

Methods of studying Holocaust in question

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"Therefore, this type of storytelling, and especially for uneducated 12 and 13 year olds, is implanting the seed for hate against the Germans."

Last November, Mr. Junger spent a class period at St. Gabriel's elementary recounting his harrowing time in Nazi-run concentration camps during the Second World War. A Romanian-born Jew, Mr. Junger was 13 when he was deported from Hungary, along with his parents, to Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland in 1944.

He said he never saw his parents again shortly after arriving at the infamous concentration/death camp complex.

Mr. Junger's recollections and thoughts appeared in the January 20 issue of The Burlington Post, The Champion's sister newspaper.

Some time later the newspaper received four letters of complaint, two from local residents, another from Brantford and one from the same German-Canadian association that had written the school board.

Their content runs the gamut from a belief that grade 8s are too young to hear war stories to questioning Mr. Junger's memory to accusing Mr. Junger and the Catholic board of hate-mongering of all Germans to claims the Allies murdered many German PoWs and outright denial of the Holocaust.

The latter statement in particular boils the blood of Mr. Junger, normally a soft-spoken and articulate individual.

"We're (Holocaust survivors) not all hallucinating, he said.

"The Germans have accepted historical

blame for what they have done."

Most historians and Holocaust experts believe six million Jews died as a result of the Nazis' genocidal plan dubbed the 'final solution.'

"There is not one scintilla of embellishment," Mr. Junger said about his concentration camp remarks.

He can't understand how any rational person can deny the Holocaust.

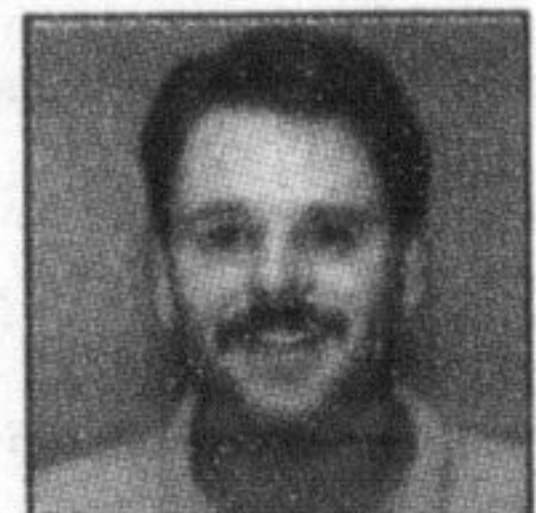
"It's like saying that on September 11 no Arabs were involved in piloting those planes," he said of last year's terrorist attacks on the United States.

Mr. Junger, who still carries on his arm the tattoo of a number from his concentration camp days, said he only began recounting his wartime memories about six or seven years ago. Since then he has talked to St. Gabriel School pupils on several occasions with no complaints from anybody, he said. In mid-February he addressed an assembly of Nelson High School students.

The community relations director for the Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario Region, praised the school board for offering an Anne Frank study unit complemented by a talk from a first-hand witness to the Jewish war experience.

"Canada has the second largest (Holocaust) survivor community in the world and I think it's an extremely proactive development," said Len Rudner.

"The Holocaust is the most documented case of mass murder in human history. To say that the Holocaust never happened is a statement of anti-Semitism."

