

Holocaust Survivor Biography: Alex Redner



Alex Redner was born in Lvov, Poland. His father was a doctor and his mother attended university. He was 10 years old when Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939 and started World War II. Immediately, according to the Non-Aggression Pact, Lvov was occupied by the Soviet Union.

The German army occupied Lvov, the third largest city of Poland, on June 30, 1941. The Nazis systematic murder of the Jews started immediately, with a steadily increasing brutality, by starvation, relocation to the ghetto, and finally by deportation to concentration and death camps.

In November 1941 the ghetto was established and by March 1942 the Nazis began to deport the Jews to the Belzec death camp.

The Redner family started their effort to escape murder using a variety of means. In January of 1943 Alex and his mother escaped the Lvov ghetto. With help from Polish friends, they found a hiding place in a nearby small village. They remained in hiding for 18 months, until the region was liberated in July 1944, more than 3 years after the occupation.

Upon returning to their apartment, they found out that only 2% of the prewar Jewish population of Lvov survived after the German and Ukrainian forces murdered approximately 120,000 in Belzec, Majdanek, and the nearby Janowska forced labor camp.

After liberation the Redner family left Poland. Alex enrolled in engineering school in France and graduated in 1951. They moved to the United States in 1958. In 1985 he started his own company in North Wales, PA and retired in 2002. During his 50 years of professional career, he obtained 10 US patents, and wrote over 60 research papers in the field of optics and mechanics.



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Witness to History Project:

The Witness To History Project is designed to further the message and lessons of the Holocaust by direct interaction between students or interested adults and Holocaust survivors. Participants "adopt" a survivor by learning his or her unique account of via listening to the survivor tell his/her story, asking questions, writing a biography, reviewing a videotape, and memorizing and re-telling the story to others. Ultimately, the participant will have the lifelong job of educating others about the Holocaust by sharing this personal narrative. Contact the Holocaust Awareness Museum to participate.

Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center

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