

PANAGRAM

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Panametrics Salutes an Exceptional Employee



Morris Hollender, age 72, Panametrics electronics technician for 11 years.

One of our most valued employees, Morris Hollender, was featured in an article in the May 9, 1998 edition of *The Boston Globe* newspaper.

The article came about in a rather circuitous way. Dr. William McDermott, the 81-year-old chairman of surgery at New England Deaconess Hospital, published a memoir entitled "A Surgeon in Combat" of his WWII experiences including his entrance, two days after Germany surrendered, into the Austrian Ebensee concentration camp where Morris was interred at that time. Morris contacted the author after reading a review of the book by a *Globe* columnist. Although Morris and Dr. McDermott have no memory of seeing each other in Ebensee, they decided to meet for lunch at the

Boston Harvard Club. That meeting is the focus of the newspaper article.

Morris found his way to Panametrics immediately following his immigration to the U.S. in 1967 in a rather unusual way. As a requirement for a government contract with the Federal Aviation Administration, Panametrics was advised to establish a formal Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) program. Unwilling to commit to quotas rather than maintaining a policy of hiring based on skills and qualifications, a compromise was reached. Mr. Chleck agreed to contact various agencies—such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the National Urban League—that promote the welfare of minority groups in order to solicit resumes from candidates who matched the requirements for positions open at Panametrics. Only one agency responded, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS). Their intercession was on behalf of a truly remarkable human being, our own Morris Hollender.

At that time, Morris spoke no English, so his interview was conducted in Yiddish by Mr. Chleck and Dr. Goodman, who was the manager of the chemistry department at the time. He was hired on the spot and has been with us ever since.

The following excerpts, published with permission, from *The Boston Globe* article entitled "Crossed paths," written by David Arnold, provide a rough sketch of his inspiring life story.

Among the living dead of the 35,000 skeletal prisoners was Morris Hollender, a [Czechoslovakian] Jew who had survived Auschwitz; and a forced 300-mile winter march to Ebensee in Austria, where he spent the last months of the war digging rocks. . . .

. . . Hollender was 18 in 1944 when he and his family were deported to Auschwitz in southern Poland. Within a year, the [Nazis] murdered his father, mother, two sisters, and two brothers. The only other member of his immediate family to survive the Holocaust was a sister who escaped deportation because she held false identification papers.

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Morris Hollender 50 years ago at age 22.

Hollender *(continued from page 1)*

At Ebensee, Hollender worked at gunpoint, digging [tunnels] designed to shelter German war machinery for a Hitler offensive that never materialized.

On May 5, Hollender recalls, the camp guards summoned all the prisoners and told them an Allied raid was expected. They should spend the night in [a designed tunnel] if they wanted to remain safe, the guards instructed.

"We decided we were dead anyway," Hollender recalled. "We went back to our barracks."

That night, an explosion rocked the camp. The guards had booby-trapped the [tunnels] with a time bomb, hoping to kill the prisoners after they had abandoned the camp.