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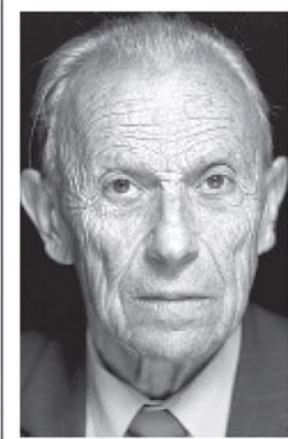
HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

Portraits of Jewish courage

On January 27, 1945, Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated by the Allies. It is believed that about 1.1 million people were murdered inside the camp but a few were lucky enough to make it out alive. Photographer MATTHEW WRITTLE has captured images of survivors living in Britain today. These pictures, along with the subjects' personal stories, will be on display in London, Brighton and Manchester to mark this year's Holocaust Memorial Day

JOE RATZIEK

Joezek Ratziek was born near Krakow, Poland, in September 1939. His family was moved to the Plaszow work camp in 1942 and from there to Auschwitz where all but Joe perished. Some time later the men and boys who were fit enough were marched for several weeks to Buchenwald. There Joe was ordered on to one of the many open rail trucks, packed in for the long journey to Theresienstadt. On leaving the train, Joe saw fellow prisoner Stanley Faull left for dead. He rounded up some others to help move him and so began a long, special friendship that continues to this day. Theresienstadt was liberated on May 6, 1945. In August that same year Joe arrived in Britain, performing at the Yiddish Theatre in Whitechapel, east London, before eventually settling in Brighton with wife Renée, another camp survivor. He says: "May it never happen again."



