

# Additional Research Notes

*Below is more information related to Joe's story, including concentration camps, ship transporting dislocated persons, camp for dislocated persons, camp commandants/other Nazi officials and their fate, and famous shoe companies.*

## 1. Concentration Camps

### A. Auschwitz/Birkenau, Poland (Concentration Camp)

**Author's Note:** Joe arrived at Auschwitz on April 30, 1942 and was housed at its sister camp, Birkenau, or "Auschwitz II," where two days a week he was forced to move the bodies of the dead from the gas chamber to open pits. He was also required to do daily calisthenics and work in many other areas around the camp, including snow removal on the massive grounds. Joe was eventually assigned to a slave labor crew working in a nearby coal mine. For a short while, the inmate miners were forced to walk several miles each day to the coal mine and back. When Joe was finally moved from Birkenau to a camp near the coal mine, he left Auschwitz for the last time, but the mining camp remained under the authority of Auschwitz. Joe permanently lost the hearing in one ear from the repeated explosions of dynamite. Documents provided by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., show that in June 1944, Joe (Juzek Rubinsztein) was sent from the Auschwitz complex (we believe from the Jawischowitz Sub-camp/Brzeszcze Coal Mine) to Buchenwald, Germany. His official number while at Auschwitz was 34207. At Buchenwald, his number was 117.666. <sup>1,2</sup>

The **Auschwitz** Concentration Camp, located thirty-seven miles west of Krakow, near the Polish city of Oswiecim, was in an area annexed by Nazi Germany in 1939 after its invasion of Poland. Auschwitz was the largest of all the concentration camps and included three main camps, all of which used prisoners as forced labor: Auschwitz I opened in May 1940; Auschwitz II (also called Auschwitz-Birkenau) in early 1942; and Auschwitz III (also called Auschwitz-Monowitz) in October 1942.

The Auschwitz-Birkenau killing center was central to the Nazi plan of killing all the Jews of Europe. During the summer and autumn of 1941, Zyklon B gas was introduced as a mechanism for large-scale killing. In September of that year, the SS first tested Zyklon B at Auschwitz as an instrument of mass murder; eventually converting two farmhouses near Birkenau to use as gas chambers. The first “Provisional” gas chamber was operational in January 1942 and later dismantled. Provisional gas chamber II operated from June 1942 through the fall of 1944. Between March and June 1943, after the SS determined that larger facilities would be needed for the gassing of the masses, construction began on four large crematoriums, each containing a disrobing area, a large gas chamber, and crematorium ovens.

The SS staff at Auschwitz-Birkenau conducted “selections” of all new arrivals, choosing only those deemed fit for forced labor. Those deemed “unfit” were immediately sent to the gas chambers, which were disguised as shower installations to mislead the victims. The belongings of those sent to the gas chambers, including the gold fillings of victims and some of the women’s hair, were confiscated for shipment back to Germany.

The Soviet Army liberated Auschwitz/Birkenau on January 27, 1945, rescuing 7,000 prisoners, most of whom were ill and dying. The Soviets found several hundred corpses believed to have been executed by the SS as the Soviet Army advanced. Soviet troops also discovered the ruins of the crematoriums; pits with the ashes of human beings; and some documents that were hidden by inmates risking their lives during the last weeks before the liberation. It is estimated that a minimum of 1.3 million people were sent to the Auschwitz complex between 1940 and 1945. Of these, authorities estimated that 1.1 million were murdered.<sup>3,4</sup>

### **Auschwitz/Birkenau Information Sources:**

1. Danuta Czech. *Auschwitz Chronicle 1939-1945. From the Archives of the Auschwitz Memorial and the German Federal Archives*. New York: H. Holt (1990) p. 161. “606 prisoners sent by the Sipo and SD from Radom receive Nos. 33996-34601”

2. Joe Rubinstein. *Face-to-face interviews with Author Nancy Sprowell Geise*, November 2012 – August 2014

3. Documents for Juzek Rubinsztein: *Copy of Doc. No. 34646016#1* (*/Image vorhanden/\_R/R0747/00604@0.1 in conformity with the ITS Archives*)

4. United States Memorial Holocaust Museum. *Holocaust Encyclopedia. Auschwitz.*

<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005189>, last accessed August 12, 2014

## **B. Buchenwald, Germany**

**Author’s Note:** Documents provided by The United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., show Joe arrived at Buchenwald from Auschwitz in June 1944 (classified as a “political prisoner”) and assigned #117.666. He was transported out January 22, 1945, on “Transport S III,” arriving at the Ohrdruf Concentration Camp on January 24, 1945. While at Buchenwald, Joe worked at a stone quarry. He said the dust laden air was worse to breathe than the air in the coal mine.<sup>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</sup>

**Buchenwald** was one of the largest concentration camps established within the “old” German borders (prior to 1937), about five miles northwest of Weimar, Germany. Buchenwald administered eighty-eight sub-camps across Germany, using the prisoners as forced labor in various construction projects, armaments factories, and stone quarries.

“On April 11, 1945, in expectation of liberation, starved and emaciated prisoners stormed the watchtowers, seizing control of the camp. Later that afternoon, U.S. forces entered Buchenwald. Soldiers from the 6th Armored Division, part of the Third Army, found more than 21,000 people in the camp. Exact mortality figures for the Buchenwald site can only be estimated, as camp authorities never registered a significant number of the prisoners. The SS murdered at least 56,000 male prisoners in the Buchenwald camp system.”<sup>6</sup>

### **Buchenwald Information Sources:**

1. Joe Rubinstein. *Face-to-face interviews with Author Nancy Sprowell Geise*, November 2012 – August 2014
2. Documents for Juzek Rubinsztejn: (*I.T.S. FOTO NO. 007275*)
3. Documents for Juzek Rubinsztejn: *File: GCC 2/222-IIC/17 Copy of Doc. No. 34646017#1 (/Image vorhanden/\_R/R0747/00603@0.1) in conformity with the ITS Archives*
4. Documents for Juzek Rubinsztejn: *Copy of Doc. No. 6973698#1 /RUBIN-RUDN/00209544/0001@1.1.5.3 in conformity with the ITS Archives*
5. Documents for Juzek Rubinsztejn: *File: GCC2/181/IB/9 Copy of Doc. No. 34646015#1 (/Image vorhanden/\_R/R0747/00605@0.1 ) in conformity with the ITS Archives*
6. Selected excerpts from: United States Memorial Holocaust Museum. *Holocaust Encyclopedia. Buchenwald.*  
<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005198>,  
last accessed September 4, 2014

### **C. Cieszanów, Poland (Labor Camp)**

**Author's Note:** Cieszanów, Poland, is the location where we believe Joe and his younger brother Abram worked digging trenches under the brutal commandant Herman Dolp. Joe eventually became very ill, vomiting blood, and was too sick to work. He was sent back to Radom, likely with a group of other ill and injured inmates, after a visit to the camp from Radom Jewish leaders. Abram returned to Radom a few weeks later. <sup>1</sup>

**Cieszanów.** After the invasion of Poland, German soldiers began indiscriminate and brutal treatment of the Jews, forcing them into labor. Food rations were meager. To negotiate a solution, the Judenrat (Jewish council) offered to supply the Germans with a mostly Jewish labor force, if they would agree to better treatment of the workers and to supply them with food.

In August 1940, around 2,000 Jews were deported to work camps in the Lublin district, engaged in the construction of a series of anti-tank ditches and fortifications between German and Soviet occupied Poland. Hundreds of teenagers and men from the Radom area were sent to forced labor camps near the border of the Soviet Union, including Cieszanów, where little preparations had been made regarding the workers' living conditions. Laborers were housed in wooden barracks with poor sanitation and little food. Food packages sent by relatives in Radom and other Jewish communities kept many of the workers from starvation.

An official delegation of the Radom Jewish community visited the camp and were horrified by the conditions. They were able to negotiate the release of many of the ill. Once back in Radom, the delegation was able to eventually help secure the release of all the other men by year's end. Many returned home gravely ill and/or with permanent injuries.

One thousand of the camp's laborers were sent to a similar camp in Stary Dzików. The Cieszanów camp was closed in November 1940, but reopened in the spring of 1941.

At the labor camp in Cieszanów, Jewish laborers would sing bitterly in Yiddish:

*Work, brothers, work fast. If you don't, they'll lash your hide. Not many of us will manage to last – Before long we'll all have died.*<sup>2, 3, 4, 5</sup>

### **Cieszanów Information Sources:**

1. Joe Rubinstein. *Face-to-face interviews with Author Nancy Sprowell Geise*, November 2012 – August 2014
2. Holocaust Education and Research Archive team. "Radom." *Holocaust Research Project*  
<http://www.holocaustresearchproject.org/ghettos/radom.html>
3. Lipson, Alfred. *The book of Radom; The story of a Jewish community in Poland destroyed by the Nazis*. Translation of Sefer Radom. Editors: Y. Perlow: Alfred Lipson, Tel Aviv. 1961

4. Virtual Shtetl. *History – Jewish Community before 1989-Cieszanów*. <http://www.sztetl.org.pl/en/article/cieszanow/5,history/>

5. JewishGen, Inc. *Years of Disaster Under Nazi Rule. Translation of Sefer Radom (The book of Radom: The story of a Jewish community in Poland Destroyed by the Nazis)*. Editors: Y. Perlow; [English section]: Alfred Lipson, Tel Aviv 1961. Original book can be found online at the NY Public Library site: Radom (1961a) <http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/radom/rade039.html>

### **D. Dora-Mittleblau, Germany (Concentration Camp) and Other Possible Location Sites**

**Author’s Note:** I believe it is possible that Joe was among a group of inmates sent from Buchenwald to the underground complex at Dora-Mittelbau. At some point, Joe was housed in an underground bunker compound where large missiles were either stored or produced (he saw them being loaded onto trucks). The site was highly fortified. It is possible, however, that instead he was at a different site –possibly the underground factories that were code named Richard I and Richard II, which were begun in the spring of 1944 near Terezin.

