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A long life – Holocaust survivor Dan Hadani in Israel

His story spans over decades of war and persecution, but it also inspires hope: 99-year old Dan Hadani, who currently endures incessant air-raid alarms in Tel Aviv, is the only Holocaust survivor of his entire family. Recently, Dan contacted the Arolsen Archives to research for his book and website, which he is setting up all by himself – check out www.dan-hadani.com (he even added an English translation, see upper left)!

Dan told us that he suppressed his memory of the ghettos, concentration camps, and death marches all his life – until 2017, when he visited his native country Poland with his family: “Suddenly I knew that I have to tell my story as long as I still live.” He started to do research, gave interviews and held contemporary witness talks. The Arolsen Archives provided Dan with documentation about his sister Sabina, whom the Nazis presumably killed on a death march in January 1945.

After his liberation in 1945, Dan found the life as a Jewish DP in Europe very hard and “not real”. That changed in 1948: Dan immigrated to Israel and joined the Israel Defence Forces, to fight for a homeland of his own. He served for 17 years, and then founded the “Israel Press and Photo Agency”. Dan and his team documented 35 years of Israel’s politics, wars, and cultural life. They provided worldwide media outlets with photos and stories. This work is now part of Israel’s national library: <https://www.nli.org.il/en/discover/photos/collections/dan-hadani>

We send our best wishes to Dan and his family in Tel Aviv, and hope that they will be safe!



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99-year old Dan Hadani, who lives in Tel Aviv, is the only Holocaust survivor of his entire family. Dan contacted the Arolsen Archives to research for his book and homepage. We were so impressed to see how he set up the website all by himself – check out www.dan-hadani.com!