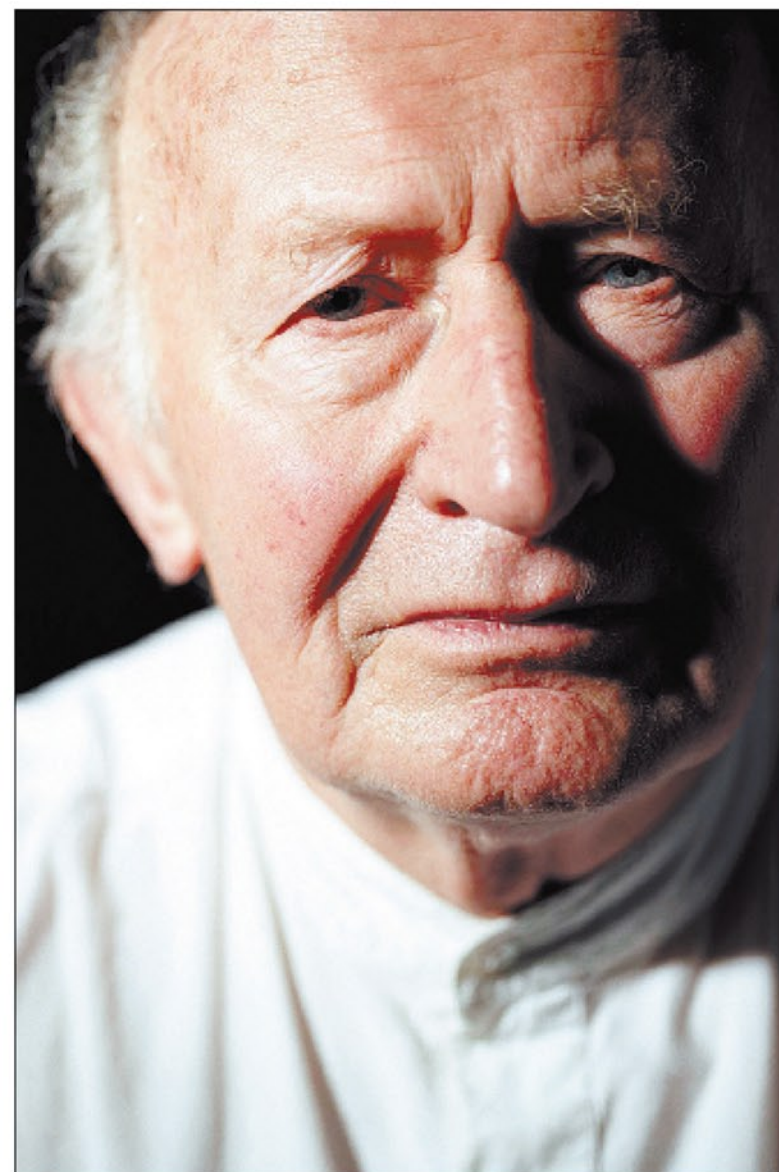
EVA SCHLOSS

Eva Geiringer was born in Vienna on May 11, 1929. After the Nazi takeover of Austria her family settled in Amsterdam. They were neighbours of the Franks, she and Anne regular playmates until 1942 when both families were forced into hiding. Eva's family were arrested, along with the Franks, in May 1944 and held in Westerborg camp before being transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Her father and 18-year-old brother were sent on the death march in January 1945 and died in Mauthausen, days before liberation. Eva and her mother survived and in 1951 she came to Britain, where she married Zvi Schloss. She became Anne Frank's stepsister posthumously when her mother married Otto Frank in 1953. She speaks regularly of her experiences. "After the war, I despaired of life. It took 30 years, three lovely daughters and much else for me to realise that life can be beautiful."



TRUDE LEVI

Gertrud Mosonyi was born in Szombahely, Hungary in 1924. From May to July 1944 she was held in the ghetto there and two Hungarian camps before being deported with her parents to Auschwitz. In March 1945 Trude was taken back to Germany, finishing with a death march: "As we cross the bridge there is a beautiful sunrise. I collapse. I know I will be shot but it doesn't matter any more. Two guards butt me with their guns, then say: 'Oh, leave her, she's not worth a bullet.'" Trude refused to return to Hungary after liberation and became stateless before arriving in Britain in 1957 and taking British citizenship. In 1996 she became the first person to receive an honorary doctorate for work in genocide education. In 2008 she was awarded the Officer's 1st Class Cross, Order of Merit, by the President of the German Federal Republic.



ROMAN HALTER

"My whole family was murdered," says Roman. "From my town of Chodecz, where 800 Jews lived, four of us survived." Born in Poland in 1927, he was the youngest of seven children. From 1940 until 1945 they were in the Lodz ghetto followed by Auschwitz-Birkenau and Stutthof concentration camps. He was then used as slave labour in a factory in Dresden. After coming to Britain in 1945 Roman qualified as an architect and married fellow survivor Susie Halter. He hopes some good can come of their terrible experiences. "The truth of our past, the history of the Holocaust, must be taught, especially to younger generations, for the sake of a concord amongst people and for the building of a better, safer future and world."

ANITA LASKER-WALLFISCH

One of three sisters, Anita Lasker was born on July 17, 1925 in Breslau, Germany (now Wroclaw, in Poland). After her parents were deported and killed in 1942, Anita and her youngest sister, Renate, were imprisoned for forging documents and, in December 1943, sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau. A talented musician, she played the cello in the camp orchestra before being sent to Bergen-Belsen. After Belsen was liberated on April 15, 1945, Anita made her way to London, becoming a professional musician and marrying Peter Wallfisch, with whom she had two children. She published a memoir, *Inherit The Truth*, in 1996 but says: "Words can never convey the abomination that took place. My story has a happy ending, unlike that of millions of others whose existence was obliterated."



KITTY HART-MOXON

From Bielsko, Poland, Kitty was born in 1926. Her family fled east before the Nazi army and her father obtained false documents for his wife and daughter, who went to Germany as forced labour. They were betrayed and sentenced to death, later reduced to life imprisonment, in Auschwitz-Birkenau, where they arrived in April 1943. Late in 1944 they were transported to a factory near Wroclaw, which was evacuated in February 1945, with inmates forced on a death march. Next they were sent to Bergen-Belsen but were marched back to a siding, driven into sealed cattle trucks and left to die. Kitty and her mother were among the few survivors. They were taken to a nearby camp and liberated on April 14, 1945, arriving in Britain in 1946. Kitty is a fellow of Royal Holloway University London and has been awarded the OBE for services to Holocaust education.

