

## **Albert Bigielman**

Wartime Experience: Concentration Camp Survivor

I was born November 1, 1932, in Paris of Polish Jewish parents who had come to France in 1930. My brother Henri. was born January 16, 1932. My father's name was Mayer. My mother's name was Fayga Ricka-Raichman. My childhood in the Menilmontant area of Paris was happy until the beginning of the war. My schooling was irregular due to the war. My father volunteered in 1939 and throughout the war. My mother was at home and then a prisoner of war for five years.

During the war, we were under the government of Vichy. Jews were required to wear a yellow star and there were many restrictions. I was arrested on February 4, 1944, with my mother. We were interned for three months in Drancy. Then, in May 1944, I was deported with my mother to Bergen-Belsen, where we stayed until April 1945. We saw the arrival of the surviving evacuees from other concentration camps (the March of the Dead). I survived thanks to my mother's love.

I escaped from a train of hostages in April 1945 but didn't find my father or my brother until the end of June 1945. I was able to return to school until I was 15 and then became an apprentice in the making of clothes. I advanced in that field and retired at age 55.

After the camps, I returned to the university. I became president of de Amicale de Bergen-Belsen (Friends of Bergen-Belsen), I have been president of the International Commission in France. I am also a member of the Union of Deportees of Auschwitz and advisor on the administration.

I tell my story in colleges and high schools and in front of children. In 2005, my memoir "I was Twelve Years Old in Bergen-Belsen" was published. In this way I have been able to the best of my ability to tell the story of the deportation from France to the world.

My decorations include Knight of the Legion of Honor; Commander in the Order of Polish Nation Merit.

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### **Des dossiers du Mémorial de la Shoah-Paris**

Albert BIGIELMAN

né le 1/12/1932 à PARIS 12ème de Mayer BIGIELMAN et Faygarivka RAICHMAN tous deux émigrés de POLOGNE .

Déporté par le convoi n° 80 du 4/05/1944 pour BERGEN-BELSEN, rescapé des camps

Mes parents sont arrivés en FRANCE en 1930. Enfance heureuse dans le quartier de Ménilmontant à PARIS 20ème. En 1939, mon père s'engage dans l'armée française. Prisonnier de guerre pendant 5 ans. Le 4/2/1944 je suis arrêté avec ma mère. Conduits à DRANCY, nous y restons 3 mois puis sommes déportés à BERGEN-BELSEN de Mai 1944 à Avril 1945. A cette date, je vois arriver les survivants évacués des autres camps de concentration. Ma mère et moi seront évacués par le « train des otages » et rentrerons à PARIS. Là, nous retrouverons fin juin 1945 père et frère. Retour à l'école, apprentissage jusqu'à l'âge de 15 ans dans la confection. Retraité à 55 ans. Retour à l'Université, je deviens Président de l'Amicale de BERGEN-BELSEN, membre de l'Union des Déportés d'Auschwitz, Président de la Commission Internement Nationale en France. Je témoigne très souvent dans les collèges et lycées sur mon vécu. J'ai publié en 2005 mon témoignage dans un livre intitulé « J'ai eu douze ans à BERGEN-BELSEN » (Editions « Le Manuscrit »).