Another possible location where Joe was housed was in the underground complexes near the Ohrdruf Concentration Camp. (The United States Holocaust Museum has documentation of Joe being at Ohrdruf.) Southeast of the nearby city of Gotha, these sites had code names such as Siegfried, Olga, Burg, and Jasmin. This site is possible, as the physical description of the complex matches very closely to what Joe reported, “It was a place of manmade bunkers, so fortified that I kept thinking that maybe Hitler was hiding there.” Interestingly, there is speculation that the bunker complex near Ohrdruf was built as a backup location to Berlin for Hitler to hide. <sup>1</sup>

**The Dora-Mittelbau (Dora-Nordhausen or Nordhausen) camp**, in central Germany, was originally a sub-camp of Buchenwald, becoming its own independent concentration camp in 1944, consisting of many

smaller sub-camps. With the onslaught of Allied bombing raids, the Nazis began using Buchenwald prisoners to dig massive tunnels into the mountains as part of a large underground industrial complex, including building the facilities used for the development of the production of V-2 missiles along with other experimental weapons, stored in the underground facilities and bombproof shafts. The Dora-Mittelbau (Dora-Nordhausen or Nordhausen) camp eventually became its own camp, with authority over several smaller sub-camps. Deprived of daylight and fresh air, and exposed to unstable tunnels, mortality rates were higher than many other concentration camps. Inmates who became ill or too weak to work were sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau or Mauthausen to be killed. In 1944, a compound to house forced laborers was built. An above ground-level compound to house the laborers was built in 1944 and eventually had an inmate population of at least 12,000.

In early April 1945, the Nazis began to evacuate the camp, with thousands of inmates killed in death marches. In April 1945, American troops liberated the camp, but only a few prisoners remained. (a) General Patton, accompanied by Colonel Robert Allen, reached Ohrdruf in April 1945. Allen wrote the following in his book *Lucky Forward: The History of Patton's 3rd US Army*, published by Vanguard Press, New York, 1947.

*“The underground installations were amazing. They were literally subterranean towns. There were four in and around Ohrdruf: one near the horror camp, one under the Schloss, and two west of the town. Others were reported in near-by villages. None were natural caves or mines. All were man-made military installations. The horror camp had provided the labour. An interesting feature of the construction was the absence of any spoil. It had been carefully scattered in hills miles away. The only communication shelter, which is known, is a two floor deep shelter, with the code “AMT 10”.* <sup>2, 3, 4</sup>

#### **Dora-Mittleblau and Other Possible Location Information Sources:**

1. Joe Rubinstein. *Face-to-face interviews with Author Nancy Sprowell Geise*, November 2012 – August 2014

2. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. *Holocaust Encyclopedia*. Dora-Mittelbau. <http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005322>, last accessed August 12, 2014
3. Terezin Memorial The Natural Cultural Monument. *The Litomerice forced labour camp*. <http://www.pamatnik-terezin.cz/en/history-collection-research/historical-overview/the-litomerice-forced-labour-camp?lang=en>
4. Missouri University of Science and Technology. *German Underground Structures in WWII*

## **E. Jawischowitz (Sub-Camp Auschwitz) and the Brzeszcze Coal Mine**

**Author's Note:** We believe this was the Auschwitz sub-camp where Joe lived while working at the mine. The only documentation we have with Joe's name and HKB Jawischowitz is a medical form dated October 10, 1944, when he was seen for a gastrointestinal illness. Other documentation shows Joe having left the Auschwitz complex in June of 1944, so there is confusion as to the exact dates he was seen for this illness, where he was examined, and whether this medical visit was related to the illness that led to his working as an assistant to the coal mine camp doctor. <sup>1</sup>

**Jawiszowice**, an Auschwitz sub-camp, used to house inmates who worked in the Brzeszcze coal mine; a mine owned at the time by German, Herman Göring Werke. It was the first instance that the Germans put the prisoners from the concentration camps to work underground. In 1942, the number of inmates reached 2,000. The sub-camp's population consisted of Jews from all over Europe, including from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Russia, Yugoslavia, France, Germany and Austria. The prisoners worked in very difficult conditions and, because so many had little or no mining experience, there were frequent accidents. Inmates were subjected to beatings by supervising prisoners and the SS guards, often resulting in death. Attempted suicides by prisoners were common. It is estimated that from October 1942 to December 1944, at least 1,800 of the inmates were deemed unfit for work and sent to the gas chambers of Birkenau.



Some of the civilian workers in the mine, along with the people of Brzeszcze and Jawiszowice, regardless of their own personal risk, helped the inmates, bringing them food, assisting them with their work, and even helping them to escape. (Something Joe experienced firsthand.)

On January 19, 1945, the camp was evacuated, with the SS leading 1,900 inmates on a more than 50 kilometer march to Wodzisław Śląski, executing many of the ill and exhausted along the way. Dozens of those ill inmates were left behind at the camp and cared for by the area citizens.<sup>2,3,4</sup>

### **Jawischowitz and the Brzeszcze Coal Mine Information Sources:**

1. Joe Rubinstein. *Face-to-face interviews with Author Nancy Sprowell Geise*, November 2012 – August 2014
2. Documents for Juzek Rubinsztein: *Copy of Doc. No. 559402#1 (/0124-0323/0321/0210@1.1.2.1 ) in conformity with the ITS Archives*
3. Documents for Juzek Rubinsztein: *Copy of Doc. No. 839129#1 (/AU000503/163@1.1.2.5 ) in conformity with the ITS Archives.* October 20, 1944
4. Urząd Gminy W. Brzeszczach. *Route of Remembrance. Jawischowitz sub-camp. (2009 – 2014)*  
<http://www.trasapamieci.brzeszcze.pl/home/memorials-and-plaque/jawischowitz-sub-camp/>

### **F. Ohrdruf, Germany (Sub-camp of Buchenwald)**

**Author's Note:** The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum provided documentation of Joe arriving in Ohrdruf on January 24, 1945, after leaving Buchenwald on January 22, 1945. (1) (2)

**The Ohrdruf camp**, a sub-camp of Buchenwald, was created in 1944 near the town of Gotha, Germany. It served as a forced labor camp to work on a railway leading to a proposed communication center, but that was never completed because of the American troop advance. In early April, the SS forced the majority of camp inmates on a death march to Buchenwald,

killing many of those too ill to walk. Ohrdruf was the first Nazi camp liberated by the Fourth Armored Division of the U.S. troops. The atrocities they discovered are well documented, including piles of dead bodies, many covered with lime, others left partially incinerated on pyres.

On April 12, the supreme commander of the Allied Forces in Europe, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, visited the camp with General George S. Patton and General Omar Bradley.

**Below are excerpts from United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C., *Holocaust Encyclopedia*. “Ohrdruf.”**

“After his visit, Eisenhower cabled General George C. Marshall, the head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, describing his trip to Ohrdruf:

*“... the most interesting—although horrible—sight that I encountered during the trip was a visit to a German internment camp near Gotha. The things I saw beggar description. While I was touring the camp I encountered three men who had been inmates and by one ruse or another had made their escape. I interviewed them through an interpreter. The visual evidence and the verbal testimony of starvation, cruelty and bestiality were so overpowering as to leave me a bit sick. In one room, where they were piled up twenty or thirty naked men, killed by starvation, George Patton would not even enter. He said that he would get sick if he did so. I made the visit deliberately, in order to be in a position to give first-hand evidence of these things if ever, in the future, there develops a tendency to charge these allegations merely to “propaganda.”*

“Eisenhower and he wanted the world to know what happened in the concentration camps. On April 19, 1945, he again cabled Marshall with a request to bring members of Congress and journalists to the newly liberated camps so that they could bring the horrible truth about Nazi atrocities to the American public. He wrote:

*“We continue to uncover German concentration camps for political prisoners in which conditions of indescribable horror prevail. I have visited one of these myself and I assure you that whatever has been printed on them to date has*

*been understatement. If you could see any advantage in asking about a dozen leaders of Congress and a dozen prominent editors to make a short visit to this theater in a couple of C-54's, I will arrange to have them conducted to one of these places where the evidence of bestiality and cruelty is so overpowering as to leave no doubt in their minds about the normal practices of the Germans in these camps. I am hopeful that some British individuals in similar categories will visit the northern area to witness similar evidence of atrocity.*

“That same day, Marshall received permission from the Secretary of War, Henry Lewis Stimson, and President Harry S. Truman for these delegations to visit the liberated camps.”

