

RG-50.677.0015

Rabbi Twi Meyer Lichtig

Summary

Rabbi Twi Meyer Lichtig was born in 1928, in Western Czechoslovakia in a city of 55,000 people. He was 1 of 3 children, a sister and a brother. He was a precious student who attended Yeshivas and excelled in Talmud. His father was a shrewd businessman. First, he peddled used clothing and was so successful that he purchased a furniture store. Since the cost of furniture was so high, he implemented a lay-a-way plan. This was lucrative because the amount of the deposit equaled the cost of the goods.

When the Germans entered Czechoslovakia, they “liberated” the many Sudetenland Germans who lived there. That same year, 1938, Germany and Austria negotiated the Anschluss making that the next country under occupation. The German’s went after the Jews and other enemies treating them abominably.

Rabbi Lichtig was rounded up by the Gestapo and taken to Belzec concentration camp. They were given little to eat and wear and expected to work long hours. Those that lived came out badly broken. During this time, they went on a death march at the end of which he was stripped naked and made to stand for 5 hours.

After liberation he was sent to a DP camp in Bari, Italy.

[He came to the US date unknown.] He lived in the N Y area (Bronx, Flushing, Queens), where he was a Rabbi. The remaining few minutes of the interview Rabbi Lichtig identifies many people in photographs.