

HOLOCAUST

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HUMANITY

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Klaus Stern

Video Transcripts

Video 1: My best friend

I had many Jewish friends, but my best friend was a non-Jewish boy, Walter. And one day called my best friend to me to say, "Klaus, I can't play with you anymore."

I say, "What are you talking about? We're the best of friends; we never had an argument, what's going on with you?"

"I have to tell you the truth. I have to join Hitler Youth, like anybody else. And if anybody sees me playing, and going out, concerts, or movies, go out with a Jewish boy; my parents might lose their business." Here I lost my best friend and buddy, Walt, because he had to join Hitler Youth and I was Jewish and it was a big shock for me.

Video 2: New Identification Card

So after 3 days, we went back and I got my card with a big J for Jew. And I look at my card and I've got another middle name. I've never had a middle name like that before. So, my new name was Klaus Israel Stern, and my sister Rita Sarah Stern, to identify us.

Video 3: Trying to contact Paula

I was 5 or 6 hours by train from my wife's hometown, but there were no trains, no buses, no nothing.

So I walked from one city to one village to another one. Anyhow, it took me about 3 and a half weeks to get home. And when I got home, I met my wife for the first time in 28 months. She didn't know I was alive and I didn't know she was alive. We both made it somehow.

Video 4: Tattoo

I did not have no more name, because the Nazis say there may be another guy maybe with the same name and we don't want to fool around with names. And I got my tattoo on my left arm, front arm. 1-17-0-33. and that was mine; no more name.