

Samuel (Milo) Adoner

Wartime Experience: Concentration Camp Survivor

This testimony was written in April 1995 by Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation based in Los Angeles.

Samuel Adoner nicknamed “Milo,” was born May 5, 1925 in Paris of Jewish parents Mordehaï Adoner et Magnia Maria Jakobowicz who were originally from Warsaw, Poland. They were leather workers and very religious. He grew up on the Île Saint-Louis neighborhood in an apartment house filled with families who were originally from central Europe. He characterized it as a “kibbutz.”

Milo was rounded up with everyone else, except for his older sister, on September 23, 1942 and taken to Drancy. He was then deported to the Camp at Cosel (Poland,) where he was separated from his parents and was sent to Niederkirch, then to Blechhammer in Germany, Auschwitz/Birkenau in Poland, and Buchenwald in Germany. Being placed in the “Scheissekommando” in Birkenau allowed him to survive.

He noticed that at Buchenwald in contrast to Birkenau and Blechhammer it was difficult to tell the difference between the political prisoners and the Jewish prisoners. After having jumped from a German truck, he was rounded up with a group of French prisoners and liberated with them on April 30, 1945.

Milo returned to Paris where he found his sister as well as his family’s apartment, which was now occupied by an engineer. Six members of his family had perished in the camps. He married a daughter of concentration camp survivor. He works in marketing, devoting much of his time to the memory of the Holocaust.

In his portrait he stands beside a photograph of his brother and friends, who were members of a musical group in their neighborhood in Paris before the war.

Des dossiers du Mémorial de la Shoah–Paris

Samuel Milo ADONER

Né le 05/05/1925 à PARIS de Mordehaï ADONER et Magnia Maria JAKOBOWICZ (POLOGNE) émigrés en France.

Déporté par convoi n°38 du 28/09/1942 de DRANCY pour AUSCHSWITZ avec ses parents.

Arrêté le 23/09/1942 à son domicile avec ses parents ils seront transférés dans un premier temps au camp de COSEL (POLOGNE) où il est séparé de ses parents. Il rejoint les camps de NIEDERKIRCH, BLECHAMMER (Allemagne), AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU (POLOGNE) et BUCHENWALD (Allemagne). C'est en se plaçant dans le SCHEISSKOMMANDO (commando de la merde) à BIRKENAU, qu'il a pu survivre. Il évoque la difficulté pour les déportés juifs de faire entendre aux déportés politiques leur différence. Après avoir sauté d'un camion allemand, il est recueilli par des prisonniers français et rapatrié avec eux le 30/04/1945. A PARIS, il retrouve sa sœur et l'appartement familial occupé par un ingénieur. Six membres de sa famille ont péri dans les camps. Il consacre beaucoup de son temps à la mémoire de la shoah.