

HYMAN KIRSH PAPERS, circa 1910s-1930s
1992.42.7

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
Washington, DC 20024-2126
Tel. (202) 479-9717
e-mail: reference@ushmm.org

Appendix A. Memoir of the Kirszenewajg family

The following memoir of the Kirszenewajg family, written by Hyman Kirsh, is housed in the donor files of the United State Holocaust Memorial Museum.

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I. Hyman Kash (Chaim Kirszenewajg) was born on 1-28-1923 in Ciechanów Poland population 35,000 (located 90 Kilometers north of Warsaw,) My fathers name was Harry Kirszenewajg. my mothers was Freda (Levkowitz) We were 4 children, And I was the youngest in the family.

I was told that our family are descendant of the Mendelson family, true our grandmothers side, of the family which was Karmiol. How I don't know?

My parents came from Lodz Poland to Ciechanow during the first world war, In the year 1914-1915, My grandparents live in Lodz.

My father was active in the community, He was for many years President of the Jewish community.

When the war started in September 1939, our town was occupied by the German, Ciechanow was annexed to the 3rd Reich, as part of East Prussia, The prosecution begin for the Jews in town, like confiscating property, ~~businesses~~, personal belongings, chased out from homes and apartments, And the beginning of force labor, this went on until August 1941, When we were sent to a ghetto

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In Nowe-Miasto, which is by 25 kilometers from our town, we were there until July 1942, when my father and I escaped, from the ghetto, hiding on farms, villages, and woods, until captured by the Germans and put ^{us} in the Baranwicz ghetto, where we stayed for a few months, and escaped again to the woods where we find other people. Later we find out, that 2 months after our escaping, the ghetto was liquidated and everyone was killed.

The way we live there, I can not believe myself now. We were in constantly fear from: Germans, Farmers, Informers, spies, we never stayed too long in one place, always on the go, deeper in the woods, our main problem was hunger, and the cold winters.

This went on until October 1944 when the Soviet Army liberated us, we were sick, hungry, dirty, it took us a long time, to act, and look like normal people.

In the beginning of 1945 the Soviet Army started to move deeper to Poland, and Lodz was liberated. Me and my father went to Lodz, in Feb-March

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The first place we went to see, of the house where my grandparents live before the war,

The house was still there, they lived on Franciszkowska St. # 4. This was the second house where the Lodz ghetto began.

The barbed wire ^(fence) was still there, the gate was open (see diagram)

We walk thru and got to the house, went up to the second floor apartment where my grandparents live, there was dirt all over, no doors, no windows, no furniture, we find family pictures, a hand written engagement agreement (in Jewish. תנאים) by my grandfather, for my oldest aunt Golda to Chaim Berenzweig, written in the years 1912-1914, I only have a half page, it has my Grandfather's signature.

Among the dirt on the floor I spotted this little prayer book, which was covered with dirt, which is in my possession since then.

(4)

In May 1945 when the ^{war} ~~was~~ over, and the survivors started looking for family and love ones.

Among the survivors I meet a young lady. Chanka Garbarska from my own town Ciechanow she survived Auschwitz; tat. # 24771.

she is the only survivor from a family of 9 children. We fell in love, and by the end of 1945 we were married.

We came to the U.S.A. In 1947, with my father. When we became ~~became~~ citizen In 1953, we change our name to Hyman, Anna Kersh.

We have 3 children, 2 sons Twins, Bernie + George And Daughter Nina, And we have 6 grandchildren. ~~#~~ My father past away In Philadelphia In. 1964.

From my family survived my sister Ruth, she was In Vilnius, and when the German advanced she escaped to the Soviet Union, where she survived. she also lives in Philadelphia.

My mother, My older brother Herman, my sister Blima, perished In Auschwitz.