ZIGI SHIPPER

Zygmunt Shipper was born in 1930 and after his parents' divorce lived with his father and grandparents in Lodz, Poland. When war broke out his father escaped to Russia. Zigi never saw him again. He and his grandmother were sent to Lodz ghetto and then, in 1941, rounded up for deportation. Zigi escaped from the lorry and made his way back to the ghetto but was taken to Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1944 and then to a concentration camp near Danzig. In 1945, as the Russians advanced, Zigi and many others were sent on a death march but were liberated by the British Army. His mother, who had escaped to Britain, tracked him down and brought him here in 1946. He is married with two daughters and six grandchildren and still runs his own stationery and printing business.

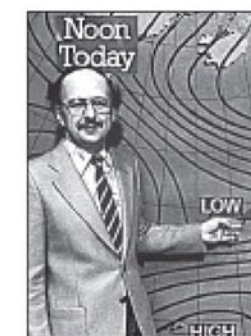


Jimmy YOUNG

How can we trust experts' long-term climate forecast?

IF WE are to believe our weather forecasters the good news is that our snow-bound existence is coming to an end. The bad news is that they also predict the thaw will bring record amounts of flooding. To what extent can we rely on the judgment of our so-called weather experts, though? Many of us will remember BBC weatherman Michael Fish assuring us in 1987 that we would be spared the worst of the near hurricane-force winds that were threatening our south coast. The next day, when I was driving to work at Broadcasting House, half the trees in Hyde Park were flat on the ground. Now we are being bombarded with forecasts of global warming that sound very reminiscent of Private Fraser of Dad's Army: "We're doomed, all doomed."

This winter we are all shivering, the whole nation has been paralysed by snow and ice, some villages have been completely cut off by snow, the Government has issued emergency weather warnings for the entire country, cars have been crashing on icy roads and hundreds of trains and flights have had to be cancelled. Yet the global warming fanatics still predict disaster and say all the global warming experts agree with them. Not true.



The Met Office has been forced to denounce research from the Copenhagen climate summit suggesting that global warming could raise sea levels by 6ft by 2100. Those studies, led by Stefan Rahmstorf, Professor of Ocean Physics at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany, caused growing concern among other experts who claim his methods are flawed and the real increase in sea levels by 2100 will be far lower.

Jason Lowe, a leading Met Office climate researcher said: "Such a big rise by 2100 is incredibly unlikely. The mathematical approach used to calculate the rise is simplistic and unsatisfactory." Professor Mojib Latif, another climate scientist and a leading member of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, has predicted global cooling. What's more, in 2008 and 2009, while working at the prestigious Leibniz Institute in Kiel University in Germany, he and his colleagues also said that winters like this one may well be around for two decades or even longer.

I don't know who is right but when forecasters predict what is going to happen 50 or more years into the future I think back to poor old Michael Fish, who couldn't get it right overnight. We should also consider this little gem issued recently by our very own Met Office. When trying to explain its prediction that we would have a milder than average winter, it said: "Long-range weather forecasting is still experimental. It was our best guess at the time and it wasn't very good."

● To comment on Jimmy's column, log on to www.sundayexpress.co.uk

● More information: portraitsforposterity.com and hmd.org.uk

City has no light relief

THE Christmas illuminations in Gloucester are still lighting up every night because no one knows how to turn them off.

Twelfth Night, when by tradition decorations come down, may have been almost a fortnight ago but the blue and white lighting still springs into life each evening.

Marketing Gloucester, the firm which operates the lights, admitted yesterday that the engineering firm contracted to turn them off would not do so until Monday.

Verity Brain, of Marketing Gloucester, said: "The company which was contracted to take them down was due to come out last Wednesday. However, due to the bad weather they were unable to come out to do it, and it is unlikely they will be able to reach us before January 18."

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