

Menczer, Aron

(1917-1943), Youth Aliya activist.

After the Anschluss - the annexing of Austria by Germany in March 1938 - Menczer began working for Youth Aliya in Vienna. In March 1939 he accompanied a group of Youth Aliya children to Palestine. Although he could have stayed there, Menczer felt a responsibility towards the young Jews still in Austria, so he returned to Vienna.

In September 1939 Menczer became the head of the Vienna branch of Youth Aliya. In 1940 the Germans would no longer allow anyone to leave the country, so Menczer turned his efforts to the 400-student Youth Aliya school in Vienna. In addition, he managed to unite the many Zionist youth movements in Austria into one umbrella organization.

The Youth Aliya offices in Austria were closed in 1941 and Menczer was sent to a forced labor camp. He was returned to Vienna on September 14, 1942, but transferred to Theresienstadt just 10 days later. In Theresienstadt Menczer served as a youth leader and a member of the *He-Halutz* youth movement central council. In August 1943 Menczer helped take care of a group of 1,200 children deported to Theresienstadt from Bialystok. In October Menczer accompanied the children to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where they were all murdered.