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Summary

Leizor Pinski – born on Sept 19, 1921 in Warsaw, Poland. Father – Nathan (Neutee in Yiddish) – b. 1879 in Warsaw; worked at Rothman Shoe Factory checking quality of shoes; Mother – Helee – her father was Yishrael Saravish (?), an itinerant cantor, her mother's name was Malka. Leizor had a brother – Neucham (had a different mother who died), was 4-5 years older than Leizor; sister- Rifkala, b. 1925). None of Leizor's family (including aunts and uncles) survived.

Before the War - Traditional home, not religious. Father belonged to Bund; Leizor belonged to SKIF (Socialist Children's Union – part of Jewish Labor Bund). Went to a Shalom Aleichem School. Protested that Jews should have same rights as Poles. Not too much disruption in the early 1930s, but by middle to late 30s, witnessed violence towards Jews.

During the War – Germans ordered Leizor's father to a work camp; Leizor went instead – unloading guns and ammunition; November 1939, Leizor and six friends escaped to Bialystok because Russians were there (traveled by train and then crossed River Bug). Never saw his family again. Jewish groups in Bialystok helped them; stayed in synagogue. Contacted by Russians to go to work; sent to Siberia to work in coal mines for 1 yr. After that sent to a company called Sovalny (?) to survey areas till June 1941 when Russia went to war with Germany. Then worked in battalion building a power station. In Siberia for 5 to 6 years. Lived day to day. Then worked for Josef(?) Gorovitz (Jewish supervisor) in Solikamsk and delivered paper to places in Molotov and Odessa. Left Siberia in 1944 and lived in Odessa till 1946. Odessa liberated in April 1944; first learned about concentration camps then.

After the War – Went back to Warsaw in January 1946. Found out his family did not survive. Stayed till 1948, then went to Paris. Stayed for about a year, met his wife there and was married. In March 1950, went to Melbourne. Worked in factories, then opened a small café which didn't work out. Then opened milk bar in Newport with his brother-in-law for three years, then bought a deli in 1964. This was more successful, then worked in ladies' wear for 10 to 12 years. Had two sons – one born in 1957 and one in 1960.

His Message – “Remember to live like Jews and be proud to be a Jew.”