



Ashes from Belzec. Willie Glaser's travels in Poland 2008 Part II: Auschwitz concentration camp

The Auschwitz concentration camp is unbelievable large. That day was a heat wave in Poland, the temperature was 36° C. Many thousands of visitors were walking around, my estimate is 5000. There were 35 - 40 tour buses and hundreds of cars from all over Europe in the parking lot.

We looked at all the terrible places. Of special interest to cousin Bernard was the barrack no. 11. His father was held there and even was allowed to write short letters to his wife. At that time the Gestapo did not know that Henryk was Jewish. When they found out, Henryk was sent to Dachau via Flossenbürg. He died in Dachau of Typhus while the Americans were already there for 5 days.

Cousin Bernard was searching for his father in Dachau. I traced Henryk to Dachau and a lady in the "Gedenkstätte" (concentration camp memorial) realized there is a connection. That is how we found each other.

in the afternoon we drove to Birkenau, which is 3 km from Auschwitz. Birkenau is also large, many barracks, and the now destroyed crematoria. I spent some time on the unloading ramp, because here the decision was made who lives and who dies: the famous selection.

When my father arrived from Paris on transport 64, about 200 people were selected, tattooed and sent to Auschwitz, about 800 were sent straight to the gas chambers.

Inside the main gate of Birkenau, facing the ramp I lit a memorial candle and said a memorial prayer for my father (Kaddish).



Bernard and Willie at the Auschwitz camp's main gate





Bernard in front of barrack no. 11





Railway tracks at Birkenau



Main gate of Birkenau



Willie Glaser

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