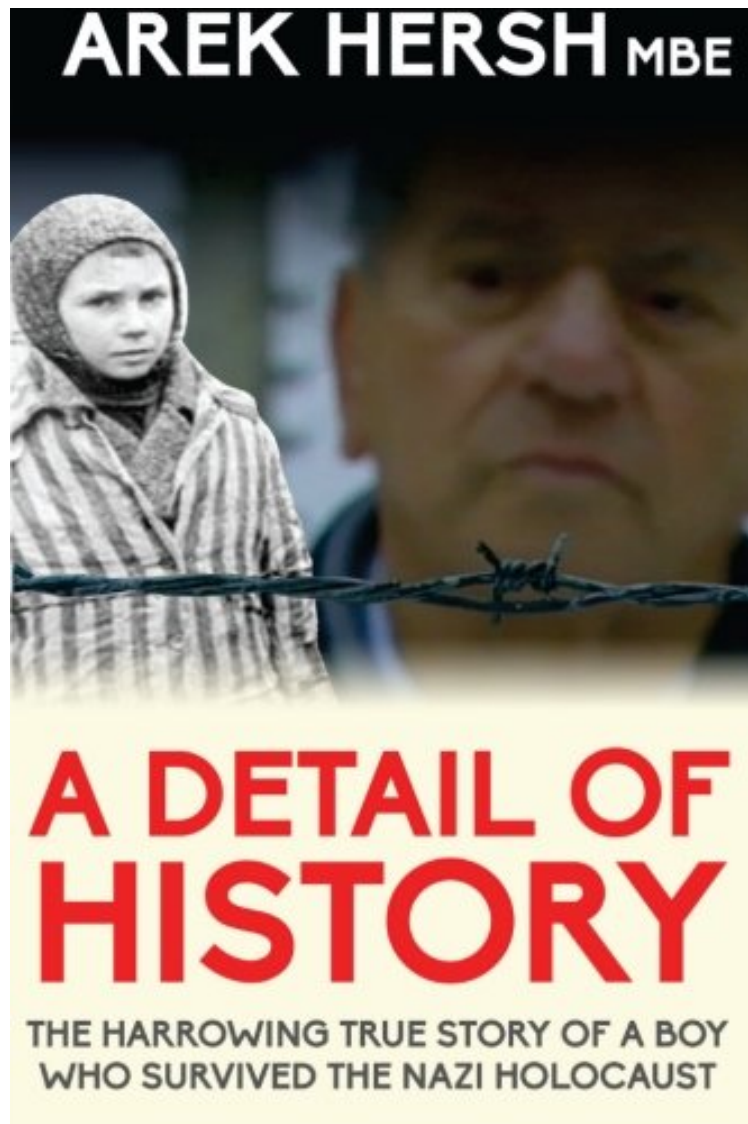


[Read now] A Detail of History: The harrowing true story of a boy who survived the Nazi Holocaust

## A Detail of History: The harrowing true story of a boy who survived the Nazi Holocaust

*Arek Hersh MBE*

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**Arek Hersh MBE : A Detail of History: The harrowing true story of a boy who survived the Nazi Holocaust** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Detail of History: The harrowing true story of a boy who survived the Nazi Holocaust:

69 of 69 people found the following review helpful. One of the finest memoirs I've ever readBy Admiral6004This is one of the most sincere and heart-felt memoirs I've ever read. The reviewer who turned his/her nose up at "the journal-

like style with its very simple matter-of-fact nature ... the grammatical errors" should perhaps have taken into account two facts that were obvious to me at least from the narrative: 1. that Mr Hersh had no formal education after the age of 11 because that was when the Nazis first imprisoned him in a concentration camp, and 2. that he didn't start learning English until he was evacuated to England in 1945 at the age of 14. I think the odd grammatical lapse can be allowed in those circumstances. Thank you Mr Hersh for such a beautifully written story - you have given me a far deeper understanding of the extent and intensity of suffering during the Holocaust. Yes it was harrowing to read, but ultimately uplifting. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An engaging and well written personal story. By Douglas Salerno I loved this book. Even though it doesn't seem to be professionally written, it engaged me from beginning to end. This is the story of one man's experience with "the final solution" of Hitler's concentration camps. Mr. Hersh writes with enough detail that I can hear, see, smell and otherwise get a good sense of what he went through. I would recommend this book to anyone for its inspiration as well as its personal chronicle of this important event that must not be forgotten. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Must read for Holocaust students By tleeminnieme A harrowing story of a young boy's survival through 5 concentration camps during the Holocaust. He was 11 when hauled off by the Nazis and 16 when the war was over. It is a miracle he survived. The stories he tells of deprivation, hunger, shootings, beatings, being locked in rail cars for two months, the split second decisions that saved him for another day - these all make for horrifying, true, sad reading for anyone interested in the Holocaust. One example of his survival...his entire family was rounded up and taken to a local church. He was thirsty and told his mother he was going to run outside to maybe get some water. While he was outside, the Nazis killed every single person in the church. His father, mother, brother, sisters.

How do you survive when you're 11 years old and all your family have been taken from you and killed? How do you continue to live, when everything around you is designed to ensure certain death? Arek Hersh tells his story simply and honestly, a moving account of a little boy who made his own luck and survived. He takes us into the tragic world imposed on him that robbed him of his childhood. The depth of the tragedy, strength of courage and power of survival will move you and inspire you. Contrary to assertions that the Holocaust years were a mere detail of history, Arek Hersh gives us a glimpse into the greatest catastrophe that man has ever inflicted on his fellow man.

About the Author Born in Sieradz in Poland in 1928, Arek was the fourth of five children. His family were Orthodox Jews. At the age of ten, he was sent by the Germans to Otoschno labour camp, where he was forced to work on the Warsaw-to-Berlin railway for two years. Of the 2,500 Jews in the labour camp, only 11 survived. When Arek was 12, he was reunited with his family in Sieradz, but after just two weeks, he was transported to the Lodz ghetto. He never saw the rest of his family again. He found himself in an orphanage in Lodz and was given a job in the textile mill. In June 1944 the Germans started to liquidate the ghetto and soon orders came through for the orphanage to be closed. All the children were to be resettled. On 25 August, about 185 of them assembled outside the orphanage. They were put onto a truck and transported in cattle wagons to Birkenau-Auschwitz. On arrival, when the selection took place, Arek realised that the Nazis were separating people into two rows. Although ordered to go to the left, he managed to cross to the right when the guards' attention was distracted. Arek had just saved himself from certain death in the gas chambers. Of the 185 orphans, only Arek and two others survived the day. In January 1945 Arek was among the thousands of men and women from Auschwitz forced onto a death march towards Germany. They marched for days to the large town of Katowice, where they were put into goods wagons. The journey in those wagons lasted for several days without food. They eventually arrived at Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany. Arek managed to survive in the most appalling conditions until, in April 1945, the Germans decided to evacuate the camp. The 4,500 inmates were on the march again towards the city of Weimar, where they were loaded onto open wagons. After three and a half weeks on the train, mostly without food, they arrived in Czechoslovakia. On 4 May 1945, 600 of the original 4,500 men from Buchenwald arrived at Roundnice. The train was finally taken to the Theresienstadt ghetto, where, four days later, on 8 May, they were liberated by the Russian army. Arek had survived, but virtually all his family had been murdered. His only surviving relative was Mania, his eldest sister, whom he found in 1947. After liberation, Arek was transported to England with 300 other children. Today, Arek lives in Leeds, England. He is married and has three daughters and seven grandchildren. His years since the Holocaust have been quiet and happy.