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Rachmil Szejer was born 13 August 1911 in Końskie, Poland. His father was a wholesale butcher. He had one older sister, Hannah, and one younger sister, Viola (uncertain transcription). Rachmil lived in a house on the main street before the war. The city had 10,000 Jews, about 70% of the city's population. He joined the Polish army in 1927 and reached the rank of corporal. He lived in Warsaw during his time in the army. After leaving the army, he attempted to leave for Palestine in 1932 through Romania but was stopped at the border by Polish authorities. He was called back into the Polish army in 1935.

When the war broke out, Rachmil was stationed near Lodz. He retreated to Warsaw. He and remnants of the army soon ran towards Romania through the Carpathian Mountains. The Russians crossed a river in Eastern Poland that they were attempting to cross and took them prisoner. They were taken to Novohrad-Volyns'kyi. After several weeks, he was taken to the Kharkov, Ukraine. He was then sent to a town on the White Sea.

Because Rachmil knew German, he was asked to join the reorganized Polish Army, Anders' Army, in the East and was sent to Tashkent, Uzbekistan in Spring 1942 and then sent to Samarkand. He met his cousin and other Polish Jews from Lodz in Samarkand. He married Rachel Szejer in 1943.

Anders' Army was deployed to Iran from Pasharbad(?) in August 1943. After the invasion of Iran, Rachmil was arrested by Soviet Forces for attempting to return to his wife without papers. After one or two years (he is not certain), he was sent to a labor camp near Bukhara, Uzbekistan. He received a second amnesty after the war. He returned to Samarkand to bring Rachel and her family west back to Lvov, Poland by train through Georgia and Ukraine in 1945. He returned to Końskie for one day. He learned that his uncle died in Birkenau. His son when they were in Germany in late 1945.

In 1946, he and his family left to join his sister in Brussels, Belgium for one year. They left through the American zone in Berlin, then were sent to a camp in Eschwege, from which they went to Belgium. They lived for six years in Antwerp. They left for Australia in 1953.