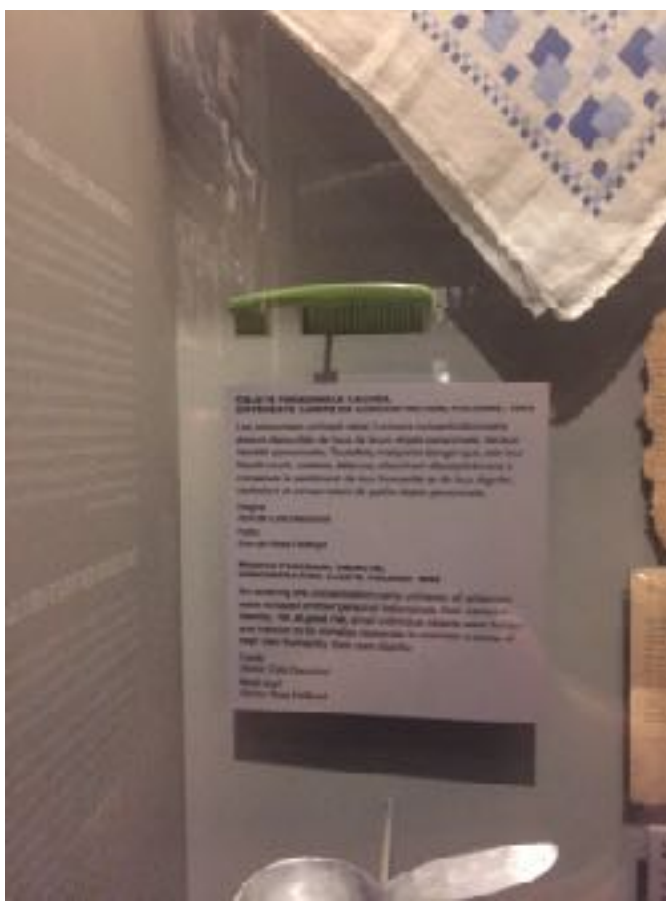


I've always been fascinated with hair, from the young age of 14 I knew that I want to be a barber. My parents were very supportive of the idea and allowed me to follow my passion. My parents allowed me to practice cutting my siblings hair and once I showed my parents that I was serious about it, then they would send me to learn how to properly cut hair. When I graduated my dad got me a gift, it came in a small long box, and inside was a green comb I was so happy and I knew that I would always keep it forever. I was lucky enough that by the age of 20 I got a job sweeping the local barber floor and sometimes when one of the barbers were sick they would let me fill in for them and cut the hair of the customers. It took me two years to become a barber at the shop, the owner and I became good friends and he taught me a lot of things that I didn't know. After a few years of working at the barber shop and saving money I decided to quit and open my own shop. With the money I saved up and the loan I got from the bank I was able to open my own shop, and I got lots of customers, my father was very proud of me and was always at the store to keep me company when no one was there. He was there so often that I decided he should also have a key to the store as well. Business was doing well for a few months and then the rumours started. The rumours of the Jewish people in Germany being moved into other neighbourhoods. At the time it seemed a bit odd but from the pictures in the papers the neighbourhoods seemed nice. Then the Nazis invaded Austria. Luckily I lived in Poland but I lost a few friends in Austria. Business started getting worse. Lots of my customers started leaving Poland and going west. I stayed because my whole life was here in Austria, my family, my shop. I didn't see a reason to leave. Then the Nazis invaded Poland and I was captured and brought to the Dachau concentration camp. When they took me I wasn't able to bring anything except the clothes on my back and the things in my pockets. The truck they put me in drove through the city and on the street where my store was located. What I saw was awful. I saw soldiers burning buildings, and shoving innocent women and children to the ground, the soldiers were so mean to them. We turned a street before my store and stopped at the train station where I found the rest of my family. My father told me that he went to the store early and grabbed some things. He pulled from his pockets my scissors and my comb. He then told me some bad news that the German soldiers were breaking the pictures I had the windows of the store and the mirrors. I was very sad but was happy that my family was safe, and also that I had my comb. The soldiers forced us onto the train where there were no seats. There was barely any space for use to sit and we were all stuffed onto the train. The train ride from Poland to south Germany felt like it was an eternity. Once we got to the camp we were split up from my mother and sister and my father brother and I were forced to go the other way. I never saw my mother or sister again. They asked us if we had any skills and I told them I was a barber, they put a number on a list and gave me that number, when I asked my father if they put his number on the list he said no. A few days later two soldiers approached me and took me to a small barber room, I asked them what this was for and they said that my job here was to cut the soldiers hair. I was treated better than the other people in the camp and was fed more than them too. I would bring food to my father and brother sometimes, but once I got caught and they got mad at me and didn't feed me for a day, my father and brother did not make it out, I was the only one who was kept alive because I was useful to the Germans, when the allied forces came and liberated us the only thing I had from my old life was my green comb.



"Dachau." United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. United States Holocaust Memorial Council, 02 July 2016. Web. 06 Nov. 2016.

"Invasion of Poland, Fall 1939." United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. United States Holocaust Memorial Council, 02 July 2016. Web. 06 Nov. 2016.

"Nazis Take Czechoslovakia." History.com. A&E Television Networks, n.d. Web. 06 Nov. 2016.