

HENRYK LAZAR
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Henryk was born in 1919 in Lodz to a father who repaired shoes and a mother from Warsaw. He had 2 brothers and one sister. The elder son emigrated to the United States in 1934; he was a prominent scientist and had worked with Einstein. His other brother Arthur was with the Polish army in Hungary for 5 years. The brothers were each 10 years apart.

Henryk was in Warsaw when the Russian came in. He had the choice of going to Russia, but he wanted to go back to his family and his girlfriend. He said most of the Jews who chose to go to Russia survived the war. He remarked that the Russians liberated them from their food and goods, and they all seemed to believe strongly in the soviet propaganda.

There were about 500 thousand Jews that were moved into the Warsaw ghetto. Henryk describes himself as physically strong and with an aggressive attitude, traits that helped him survive. He was glad both his parents died of natural causes while in the ghetto.

Henryk describes living in the ghetto as a horror movie. He never registered or wore a Jewish armband and had false papers.

He had many Polish friends from the lumber business outside the ghetto, and they helped him strategically and financially. He talks about having been able to save his 9-year-old niece and bring her to safety under the noses of the SS. He was involved with the underground. He said a big tragedy of his life was losing his girlfriend in the ghetto, of natural causes. She had been hidden in a place outside the ghetto given to him by his Polish friends.

Henryk was found in his hiding place, but he was not identified as Jewish. He spent 6 months in a POW camp in Germany without being found out. He finally told his fellow Poles he was Jewish a few weeks before liberation. He and another man organized a camp for newly released Poles.

He thanks his good friend Dr. Samuel Getz for helping him to be able to tell his story.