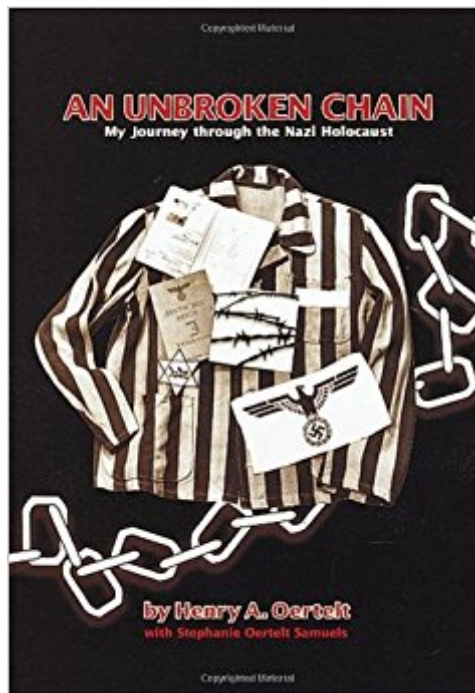




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An Unbroken Chain: My Journey Through The Nazi Holocaust



Synopsis

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Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up-The authors link together a chain of events or facts that saved Oertelt's life during the Holocaust. While in his early '20s, he and his family were sent to a succession of Nazi concentration camps. He recounts the horror of this time, the struggle to survive, and the efforts to help one another. He argues that 18 things kept him alive, 18 being the numeric value for the Hebrew word for "life." Among these links are the more commonplace, such as his good health before being incarcerated; his youth; and his profession of trained furniture maker, which occasionally helped him to secure less punishing work assignments. Others, however, are more remarkable, like the encounter with a foreman at a work site where Oertelt was working before being sent to the camps. This man, an assumed Nazi supporter, alerted the Jews on his crew to leave the site one day when the Nazis arrived, thereby giving them the chance to escape capture, if only for a little while. Written with a good deal of emotion, the book is very affecting. A solid choice for Holocaust-memoir collections.-Carol Faz-ioli, formerly at The Brearley School, New York CityCopyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Gr. 9⁺-up. Oertelt, who lived with his older brother and widowed mother in Berlin, had just marked his twelfth birthday when Hitler came to power in January 1933. He begins with a firsthand account of Kristallnacht (November 9⁺-10, 1938), when the Nazis destroyed Jewish property and

synagogues across Germany and Austria, and he recounts the many anti-Jewish directives that followed. Oertelt divides the book into 18 "links" in the chain of events that kept him alive. They include a Nazi foreman who warned him of an impending Gestapo roundup of Jews, giving him time to flee; a 15-month confinement in Theresienstadt concentration camp, where the chance of survival was somewhat better than at Auschwitz; and the fact that he remained in relatively good health and received medical treatment from an SS general-doctor when he did become ill. The two brothers survived, but their mother and most of their relatives were murdered. This is an extraordinary memoir of one brave individual's travail during the Holocaust. George Cohen

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I met Henry's granddaughter who gave me a copy of his book. I read it in one sitting and immediately wrote to Mr. Oertelt to ask for his life rights while he was still alive. Today we are posting the film "Becoming Henry" online. It is the true story of when Henry met his liberator after the war, at a cocktail party in Minnesota. You can use the short seven minute film as a great introduction for students to read the book.

Well written story set forth in an unusual way. Such a sad time but important for all to remember.

This is an amazing book of love, determination, and survival. A great eye opener to those interested in learning more about the holocaust and its survivors.

An Unbroken Chain is a remarkable book. I used this book in my research of the Holocaust which proved to be very helpful.

I enjoyed this book immensely. It is an easy read, and it is hard to put down. The tying together of the chapters with the links of the chain was a unique way of explaining the amazing coincidences that kept Henry alive. I met the granddaughter at the Lacosta film festival last year and was anxious to read the story behind the film, "Becoming Henry". The book, at times, reminded me of another great read, Unbroken. This true story, An Unbroken Chain, is amazing.

Oertelt tells the story of his life in Germany from his 1938 until his liberation from a concentration camp. It is a stirring memoir -- heartwarming and heartbreaking at the same time. He uses the analogy of an 18 link chain to demonstrate how each link was important to his survival. The details

in the book are remarkable in their lucidity and specificity. He is never graphic in his descriptions, but he is brutally honest. In the end, it is an uplifting tale in the context of terrible sadness.

Mr. Oertelt came and spoke at my college in MN when I was a junior. Not only was he an amazing speaker, but he made the Holocaust a reality to everyone packed in that auditorium. He signed his book for everyone who wished to purchase it. I read it in one night unable to put it down!!! Highly recommended!

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