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Summary

Jakub Brzezinski was born in October 1911 near Lodz, Poland. Father, Herschel Yitzhak, had a milk business. Mother was a housewife Six other siblings. Family poor but religious. He went to school through age 15 and to cheder to learn Hebrew. He belonged to a gymnastics club and played the clarinet. He spoke Yiddish, Polish and Hebrew. He went to work as a tailor until war broke out. He says the Germans cut off his father's beard and shot his boss. Somehow, he escaped by train and ended up in Bialystok, Russia. Parents stayed in Poland. A younger sister died in the camps. In Russia he worked in a coal mine before moving on to Tashkent where he worked on a farm before going to the Ural Mountains to work in another coal mine. Eventually, he ended up in Leningrad. Close to the front lines. He saw Germans burn a shed filled with children. He worked in the railroad yards until the end of the war and then worked in the theater making costumes. Apparently, he returned to Poland, but finding no relatives, he left. He had a brother in Australia and finally went there ~1947. He has worked as a tailor making uniforms and suits. He married in the 1960's (no information) and no longer attends synagogue.