





## Chaim (Harry) Omer

He was born in 1927 in Sosnowiec, Poland, the 4th of 6 children.

Following German Invasion in September 1939, the Jews faced much persecution so in 1940, Harry's family fled to Muchów-Charsznica. However, they were subjected to forced labour. In 1942, they were taken to a ghetto and held for several while selection was carried out.

Men unable to work were shot, women and children were sent to an extermination camp and murdered. Those remaining were sent to Plaszów camp in Kraków where Harry worked on a railway line. After a year, he was sent to another camp & was forced to work in a chemical factory. It was dangerous and many died from exhaustion, poisoning, epidemics or starvation. Periodical selections shot the weakest people.

A final selection took place in July 1944 & Harry was one of 6000 prisoners who survived to be sent to Buchenwald camp in Germany. They were moved again to Schlieben, a sub camp of Buchenwald where Harry had to work in again in exhausting, dangerous conditions. Finally, with the Soviet Red Army approaching in April 1945, they were sent to Terezin ghetto in Czechoslovakia, where they were finally liberated by the Red Army on 8th May 1945.

After a period of recuperation, Harry came to the UK with a group of child survivors called 'The Boys' and moved to Glasgow to live in a hostel. Despite knowing no English in 1945, he completed his exams in 1947 and went on to be a dentist. In 1950, he became a British citizen and served in the army as a dentist. He went on to marry and have 4 children and 8 grandchildren.



## Ruth Posner

She was born in Warsaw 1929 and lived with her parents Anna and Marian. The family moved to Radom before the war.

By the end of the war, Ruth's parents, uncles, aunts and cousins were killed. Only one aunt remained at the end of the war.

After the Germans invaded, she was thrown out of her home & marched to the Radom ghetto. Ruth's father arranged for Ruth and her aunt to work in a factory, while hard labour, it kept her away from the deportations of the ghetto. Once, when being marched to the town baths, her and her aunt escaped to the non-Jewish side. She hid but during the Warsaw uprising in 1944, she was taken prisoner & sent to Germany. She was imprisoned as a Polish Catholic as she was caught with Catholics. Near the end of the war, she was put on a train to Essen. The Allies bombed the town and many died. She hid at a local farm until the end of the war.

After the war, she came to England aged 16 and spent time in a hostel with other refugees in Reading. Despite her experience, she wanted a new life, to learn English & go to school. She was helped by 2 German refugees who ran the hostel. She went to good school, later studied dance and drama. She trained with the London Contemporary Dance Theatre and stayed for 18 years performing and teaching.

She married her husband Michael and they moved to New York. She changed profession to acting, forging a successful career lasting until the present.