

MAX SCHWARTZ

Born Manyek (Menachem) Schwartz 1/16/18 in Pruszkowitz, Poland. Two brothers, Yeshiahu and ?. One sister, Zelda. Father, Alexander and mother Rivka. Sold coal and wood from a store. Grandparents David Lieb and Alienta. Spoke Yiddish at home and were Hasidic. Went to public school and cheder. Belonged to a Zionist organization, Batar ~1931. Learned tailoring and later carpentry. Felt antisemitism from Poles and recalls being beaten on one occasion at Hanukah. Two thousand Jews in Pruszkowitz. Schwartz in the army when war started, but living at home. Germans came within a week and put Jews to laboring. Put in ghetto shortly thereafter where they lived for about a year. Brother tried to go to Russia but was turned back. In 1941, he was sent to a labor camp, Golda, near Poznan, then to another camp, Kedj, Wannenheim and finally, briefly to Auschwitz (No. 141597). Then sent to Schweintochlowitz where he built housing for prisoners. January, 1945, transferred to Buna and then Gliwice. Brother in Bad Reichenall (Reichenau?) near the German-Austrian border. Finally sent to Buchenwald. As allies approached, he was marched out of Buchenwald on 4/7/45 and marched around for a month. Started with 2000 prisoners and ended back in Bad Reichenall with only 158 left. Americans came a day later and brought food which made many sick. Schwartz had typhus and was hospitalized. He went looking for his brother and learned he was nearby. Other brother, father and grandfather killed at Auschwitz and mother and sister at Chelmno.

After the war, he met his wife who had been in a camp. She was from Warsaw. Met her at Bergen Belsen DP camp and they married 1947. Daughter born 1947. Brother went to US and Schwartz family went to Israel where they lived near Haifa for 11 years. Came to US in 1962, first to Columbus OH and later to St. Paul where wife's brother lived. Working 22 years at brother's factory. Has 2 married daughters in Israel and son in the Israeli army (1982). He survived, he says, but kids, grandkids have no other family. Belongs to a Conservative synagogue and is proud to be Jewish.