Twitter Thread by The Times

The Times
@thetimes

"I was born in 1921. There have been some incredible moments in the past century, but some years will always be etched in my heart. When I was 22 years old I was sent to Auschwitz. I survived the Holocaust."

Freddie Knoller writes for @TimesRedBox on #HolocaustMemorialDay

"My earliest years in Vienna were largely happy ones. I came from a wonderful, loving family. I was one of three brothers — we all played music and our home was full of happiness. But, I was also subjected to antisemitism"

https://t.co/owgZmITUPF

"After the Germans invaded my home country of Austria this became unbearable. I still remember Kristallnacht — the broken glass and the beatings so many Jewish men received. It became clear that to stay was dangerous"



"My parents, in their fifties, believed they were too old to be the targets of the Nazis so they stayed in Vienna. They were wrong. The Nazis did not care if Jews were young or old, religious or secular. My parents were murdered in Auschwitz-Birkenau alongside 1.1 million others"

"Eventually I joined a French Resistance group in southwest France, alongside non-Jews who risked their lives to stand up for what was right. But I was betrayed, tortured, and sent to a concentration camp."

In October 1943 I was sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau — an indescribable place. We were tattooed with a number. I was no longer Freddie Knoller, I was 157103.

I survived concentration and death camps, deportations, and a death march. Six million Jews did not

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"Every day I see the tattoo the Nazis gave me and remember that I was persecuted because I am a Jew. We must build a more tolerant and accepting society.

What happened to me cannot be allowed to happen to anyone, ever, for any reason"

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"Today, on Holocaust Memorial Day, I share my story with you. I turn 100 in April. I will not be able to share my story forever. But the story must live on. People must know what happened."

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"My ask of you today is simple — share my story and remember my family who were murdered by the Nazis. Learn the lessons of history. And build a future that we can all be proud of"

Freddie Knoller shares his testimony through @HolocaustUK

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