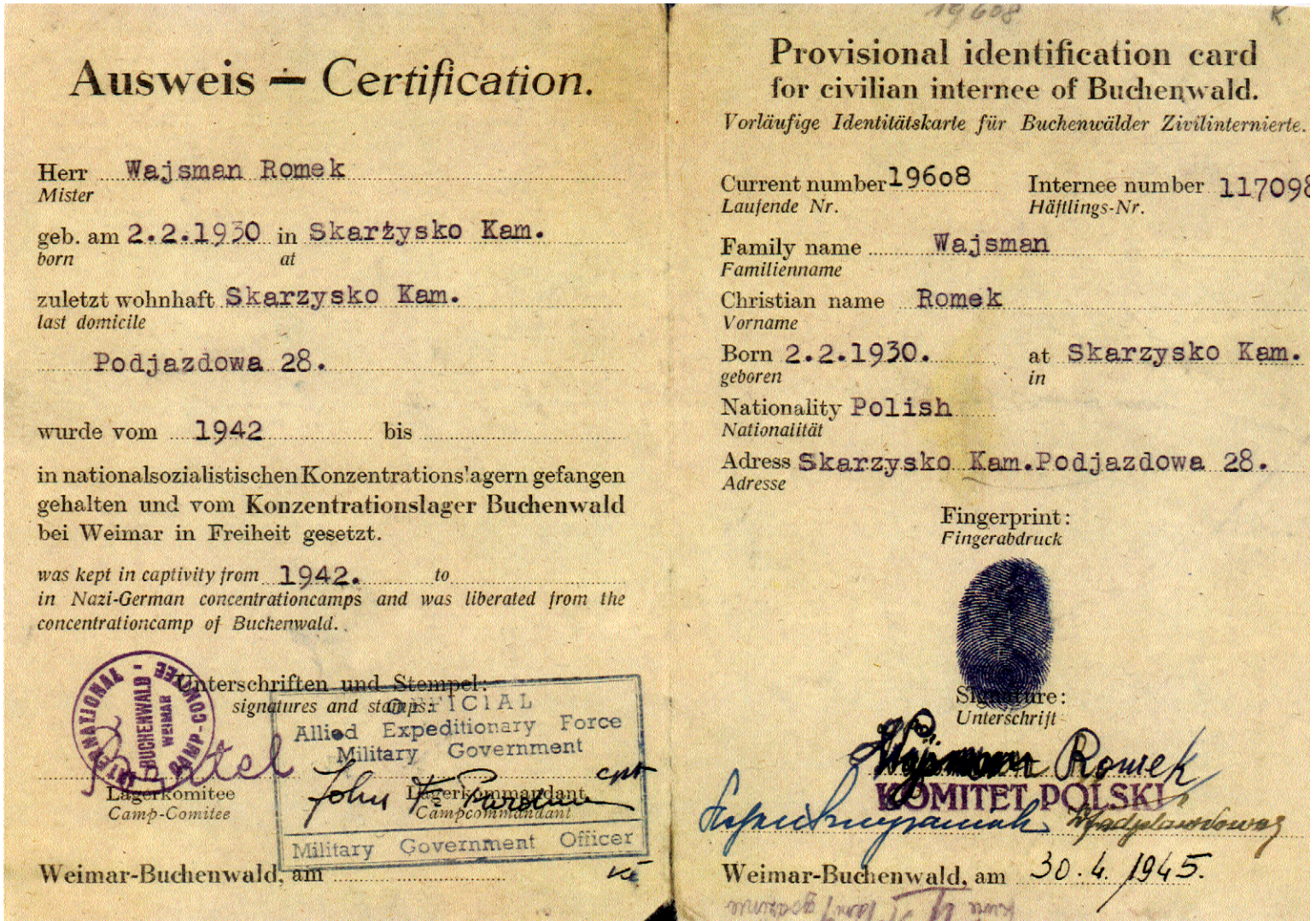
I was fourteen years old when I was liberated from Buchenwald concentration camp on April 11, 1945. This photograph of myself and some of the other child survivors was taken a couple of weeks after liberation. In the background are the former SS barracks, in which the children were housed.

I remember that an adult survivor who was a tailor was given the task of clothing us. He found some Hitler Youth uniforms and cut them down to size for us. We were all dressed alike in these little suits with short pants. I am in the back row, third from the right.

