

From the Testimony of Arye Falk on the Uprising in the Buchenwald Camp and its Liberation

... I was a witness to the prisoners' uprising in the final moments of German rule, before the American entered the camp. In the preceding days, the Germans had been afraid to enter the prisoners living area. One day the inmates took out weapons that had been hidden in the camp and killed some of the German guards. Others were taken prisoner, and some managed to escape. I did not take part in that uprising because I had only been in the camp for a month or two and I was not a member of the organization. I remember a happy incident that took place after the Germans had fled from the camp. One of the inmates appeared holding a picture of Hitler, a picture in a glass frame. He hurled it to the ground and the sound of breaking glass was mixed with the cheers of the inmates. They did the same to pictures of Göring and Goebbels! When the uprising in the camp was declared, the organizing groups ran to the arms caches, took out the weapons, and captured the camp's headquarters, and as was already mentioned, some of the SS men were killed or taken prisoner. A few hours later, the American entered the camp and within a few days they began to register the inmates. But first of all they gave us good food. The representatives of the occupations countries registered the inmates according to their countries of origin and saw to it that each person would be returned to his homeland.

Father, mother, and I had determined that if we should live through this war, we would meet at Lvov when it was over. Therefore I had to register in the Soviet repatriation office, and begin of draft age I was conscripted into the Russian army. I was the only Jew in a huge group of all kinds of persons from Kolkhozs who had done agricultural work in Germany during the war, and some of them were suspected of collaborating with the Germans. As the only Jew, I had nothing in common with them... I reached Lvov at the beginning of 1946. There I learned that my parents had already met...

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