“Ohrdruf made a powerful impression on General George S. Patton as well. He described it as *“one of the most appalling sights that I have ever seen.”* He recounted in his diary that:

*“In a shed ... was a pile of about 40 completely naked human bodies in the last stages of emaciation. These bodies were lightly sprinkled with lime, not for the purposes of destroying them, but for the purpose of removing the stench.*

*When the shed was full—I presume its capacity to be about 200, the bodies were taken to a pit a mile from the camp where they were buried. The inmates claimed that 3,000 men, who had been either shot in the head or who had died of starvation, had been so buried since the 1st of January.*

*“When we began to approach with our troops, the Germans thought it expedient to remove the evidence of their crime. Therefore, they had some of the slaves exhume the bodies and place them on a mammoth griddle composed of 60-centimeter railway tracks laid on brick foundations. They poured pitch on the bodies and then built a fire of pinewood and coal under them. They were not very successful in their operations because there was a pile of human bones, skulls, charred torsos on or under the griddle which must have accounted for many hundreds.”*

The 4th Armored Division’s discovery of the Ohrdruf camp opened the eyes of many U.S. soldiers to the horrors perpetrated by the Nazis during the Holocaust.”<sup>3</sup>

Below are excerpts from The Jewish Virtual Library titled: U.S. Army & the Holocaust.

“Generals George Patton, Omar Bradley, and Dwight Eisenhower arrived in Ohrdruf on April 12, the day of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s death. They found 3,200 naked, emaciated bodies in shallow graves. Eisenhower found a shed piled to the ceiling with bodies, various torture devices, and a butcher’s block for smashing gold fillings from the mouths of the dead. Patton became physically ill. Eisenhower turned white at the scene inside the gates, but insisted on seeing the entire camp. *“We are told that the American soldier does not know what he was fighting for,”* he said. *“Now, at least he will know what he is fighting against.”*

Within days, Congressional delegations came to visit the concentration camps, accompanied by journalists and photographers. General Patton was reportedly so angry at what he found at Buchenwald that he ordered 1,000 civilians to see what their leaders had done, to witness what some human beings could do to others. The MPs were so outraged they brought back 2,000. Some turned away. Some fainted. Even veteran, battle-scarred correspondents were struck dumb. In a legendary broadcast on April 15, Edward R. Murrow gave the American radio audience a stunning matter-of-fact description of Buchenwald, of the piles of dead bodies so emaciated that those shot through the head had barely bled, and of those children who still lived, tattooed with numbers, whose ribs showed through their thin shirts. “I pray you to believe what I have said about Buchenwald,” Murrow asked listeners. *“I have reported what I saw and heard, but only part of it; for most of it I have no words.”* He added, *“If I have offended you by this rather mild account of Buchenwald, I am not in the least sorry.”*

It was these reports, the newsreel pictures that were shot and played in theaters, and the visits of important delegations that proved to be influential in the public consciousness of the still unnamed German atrocities and the perception that something awful had been done to the Jews.”<sup>4</sup>

### Ohrdruf Information Sources:

1. Documents for Juzek Rubinsztein: *Copy of Doc. NO34646019#1 (/Image vorhanden/\_R/R07/0060@0.1) in conformity with the ITS Archives*
2. Documents for Juzek Rubinsztein: File Gcc2/222-IIC/17. *Copy of Doc. No.34646017#(/Image Vorhanden/ R/R0747/00603@0.1) in conformity with the ITS Archives*
3. Selected excerpts from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC. *Holocaust Encyclopedia. Ohrdruf.* <http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10006131>. Last accessed September 7, 2014
4. Selected excerpts from: Mitchell G Bard. *U.S. Policy During WWII: U.S. Army & the Holocaust.* 1998. Jewish Virtual Library. *Article above references: U.S. Army & the Holocaust.* 1998. Jewish Virtual Library, lists it source: Encyclopedia Judaica. © 2008 The Gale Group. All Rights Reserved. I. Gutman (ed.), *Macmillan Encyclopedia of the Holocaust* (1990); A. Grobman, *Battling for Souls, The Vaad Hatzalah Rescue Committee in Post-War Europe* (2004). [http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/usarmy\\_holo.html](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/usarmy_holo.html)

### G. Theresienstadt, Czechoslovakia (Camp-ghetto)

**Author's Note:** Theresienstadt was the last camp where Joe was held captive. He walked out of the camp after the SS abandoned it. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., provided arrival documentation of Joe at the Ghetto in Theresienstadt, but no date is listed. It is likely that Joe arrived in Theresienstadt during the time period described below (April 6-21, 1945). Joe was there only briefly before the camp was abandoned by the SS. Joe and two of his inmate friends witnessed several of the Nazi guards putting civilian clothes over their uniforms. Joe asked one of his friends, "What are they doing?" His friend replied, "It's over. They are going to try and hide." Later, once the camp gates were open, Joe and his friends simply walked out of the camp and

made their way to a nearby town. They found a clothing store. The shopkeeper looked at the three men in their striped clothing and said, “We know who you are. Take whatever you want. We owe you more than that.” Joe selected a suit, put it on, and left his inmate clothing on the floor. The store owner then tried to give Joe money, which he refused.<sup>1,2</sup>

The **Theresienstadt** “camp-ghetto” existed from November 24, 1941 to May 9, 1945, and had a highly developed cultural life. The camp-ghetto served as an ongoing propaganda and deception strategy for the Nazis, telling the public that the Jews from Germany were being resettled in the east to perform forced labor for the war, and that the elderly Jews were sent to the Theresienstadt ghetto to “retire” in the “spa town.” In reality, the ghetto served as a center for deportations to other Nazi ghettos and killing centers. Succumbing to pressure following the deportation of Danish Jews to Theresienstadt, the Germans permitted the International Red Cross to visit in June 1944, following the deportation of Jews from Denmark to Theresienstadt.

With ample preparation, the Nazis created an elaborate hoax, having intensified deportations from the ghetto shortly before the visit, and then having the ghetto “beautified.” Gardens were planted, houses painted, and barracks were renovated. The Nazis staged social and cultural events for the visiting dignitaries. Once the visit was over, the deportations from Theresienstadt resumed, ending in October 1944.

Between April 20 and May 2, 1945, approximately 13,500 and 15,000 prisoners were brought to the camp-ghetto, primarily from Buchenwald and Gross-Rosen sub-camps.

After visiting the camp again on April 6 and April 21, 1945, the International Red Cross took over its administration on May 2, 1945, when SS Commandant Rahm and the rest of the SS fled on May 5 and 6. On May 8, the area around the camp became a battlefield of the remaining German and SS units fighting the Soviet Red Army. On May 9, Soviet troops took control of the camp.

Of the approximately 140,000 Jews transferred to Theresienstadt during its operation, nearly 90,000 were deported to other concentration camps and killing centers. Roughly 33,000 died in Theresienstadt itself.<sup>3, 4, 5</sup>

### **Theresienstadt Information Sources:**

1. Joe Rubinstein. *Face-to-face interviews with Author Nancy Sprowell Geise*, November 2012 – August 2014

2. Documents for Juzek Rubinsztejn: *Copy of Doc. No. 34646020#1* (*Image vorhanden/\_R/R0747/00600@0.1 (in conformity with the ITS Archives)*)

3. Selected excerpts from the United Holocaust Memorial Museum. *Holocaust Encyclopedia. Theresienstadt*. <http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005424>, last accessed September 5, 2014

4. Selected excerpts from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. *Holocaust Encyclopedia. Theresienstadt: Final Weeks, Liberation, and Postwar Trials*. <http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007505>, last accessed September 25, 2014

5. Selected excerpts from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. *Holocaust Encyclopedia. Theresienstadt: SS and Police Structure*. <http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007462>, last accessed August 12, 2014

## **H. Treblinka, Poland (Extermination Camp)**

**Author's Note:** The site where Joe's beloved family is believed to have perished.<sup>1</sup>

The **Treblinka** Extermination Camp, in the secluded woods of northeastern Poland, fifty miles from Warsaw, was established in 1941 as a forced labor camp; becoming one of only six extermination centers carrying out the Nazi's goal of exterminating the Jewish people. The ghettos of Warsaw and

Radom districts became the main source of deportations to Treblinka. The numbers of victims murdered at Treblinka were estimated at 900,000 between July 1942 and August 1943; the exact number may never be known because the Nazis destroyed most of the documentation. Within a four-month period in 1942, approximately 346,000 Jews were deported to Treblinka II alone from the Radom District. In July of 1944, Soviet troops overran Treblinka, but not before the Germans killed an estimated 300-700 of the remaining Jewish prisoners.<sup>2, 3, 4</sup>

While much of the physical evidence of the camp was destroyed by the retreating Germans, later, several Nazi SS soldiers testified as to what they witnessed while stationed there. The quotes below are partial excerpts from their testimonies:

**Kurt Franz:** *“I cannot say how many Jews in total were gassed in Treblinka. On average each day a large train arrived. Sometimes there were even two.”*  
**(i)\*Only selected excerpts were used.**

**Willi Mentz:** *“When I came to Treblinka the camp commandant was a doctor named Dr. Eberl. He was very ambitious. It was said that he ordered more transports than could be “processed” in the camp. That meant that trains had to wait outside the camp because the occupants of the previous transport had not yet all been killed. At the time it was very hot and as a result of the long wait inside the transport trains in the intense heat many people died. At the time whole mountains of bodies lay on the platform. Following arrival of a transport, six to eight cars would be shunted into the camp, coming to a halt at the platform there. The commandant, his deputy Franz, Kuettner and Stadie or Maetzi would be here waiting as the transport came in.”*

*“When the Jews had got off, Stadie or Maetzig would have a short word with them. They were told something to the effect that they were a resettlement transport, that they would be given a bath and that they would receive new clothes. They were also instructed to maintain quiet and discipline. Then the transports were taken off to the so-called ‘transfer’ area. The women*



*had to undress in huts and the men out in the open. The women were than led through a passageway, known as the “tube,” to the gas chambers.” (ii)\*Only selected excerpts were used.*

SS Oberscharfuehrer Heinrich Matthes: “All together, six gas chambers were active.” (iii)\**Only selected excerpts were used.*

### **Treblinka Information Sources:**

1. Joe Rubinstein. *Face-to-face interviews with Author Nancy Sprowell Geise*, November 2012– August 2014

2. Shamash. Jewish Virtual Library. *Treblinka. Testimonies of SS at Treblinka*. <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/treblinkatest.html>

3. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. *Holocaust Encyclopedia. Treblinka*.

