MARCEL JABELOT

Sixteen members of Marcel's family were arrested by the French police or the Gestapo and were deported. He was the only one who survived.

> *"When I returned to Paris I waited, and no one came back. I never had any news. I don't know how my father, my grandfather, my aunts, cousins, uncles died, in what conditions they died, where they died or when they died. I never found out."*

Marcel Jabelot (né Jablonowicz) was born in Paris on May 31, 1924. His father and his maternal grandparents were born in Poland, and his parents owned a modest women's clothing store. Marcel received his Baccalaureate in philosophy in 1942 in Lyon and began to study medicine. The family fled to Nice but when the free zone was abolished, Marcel, his father, mother, and 78-year-old paternal grandmother were arrested by the Gestapo and taken to Drancy, the collection point for Jews near Paris. They were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau where his mother and grandmother were gassed upon arrival.

Marcel and his father were soon sent to a camp where they worked in a coal mine. One month later they were separated, and his father was transferred to another camp; Marcel never knew where and never saw him again.

Early in 1944, Marcel was sent to a camp located a few kilometers away, where he remained until January 1945, when he was sent on a notorious death march. They were machine-gunned by the SS in a forest and thousands were killed. Marcel fell to the ground and pretended to be dead. With several other survivors, he found refuge in a barn and was hidden by a sympathetic Polish farmer. Marcel was soon picked up by the Russian army and was sent to convalesce in a Russian-operated hospital in Krakow. He left, traveling alone through Slovakia, to Czechoslovakia, through Hungary and Romania where the French Embassy arranged his departure for Odessa.   Marcel took an English troop transport to France and returned to Paris to try to find his family. He spent nine months in a sanitarium in Switzerland for tuberculosis.

Marcel founded his own real estate company and after retirement, studied history, economics and sociology at the Sorbonne. In 1983, Marcel married Danièle Leclerc. He often spoke in schools regarding his experiences during the Holocaust. Marcel Jabelot received the Legion of Honor in 1995. He died of cancer in March 1999.