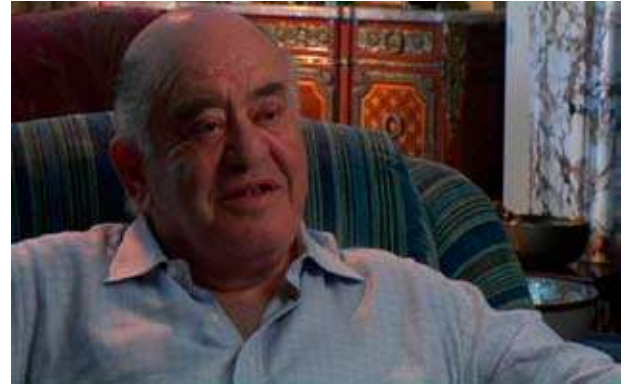


Ahlem Survivor - JACK TRAMIEL



“But here is a person who liberated me. It is the proof, because sometime you start doubting—‘were you in those camps?’ So proof like that, you can’t get. I’ll never forget him and my kids won’t forget him.

Jack Tramiel - Profile:

As a 10-year-old boy, Jack Tramiel was awed by the military spectacle of the German army as it marched into his hometown of Lodz, Poland. But the harsh realities of German occupation soon set in as Jack and his parents joined approximately 250,000 other Jews forced to reside in the Lodz ghetto. For five years, the Tramiel family lived in one small room in the Lodz ghetto. His father went to work as a shoemaker, while young Jack worked in a pants factory.

In 1944, Jack and his parents were herded into a railroad car and sent to Auschwitz. Upon arrival, Jack and his father were separated from Jack’s mother and lined up for the selection process. Spared the gas chamber, and deemed fit for work by Dr. Josef Mengele, the Tramiel’s were first sent to the Stoecken labor camp and then on to Ahlem.

Shortly after their arrival in Ahlem, the elder Tramiel’s health began to fail due to malnutrition. He was moved to the infirmary where he soon died. But while malnutrition may have sent his father to the infirmary, Jack believes he actually died from an injection of gasoline into his veins.

The following spring, a 16-year-old Jack Tramiel hid beneath a pile of clothing, watching warily, as Vernon and the 84th Infantry entered the camp and liberated Ahlem. After liberation, Jack remained in Germany for two years, leaving only briefly for a return trip to Lodz to visit his mother who had survived internment at Auschwitz.

Jack married his wife Helen, a survivor of Bergen-Belsen, in 1947, the same year he came to the United States. In 1948, Jack joined the army and was put in charge of repairing office equipment. After leaving the army, he worked for a typewriter repair shop before buying his own shop in the Bronx. In 1955, Jack founded the Commodore Company in Toronto and began marketing the first home personal computers in 1977.

Jack and Vernon

Vernon’s gift to Jack was liberation. Jack’s gift to Vernon was immortality. In 2003, at an event celebrating the 10th anniversary of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Jack and Helen Tramiel donated \$100,000 to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Vernon’s honor.