<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005193>, last accessed September 4, 2014

4. Holocaust Education & Archive Research Team. *Treblinka Death Camp History*.

<http://www.holocaustresearchproject.org/ar/treblinka.html>, last accessed September 6, 2014. And Holocaust Education & Archive Research Team. Radom. <http://www.holocaustresearchproject.org/ghettos/radom.html>

i. Kurt Franz. Quoted in: *The Good Old Days* – E. Klee, W. Dressen, V. Riess, The Free Press, NY, 1988, p. 247-249

ii. Willi Mentz. Quoted in: *The Good Old Days* – E. Klee, W. Dressen, V. Riess, The Free Press, NY, 1988, p. 245-247

iii. Heinrich Matthes. Quoted in: *Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka—the Operation Reinhard Death Camps*. Indiana University Press – Yitzhak Arad, 1987, p. 121

## 2. Ship Transporting Displaced Persons

### *USS General R. M. Blatchford*

**Author's Note:** The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., provided documentation of a ship manifest listing twenty-six persons (including the names of Joe, Irene, and their son) leaving Wentorf for the USA via Grohn Embarkation Staging Center on September 29, 1950. However, the ship manifest does not include the name of the ship. The document (502 IRO Documentation Office Wentorf BAOR 3), lists: Jozef Rubinstein (along with his wife and son), passenger No. 151818 433272 occupation "Coal Miner" destined for 15 Park Row, New York, N.Y.

Joe and Irene said their ship was a military transport called "Blackfort." All further research, including the opinion of a resource coordinator from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., indicate that likely the ship's name was actually the *USS General Blatchford*, which was used for the transportation of displaced persons leaving ports in Germany for the United States and Australia. Joe told me that they were initially told they would be relocated to Australia, but that they successfully were able to change the location to New York. Irene stated that they did not go through Ellis Island. Research indicates that since the individuals were processed in Germany by U.S. officials, the *USS General Blatchford* did not process through Ellis Island. (1)

*USS General R. M. Blatchford (AP-153)* was named in honor of U.S. Army general Richard M. Blatchford. She was a Squire-Class transport ship for the U.S. Navy in World War II, launched August 27, 1944, with a capacity of 3,823 troops.

After WWII (1946), she was transferred to the U.S. Army as *USAT General R. M. Blatchford* and was later transferred to the Military Sea Transportation Service as *USNS General R. M. Blatchford*. In October of 1949 and February 1950, she carried a total of nearly 2,500 displaced persons from Europe to Sydney, Australia, and was one of nearly 150 voyages made by forty ships bringing WW II refugees to that country.

The *USNS R.M. Blatchford* made at least two trips from Bremerhaven, Germany, across the Atlantic Ocean with refugees from Germany, Poland, Russia, Czechoslovakia and other countries and arrived at the Port of New York.

She continued operating in the Atlantic until she was transferred to the Pacific in 1965 to carry troops to Vietnam. *General R. M. Blatchford* received two battle stars for service during the Korean War.

She was sold to commercial operations under the names *SS Stonewall Jackson* and *Alex Stephens*, before being acquired by the Department of Commerce in 1979 and scrapped in 1980.<sup>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7</sup>

### ***USS General R. M. Blatchford Information Sources:***

1. Joe and Irene Rubinstein. *Face-to-face interviews with Author Nancy Sprowell Geise*, November 2012 – August 2014
2. 502 IRO Documentation Office Wentorf BAOR 3. September 26, 1950. *Ship manifest*. “Twenty-six persons who departed from Wentorf for the USA via Grohn Embarkation Staging Centre on September 29, 1950.” Included on the list: “Jozef Rubinstein, coal miner; Irene Rubinstein, housewife; Chaim-Moni, minor.”
3. Naval History and Heritage Command. *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*.  
[http://www.history.navy.mil/danfs/g3/general\\_r\\_m\\_blatchford.htm](http://www.history.navy.mil/danfs/g3/general_r_m_blatchford.htm)
4. Gary Priolo. NavSource Online. *NavSource Naval History*. AP-153 / USAT / T-AP-153 *General R. M. Blatchford*.  
<http://www.navsource.org/archives/09/22/22153.htm>
5. Immigrant Ships, Transcribers Guild, *General Blatchford*. Created & Maintained by the ISTG™ Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild.  
<http://immigrantships.net/v5/1900v5/generalblatchford19491111.html>
6. FifthFleet.net, *Ships of the Fifth Fleet*

7. National Archives Microfilm Publication T715. New York Passenger Arrival Records, 1820 – 1957. National Archives and Records Administration. *General R. M. Blatchford*

### **3. Camp for Dislocated Persons: Wentorf bei Hamburg, Germany**

**Author’s Note:** Joe and Irene, along with their son, stayed at the Wentorf camp for several months prior to boarding the ship that would bring them to America. During their time there, they were housed in cramped quarters, sharing a small apartment with another couple, hanging a sheet between two areas of the apartment for privacy. Source: Joe and Irene Rubinstein.<sup>1</sup>

**Wentorf bei Hamburg.** After liberation, the Allies began preparations to repatriate Jewish displaced persons to their homes. Some refused to go, many were fearful of doing so, and others had nowhere for which to return.

Allied authorities and the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) began housing displaced Jewish persons in camps and urban centers in Germany, Austria, and Italy. From 1945 to 1952, more than 250,000 Jewish displaced persons (DPs) lived in camps and urban centers. Some were housed in former concentration camps and German army camps.

UNRRA established the Central Tracing Bureau to help survivors locate relatives. Public radio broadcasts and newspapers contained lists of survivors and their whereabouts. In the camps for displaced persons, schools (with teachers from Israel and the United States) were established. Athletic clubs were formed along with many musical and theatrical troupes. Religious holidays were celebrated and more than 170 publications came to life.

On May 14, 1948, the United States and the Soviet Union recognized the state of Israel and passed the Displaced Persons Act in 1948, authorizing 200,000 displaced persons to enter the United States. By 1952, most of the DP camps were closed, with 80,000 Jewish displaced persons living

in the United States, 136,000 in Israel, and another 20,000 in other nations, including Canada, South Africa, and Australia.

One of these camps was **Wentorf bei Hamburg**, a municipality in the district of Lauenburg, in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. Located on the river Bille, near Geesthacht and Hamburg, Germany, it was a site for a large DP camp for primarily Eastern European refugees.<sup>2,3</sup>

### **Wentorf bei Hamburg Information Sources:**

1. Joe and Irene Rubinstein. *Face-to-face interviews with Author Nancy Sprowell Geise*, November 2012 – August 2014

2. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. *Holocaust Encyclopedia. Displaced Persons*. <http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005462>, last accessed September 13, 2014

3. Bogdan Karasek. *Wentorf Displaced Persons Camp*. <http://www.dpcamps.org/wentorf.html>

## **4. Camp Commandants and Other Nazi Officials Related to Joe's Experiences**

### **A. Herman Dolp\* (1889-1947\*\*)**

**Author's Note:** Herman Dolp was commandant of the labor camp in Cieszanów, where 3,000 Jews from Warsaw, Radom, and Czestochowa were put to work from August 20, 1940, and is where we believe Joe encountered Dolp, the man Joe and his fellow forced-laborers referred to as "The Swinehund." Joe said that Dolp was often drunk. Joe witnessed Dolp ride his horse to where men were digging trenches, take out his gun, and shoot several of the men who lifted their heads. Dolp then turned his horse and rode away. (1)

**SS Herman Dolp**, a professional locksmith by trade, was married with four children when he was promoted to Standartenführer (colonel) in 1931. In November of 1939, while intoxicated, Dolp tried to rape a young Polish woman who was friend of a German official. Dolp was

court-martialed on February 4, 1940, and demoted two ranks to Sturm-bannführer (major). Less than a week later, he was reassigned to Lublin to the Selbstschutz (armed ethnic German collaborators), where he gained a reputation as the most brutal and vicious of all the SS men on Odilo Globocnik's staff.

**Author's Note:** Globocnik was the Austrian born SS leader responsible for ordering the raid on the Radom Ghetto and sending its residents to Treblinka to be murdered, including, it is believed, Joe's family. (See information page on Odilo Globocnik.)

