

From the Testimony of Don Krausz About Survivors Finding Out the Fate of Their Families

So we find a man from Buchenwald, he was a doctor, and I ask him, I tell him what my name is and I said, "Did you know my father?" and I had three uncles there. He said, "No," he doesn't know. And then Otto goes to him and he gives his name, Otto Kalusz. The chap says, "Kalusz? Kalusz? Yes," he says, "I remember Kalusz." He says, "Kalusz was beaten to death with spades by the other prisoners for stealing their bread." He says that to that little boy. I just remember Otto turning away, tears pouring down his face, and just walking out. Otto was with me. His mother, his little brother and his little sister go to Bergen-Belsen. His mother gets typhus and dies there. His sister also gets typhus, but she survives. His brother becomes a sculptor, a very talented sculptor in Israel. He is taught by one of the best sculptors in the country. His sister goes to the Argentine. I think she met somebody and she married and she goes to the Argentine. The marriage doesn't work out, she comes back. Otto's brother can't fit into civilization. He could become a famous sculptor. He was good. And the last I heard, he was living in France as a hermit in a cave. Otto goes back to Holland and he goes and looks up an uncle of his. His uncle was married to a Christian woman and that's why he wasn't touched. And his mother had always told him that if he gets back to Holland, he must first go to his uncle - I still remember the name Walter - his Uncle Walter, and his uncle, his mother's brother will look after him. The next time I see Otto he is not with his mother's brother. I said, "What's happened?" He went there with his sister and with his brother. I don't know how long they stayed there, but the uncle eventually decided he couldn't keep them. Maybe for good reasons, I don't know. So eventually I meet up with Otto again in Israel. He was a mechanic for jet fighters in the Israeli air force, sergeant-major. And he was living in a kibbutz there.

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