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Summary

Samuel Migdal was born in Warsaw on July 28, 1922.

Family – Yancov and Rosa (née Niemark); six children – Brothers - Avrum Chaim – oldest in cavalry; Beryl, Sidney; Sisters Sarah, Hannah. Maternal grandparents lived in Brucht (?) 100 km from Warsaw – Moishe and Fayga Niemark. One uncle went to NY in 1929; another in Siberia till after war.

Before the War – Five-year-old Sam sent to live with maternal grandparents because his family very poor, lived in one room. Father- pastry cook. Stayed till 1935 then back to Warsaw. Attended school when in Brucht, spoke Yiddish at home.

During the War – Oct. 24, 1939, decided to leave Warsaw rather than report to roll call demanded for Jews. Had trouble crossing Russian border so started back to Warsaw. Polish young man helped him then he headed for border. In Bartifuda, older man (Migdal called him Righteous Gentile) helped him cross border. Many “close calls” but crossed border, then to Bialystok to Stiga #9 to register to go to work in Russia. Wound up in Belarus on the Berezina River. Broke arm and convinced his boss to send him to commercial school (Belarusian School) in Minsk. Finished course and managed shop in Berezina. Lived with Pertinskys – friend of his grandmother. 1943 – Germans approaching town so flees. Winds up deep into Russia in Ural Mts. Didn’t have to serve in army, supported work on tanks (T-34) by working in a garage. Stayed till end of war. Uncle in NY wrote to him, so knew his family did not survive.

After the War – Went back to Poland (Czechen) in July 1945, stayed a few months, then smuggled over border into Germany and wound up at DP camp in Berlin for 2 years. Met his other uncle there who came from Siberia. Then to Paris, then Australia (1947 or 1948). Went to America in 1955 for about 9 years and worked in NJ. Had been writing to a woman in Haifa; when the marketplace burned down, he took a boat to Haifa in 1958 eventually married Rivka. Went back to Australia in 1963. Had a factory there. Had 2 daughters, separated from wife after 32 years of marriage.

Sam Migdal’s Message – “Live day by day and be good to others.”