During his command of the forced labor march of Jewish POWs from Lublin, hundreds were murdered. In the spring of 1940, Dolp supervised the digging of defensive trenches along the border with the Soviet Union, primarily a stretch of border between the Bug and Sans Rivers, and was assigned authority over several forced labor camps in Belzec, housing the forced labor. Dolp reportedly only allowed the Jews to go to the toilets at certain times. Many, suffering from severe dysentery, were killed if they were caught using the toilets outside allotted times. Dolp was promoted to Obersturmbannführer in April 1944, for his "good work." Conflicting reports show Dolp missing; others report he died after being injured in a battle in Romania late in 1944.<sup>2, 3, 4, 5</sup>

\* Variations of the spelling of Dolp's first name exist in research: Herman or Hermann.

\*\* The year Dolp died is in question.

### **Herman Dolp Information Sources:**

1. Joe Rubinstein. *Face-to-face interviews with Author Nancy Sprowell Geise*, November 2012 – August 2014
2. David Silberklang. *Willful Murder in the Lublin District of Poland in*: Chapter 15 in Michael L. Morgan and Benjamin Pollock book: *The Philosopher as Witness: Fackenheim and Responses to the Holocaust*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2008.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=6jWgi9ky2OUC&pg=PA185&dq=Silberklang,+David.+Willful+Murder+in+the+Lublin+District+of+Poland>

3. Holocaust Education and Research Archive team. *Radom. Holocaust Research Project*

<http://www.holocaustresearchproject.org/ghettos/radom>

4. Dixon, Ian. January 1991. *Research. Herman Dolp*. <http://www.red-cap70.net/A%20History%20of%20the%20SS%20Organisation%201924-1945.html/D/DOLP,%20Hermann.html>

5. Aktion Reinhard Camps. *Belzec Labour Camps*. 2005.

<http://www.deathcamps.org/belzec/labourcamps.html>

## **B. Odilo Globocnik (1904 – 1945)**

**Author's Note:** Globocnik was the SS leader who ordered the raid on the Radom Ghetto, sending thousands of residents to Treblinka to be murdered, including, it is believed, Joe's family. Herman Dolp, the man Joe witnessed shoot several of those around him when he was digging trenches, worked on Globocnik's staff (after his time as commandant of the forced-labor camp in Cieszanów) and was considered the most vicious and ruthless of all those on Globocnik's staff. (See Herman Dolp notes.)

Austrian born **Odilo Globocnik** volunteered for the Waffen-SS and served during the German invasion of Poland in 1939. Reichsführer SS Heinrich Himmler appointed Globocnik police leader in the Lublin district of the General Government. In 1941, Globocnik, on orders from Heinrich Himmler, oversaw construction work on the extermination camp Belzec, followed by Sobibor and Treblinka in 1942.

In the summer of 1942, Odilo Globocnik sent SS Wilhelm Blum to Radom with orders to begin the "liquidation" of the ghetto. August 5, 1942, Jews in the smaller of the two Radom ghettos were forced to assemble at a site near the railway line. Then, between August 16 and 18, 1942, the larger ghetto was liquidated. Some were selected for forced labor, some

of the women and children were shot and buried in mass graves. Most of the people were deported to Treblinka and killed within hours of arriving. Those who tried to hide in the ghetto during the raids were executed on the spot.

Under his organization and supervision of Operation Reinhard, more than 1.5 million Polish, Slovak, Czech, Dutch, French, Russian, German, and Austrian Jews were killed, and the properties and valuables of murdered Jews were seized. The Operation Reinhard headquarters was responsible for coordinating the timing of the transports to the camps.

With the advance of Allied troops near the end of the war, Globocnik retreated with some of his staff into Austria, hiding high in the mountains in an alpine hut near Weissensee. On May 31, 1945, Globocnik was captured by a British armored cavalry unit, the Fourth Queen's Own Hussars, at the Möslacher Alm. He was taken to Paternion for interrogation, where he committed suicide by biting on a cyanide capsule. Later, rumors began about Globocnik having survived; later shown to be a hoax.<sup>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</sup>

### **Odilo Globocnik Information Sources:**

1. Holocaust Research Project. *Radom*. <http://www.holocaustresearch-project.org/ghettos/radom.html>
2. Mark Mazower. *Hitler's Empire: How the Nazis Ruled Europe*. Penguin Books: Reprint edition (August 25, 2009)
3. Joseph Poprzeczny. *Odilo Globocnik, Hitler's Man in the East*. Jefferson and London. McFarland & Company (2004)
4. William L. Shirer: *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*. Secker & Warburg; London; 1960
5. Susan Zuccotti. *Under His Very Windows: The Vatican and the Holocaust in Italy*. Yale University Press, 2002



### C. Adolf Hitler (1889- 1945)

**Author Note: Hitler was the mastermind of the events that resulted in the murder of Joe's family and his captivity in the concentration camps.**

Adolf Hitler was born on April 20, 1889, in Braunau am Inn, Austria. His father, Alois Hitler (1837–1903), was born out of wedlock to Maria Anna Schickelgruber in 1837. In 1876, Alois Schickelgruber changed his name to Hitler. Alois Hitler's illegitimacy would cause speculation as early as the 1920s that Hitler's grandfather was Jewish. Reliable evidence to support Hitler's possible Jewish ancestry has never been found.

Adolf Hitler desired a career in the visual arts and had a tumultuous relationship with his father who believed he should instead enter the civil service. After the death of his father and later his mother in 1907 from cancer, Hitler took the entrance exam to the Vienna Academy of the Arts but was denied. Despite being left a significant inheritance by his parents, Hitler squandered it away until he became impoverished, living in homeless shelters. During his time in Vienna, he had personal and business interactions with Jews and was occasionally dependent on them for his living. Following WWI, Hitler appears to have adopted an anti-Semitic ideology that was influenced by German racist nationalism promoted by politician Georg von Schönerer and the Mayor of Vienna, Karl Lueger. Both men reinforced anti-Jewish stereotypes and deemed the Jews as enemies of the German middle and lower classes.

In 1932, Hitler became a predominant figure in Germany in part by the German population's frustration over their poor economy, their continued humiliation over their defeat in WWI, and their discontent over the peace terms of the Treaty of Versailles. Hitler's charismatic speeches fueled his broad support, creating the path to him being named leader of the National Socialist German Workers Party (Nazi Party), as the chancellor of Germany in 1933.

Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler committed suicide in Berlin, April 30, 1945. <sup>1,2,3</sup>

### **Adolf Hitler Information Sources:**

1. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. *Holocaust Encyclopedia*. Theresienstadt Timeline.  
<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007460>,  
last accessed September 5, 2014
2. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. *Adolf Hitler: Early Years, 1889–1913*.  
<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007430>, last  
accessed November 3, 2014
3. History. *In This Day in History. January 30th, 1933: Adolf Hitler is named Chancellor of Germany*.  
<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/adolf-hitler-is-named-chancellor-of-germany>

### **Dr. Rudolf Höss (1900 – 1947)**

**Author’s Note:** Höss was the commandant of Auschwitz during most of Joe’s incarceration.

**Rudolf Franz Ferdinand Höss**, born in Baden-Baden in southwest Germany, was in training for the priesthood before his father’s death and WWI. He joined the German army in 1916, was wounded and twice awarded the Iron Cross. In 1922, he renounced his affiliation with the Catholic Church and joined the Nazi Party, joining the SS in 1933. In 1940, he was assigned commandant of the newly built Auschwitz Concentration Camp.

SS commander Heinrich Himmler told Höss in May 1941 of Hitler orders for the final solution of the Jewish question. Himmler told Höss, “I have chosen the Auschwitz camp for this purpose.” Höss converted Auschwitz into an extermination camp, where later its gas chambers were capable of killing 2,000 people an hour. Höss lived with his family on the campgrounds and wrote poetry about the “beauty” of Auschwitz.

In 1945, with the approaching Red Army, Höss fled Auschwitz. He was eventually tracked down by a German Jew, Hanns Alexander. Höss was arrested by the Allied military police in 1946, who handed him over to the Polish authorities.

In his autobiography and despite his pivotal role in the Final Solution, Höss said, “May the general public simply go on seeing me as a blood-thirsty beast, the cruel sadist, the murderer of millions, because the broad masses cannot conceive the Kommandant of Auschwitz in any other way. They would never be able to understand that he also had a heart and that he was not evil.”

Only steps from his former villa near Crematorium I of the main camp of Auschwitz, Rudolf Höss was hanged on the morning of April 16, 1947.

1, 2

### **Rudolf Höss Information Sources:**

1. Mitchell G. Bard. *U.S. Policy During WWII: U.S. Army & the Holocaust*. 1998. *Jewish Virtual Library*.

<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/biography/Hoess.html>

2. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. *The Frankfurt Trial*.

<http://www.ushmm.org/information/exhibitions/online-features/collections-highlights/auschwitz-ssalbum/frankfurt-triall>, last accessed November 8, 2014

### **E. Karl Rahm (1907 – 1947)**

**Author’s Note:** Rahm was the commandant of Theresienstadt during Joe’s brief incarceration there. Joe said that shortly before the SS abandoned the camp, Rahm was given the order to kill all the inmates (which is consistent with orders given to other camp commandants, but has not been independently verified). Joe said Rahm ignored the order.<sup>1</sup>

SS First Lieutenant Karl Rahm served as commandant of Theresienstadt. During his time as commandant, Rahm was ordered to commission an

elaborate and hoax-ridden film called *The Fuhrer Gives the Jews a Town*. The film depicts prisoners receiving fake packages and swimming, and Rahm welcoming young children off arriving trains. When the cameras were gone, the same children were sent to the gas chambers of Auschwitz. The film was not believed to have been shown during the war.

