



The first year

The journey 'home' - sorting cards

1945


11th April

Buchenwald concentration camp is liberated by the Americans.

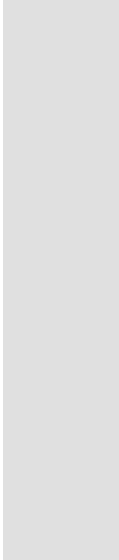


1945

Mid April




Leon is allowed to pass through the gates of Buchenwald to talk to the American soldiers. He also puts on a concert for the soldiers.



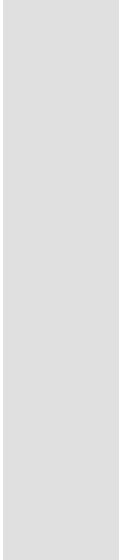


1945

25th April




Leon leaves the camp and tries to find a flight to the Netherlands. He meets a journalist from the London Evening Standard who writes about him. He is still in Germany near Buchenwald.



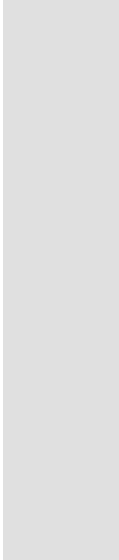


1945

Late April /
early May




Leon arrives in Paris, France,
and ends up in hospital where
he has part of his toe
amputated.



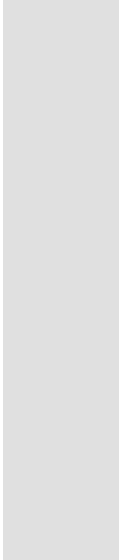


1945

May




Leon is interviewed in hospital in Paris by BBC radio.



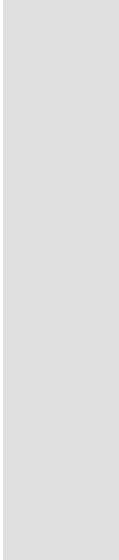


1945

Around September




Still living in Paris, the Quakers give Leon money and two pairs of trousers. Leon gives one pair to the family he is living with.



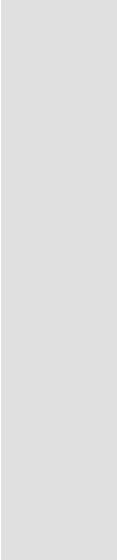


1945

Early October




Leon leaves Paris by train. He has borrowed money from the British Consul to buy his train tickets to take him back to Rotterdam in the Netherlands.



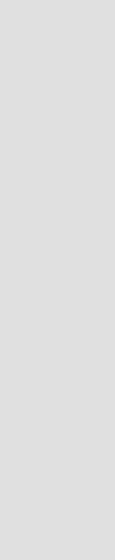


1945

10th October



Leon arrives home in Rotterdam, Netherlands. He has been away three years and two days. His father and step mother are at home; his father looks very thin.





1945

11th October




Rotterdam, Netherlands: Leon gets up early to look for family and friends, but finds no one.



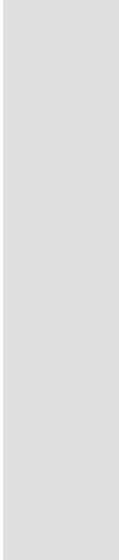


1945

29th October




Living in Rotterdam, Leon writes to the Red Cross asking for extra milk rations for his father. Extra milk had been advertised in the paper for camp survivors.



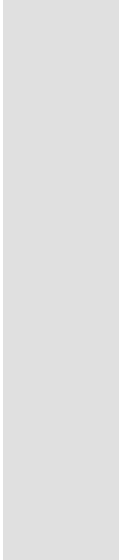


1945

November




Leon applies to the bureau in Rotterdam for money to pay for three tickets to England.



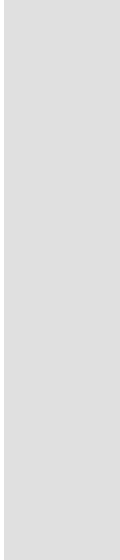


1945

Late November /
early December




Leon, now in England, is still recovering physically and needs to be treated by a local doctor in London.



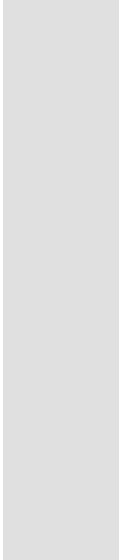


1945

22nd November




Leon, his father and step mother arrive at Gravesend, England. Leon goes to live with his brother in London.



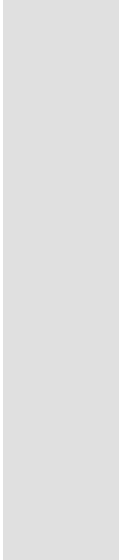


1945

3rd December



Now in England, Leon receives a letter from the Red Cross stating that he would not be eligible for extra milk as he was not.




1946
January

Leon is working in the London markets. He receives a small payment each week from the government.

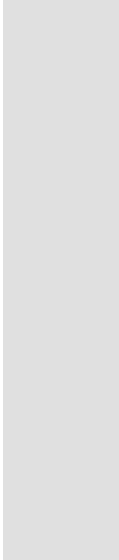


1946

5th March

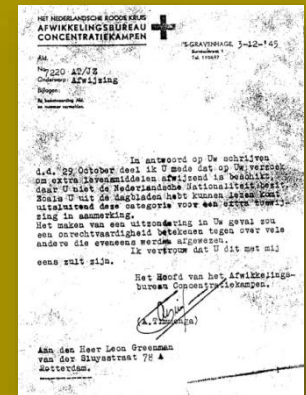


Leon is invited to give a talk on 'life in a prison camp' by the East London Maccabi Association. He gives his talk on 3rd April 1946.



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