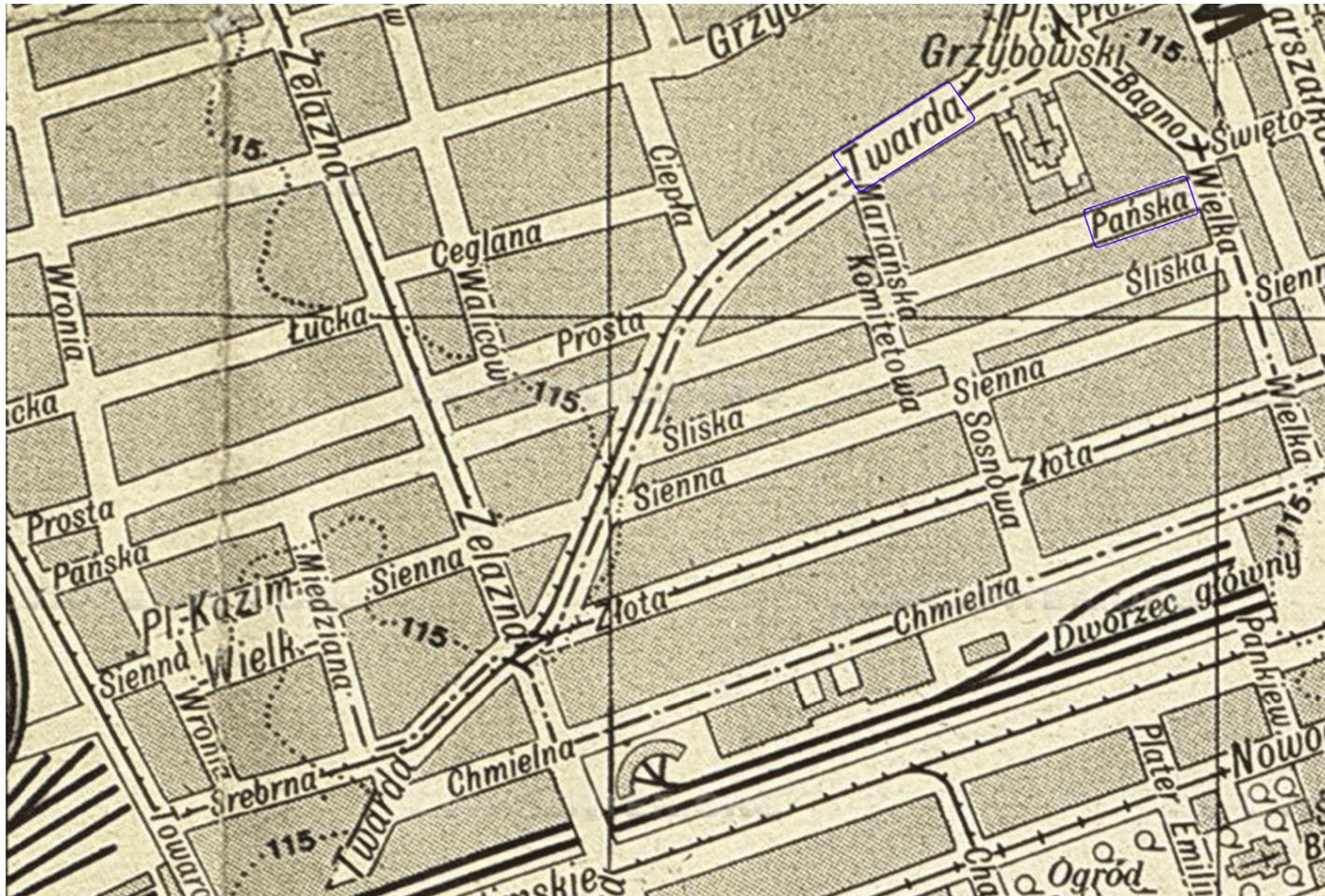


Meir, Cesia, Moszek, Yitzak and Cewek Suknik

- 1897** **Mayer (Majer/Meir)** was born in Warsaw on the 19th of June 1897 the 4th child of Mariem (nee Zmidek) and Josek Suknik. There was a strong connection between the Suknik and Zmidek family through 3 closely linked marriages and their common origins in Chmielnik. e
- 1917** **August 23rd.** Mayer married **Cesia Lament** daughter of Taube (nee Zmidek) and Berl Lament. Both families were originally from Chmielnik.
- 1918** Moszek, their first son, also known as Moniek, was born. ¹
- 1920** **Yitzhak Sukenik**, their second son was born in Warsaw. ¹
At the time of Yitzak's birth the family were living at 44 Pańska street, Warsaw. Mayer was working in a workshop producing bags,¹ although another source states ^e at this address Mayer was the owner of a sack factory.
- 1926** **Cewek** (in other documents Srul), their 3rd son, was born. ¹
- 1926 to 1929** One entry in the Polish Business Directory of 1926 shows Szmul Lament Mayer's cousin) and a Suknik as the owners of a bag factory at Twarda 14, Warsaw, whilst two other later entries put Majer's business at the same address.

Mayer's sister Cesia, also put Twarda 14 as her address when she applied for a working permit for Belgium in 1928.



Street Map of Warsaw 1939

1926

Worki.

Sacs.

(p. r. Brezenty, Jutowe wyroby, Plachty).

- ×Borensztejn Zysman i Ska, Rynkowa 3.
- ×**Borman B. i Lubliński A.**, Ś-to Krzyska 30.
- Cwejman Szyja, Bonifraterska 21.
- Fajgenbaum Sz., Rynkowa 3.
- Frenkel I., pl. Grzybowski 16.
- Frydel Boruch i Bigelman Izrael, Nowolipie 72.
- Handelsman Lejb i Riwiajkie Chejnoch, Nalewki 34.
- Herman Abram, pl. Grzybowski 10.
- Kogut Judka, Ząbkowska 3.
- Krieger Moszek, Pokorna 5.
- Lament Lejzer, Rynkowa 7.
- Lament **Szmul**, pl. Grzybowski 8.
- Lament Szmul i Suknik**, Twarda 14.