Rahm abandoned the camp on May 5, 1945 as the Soviet moved in. Rahm, along with several other members of the SS, was sentenced to death and executed in Litomerice.<sup>2,3,4</sup>

### **Karl Rahm Information Sources:**

1. Joe Rubinstein. *Face-to-face interviews with Author Nancy Sprowell Geise*, November 2012 – August 201
2. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. *Holocaust Encyclopedia. Theresienstadt: SS and Police Structure*.  
<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007462>, last accessed September 26, 2014
3. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. *Holocaust Encyclopedia Theresienstadt: Final Weeks, Liberation and Postwar Trials*.  
[http://www.ushmm.org/search/results/?q=Theresienstadt+Final+Weeks %2C+Liberation%2C+and+Postwar+Trials](http://www.ushmm.org/search/results/?q=Theresienstadt+Final+Weeks+%2C+Liberation%2C+and+Postwar+Trials), last accessed September 25, 2015
4. Holocaust Education & Archive Research Team. *Terezin/Theresienstadt*.  
<http://www.holocaustresearchproject.org/othercamps/terezin.html>

### **F. Franz Paul Stangl (1908 – 1971)**

**Author Note:** Stangl was the commandant of Treblinka, the believed site of the murder of Joe's beloved family.

Austrian born Stangl was the commandant of the Sobibór and Treblinka extermination camps. He was arrested in Brazil in 1967, tried and found guilty of mass murder of more than 900,000 people, and was sentenced

to life in prison. Six months later, he died of heart failure. He admitted to his crimes, saying, *“My conscience is clear. I was simply doing my duty.”*<sup>1</sup>

In 1970, Stangl was interviewed by author Gitta Sereny, used later in his book: *Into That Darkness: An Examination of Conscience* (1983). When asked if he ever got used to liquidations, Stangl answered, “One did become used to it.” Below are excerpts from that interview:

*“It was months before I could look one of them in the eye. I repressed it all by trying to create a special place: gardens, new barracks, new kitchens, new everything; barbers, tailors, shoemakers, carpenters. There were hundreds of ways to take one’s mind off it; I used them all.”*

*“In the end, the only way to deal with it was to drink. I took a large glass of brandy to bed with me each night and I drank.”*

*“When I was on a trip once, years later in Brazil, he said, his face deeply concentrated, and obviously reliving the experience, ‘my train stopped next to a slaughterhouse. The cattle in the pens, hearing the noise of the train, trotted up to the fence and stared at the train. They were very close to my window, one crowding the other, looking at me through that fence. I thought then, ‘Look at this, this reminds me of Poland; that’s just how the people looked, trustingly...’” adding later, ‘Those big eyes which looked at me not knowing that in no time at all they’d all be dead.’”*

*“I remember Wirth standing there, next to the pits full of blue-black corpses. It had nothing to do with humanity, it couldn’t have; it was a mass—a mass of rotting flesh. Wirth said, ‘What shall we do with this garbage?’ I think unconsciously that started me thinking of them as cargo.”*

*“...I rarely saw them as individuals. It was always a huge mass. I sometimes stood on the wall and saw them in the tube. But how can I explain it—they were naked, packed together, running, being driven with whips like...”*

*“When asked if he could have stopped such abuse, he said, ‘No, no, no. This was the system. Wirth had invented it. It worked and because it worked, it was irreversible.’”<sup>2</sup>*

## Franz Paul Stangl Information Sources:

1. Jewish Virtual Library. *Franz Strangl*. <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/biography/Stangl>
2. Gitta Sereny. *Into That Darkness: An Examination of Conscience*. Vintage (1983). Only selected excerpts were used. <http://www.amazon.com/Into-That-Darkness-Examination-Conscience/dp/0394710355>

## 5. Shoe Companies Where Joe Worked

### A. Herbert Levine

In 1949, **Herbert Levine, Inc.** began production of shoes in a factory on 31 West 31st Street in New York, where it produced 400 pairs a week. By 1954, that number was 5,000, with more than 200 employees. For over thirty years, The Herbert Levine Company designed creative and innovative shoes. Herbert ran the business end while Beth was head designer. Beth would later be referred to as “America’s First Lady of Shoe Design.” The company brought back into fashion boots called mules in the mid-1960s. The company would become world-renowned for its craftsmanship, creative, and fun styles.

Herbert Levine shoes were worn by such stars as Julie Andrews, Marilyn Monroe, Rita Hayworth, Natalie Wood, Dinah Shore, Lauren Bacall, Peggy Lee, Joan Collins, Cher, Linda Evans, Rosemary Clooney, Betty Grable, Gladys Knight, Debbie Reynolds, Arlene Francis, Phyllis Diller, Helen Hayes, Barbra Streisand, Carol Channing, Ali MacGraw, Barbara Walters, Angela Lansbury, and others.

In 1955, Marilyn wore a pair of Herbert Levine’s Spring-o-Lators, captured in many pictures, including the series taken by photojournalist Eve Arnold. Marilyn’s red stilettos from Herbert Levine are now part of the Bata Shoe Museum collection in Toronto. The Herbert Levine Company made many custom pairs of the so-called “Gigi Stocking Shoes” for Marlene Dietrich. Nancy Sinatra wore Herbert Levine boots for *These Boots Are Made for Walkin’* on stage and for promotion.

Herbert Levine shoes were worn by many First Ladies of the United States, including Jackie Kennedy, Mamie Eisenhower, Lady Bird Johnson, and Patricia Nixon. Herbert Levine shoes are collected by more than twenty museums around the world, including the Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The company closed in 1975. Herbert passed away in 1991, followed by Beth in 2006 at the age of 92.<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

**Herbert Levine Information Sources:**

1. Joe Rubinstein. *Face-to-face interviews with Author Nancy Sprowell Geise*, November 2012 – August 2014
2. *Beth Levine Shoes historical website*. <http://www.bethlevineshoes.com>
3. Helene Verin. “*Beth Levine Shoes*.” April 1, 2009. <http://www.amazon.com/Beth-Levine-Shoes-Helene-Verin/dp/1584797592>
4. kickshawproductions. *Vintage Fashion Guild*. <http://vintagefashionguild.org/label-resource/levine-herbert/>

**B. Nina Shoes**

**Nina Shoes** was founded in 1953 by brothers Mike and Stanley Silverstein, who were Cuban immigrants. The company was named after Stanley’s firstborn daughter. They began in New York with a small boutique on Prince Street in Manhattan’s SoHo, making famous a fashion clog with a stiletto heel, designed after the clogs their father had made in Cuba. “By the end of the 1950s, Nina’s fashion clogs were on the feet of stylish women everywhere, including the Miss Universe contestants.”

In 2012, Nina Footwear celebrated its sixtieth anniversary with a collection based on its archives beginning in 1953 called “Nina Originals.”<sup>1,2</sup>

**Nina Shoes Information Sources:**

1. Official Website: *Nina Shoes*. About Us. <http://ninashoes.com>, last accessed September 20, 2014

2. Lauren Parker. L Accessories Magazine. November 13, 2012. *Nina Celebrates 60th with Retro Collection*.

<http://www.accessoriesmagazine.com/58187/nina-celebrates-60th-with-retro-collection#.VBhCGLZH2FI>

### **C. Sbicca of California Footwear**

**Sbicca Footwear**, a ninety-two-year-old company based in Southern California, was originally founded in 1920 by the Sbicca family in their home in Philadelphia. The business was moved to California after World War II. “In the 1970s Sbicca revolutionized the shoe business when it began producing its ‘Molded Unit Bottoms’ out of polyurethane. This gave Sbicca the competitive advantage of producing footwear on a lightweight, flexible bottom that is fashionable as well as comfortable.

In 2010, the Sbicca of California brand was purchased by another family-owned business, Palos Verdes Footwear. This company is owned by the Lovely family and is the parent company of the Volatile, Very Volatile, Volatile Kids, Volatile Handbags, Grazie, and Encanto Footwear brands. <sup>1</sup>

#### **Sbicca of California Footwear Information Source:**

1. Official Website: *Sbicca of California*. Our Story. <http://www.sbiccafootwear.com/content.php?pgID=9>



# Glossary of Terms Related to Joe's Story

## A

**anti-Semitism** Term used to refer to the hatred of Jews and Judaism.

**Auschwitz/Birkenau** See Additional Research Notes/Concentration Camps.

## B

**bar mitzvah** A celebration of a Jewish boy's thirteenth birthday, marking his obligation to observe religious commandments and teachings.

**Birkenau** See Additional Research Notes/Auschwitz/Birkenau.

**blitzkrieg** 1) A term that means "lightning war"; 2) Hitler's invasion strategy of attacking a nation suddenly and with overwhelming force, used in the invasions of Poland, France, and the Soviet Union.