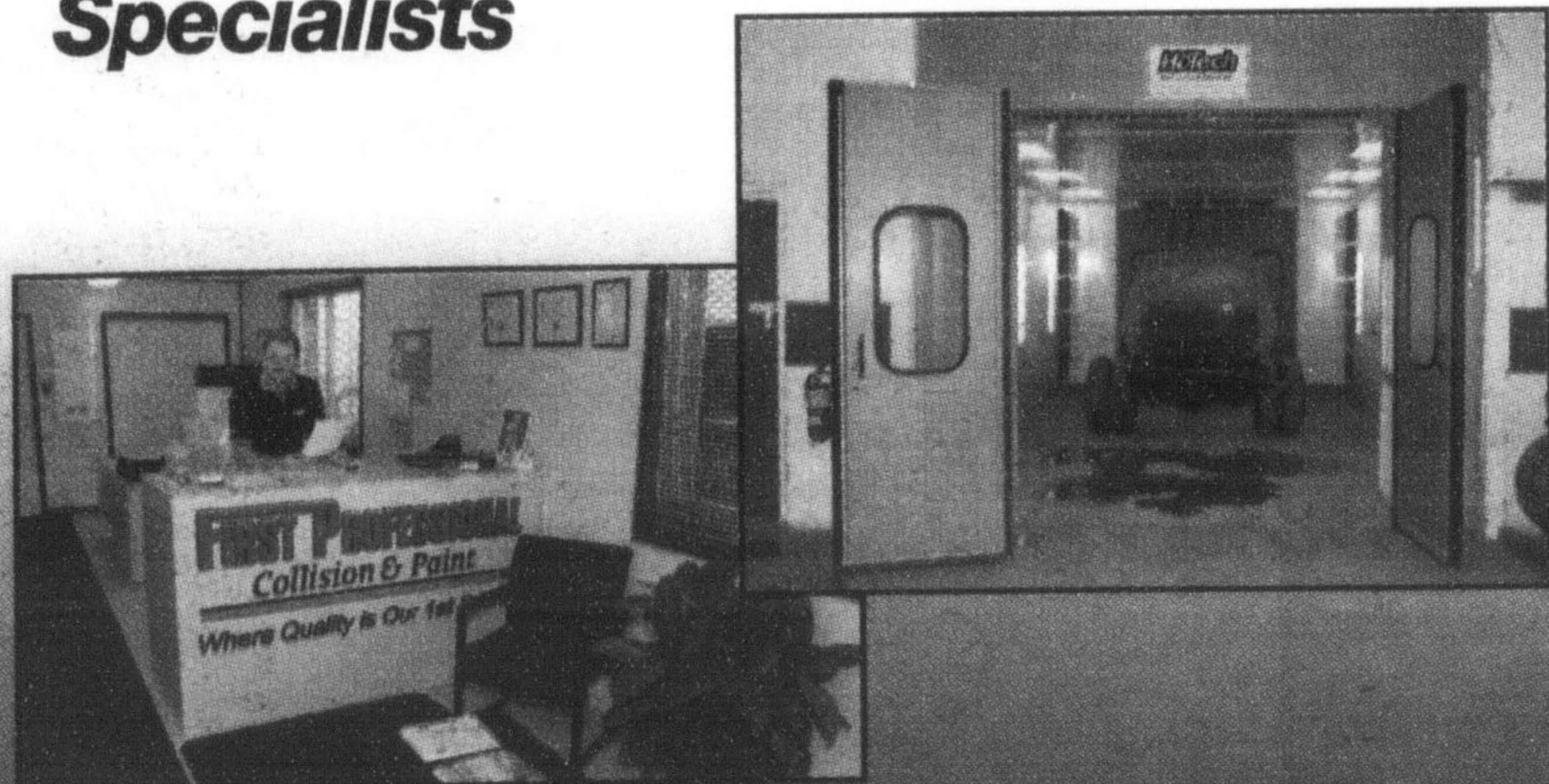


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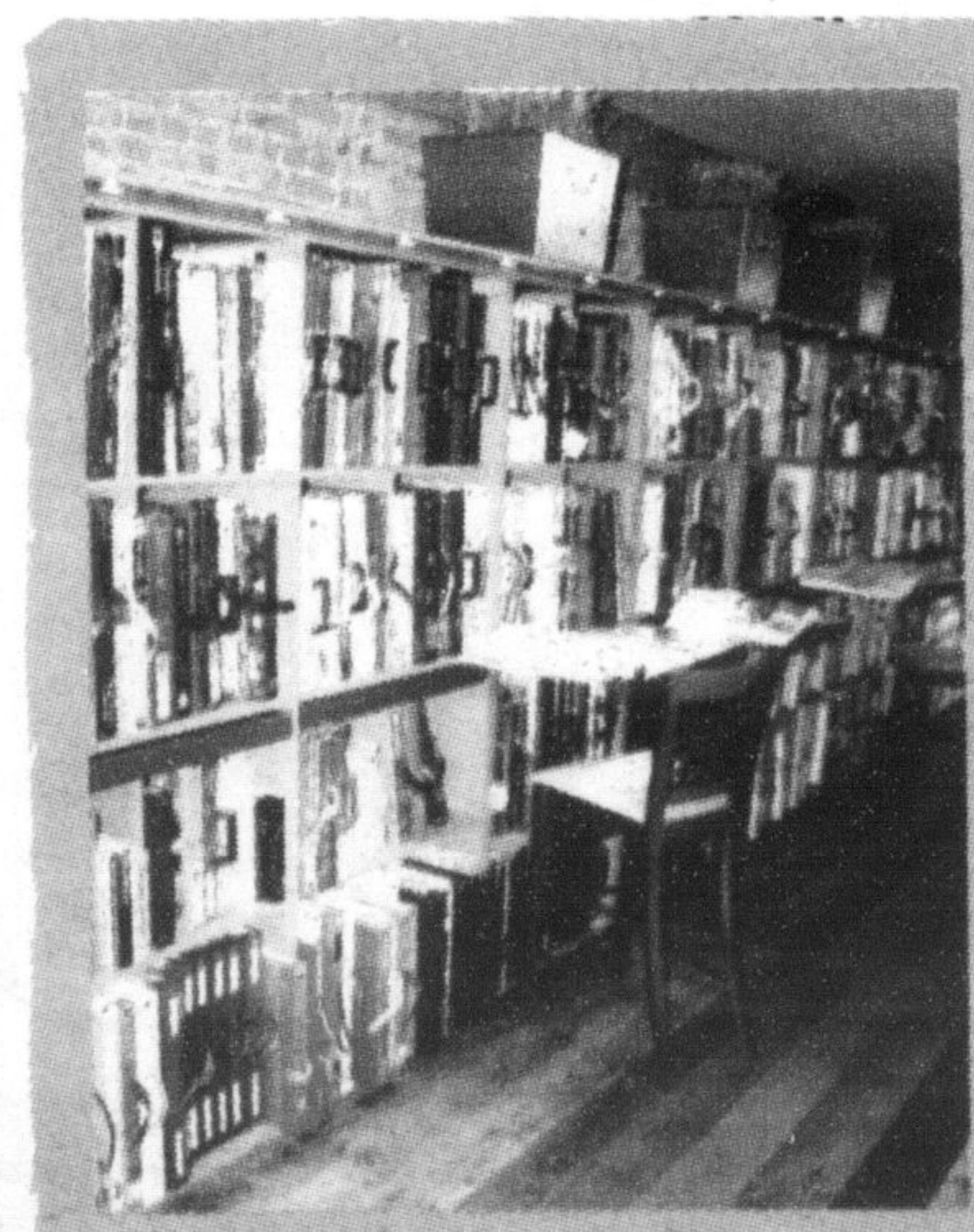
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