

## Victor Rona

“...children...had been tortured every day, burnt to death, asphyxiated in gas chambers...”(<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org>). While six million Jews were killed in the Holocaust, over 1.5 million of them were children (<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org>). These children were being tortured by Nazis, sent to gas chambers, or went into hiding, to name a few. These children should be remembered because of their bravery and what they went through in World War II. Victor Rona was one of these children who never gave up through it all.

Victor Rona was born in Satu-Mare, on December 26, 1928. He lived with his mother, father, Alexander, and brother, Erwin (<https://www.museumoftolerance.com>). Victor was an excellent student. He was skilled at literature, sports, and music (<https://6millionfaces.weebly.com>). His father worked at a high school where he taught German. Victor’s family spoke German at home as well. In 1940, Hungary annexed Rumania, and Victor’s father was later fired on “racial grounds.” However, he found a job as a director of a Jewish high school afterward.

Germany invaded Hungary in 1944, and Victor was forced to wear the Star of David. After living in a ghetto, his whole family was transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Victor’s mother was sent directly to the gas chambers. Victor, Erwin, and Alexander Rona were later sent to Groß-Rosen, a subcamp of Oberwüstegiersdorf. They got moved to that camp in June of 1944, where they were forced to carve tunnels. After that, the SS transported them to another camp called Flossenbürg. Victor and the rest of his beloved family were forced to march to a subcamp of Buchenwald called Ohrdruf. After two months, Viktor, Erwin, and Alexander were sent on a death march towards Buchenwald and then back to Flossenbürg. While on the exhausting march, Alexander was shot by the SS. Victor and Erwin watched their father die, but they were seriously

injured with bayonet wounds as well. The two brothers were liberated, but after receiving no medical attention, Victor died of the bayonet wounds. He joined the 1.5 million other kids who were killed during the Holocaust. Erwin was the only family member to survive (<https://www.gedenkstaette-flossenbuerg.de>).

While I was aware of the many people who died in the Holocaust, I have never felt so dreadful for the kids who had to suffer. Learning about Victor Rona has been an amazing, depressing, horrific, and inspiring journey. While he was transported through many different camps throughout the war, he never gave up. This has shown me that if he can persist through those hardships, I can definitely persist through anything. I could never go through anything as devastating as Victor did. // He has led me through a door that was once closed, to let me witness the tragedies of the Holocaust // in first person. Victor should never be forgotten, as well as the other kids who suffered, because they give people a different perspective on the war. I will never fully understand the hardships anyone went through in the Holocaust, but no one should forget the nightmares it brought to Europe. //