- Majnemer A. i Szydłowicz A., Bagno nr. 3.

1929

Worki.

Sacs.

(p. r. Brezenty, Jutowe wyroby, Plachty).

- ×Borensztejn Zysman i Ska, Rynkowa 3.
- ×**Borman B. i Lubliński A.**, Ś-to Krzyska 30.
- Cwejman Szyja, Bonifraterska 21.
- Cymerman Moszek, Nalewki 33.
- Fajgenbaum Sz., Rynkowa 3.
- Frenkel I., pl. Grzybowski 16.
- Frydel Boruch i Bigelman Izrael, Nowolipie 72.
- Garnuszewski L., pl. Kercelego 432.
- Handelsman Lejb i Riwiajkie Chejnoch, Nalewki 34.
- Herman Abram, pl. Grzybowski 10.
- Kogut Judka, Ząbkowska 3.
- Krieger Moszek, Pokorna 5.
- Lament Lejzer, Rynkowa 7.
- Lament **Szmul**, pl. Grzybowski 8.
- Lament Szmul i Suknik**, Twarda 14.
- Majnemer A. i Szydłowicz A., Bagno nr. 3.
- Neryng Frymet, pl. Grzybowski 10.
- ×Orłowski L., Rogowicz J. i S-ka, Sp. z o. o., Królewska 8.

1928

(p. r. Danuaze).
Fabryki — fabriques.
×Bielousow i Krasowski, zarz., Kapucyńska 13.

nia-
blo-
cia-
157.
29.
26.
K.
Ma-

Cerownie sztuczne.
Stoppeurs-repriseurs.
Ceranowicz Z., Chmielna 92.
Landman S., Bonifraterska 7.
Suknik Mejer, Twarda 14.
Szenkier Szyja, pl. Broni 86.
Zelcer Icek Majer, pl. Grzybowski 10.

Chalwa.
Halva.

1930

Cerownie.
(Stoppeurs, repriseurs.)
Ceranowiczowa Z., Chmielna 92.
tel. 110:14.
Landman S., Bonifraters 7.
Nadaner P., Mazowiecka 6.
Suknik M., Twarda 14.
Szenkier S., pl. Broni 86.
Zelcer I., pl. Grzybowski 10.

1929 Mayer's cousin (and most probably business partner at the time), Szmul Lament , set off for a new life in France with his family where they built up a successful clothing business, and all manage to survive the war.

In the same year Mayer's elder brother Szyja, joint owner with Simon Nasielski of a Fur Factory in Brussels since 1926, sent a supporting document to help Mayer come to Belgium to work for the company. In the letter he gave the reason for the invitation being that the secrets of the company could not be shared with a stranger.

