

The Holocaust Historiography Project

Remarkable Nonsense about the Holocaust

A bar of human soap, and an extermination list

Victims' Voices: Holocaust Memorabilia Tells an Unforgettable Story

Tempo Southwest -- Stories from the latest print edition

By Theresa Tracy. Special to the Tribune

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Three sisters became separated as they attempted to flee Prague during World War II. Two of the three boarded a train; a third didn't make it and was never seen again.

Half a century later, at a display of Holocaust memorabilia, one of the sisters noticed her missing sibling in a group photo. She asked the exhibit's owner, Milton Kohn, what happened to those pictured. He confirmed what she had suspected: that her sister, along with the others in the photo, had been sent to a concentration camp and killed.

[...]

"I wanted nothing to do with Holocaust materials because I had lost most of my family in the Holocaust," said Kohn, who initially refused to look at the items offered by [Bob] Lane: a boxcar number, a boarding pass for a boxcar and **list of people scheduled for extermination on July 5, 1943**. He gave them to his wife, Janet (now deceased), to return to Lane, and she noticed the name Kohn on the list; it was family member Adolph Kohn, one of 24 people cremated at Theresienstadt that day.

[...]

The exhibit also features more graphic artifacts, including a tattoo-bearing patch of skin cut off a man's chest and preserved for a German woman who collected unusual tattoos; a bar of soap made from human body fat; and human hair used to stuff pillows.

[...]

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