

Ernest Levy

Photographed with his brother Erwin

Wartime Experience: Camp Survivor

FATHER: Max Levy	Born 1882
MOTHER: Johanna Levy	Born 1890
SISTER: Ruth Levy	Born December 10, 1919
BROTHER: Erwin Levy	Born October 1, 1921

I was born on March 9, 1926 in Waldbreitbach, German. A small village with a population of approximately 900 located about 35 miles from Cologne. In 1939 my parents and I moved to Cologne, a large city where I attended a Jewish school. My sister was living in Brussels, Belgium and my brother was working on a farm. After Kristallnacht my brother joined us in Cologne.

In 1941 we were deported to Lodz, Poland. Shortly after arriving in Lodz my brother Erwin disappeared, not to be heard from until after the end of the war, when he found me in a hospital. Our sister and parents did not survive the war.

In 1943 we were taken in cattle cars to Auschwitz. From Auschwitz I was shipped to Dachau and worked in various camps unloading railroad cars, digging ditches, working on railroad tracks and so on.

One day before the U.S. Army liberated Dachau all the prisoners that were still able to walk were taken on a march in the Alps and were told that we were going to Switzerland to be traded for German war prisoners. We were finally liberated after the war had been over for about three weeks. Only a handful of us had managed to survive.

In 1948 I was finally able to move to the United States. I worked in various jobs and finally ended up with my own business in Los Angeles. In 1981 after quintuple open-heart surgery I was forced to retire. My wife Wanda and I have lived at the same location since 1961. I have two children, Max and Johanna who are living with their spouses and children in Bend, Oregon and Danville, California, respectively.