Szyja would pay him 1200 francs a month, with a contract for 2 years, and Mayer would live with him at rue de Bouchers.

In the case that Mayer did not like it in Belgium, Szyja agrees to repatriate Mayer at his expense, or in the case of illness or incapacity for work he will undertake to provide him with medical care and medicine. Mayer is quoted in the letter as living at Pansk 40.

PELLETERIES
FOURRURES
GROS — DEMI GROS
IMPORTATION
EXPORTATION

MAISON
S. NASIELSKI & S. SUKNIK
71. RUE DES BOUCHERS. 71
BRUXELLES - BOURSE

Téléphone 111,25
Compte chèques postaux 2489,84
Rég. du Com. de Bruxelles 325,38-325,39

Le 19

Je soussigné Szyja SUKNIK, né à Varsovie, le 28-I-1900 exploitant rue des Bouchers, 71, en association avec Simon NASIELSKI une fabrique de fourrures, porteur de la carte d'identité définitive de la ville de Bruxelles No 429,599, demande à ce que mon frère Majer SUKNIK, né à Varsovie en 1898, demeurant à Varsovie, rue Panska, No 40, vienne me rejoindre à Bruxelles pour m'assister dans mes affaires.

Je m'engage à lui payer un traitement fixe de douze cents francs par mois et à lui fournir le logement dans ma maison que j'occupe à l'adresse précitée avec mon associé NASIELSKI. Le présent engagement est consenti pour une durée de deux années consécutives.

Dans le cas où il ne se plaisait pas ici je m'engage à le rapatrier à mes frais et en cas de sa maladie ou d'incapacité de travail je m'engage à lui fournir les soins médicaux et pharmaceutiques.

L'extension de mes affaires spéciales c'est à dire l'achat, la vente et la préparation des peaux nécessitent la présence de mon frère précité, ne pouvant confier les secrets de ma fabrication à un étranger quelconque.

Bruxelles, le 18 septembre 1929.

S. Suknik

POUR RÉGALISATION DES SIGNATURES DE
BRUXELLES, LE 30 octobre 1929
POUR LE SOUSCRIPTEUR: L'ECHEVIN DÉLÉGUÉ

1930

Mayer presented a request to the Belgian Consulate in Warsaw for a visa to stay for one year for the purposes of making a living, giving his address as Panska 70/50, but it would appear that this was rejected.

1931

He did however manage to obtain a visa to go abroad from the Polish Authorities arriving in Belgium via France (possibly linking up with his cousin Szmul Lament in Paris) on June 28th with a visa valid until 31st November the same year.

665

VILLE DE BRUXELLES
DIVISION CENTRALE DE POLICE
BUREAU des Etrangers.
N° 152257

J. Imbrite
14/8/31
Rue des Bouchers, N° 71
Le Commissaire-Adjoint, GASPARD
1er étage

statistique

1° Renseignements destinés à établir l'identité de	Nom et prénoms	Date et lieu de naissance (1)	Observations concernant l'état civil de l'étranger
	<i>Suknik</i>	8/6	Varsovie - Pologne -
	Mayer	1897	
	se dit époux CURTILA LAMENT		
	Nationalité: Polonaise		
2° Lieu et date du mariage	Varsovie le 23/8/1917		
3° a) Prénoms, date et lieu de naissance du père ou chef de famille.	SUKNIK Joseph né à Chmielnik 68 ans		
b) Nom, prénoms, date et lieu de naissance de la mère ou chef de famille.	SMIDEK Maria née à idem 68 ans		
4° Profession	négociant - déclare être venu en Belgique pour y reprendre un commerce de bonneterie et avoir des moyens d'existence		
5° Domicile légal à l'étranger (2) Localité, province ou cercle.	Varsovie Pologne Panska 40		
6° Dernière résidence à l'étranger (3) Localité, province ou cercle.	idem		
7° Date de l'arrivée en Belgique.	le 28/6/1931		
8° Résidences antérieures en Belgique (4) Localités, rues, dates	aucune		
9° Date de l'arrivée dans la commune.	le 28/6/1931		

1613983

SURETÉ PUBLIQUE
22 AOÛT 1931

(1) Indiquer la province, le département ou la régence, l'arrondissement, le cercle ou le canton et le pays.
(2) Si l'étranger a été autorisé à établir son domicile en Belgique, indiquer la date de l'arrêté royal, la localité, la rue et le numéro.
(3) Indiquer la rue, le numéro, le pays, la province, l'arrondissement, etc.
(4) Indiquer la rue, le numéro et l'époque des séjours.