**borscht** Soup made with beetroot popular in many Eastern and Central European countries.

**British Mandated Palestine** 1922, Great Britain was called upon by the League of Nations to facilitate the establishment of a Jewish national home (Land of Israel) in Palestine-Eretz Israel (Land of Israel). November 29, 1947, the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution to partition Palestine. Britain announced the termination of its Mandate over Palestine to take effect on May 15, 1948. On May 14, 1948, the state of Israel was proclaimed.

**Buchenwald** See Additional Research Notes/Concentration Camps.

**Brzeszcze** See Additional Research Notes/ Concentration Camps/ Jawischowitz.

## C

**kapo (kapo)** A Nazi concentration camp prisoner given privileges in return for supervising prisoner work gangs. Many of those with criminal background and violent personalities were selected, often brutalizing other fellow inmates.

**challah** A sweet, yellow bread (often braided), served on Shabbat and other Jewish holidays, named for the commandment to set aside a portion of the dough from any bread.

**Chamberlain, Neville** (1869-1940) Britain's prime minister from 1937 to 1940, remembered for his advocacy of a policy of appeasement toward Nazi Germany and its 1938 annexation of Austria and the Sudetenland, mistakenly believing the agreement would bring "peace in our time."

**Cieszanów** See Additional Research Notes/Labor Camp.

**camp for dislocated persons** See Additional Research Notes/Wentorf bei Hamburg.

## D

**displaced person** People who are unable or unwilling to return to their home country.

**Dolp, Herman** See Additional Research Notes/Camp Commandants.

**Dora-Mittelbau (Dora-Nordhausen or Nordhausen)** See Additional Research Notes/Concentration Camp.

## E

**Eisenhower, Dwight** (1890 -1969) U.S. Army general who held the position of Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, known for his work in planning the Allied invasion of Europe. In 1953, he became president of the United States and was elected to two terms. (See Additional Research Notes on Ohrdruf Concentration Camp.)

## F

**final solution** The Nazis' term for their plan to exterminate the Jews of Germany and other German-controlled territories during World War II. (The term was used by the Nazis at the Wannsee Conference of January 1942.)

## G

**gas chambers** Large chambers built and used by the Nazi in the death camps to execute people with poison gas.

**Gestapo** The brutal Nazi secret police force, headed by the infamous Hermann Göring. The Gestapo was responsible for sending many Jews throughout Europe to Nazi concentration camps during the war.

**ghetto** A part of a city, especially a slum area, occupied by a minority group or groups. During WWII it was the areas where Jews were forced to live.

**Globocnik, Odilo** See Additional Research Notes/Camp Commandants.

**Great War** Term often used to refer to WWI. July 28, 1914 – November 11, 1918.

## H

**Hebrew** 1) A member of or descendant from one of a group of northern Semitic peoples including the Israelites; 2) The Semitic language of the ancient Hebrews.

**Herbert Levine, Inc.** See Additional Research Notes/Famous Shoe Companies.

**High Holidays** The holidays of Rosh Hashanah, the Days of Awe, and Yom Kippur are commonly referred to as the High Holidays or the High Holy Days.

**Hitler, Adolf** See Additional Research Notes/Camp Commandants and Other Nazi Officials.

**Holocaust** 1) The killing of millions of Jews and other people by the Nazis during World War II; 2) Situation in which many people are killed and many things are destroyed especially by fire; 3) Originally a term meaning a sacrifice burned entirely on an altar.

**Höss, Rudolf** See Additional Research Notes/Camp Commandants.

## I

***Institut Pamięci Narodowej***—**Institute of National Remembrance** The Institute, established in 1998 by the Polish Parliament is headquartered in Warsaw, Poland. Its purpose is for the research, prosecution and legislation to investigate Nazi and Communist crimes committed in Poland between 1939 and 1989, and to document and report its findings to the public.

**Israel** 1) A country on the Mediterranean: formed as a Jewish state May 1948. Capital: Jerusalem. 2) The people described as descended from Jacob; the Hebrew or Jewish people. 3) An alternate name for Jacob. 4) The northern kingdom of the Hebrews. 5) A group considered by its members or by others as God's chosen people. 6) A male given name.

## J

**Jawischowitz** See Additional Research Note/Concentration Camps.

**Jew** A person whose mother was a Jew or who has converted to Judaism. According to the Reform movement, a person whose father is a Jew is also a Jew.

**Jewish Religion** The religion of the Children of Israel, that is, the Jewish people.

**Jewish Star** Magen David, the Shield of David, or the Star of David. The six-pointed star emblem associated with Judaism.

**Judaism** The religion of the Jewish people.

**Judenrat** (Judenraete) Jewish councils (municipal administrations)

established during World War II by the Germans to ensure that Nazi orders and regulations were implemented. Jewish council members also sought to provide basic community services for Jews forced into ghettos.

## K

**kapo (capo)** See Capo.

**Kanada** (Canada) Considered a country of great wealth, the term “Kanada” became the slang used by the guards and inmates at Auschwitz to describe the vast warehouses of the personal property taken from the thousands of victims heading for the gas chambers.

**kosher** a Jewish sanctioned law; ritual for selling and serving food.

## L

**labor camp** Camp where Jews and others were pressed into forced labor for military or government purposes.

**Lebensraum** A term meaning “living space.” Adolf Hitler used it to justify territorial conquests in the 1930s. Hitler used the idea of Lebensraum to claim that the German people’s “natural” territory extended beyond the current borders of Germany and Germany’s need to acquire more.

**Luftwaffe** The German air force.

**liquidation** The term used to refer to the act of moving people out of the ghettos by force, through execution, transportation to concentration, extermination, or forced labor camps, or by setting fire to the ghetto and burning any people in hiding alive.

## M

**Magen David** (shield of David, Star of David) The six-pointed star emblem associated with Judaism.

**Matzah** Unleavened bread traditionally served during Jewish celebration of Passover.

**menorah** 1) A nine-branched candelabrum the Jewish use to hold

Chanukkah candles. 2) A seven-branched candelabrum used in the Jewish Temple.

**muselmann** Slang term used to describe inmates in the concentration camps that were near death by means of starvation, exhaustion, and despair.

## N

**Nagel** The Englishman who taught Joe the trade of making boots and shoes in Radom, Poland, shortly before the war. His influence on Joe had far-reaching implications when Joe began designing some of the most sought-after shoes in the world.

**The Nazi (National Socialist German Workers') Party** Founded in Germany, January 5, 1919, based on a centralist and authoritarian structure, with national, militaristic, racial, and anti-Semitic policies.

**Nina Shoes** See Additional Research Notes/Shoe Companies.

## O

**Operation Reinhard** The Nazi code name for the planned deportations and extermination of Jews as part of the "Final Solution" including: construction of extermination camps; deportation coordination of Jews from the different government districts to the extermination camps; the killing of the Jews in the camps; and the confiscation of Jewish belongings and valuables. The three extermination camps established under Operation Reinhard were Belzec, Sobibór, and Treblinka.

**Ohrdruf** See Additional Research Notes/Concentration Camps.

**Orthodox** A major movement of Judaism, with strict observance of Jewish law and teachings.

## P

**Passover** A Jewish holiday commemorating the Exodus from Egypt; also marks the beginning of the harvest season.

**prayer** Observant Jews pray three times daily and say blessings over many day-to-day activities.

**prayer shawl** See tallit.

## R

**rabbi** Jewish term for master/teacher; trained and ordained to professional religious leadership.

**Radom Ghetto** In March of 1941, an order was issued to establish a ghetto in Radom. A “large ghetto” was set up at Walowa Street in the Śródmieście District as well as the “small ghetto” at the Glinice District; together housing approximately 33,000 local Polish Jews were forced to live in the two ghettos. The Germans began to liquidate the Radom Ghetto in Operation Reinhard. The deported Jews were sent to extermination camps, primarily Treblinka and Auschwitz.

**Radom, Poland** A city in central Poland located south of Poland’s capital, Warsaw.

**Rahm, Karl** See Additional Research Notes/Camp Commandants.

**Roosevelt, Franklin Delano** (1882–1945) President of the United States throughout most of WWII until his death in 1945; worked with Allied leaders in the fight against Nazi Germany, Italy, and Japan.

## S

**Sabbath** The seventh day of the week beginning Friday evening to Saturday evening as a day of worship and rest.

**Sbicca of California Footwear** See Additional Research Notes/Shoe Companies.

**Shabbat** The Jewish Sabbath.

**shalom** A Jewish greeting and parting: hello or goodbye.

**Shoah** The biblical word Shoah (meaning “destruction”) became the

standard Hebrew term for the murder of European Jews in other languages besides Hebrew.

**skull caps** See yarmulkes.

**Sonderkommando** Male prisoners of the Nazi concentration camps, forced to dispose of the corpses.

**SS (*Schutzstaffel*)** The German term for Hitler's personal bodyguards. Used by the Nazis throughout the war, including operations of the concentration camps and the extermination of Jews and others.

**Stangl, Franz Paul** See Additional Research Notes/Camp Commandants.

**Star of David** The emblem, a six-pointed star, commonly associated with Judaism. During the Holocaust, Jews were required to wear Stars of David on their sleeves, shirts and/or jackets.

**Sudetenland** The term used by the Adolf Hitler in referring to the area of Czechoslovakia's northern and western border regions, known collectively as the Sudetenland, for Nazi annexation.

