

The Long Night: A True Story by Ernst Israel Bornstein. Toby Press, (2016 – Reprint)

ISBN - 1592644406, 9781592644407

An incredibly important book that shares a detailed account of the unimaginable horror of the Holocaust. It begins with him being arrested and separated from his family, who he will never see again, at only 17 years old. One of the main things that stands out for me is the determination to survive through the most unbearable conditions and treatment you could ever imagine, not only from the author but the many others he encountered during his experiences. Ernst witnessed a vast amount of atrocities, including the murder of many he came to consider friends, yet he still managed to fight for his life every single day of the five years he was a prisoner.

We can look back on historical facts and figures agree that tragedies like Holocaust should never happen again, however it is from the invaluable personal accounts of Ernst that we truly learn about the misery and suffering that was inflicted on so many people. Throughout the book are clinical observations of his surroundings , such as the merciless killing of prisoners who begin to fall behind after over 24 hours of treacherous marching with no food, and often no shoes, notoriously known as 'Death Marches'.

I have already recommended this book to many others as it captivated my interest from the first chapter. Although some parts of the book were graphic and hard to read, the importance of it outweighs any discomfort. We should be incredibly grateful to people like Ernst Israel Bornstein for reliving their experiences in order for us to continue to learn about the Holocaust.