10° Nature des papiers
leur état, antécedents qui
les ont délivrés, lieu et
date de leur délivrance
(1).

Un P.P. Polonais N° I76220 délivré par le Commissaire
Général à Staroska Grodzki (Varsovie) le 30/5/1931 sceau
apposé - Visé par l'Ambassade de Paris le 25/7/1931 sous
le N° 21428 pour permettre au titulaire d'effectuer plu-
sieurs voyages en Belgique et d'en sortir pendant une
période de trois mois
Ce P.P. est valable jusqu'au 30/11/1931

11° Est-il réfugié poli-
tique?

NON

12° Conduite et anté-
cédents.

Aucun antécédent fâcheux

13° Déclaration au sujet
de la volonté exprimée
par l'étranger de
résider plus de six
mois.

PLUS DE QUATRE MOIS

14° Remarques concer-
nant ses relations et
ses moyens d'existence
(Pour S.P. seulement).

Signature de l'étranger,

M. S. M. M.

Bruxelles, le 6 Août 1931.

Le Bourgmestre,

Adams

(1) Ne transmettre les papiers que dans le cas où il existerait des doutes sur leur authenticité ou
leur applicabilité aux voyageurs.

1° le 30/11/1931 pour 3 mois

1932

He managed to get an extension for a 3 further months until February 1932, but stayed in Brussels whilst a lawyer tries to get further extensions. In July he was finally arrested, placed in Prison de Forest in Berkendael, Brussels and eventually deported back to Poland via Germany.

MINISTÈRE DE LA JUSTICE
Sûreté publique
N°

Prison de Forest

43
à la fin pour information

16 13983

4 *JUL 1932*
3. Nationalité

1. Nom et prénoms SUKNIK, Mayer

2. Lieu et date de naissance. Varsovie (Pologne) le 8-6-97

3. Nationalité polonaise

4. Prénoms, lieu et date de naissance du père Joseph né à Chmielnik le . . ?

5. Nom, prénoms, lieu et date de naissance de la mère Schmidek, Maria née à Chmielnik le . . ?

6. Est-il marié ou célibataire? S'il est marié, indiquer les nom, prénoms, lieu et date de naissance ainsi que la résidence de l'épouse Epx de Curka, Lament née à Varsovie le . . . 1896 et y réside

7. Lieu et date du mariage Varsovie 23-8-1917

8. Nom, prénoms, lieu et date de naissance et résidence des enfants Moszek né à Varsovie le . . 14 ans
Isaac id 11 ans
Cewek id 6 ans
résident avec leur mère à Varsovie, Paynska, 40

9. S'il s'agit d'une femme mariée, indiquer les nom, prénoms, lieu et date de naissance ainsi que la résidence de son époux "

10. Occupations et moyens d'existence. commerçant

11. Conduite (1) sans renseignements

12. N'a-t-il commis, à l'étranger, aucun crime ou délit qui motive sa présence en Belgique? non dit-il

13. Résidence hors du royaume néant

14. Date de l'arrivée dans le pays depuis 1 an

15. Résidence en Belgique (indiquer l'adresse complète) Bruxelles, rue des Tanneurs, 123

16. Date de l'arrivée dans la localité mentionnée au n° 15 depuis 1 mois

S. P. -4 JUL 1932
S. P. -5 JUL 1932
DÉCERNÉ RÉQUISITOIRE
TRANSFÈREMENT
FRONTIÈRE:
GARE: *Verviers*
LE: *5-VII-32*

RD
g f 11

(1) Indiquer ici ce que l'on peut avoir appris à cet égard.

