

## Surviving survival? The struggle of trauma

Privately, Leon struggled with the memory of the Holocaust. He had regular nightmares waking up alone thinking he was back in Auschwitz. The memory of his last sighting of his wife Else and son Barney, as the Nazis took them away in a truck to be murdered, never left him. He would often record his nightmare through art.

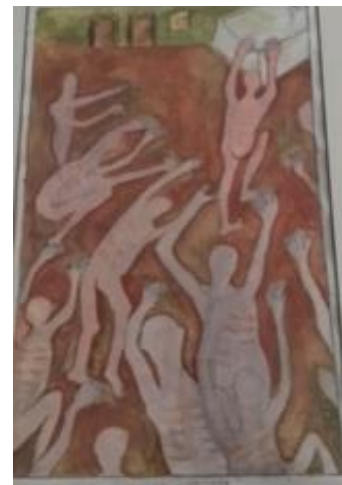
Yet Leon also surrounded himself with photographs, documents, books, newspaper cuttings and information about the Holocaust. He immersed himself in its memory. He would never allow himself to live in the moment. The Holocaust was always there.

*'He talked about the Holocaust at every opportunity – not because he wanted to, but because he had to. In late 90's, as time was running out, he felt even more compelled to give testimony about the Holocaust to school students – wherever, whatever the weather, whatever the distance. He called it "his mission".'*

Ruth-Anne Lenga (Leon's close friend).



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Arrival at Buchenwald after the death march January 1945.  
By Leon Greenman, with kind permission from Ruth-Anne Lenga.



Drawing of Else and Barney Greenman being driven away at Auschwitz Birkenau. By Leon Greenman, with kind permission from Ruth-Anne Lenga.

*'I vowed to God that I would never let my monstrous memory die, and I will continue my fight...'*

Leon Greenman.

Materials relating to Surviving Survival? are on loan from Ruth-Anne Lenga.

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