



Survivor ... Henia Brazg stands in front of a sculpture, in Johannesburg's West Park cemetery – symbolising the death of 6-million Jews in World War 2.

BY GILL GIFFORD

Sculpture restored for Holocaust commemoration

Six mammoth bronze fists grasp towering rams' horns, each representing a million lives lost during the Holocaust.

This symbol – West Park cemetery's Martyrs Monument – was the scene for an annual gathering to pay tribute to the 6-million Jews who perished at the hands of the Nazis during World War 2.

Survivor Henia Brazg (75) lost her entire family when she

was 12 years old. Separated from them, she went on to spend two years in a ghetto and two years in a concentration camp.

Finally liberated at the age of 16, she discovered that her parents, two sisters and all her other relatives had perished.

Brazg came to South Africa and made a life for herself. She married and had three sons –

an engineer, an endocrinologist and a chartered accountant – who have all married and moved away, but have blessed her with eight grandchildren.

Brazg is one of about 12 Holocaust survivors in Johannesburg. She has detailed her memoirs in a book, which she titled *Passport to Life*.

Describing how she felt after yesterday's remembrance cere-

mony, Brazg said: "It's always moving for me. It's heartbreaking. They say time heals, but this is something you don't forget. You live with it."

Yehuda Kay, executive director of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, said attempts had been made to include many young people in the commemoration service.

The monument where the

commemoration takes place was created about 40 years ago by sculptor Herman Wald, who is buried behind it.

The statue, made out of bronze, is estimated to be worth more than R3,5-million.

The centrepiece is a display of flames, also sculpted in bronze. About a year ago, thieves stole the centre flames. But Wald's son Michael, also a sculptor, managed to restore the damaged monument in time for the commemoration.