M. B. 1931 - 3042

<p>17. Nature des papiers et qualité de l'autofité qui les a délivrés (1). Lieu et date de leur délivrance</p> <p>18. Motifs de l'arrestation.</p> <p>19. Par quel ordre a-t-elle été opérée? Agent qui l'a opérée</p> <p>20. Autorité ou magistrat à la disposition duquel est mis le détenu. — Est-il placé sous mandat d'arrêt? (2).</p> <p>21. Antécédents connus</p> <p>22. S'il s'agit d'un étranger condamné pour mendicité ou vagabondage, indiquer s'il a séjourné pendant trois années consécutives dans une commune belge et si, ayant fait des absences momentanées, la durée de celle-ci n'a pas dépassé le terme de six mois</p> <p>23. Dans quelle localité compte-t-il se rendre, s'il est renvoyé ou expulsé du territoire, après qu'il aura satisfait à la justice?</p> <p>24. De quelles ressources dispose-t-il?</p> <p>25. S'il est sans papiers, indiquer les langues parlées par le détenu.</p> <p>26. Date de l'arrestation</p> <p>27. Date de l'écrou.</p> <p>28. Date de l'expiration de la peine</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SIGNALEMENT</p> <p>Taille 1 mètre centimètres</p> <p>Cheveux</p> <p>Face</p> <p>Sourcils</p> <p>Paupières</p> <p>Yeux</p> <p>Nez</p> <p>Bouche</p> <p>Pommettes</p> <p>Menton</p> <p>Oreilles</p> <p>Cou</p> <p>Visage</p> <p>Barbe</p> <p>Teint</p> <p>Corpulence</p> <p>Marques particulières</p> <p>Tatouages ou</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(SIGNATURE.)</p>	<p>feuille de route délivrée par la ville de Bruxelles, le 19-3-32, prorogée jusqu'au 1-7-32</p> <p>2°) passeport délivré à Varsovie le 3045-31 par le préfet de police</p> <p>étranger</p> <p>réquisitoire-gendarmerie</p> <p>Sûreté publique - non</p> <p>néant</p> <p>"</p> <p>en Allemagne</p> <p>250 frs</p> <p>"</p> <p>2-7-32</p> <p>2-7-32</p> <p>"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A Forest , le 4 juillet 1932 .</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Le directeur délégué, <i>Ernest</i></p> <hr/> <p>(1) Les papiers ne doivent être retirés au porteur, pour être transmis à la Direction générale de la Sûreté publique, que s'il existe des doutes sur leur authenticité ou leur applicabilité au porteur.</p> <p>(2) Indiquer, le cas échéant, qu'il est mis à la disposition de la gendarmerie pour être transféré sommairement à la frontière.</p>
---	---

1932

According to Cesia Suknik's testimony :

" Mayer went in Brussels before 1931 to escape poverty. He tried to work with his brother Szyja but Szyja's mistress did not want Mayer worked for them. So Mayer went back in Poland where his family was very poor."

Mayer's sister, Cesia, who was living in Belgium at the time decided to visit Poland with her

1935

son Karl to see if it was viable to return. These are the earliest photos of Mayer and his family.



Photo from left to right:

Mayer, Cewek (?), Yitzak (?), Charles and his mother Cesia (Suknik), unknown, unknown

Late
1930s

Not much information has come to light about the family in 1930s except these photos.



Meyer and his wife Cesia



Moszek, Yitzak, Cewek and their mother Cesia/Curtla

World War II

- 1939** During the siege of Warsaw on the 10th September 1939, Cesia and Cewel/Srul died whilst living at Panska 40 , Warsaw ^{3 & 4}
- 1940** In October, the Warsaw Ghetto was created and sealed on November 16. Over the next years the population would vary from 380 000 to 440 000 Jews, approximately one third of the population of Warsaw confined to an area of 2.4% of the city.
- 1941** Typhus epidemics and starvation were rampant. 43 000 inhabitants died inside the ghetto, more than one in ten of its residents. An average daily food ration for Jews in the Ghetto was limited to 184 calories, compared to 699 calories allowed for Poles and 2,613 calories for Germans. In August, the rations fell to 177 calories per person.
- August 13th** Moszek died age 23, cause unknown, and was buried at Okopowa Cemetery ⁵


**FOUNDATION FOR DOCUMENTATION
OF JEWISH CEMETERIES IN POLAND**
THE DATABASE OF THE JEWISH CEMETERIES IN POLAND

HOME DATABASE SEARCH TEAM PARTNERS CONTACT 

WYNIKI WYSZUKIWANIA

[back to results »](#)

cemetery	Warszawa (Okopowa)
sector	88
row	10
number	39
sex	M
surname	Suknik
first name	Abram Moszek
hebrew name	Avraham Moshe
fathers name	Meir
husbands name	
maiden name	
date of birth (m/d/y) (m/d/r)	
date of death (m/d/y) (m/d/r)	8/13/1941
additional info	żył lat 23