Over the years I have managed to keep in touch with two of the other boys in the picture. The little boy in the front row, third from the right, is Israel Meir Lau who went on to become the Chief Rabbi of Israel. I recently met many of the other 'Children of Buchenwald,' as we now call ourselves, at a reunion in Florida.

Robbie Waisman

Identification card belonging to Robbie Waisman. Buchenwald, Germany, 30 April 1945.



After liberation, Buchenwald was turned into a displaced persons camp and we were all given official identity cards signed by the Allied Forces.

I remember getting this card because it was the first time in years that anyone had bothered to ask me my name. Not since I was taken by the Nazis in 1941, had anyone asked me who my parents were and where I was from. In the concentration camp I was only known by my number – 117098. I was thrilled to get this card because it was the reverse of what had happened to me when I was imprisoned. This card gave me back my humanity.

It looks very worn because I carried it everywhere from then on, on all our excursions. It proved who I was. It was my security.

Robbie Waisman

Identification card belonging to Celina Lieberman.Eschwege, Germany 19 June 1945.

216006 * **D. P.**
Identification Card F

Name KOLIN, Date of birth 24.XI.31 Age 14
Name Celina Geburtsdatum Alter
Height 155 cm Weight 53 kg Hair fair Eyes hazel
Größe Gewicht Haar Augen
Nationality Polish-Jewish D P Registration No.
Nationalität D P Registratur No.
Kolin Celina
D P Signature / D P Unterschrift
Scars or identifying marks
Narben oder besondere Merkmale
none
Fingerprint R. Thumb
Fingerabdruck R. Daumen

Issued at Eschwege Camp No. 581 Date 19.VI. 45
Ausgestellt in No. des Lagers Datum
Repatriated to Date
Rücktransportiert nach Datum
Heinrich Goldmann
D.P. Screening officer
Name and Rank of Issuing U. S. Camp Commander or UNRRA Official
Name und Dienstgrad des Lager-Kommandanten oder der UNRRA Behörde
U.N.R.R.A. Team 522
Validation date Official Stamp
Gültigkeitsdatum Amtlicher Stempel

front

AREA TEAM 1041
INSTRUCTIONS
SCREENING VALIDATION
ANSBACH H. O.
3.11.46
For Eligibility Officer

1. Repatriation and validation entries must be authenticated with official stamp.
2. This card is valid only at D.P. camp or place where issued.
3. This card must be carried on the person at all times.
4. THIS CARD MUST BE PRODUCED IN ORDER TO DRAW MONTHLY RATION CARD.

ANORDNUNG.

1. Rücktransport- und Gültigkeitsvermerke müssen mit amtlichen Stempeln beglaubigt werden.
2. Diese Karte ist nur in dem D.P. Lager gültig, in dem sie ausgestellt wurde.
3. Diese Karte muß man immer mit sich führen.
4. DIESE KARTE MUSS ZUR MONATLICHEN LEBENS-MITTEL KARTENAUSGABE VORGEZIGT WERDEN.

AGPS-3317-2-46-500 M 33539

back

The only way that I was able to survive in hiding was to assume different identities. I had to change my name and learn how to be a very good Catholic. When I lived with Helena Zaleska, the kind Polish Catholic farmwomen, she gave me the name Marishka. It was very dangerous at time for me to have any documents with my real name Celina on it. Anything that could prove that I was a Jew would have betrayed me.

I was fourteen years old when I was given this identification card in the displaced persons camp at Eschwege after the war. This document was very important to me because it meant that it was finally safe for me to be called by my real name. It meant that I existed again.

The card has my thumbprint on it because you had to be documented in order to receive rations. Food was scarce. Even though I have thrown out so many other things over the years, I was careful to always keep this card.

Celina Lieberman

Photograph of Leo Lowy. Kibbutz Hazoni, Degendorf, Germany, 1946



After the Holocaust, I found out that some survivors from my hometown had joined the Kibbutz Hanoar Hazoni, just outside of Munich, Germany. Having lost our parents in the Holocaust, my sister and I were anxious to be among people we knew so we went to find them on the kibbutz. I was about 18 years old, one of the youngest on the kibbutz. In this picture I am doing some farm work. Sometimes I worked in the stable taking care of the cows and horses. On a kibbutz everyone shares the work.

My sister and I stayed there for about 3 months before moving to another kibbutz where we found some cousins who had survived. I had planned to go to Israel but I changed my mind when it became too difficult because of the British blockade. After that my sister and I went to another displaced persons camp in Cremona, Italy, where we became part of the Canadian War Orphans Project.

Leo Lowy