

RG-50.407.0055

Summary

Marcus Hirshorn – Born 2 November 1914 in Bialystok, Poland

Father – Samuel Hirshorn from Bialystok – In business with his brother; Taken to Struthoff (?); died there

Mother – Rachel Yashinsky from Grodno; died 1934

Two sisters:

Rya – born 1907; transported to camp

Ruitzka – born 1924; jumped from train and died

Family owned textile company. Went to Warsaw University; got degree in law in 1934; Had own company. Russians took over family factory 1939; Marcus worked in Moscow for Soviet Trade Organization as economist. When Germans entered Bialystok in 1941, went to Moscow; tried to join Russian army but couldn't; got to Gorke and found an aunt, Anna Yashunska; worked there. Russian-Polish army forming but couldn't join b/c Jewish. Went to Tashkent to try to get to Palestine. 1943 – arrested for breaking passport laws, sent to Siberia, one camp close to Arctic circle. In Siberia for 19 months. Freed from camp and went to Moscow but Polish army gone so went to Lublin. Met a friend there who helped him become officer with no rank in October 1944. Taught Russian officers Polish. Helped liberate Warsaw. Worked in Lodz, Poland, organizing textile trade, till 1946 when Jews not allowed to hold high positions. Tried to go to US, Palestine, but offered chance to go to Australia and accepted. Left Poland 12/1946. In Australia opened wholesale textile business. Married Bella in 12/1949. Two children. Said he survived by coincidence and luck.