Mayer opened a bakery at Grzybowska Street but shortly afterwards on 17th November died of typhus.⁹

Dla Wydziału Statystycznego Zarządu Miejskiego w m. Warszawie

KARTA ZGONU – II 5276

Wypełnia lekarz	1. Imię i nazwisko <u>Mayer Jankirk</u>		Niepotrzebne skreślić m. z. 2. Płeć <u>♂</u>
	Dn. <u>17.11.1914</u> r. o godz. <u>12:00</u>		4. Adres (miejsce zgonu z zaznaczeniem: mieszkanie prywatne, szpital, lecznica, przytułek inne) <u>Warszawa Łazienkowska 3/28</u>
Wypełnia rodzina zmarłego wzgl. osoba zajmująca się pogrzebem	5. Warunki mieszkaniowe zmarłego (e) a) Położenie lokalu: suteryna, parter, piętro poddasze; front, oficyna		b) Liczba izb, z których się składał lokal zmarłego (kuchnię wliczać do ogólnej liczby izb)
	6. Jeżeli zmarły (a) był (a) żonaty (zamężna) podać: a) Datę zawarcia małżeństwa		b) Wiek pozostałego przy życiu małżonka
Data <u>17.11.1914</u>		Podpis osoby wypełniającej <u>44</u>	
7. Karty zgonu <u>44632</u>		8. Imiona rodziców <u>K. Mayer</u>	9. Data urodzenia <u>10.11.1894</u>
10. Miejsce urodzenia <u>Warszawa</u>		11. Wyznanie <u>katolickie</u>	
12. Miejsce zamieszkania (dla zamiejscowych) <u>Warszawa Łazienkowska 3/28; ka3-</u>		13. Jak długo przebywał w miejscu zgonu <u>nieznane</u>	
14. Stan cywilny (wolny, małżeński, wdowi, rozwiedziony, inny) <u>wdowiec</u>		15. Dla dzieci do lat 5 ślubne, nieślubne <u>nieślubne</u>	
16. Zawód (dla osób, do lat 15 i osób, będących na strzyżeniu, podać dane, dotycząca osoby utrzymującej: ojca, matki, opiekuna) <u>handlarz</u>		UWAGA: Dla zmarłych cudzoziemców podać ich obywatelstwo: <u>3/28</u>	
Data <u>20.11.14</u>		Podpis Dyrektora Wydz. Ewidencji Ludności <u>Józef Piłkowski</u>	
Pieczeń			

Stat. [4] Z A-5 679

Wypełnia i zakleja lekarz

17. Zasadnicza przyczyna zgonu, wg której przypadek ma być zanotowany w statystyce lekarskiej (jeżeli śmierć gwałtowna to jej charakter: zabójstwo, samobójstwo, wypadek i jakiego rodzaju)

Typhus exanthematicus

18. Choroby współistniejące

Encephalitis typhosa

19. Powikłania

Myocarditis acuta

Broncho-Pneumonia blater

20. Rozpoznanie sekcyjne

Data

17/11/41

Podpis Lekarza

Chosgelert

Pieczętka

Z. CHOSGELERT
Wawa, Miła 49

Warszawa Ghetto Deaths JHI - - Majer Sukenik, born 19-Jun-1897 - Father Josek, mother Marja, widower, - died 17-Nov-41 - address Zamenhofska 3 m. 22, occupation handlarz (tradesman), cause of death - dur plamisty (typhus). [JRI-Poland](#) - Akta 4067, Sygnatur S276, Card Number 47632

At this point Yitzak became the last surviving member of his family.

What follows is his story taken from a number of different sources centered on the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

1941 to 1943

Yitzhak Sukenik (nickname – Koza)

1941

Before the war Yitzhak excelled in metal work at the vocational school at Stawki St. Just before the war when Polish anti-Semitic attacks became more frequent on Warsaw streets he and his friends would go out and protect passerby Jews. Prior to the war he underwent Polish military training, excelling as a marksman and made it to the rank of sergeant. Full of life and courage noted for his good temper and his cheerfulness his friends nicknamed him Koza (goat).

When his older brother died Yitzhak swore vengeance on the Germans. That was his dream until the very end, this happy child always with a smile on his lips became a bitter man bent on revenge.

Member no. 13 was a member of "Ha-Shomer Ha-Tsa'ir" (the young guard) and the "B'rith" regiment. At the start of the war he entered a training farm at Pniewy (Pinne) .

