**Hitler Youth Salomon**

The story of a jewish boy, who lived in the Hitler Youth and managed to escape persecution by the Nazis.

Sally was born in 1925 in Peine, near Brunswick. His Jewish parents had moved from Russia in 1918 and now ran a shoe store. At first he grew up in good circumstances with his siblings Isaak, David and Bertha. In 1935, after the shoe store was destroyed by Nazis and Perel was expelled from school, his family decides to move to Poland, where they live with an aunt in Lodz. There Sally goes to school and learns the Polish language.

But when the German army invades Poland on September 1, 1939, there is no safety there either. Sally's parents send the boy and his brother Isaak toward Russia, hoping that the brothers can be brought to safety there.

 When he was separated from his parents, his mother gave him the words:

"You shall live!"

On the run, however, Sally and Isaak are separated, and Sally ends up in an orphanage in Grodno, Russia. He quickly learns to speak the Russian language better and is accepted into the Komsomol, a communist youth organization, because of his excellent school performance and zeal.

In June 1941, the German attack on Russia begins and all the children of the orphanage have to flee, Sally loses the group. In a village near Minsk he is captured with the population by the German soldiers.

The population has to line up in long rows and is sorted, mainly into Jew and Gentile. Sally has the presence of mind to claim to be a "Volksdeutscher" - and he is believed, since he speaks German. He changes his typically Jewish name from Salomon Perel to Joseph Perjell.

He is now taken along by the 12th tank division on their campaign to the east, as a mascot and as a translator during interrogations of Russian soldiers. He earns the trust of the crew and is even adopted by the childless company commander; no one tries to find out his true origins, no one asks for original papers, everyone believes him.

Since he is still a minor, Sally is sent to Brunswick to attend an Adolf Hitler school.

Sally spends the next three years as Joseph Perjell in this school for Nazi executives. Respected by his classmates for his front-line experience, he is hard-working. He is able to endure this enormous dichotomy, especially when, as in the subject of race theory, it was a question of why the Jews were an inferior race and should therefore be eradicated. Jupp's greatest fear was always that his circumcision could have been discovered, e.g. during medical examinations, when showering together, when changing in the parlor etc.

At Christmas 1943, Jupp manages to get permission to travel to Lodz. He travels by train to Poland with the firm intention of looking for his parents in the ghetto. During the day he rides the streetcar through the closed ghetto (compartment: "Only for Germans"), looks longingly out of the window and describes the horrors he sees. Only his parents he does not see.

Spring 1945: The war is lost, but the Hitler Youth has to continue fighting around Brunswick with the bazooka. There he is captured by the Americans, released after two days and makes his way to Brunswick.

From a returned Jew he learns for the first time about the extent of the extermination and the diverse camps and concentration camps.

Sally once again becomes an interpreter, this time with the Russians, and they eventually offer him the chance to join a Communist Party school and train for an active role in the services of the Soviet occupation authorities. Instead, he decides to go to Israel in 1948, where he participates in the army in the fight for Jerusalem.

Of his family, only he and his brothers Isaac and David survive.

Sally Perel still lives in Israel and occasionally comes to Brunswick to tell students about his experiences. Students from our school were also able to attend a lecture. A school in Brunswick is named after him.