

The photo below is of my father and my uncle, taken in 1945 by Vernon Tott near Hanover , Germany, as depicted in the documentary Angel of Ahlem. My grandfather's name was Jacob, hence how this was labeled. This fact has been corroborated by Roni Liebowitz, one of the co-producers of the film. My father died in 1972 when I was twelve. I did not know any of his stories from the Holocaust. The first time I laid eyes on the film footage and this photo was in 2012 when I was 52. Then think for a moment of the horror I felt.

This is the subject of my perspective TedEx Talk.

The talk will cover:

What I knew as a child.

How I discovered what actually happened to my father during WWII.

How I felt seeing this photo for the first time.

How I dealt with the truth/horror

What happened when I was flown to Germany and was embraced and comforted by a group of Germans - "Citizens for a Memorial".

What is the urgency of this story?

- A lesson on how to stay enthusiastic, optimistic, and hopeful when all signs around us provide us with examples why we shouldn't be.
- The term "refugee" should never be demonized.



Identified as the Jacobowicz brothers, both are deceased.
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- A reminder that faith, resilience, and community (especially those we self-create) are essential to all of our lives.
- a journey to self-discovery and acceptance takes many twists and turns.
- A Wake Up Call that this could happen again, especially in our current global climate.

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