

# Dachau Survivor Hopes Luck Holds Out



## Youth, 17, in Classes at Weequahic High

"If my luck holds out..."

Arnold Unger, 17-year Dachau survivor, hopefully made that comment today as he started on a new adventure: An education in America.

Unger, only two weeks in this country and with a background that includes three years in concentration camps and two escapes from death in Nazi gas chambers, began studies—including German—at Weequahic High School today.

Unger hopes his studies will lead to an engineering degree. He has enough credit for courses taken in Poland to put him in the third year at Weequahic. He is making his home with relatives at 334 Schley street.

### Came Near to Death

A survivor of Dachau, Natzweiler and Plaszow Prison camps, Unger told of being herded into the gas chamber at Natzweiler with 50 other prisoners.

"The bodies of the last victims were piled up at one side," he said. "We were told to undress. As we stood waiting for the gas to be turned on, word came from the head of the camp that we were not to die. We were electricians, and he decided the Germans could use us to work on V-2 bombs in an underground factory near the camp.

"The guards were so angry at having to spare us that they turned boiling water on us. Then cold water. By the time they finished, most of us were unconscious. Then we were dragged outside, where it was bitterly cold."

Arnold Unger writes a blackboard message to his Weequahic classmates.

### Bath or Death

At Dachau, Unger said the new arrivals were unloaded at one building where both the baths and the gas chambers were. When he went in, he didn't know to which he would be sent.

"Some were taken to the gas chamber. I was lucky and had a bath," he said.

Born in Poland, Unger was living in Cracow when the Nazis occupied it in 1942. His father's furniture business was confiscated. Subsequently, they were ordered to get out of their home.

Unger's parents and small sister were put on a train and sent to "the country." He has never heard from them since.

### Escaped Three Times

The boy escaped three times on marches between prison camps but was always recaptured. The worst of the camps was Natzweiler, he said.

After his liberation from Dachau Unger, who knows English, French, German and Polish, was made secretary and interpreter to an American general. Through the efforts of an American officer he located his three uncles in Newark, Herman and Harry Bodner and Joseph Bodner, with whom he is living.