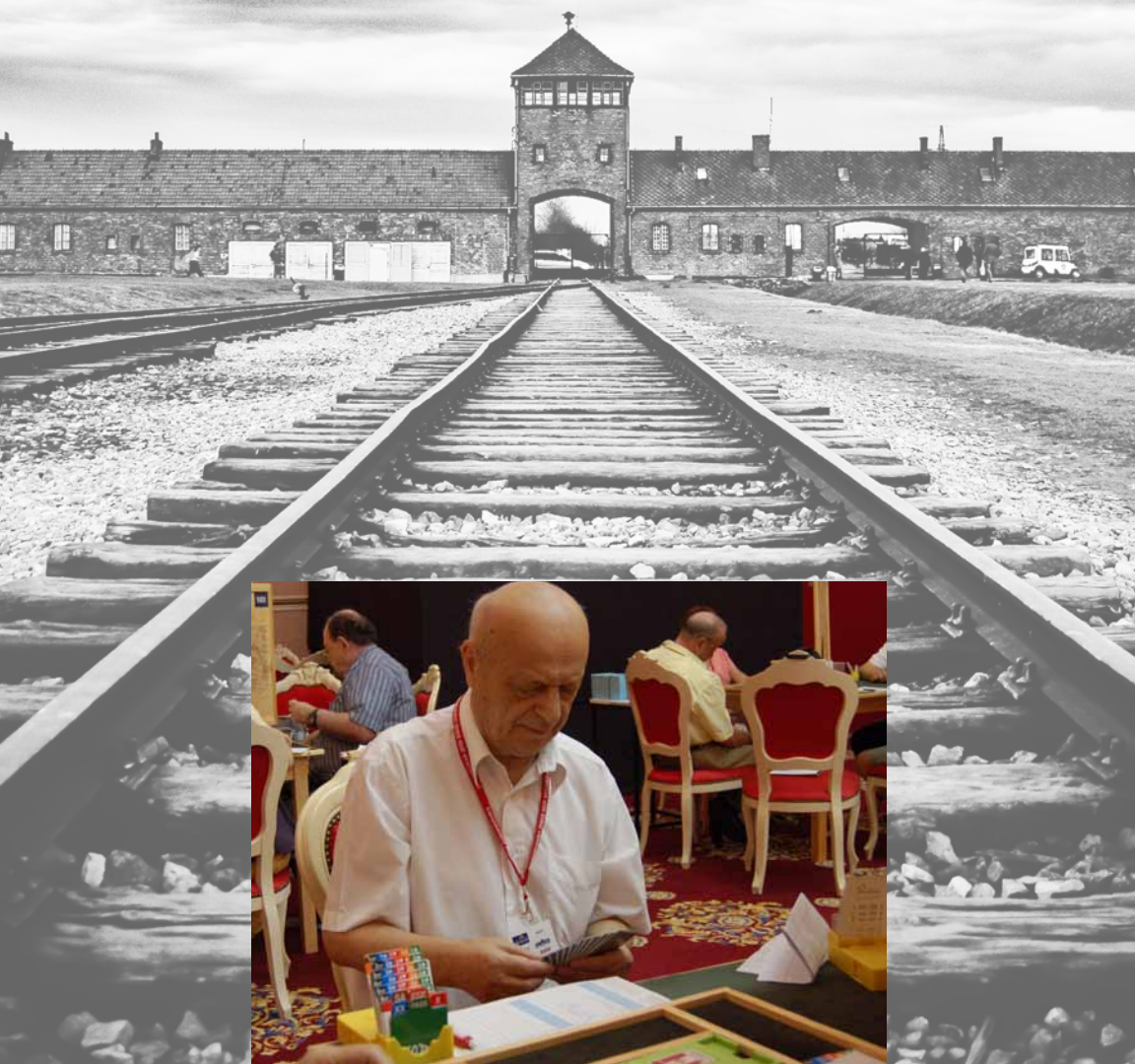


BRIDGING TWO WORLDS

Martin Hoffman

Foreword by Omar Sharif



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ONE MAN'S JOURNEY FROM DARKNESS TO THE LIGHT...

I could see SS men with machine guns guarding the line of people, people waiting to go into the showers. 'Don't look; there is nothing you can do about it... You are a man. Be strong.' Not daring to tell them that I was only 14, I bit back the tears, but I did not cry. And so it was that I became a man. That line was my Bar Mitzvah.

Fourteen-year-old Martin Hoffman escapes immediate death on arrival at Auschwitz by claiming to be eighteen. Through a combination of chutzpah and luck, he first survives a year at Auschwitz, then the Death March to Buchenwald, and stays alive until the camp is liberated by American troops. He goes back to Czechoslovakia to search for his family, only to find that, other than one uncle and aunt, they have all been murdered.

After relocating to England, he is tortured by survivor's guilt, which leads to episodes of deep depression. He learns a trade (diamond-cutting), but eventually discovers two things: a talent for bridge, and a fascination with gambling. As he finds success with the first, becoming a world-class professional player, the second almost destroys him.

It is only later in life, with the help of his wife Audrey, that Hoffman is able to overcome his dark memories, conquer his addiction to gambling, and finally find contentment in a new life in Florida.

MARTIN HOFFMAN (1929-2018) was a Czech-born bridge player and writer (he was the author of eight books on the game). The winner of many top events in the UK, he was regarded at his peak as the best duplicate pairs player in Europe.