Crew Fortin

Mrs. Sellers, Essay Contest

8-1

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White Rose Society Essay

In Europe, from 1933-1945, the Jewish people were attacked, imprisoned, and murdered by Nazi Germany ("Timeline of the Holocaust: 1933-1945"). Jakob Blankinty was one of roughly 1.2 million Jews taken to Auschwitz, the largest concentration camp ("Auschwitz"). The following paragraph will describe his experience.

Jakob Blankitny was taken to Auschwitz when he was only sixteen. When Jakob got there, he soon realized that there was only one word to describe the painful cries of thousands of people: hell. Upon Jakob's arrival, the men and women were separated. Then, the women, in front of their husbands, brothers, and fathers, were taken to the gas chambers to be killed. Without a chance to say goodbye, Jakob watched with horror as his mother and sister were taken among the group. The men were then divided, and the ones not seen fit for work were also taken to the gas chambers. Jakob was with six thousand of his fellow Jews on arrival but only entered with two hundred. Once the prisoners entered Auschwitz, they were tattooed with numbers on their arms. These were their only identifications now. In Auschwitz, the conditions were awful. In the bitter winter, the prisoners were only given thin clothing. In the barracks, Jakob had to sleep with 12 people in one bunk. The Jews were also malnourished, which helped disease ravage through the barracks. On a daily bases, Nazi guards laughed as they beat and tortured people in front of their friends and family for no reason whatsoever. These are just the

beginnings of the horrors that Auschwitz held for so many people ("Jakob Blankitny — United States Holocaust Memorial Museum").

Learning these painful stories about these events made me feel much closer to the people who experienced them. Just imagine what it would be like to watch your family and friends get beat and tortured in front of you, to be driven away from your home, and to be treated no better than an animal. These thoughts are deeply disturbing. Even more so when you realized that this happened only eighty years ago and to hundreds of thousands of families.

In conclusions, I think it is very important that everybody learns about this history, no matter how horrifying it is. Learning about this makes us feel much closer to those who experienced it, which is important. When we feel close to these people, we are aware of the pain and sorrow they experienced, so we know to protect everyone, no matter their beliefs, in the future. We are all the same on this earth, all created equal, so it is everybodies responsibility to keep eachother safe and treat others as we want to be treated. Just by doing these things, we can all learn from the holocaust and make the world a better place.