**synagogue** Jewish house of worship.

## T

**Tachrichuim** Traditional Jewish clothing for burying the dead made up of simple white shrouds.

**Tallit (prayer shawl)** A Jewish garment worn during morning services, with tzitzit (fringes) attached to the corners.

**Tallit Katan** A Jewish four-cornered garment resembling a poncho worn under a shirt.

**Tefillin Phylacteries** (small leather box) worn by the Jews, consisting of leather pouches containing scrolls with passages of scripture.

**The Jewish People (Children of Israel)** A reference to the Jews as a nation of people with a shared history and shared group identity. Not used as a reference to a territorial or political entity.



**Torah** 1) The body of wisdom and law contained in Jewish Scripture, sacred literature, and other oral traditions. 2) The five books of the Bible (sometimes called Five Books of Moses, constituting the Pentateuch: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus. 3) A leather or parchment scroll of the Pentateuch used in a synagogue for liturgical purposes.

**Torah readings** Weekly portions of the Torah and the Prophets read in Jewish synagogues.

**Torah scroll** Parchment on scrolls on which the Torah is read in Jewish synagogues.

**Theresienstadt** See Additional Research Notes/Concentration Camps.

**Treblinka** See Additional Research Notes/Concentration Camps.

**Truman, Harry S.** President of the United States who succeeded Franklin D. Roosevelt in April 1945, following Roosevelt's death. Truman led the country through the final months of WWII, including use of two atomic bombs against Japan, resulting in Japan's surrender.

**Tzitzit** Fringes or tassels at the corner of garments worn by Jewish males as a reminder of the commandments.

## U

**United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington D.C.** According to its website: "A *living* memorial to the Holocaust, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum inspires citizens and leaders worldwide to confront hatred, prevent genocide, and promote human dignity.

"Today we face an alarming rise in Holocaust denial and anti-Semitism—even in the very lands where the Holocaust happened—as well as genocide and threats of genocide in other parts of the world. This is occurring just as we approach a time when Holocaust survivors and other eyewitnesses will no longer be alive.

"Since its dedication in 1993, the Museum has welcomed more than 36 million visitors. On September 27, 1979, President Carter's Commission

on the Holocaust submitted its recommendation for Holocaust remembrance and education in the United States. On October 5, 1988, President Ronald Reagan said in the laying of the Cornerstone for the museum on the National Mall: *'We must make sure that {...} all humankind stares this evil in the face.'* On April 7, 1990, two workers at the site buried two milk cans containing the pledges of remembrance signed by Holocaust survivors. On April 22, 1993, President Clinton dedicated the Museum, stating, *"This museum will touch the life of everyone who enters and leave everyone forever changed."*

**United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA)**

A relief organization that was created at a forty-four-nation conference at the White House on November 9, 1943. Its mission was to provide economic assistance to European nations after WWII and to assist and repatriate refugees. The U.S. government funded close to half of UNRRA's budget.

***USS General Blatchford*** See Additional Research Note/Ship Transporting Displaced Persons.

**V**

**Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, Israel. World Center for Holocaust Research.**

Established in 1953. According to its website: "As the Jewish people's living memorial to the Holocaust, Yad Vashem safeguards the memory of the past and imparts its meaning for future generations. Established in 1953, as the world center for documentation, research, education and commemoration of the Holocaust, Yad Vashem is today a dynamic and vital place of intergenerational and international encounter. For over half a century, Yad Vashem has been committed to four pillars of remembrance: Commemoration: Documentation: Research; Education" [www.yad-vashem.org/](http://www.yad-vashem.org/), last accessed September 5, 2014.

**W**

**Wehrmacht** German armed forces from 1935-1945.

**Wentorf bei Hamburg** See Additional Research Notes/Displaced Persons Camp.

## Y

**Yarmulkes (skull caps)** A head covering worn by some Orthodox and Conservative Jewish males. Some wear yarmulkes only during Jewish services, and others wear them only at home, and some wear them at all times.

**Yiddish** Language spoken by Jews in primarily Eastern Europe or other areas where European Jews have migrated, a combination of elements of German and Hebrew.

## Z

**Zemirot** Jewish hymns sung around the table during Shabbat and Jewish holidays.

**złoty** Polish form of money.

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# Discussion Questions

1. In reading Joe's story, what was/were the hardest part(s) for you? Why?
2. In what ways do you feel that Joe's early years helped him survive the horrors that were to come and to find the strength to go on living?
3. Joe has never returned to Poland since the day he was taken from his home in 1942. If you were Joe, would you have returned to your country? If so, what would you be looking to gain? If not, why? What do you think has kept Joe from returning?
4. President Eisenhower said, after seeing firsthand the horrors at the Ohrdruf Concentration Camp (where Joe was held for a while) and upon its liberation, that they now knew what they had been fighting against. What do you think he meant by this?
5. Were you surprised Joe went to Germany immediately after the war? Would you have done so? Why or why not?
6. What do you think would have been the hardest part for Joe while living among the German people?
7. Joe and Irene were an unlikely pair. A Catholic girl raised in Germany during the war, marrying a young Jewish man who spent the war in captivity. What do you think has been the key to their long and happy life together? Have you ever formed a strong alliance, friendship, or marriage with an unlikely person? If so, in what ways did your differences affect your relationship? Can incompatibility actually be a strength?
8. Many events happened to keep Joe alive, including being taken in the first place, as everyone in his family who was left behind was killed. Do

you believe these were miracles or random occurrences? Have you ever experienced a miracle?

9. Why do you think Joe survived when so many others perished?

10. How do you think Joe was able to continue living with joy, when everyone he knew and loved was dead?

11. How do you think you would have reacted, if you had been Joe and the gates to the concentration camp were opened and suddenly you were free, but at the same time you realized that you had no money, no home, no possessions, no country, and no one in your family living? What would you have done? Where would you have gone and why?

12. When asked about his survival, Joe says that for some reason God kept him alive. Did you see God or a great power at work in Joe's story? If so, in what ways?

13. In many of the Holocaust photos, German soldiers are laughing amidst the atrocities they were committing. How is this possible? Were they evil people? How did they justify such evil, even to themselves? How honest do you think they were with their families about what they were doing?

14. Have you ever been ashamed of your actions against others and wished you could go back in time and redo them? How have you coped with your guilt?

15. Could anything have been done to stop the Holocaust? If so, what? Why was it allowed to happen? Was it a total breakdown in morality in a country known for great cultural contributions to the humanities?

16. Many countries, weary of WWI, did little or nothing to heed the warnings of the massive Nazi buildup. In what ways did such inaction allow the Nazis to build up their war machine? Could they have been

stopped sooner? What actions could have prevented Germany's early aggressive successes? Were other world leaders negligent in any way?

17. Hitler committed a great deal of manpower and other resources in fighting two wars—the one against the Allies and the other against the Jews. How did these two “wars” affect each other?

18. When he learned the fate of his family, Joe said, “I will never forgive them for what they did to my family.” If you were Joe, how would you relate to his feelings? How would you have coped with such feelings? Have you ever been able to forgive someone for something that you never felt you could? How vital is forgiveness in moving forward? Are some things unforgivable?

19. How much of the Holocaust can be blamed on the German people's complacency until it was too late to fight or stop? Are we just as complacent today? Are similar things happening in the world today that we are ignoring?

20. Joe was determined not to give in to despair. Have there been times in your life when you were overwhelmed by despair? How did you get beyond it?

21. Joe said that even before he heard the news, he “knew” that his family was dead. Why do you think he felt this way? Have you ever experienced anything similar?

22. Joe witnessed a man being beaten when the Nazis kept asking him, “Who are you?” And his response was, “German.” The beating did not stop until he finally said, “Jewish.” If you had been that man, what do you think would have been your response and why?

23. In what ways have you been like Joe, able to find hope in the darkest of moments?

24. When Joe went to receive a second tattoo mark under his number, the man doing the tattooing said to him, “You don’t look Jewish to me. I’m not giving you that mark.” Have you ever experienced having to hide some part of you that you did not want revealed to others? Is it possible to look Jewish when Jewishness is not related to race, only religion?

25. When Joe was given the tattoo on his arm by the Nazis, he was marked for life. If you were Joe, how would such a mark affect you, initially and later, if like Joe, it remained even seventy years later? Would you have had it removed? Why or why not? Is being reduced to a number a dehumanization process you would never want to forget?

26. In what ways do you see the evil at work in Joe’s time happening again today?

27. If evil is a breakdown of morality, is there a solution to overcoming it?

28. What common traits do you see of those in the so-called, “Greatest Generation,” of Joe’s era that gave them the ability to overcome so much? Is such a thing a myth or a reality? Do you see such traits in the younger people of today?

29. What was the most uplifting part of Joe’s story for you? Why?

30. There is spiritual power in an authentic life such as Joe’s because his story is not a solution but more a soul condition. How would you explain the spiritual power that comes from yielding to meaning like Joe does? Despite everything, Joe saw another vision of life possible and lived it, owing much to an infusion of hope for humanity. How is this possible?



**If you could share any of your kind thoughts  
with Joe, what would they be?**

**You can!**

**Please send us your feedback and/or notes to Joe:**

Via my website: *[www.nancygeise.com](http://www.nancygeise.com)*  
or email me directly at: *[nancy@nancygeise.com](mailto:nancy@nancygeise.com)*.



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