

8 June 2016

Dear Editor,

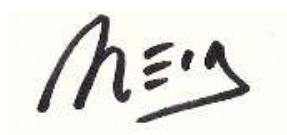
It gives me no pleasure to inform you and your readers that Mr. Joseph Bernard Hirt – who recently gave a presentation in Lowville on the night of 15 April 2016 in which he told of his alleged experience of being a survivor of the infamous Auschwitz concentration camp – is a Holocaust imposter and historical fraud.

I attended Mr. Hirt's presentation that evening. As a local History teacher, I also encouraged my students to attend. However, as a trained historian and teacher, several of his claims did not sound quite right. I believed I had a duty to my students, the community, and the truth, so I began researching Mr. Hirt's claims and in doing so accumulated a vast amount of evidence that proves the majority of his story is false, including all of his alleged experiences related to the Auschwitz concentration camp.

The following are some examples of Mr. Hirt's untrue claims and the historical facts (all of which can be easily verified by the public online) which prove they are false: (1) Mr. Hirt was never at Auschwitz during World War II – the Auschwitz prisoner list is available online at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum website and there is no record of a Joseph Hirt. The number he has tattooed on his arm – which he claims was his prison ID – is the real number of another prisoner from 1944. Camp records show only one escape in the months surrounding Mr. Hirt's alleged date of escape, and that person was not Mr. Hirt; (2) Mr. Hirt claims to have come "face-to-face" with Dr. Josef Mengele while a prisoner at Auschwitz concentration camp before escaping 31 March 1942 – it is well-documented that Mengele did not arrive at Auschwitz until May 1943; (3) the picture of an emaciated man on a stretcher that he claims is him right before he escaped is, in fact, one that was taken by a soldier in the U.S. Army, Mickey Martin, a member of the 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division of the U.S. Army which liberated the Dachau concentration camp in 1945. All of this and much more is laid out in over 20 pages of evidence I have amassed as a result of my research. I have provided the editor of this publication (which unknowingly advertised and covered Mr. Hirt's presentation) with a digital copy of this research – please feel free to contact the editor and request a copy.

Lastly, I want to be clear – I am not a Holocaust denier. In fact, the man who hired me for my first teaching job many years ago was a survivor of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, and it is partly in his memory and for the preservation of the truth of what millions of people endured that I have taken upon myself the task of exposing Mr. Hirt's shameful deception. It is my hope that Mr. Hirt will voluntarily recant his fraudulent claims and cease his public presentations.

Regretfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Reid', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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