

NOAH ROITMAN

Family:

Noah was born in 1923 in Baranowicze, Poland to Esther Roitman. Her maiden name was Karolicki.

War Years: The Partisans

Noah lived in the ghetto for six months and then, after working for Germans in camps, decided to run away. He dug out basements and stockpiled arms, guns and grenades to go out into the woods. In 1942 decided he had nothing to live for and left ghetto. His parents had died. Met Russian Jewish partisan named Yosel Slominski from 51st group from Slonim and was adopted by his group. Stayed with them for two years. They were able to get many Jews out of the ghetto and away from the Germans. Continued this work until 1943. Then he and another friend decided to dynamite a German brick factory. He had 40 kilo dynamite and British mines sent from Russians. Brick factory was near railroad and that was also damaged. Often a Polish conspirator named "Hatcha" helped him with his endeavors. Finally partisans decided to get rid of him because he was saving too many Jews and the partisans were anti-semitic anyway.

War Years: The Military

He was sent to another group which was entirely Russian - no Jews. Each week they went on "fulfillment" missions. They would destroy German guns, cut telephone wires, destroy railroads. In January, 1944 they sent him to school to become a pilot and artillery. In 1945, May 5, he went with a 105mm cannon and was commander. On this mission he suffered injury from shrapnel and decided to run away from Russian army. First he went to his commander and said that he wanted to search for his parents and asked two months leave. His commander gave him the pass, his car and driver. Spent next few months bring people from Poland to Czechoslovakia. He estimates he saved 50,000 people.

Cyprus:

Finally in 1946 he went to Cyprus with 600 Jewish partisans. Knew he would have to fight British in Israel. Boarded Greek ships and arrived in Natanya. British would not let them enter/ returned them to Cyprus. Finally got to Israel. He lived eighteen years in Israel and raised a family.

For Future Generations:

Never give up fight. Jews were very brave but very little was written about their courage. They killed thousand of Germans and Russians. Be strong. Be proud of being Jews. Learn Torah.