



## 80629 a Mengele Experiment

*Gene Church*

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### **80629 a Mengele Experiment** Gene Church

This is the true story of Jack Oran, who survived the inhuman experimental surgeries of Dr. Josef Mengele, Auschwitz' infamous Doctor of Death. It was a cold December morning in 1942 when Jack, then known as Yakoff Skurnik, and his family were loaded onto a "resettlement train," in Mlawa, Poland. When the train stopped, Jack found himself at Auschwitz. For an interminable time, he survived the horrors of the camp. Using his wits, cunning, and inordinate will to live, he escaped from the Nazis during the Auschwitz death march in which the Nazis marched 58,000 prisoners from the camp before its liberation by the Russians on January 27, 1945. Overcoming incredible odds, Jack built himself a new life filled with success and accomplishment. This is the story of a man who is living proof that with persistence, determination, and belief in oneself, all things are possible.

### **80629 a Mengele Experiment Details**

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## **From Reader Review 80629 a Mengele Experiment for online ebook**

### **Teigan Reynoso says**

I've read this book many times. Both of my parents worked for the man in this story, in Texas. He was a wonderful man who had a great life and very successful business. He also adopted a few children. He is greatly missed

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### **Scott Montgomery says**

powerful book. having been friends with Jack for several years and knowing a tiny bit about his history, reading the book was very personal and emotional. I highly recommend this book.

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### **Tricia says**

I knew this man and it was his autobiography. He tells his story as a child in a jewish prison camp. It is unbelievable. The name of the book- the number- was his assigned number and tatoood on his forearm.

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### **Hayley says**

Probably one of the hardest hitting memoirs of its kind I have ever read. Its hard to comprehend a lift like the one this man had. Very sad yet inspirational.

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### **Ann says**

Horrific beyond description. This is the most difficult to read book I've ever encountered. It is the autobiographical account of one young man's journey into hell at the hands of Josef Mengele. I took all five of my children, even the youngest, to hear this man speak in Wichita in 1996. It was an appropriately traumatic occasion that they, and I, will never forget. He (Yakoff, later Americanized to Jack Oran) managed to survive irradiation and sterilization without the benefit of anesthesia. He survived Birkenau and Auschwitz. When the war ended, he suffered for three more years trying to get to America, where he had two relatives. He eventually successfully immigrated to the US, moved to Dallas, TX, where he founded what became one of the leading motorcycle dealerships in the country. His story is the epitome of the triumph of the human spirit. Deeply moving, profoundly sad, incredibly courageous. "Never Again"

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### **Sharath Prabhu says**

I read this memoir a long time ago, maybe around the age of 12 or 13, and I still vividly remember my overall impression of the book. Yakoff Skurnik (who later changed his name to Jack Oran) relates his life as a Jewish youth subjected to the horrors of Auschwitz. He also tells us how he escaped the death march

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through a combination of luck and quick thinking. After the euphoria of liberation, he eventually moved to the US, though the memories of his previous life continued to haunt his thoughts for decades.

I'll always remember the section where he describes being castrated by Nazi scientists. Reading it at that young age, it evoked a visceral response. I plan to revisit this book when I get a chance. Skurnik's story is one of extreme suffering and resilience.

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### **Joe says**

An incredible book about an incredible individual and his survival of the Holocaust. I read a review on Amazon that provided a succinct description that provides the best description: "If you can read this book all the way through, you will never read it again, and you will never forget any part of it. And you will never let this happen again. Incredible."

I was drawn to this book after reading "Dallas 1963" which mentions Jack. I remembered his name because of an event that occurred on November 17, 1964, one of the best days of my life. My Dad won a raffle as part of a membership drive for the Lions Club in Richardson, Texas. The prize: a Schwinn Stingray donated by one of the Lions, Jack Oran of Lone Star Cycle. I still remember seeing the "80629" tattoo on his arm and wondering what it was. Looking back at the picture of Jack smiling at me as I received the prize simply blows me away. I obviously had no clue about his experiences, but now viewing that image makes me realize how close and how real the Holocaust was.

We can never forget.

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### **Jeff says**

Horriying! An account of surviving diabolical, systematic, pure evil.

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### **King Ævil says**

A chilling tale of survival, against all odds, amidst unspeakable brutality at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Definitely not for the squeamish.

The title, *A Mengele Experiment*, is somewhat misleading. Though Yakoff Skurnik was a subject in one of Josef Mengele's experiments, his experiences in the camp's hospital are peripheral to the main focus of the story: the never-ending struggle for life and sustenance. Though a book like this one should be required reading for anyone who believes that "it can't happen again," I would not recommend 80629 as a view into the Nazis' program of human experimentation in the concentration camps.

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### **Sydney Striegel says**

This is a VERY great book. Everyone should read it.

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**Monica Reynolds says**

Very hard to read since it is so detailed. Will remember this book forever.

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