In September, 1941, several members of his group managed to escape the ghetto and attempted to return to their movement training farm near Czestochowa. When they failed in the attempt, they decided to establish an agricultural- training farm on land belonging to a Jew from the town of Zawiercie in the Czestochowa area.

The permit was obtained, and a small group moved to the Żarki farm. The new collective included approximately twenty young adults. For many of the group this experience promised more and better food and possibly preparation for a future life in Palestine. ^{6, 9}

"The Jews of Warsaw, 1939-1943: Ghetto, Underground, Revolt" By Yisrael Gutman
"Destruction and Rebellion of the Jews of Warsaw" by Neustadt Kinge



Five members of the Hashomer Hatzair Zionist collective on their farm in Żarki. Pictured from left to right are: Itzhak Suknik, Amnon Klukowski, Chagit Elster, Avram Zilbersztajn and Lodzia Hamersztajn. ⁷



Pictured from left to right are: Chagit Elster, Amnon Klukowski, Itzhak Suknik, Lodzia Hamersztajn and Avram Zilbersztajn. ⁸

1942

During the spring of 1942, the group was visited by Arie Wilner, a leader of the Warsaw ghetto underground, who talked to them about resistance and self-defense.

Unable to produce enough food to sustain itself, the kibbutz soon disbanded. Most of its members moved into the Czestochowa ghetto, where they continued to live as a collective,⁹ but Yitzak returned to the Warsaw Ghetto and took an active part in "Ha - Shomer ha - Tsa'ir and the Jewish Fighting Organization (Z.O.B).

Yitzak initiated clandestine workshops for manufacturing hand-grenades and fixing small guns. By the end of 1942 he was managing two workshops.

Twice a week a weapons training session was held at the apartment of Lutek Rotblat one of the founders of the Akiva movement and commander of one of its combat regiments.

At one meeting Rotblat returned and with him was a short but firm and agile fellow with an honest and clever face. His nickname was Koza. He belonged to the young guard having previously served at the Polish military as a corporal.

They learned all about the gun, the parts it was made of, names of the parts and so on.

Koza was jolly and witty full of playful words.



Lutek Rotblat

Regarding the safe handling of weapons he said that once a year a "miracle-shot" occurs. This type of shot occurs without the weapon being loaded and with no pressure applied to the trigger.

"If a bullet's ejected from a gun and the one holding it swears on all that is dear to him that he didn't pull the trigger and that he isn't guilty you know that a miracle-shot has occurred."

One night Koza told us that he thought we were knowledgeable enough and so the hour has come for a celebratory shot in our honor. He took his Parabellum aimed it upwards to the ceiling and pulled the trigger.

The room suddenly shook from that first shot and we all stood there wide-eyed with our mouths agape marveling at this wonder. Then we moved on to hand-grenades.¹⁰

"From that flame" מן הדליקה ההיא" by Chaim Primer & Aharon Karmi
"Destruction and Rebellion of the Jews of Warsaw" by Neustadt Kinge

1943

The Germans resumed the deportations called *Aktions*. The previous year over 250 000 Jews from the Ghetto were deported to Treblinka within a 2 month period. By January there were only 50 000 inhabitants left in the Ghetto.

January 18th.

Mordechai Anielewicz (one of the founders and commander of ZOB the Jewish fighting organization) , together with other members of ZOB and ŻZW, decided to act.

Twelve of them joined a group of Jews on their way to the Umschlagplatz, the station square where the Jews were put on the trains to Treblinka.

They attacked the German soldiers on the agreed signal. In the subsequent confusion, some of the people due for deportation managed to escape.

Most of the resistance in the attack died. Anielewicz, who commanded the operation, managed to escape, his life saved by Yitzak throwing two grenades at the SS officers who were pursuing him, one grenade exploded killing two Germans the others ran away. ^{12 & 13}

Possibly relating to the same battle another source wrote

...Despite this a few Germans died that day by the hands of Jewish fighters. Koza-13 the organization's best marksman did exceptionally well killing four Germans. ¹¹



Mordechaj Anielewicz ¹⁵

"The Resistance and the Revolt in the Warsaw Ghetto" - המרי והמרד בגיטו ורשא - by Nachman Blumental & Joseph Karmish

April

Sukenik fought in a combat unit commanded by Mordechai Growas. ³



Mordechai Growas ¹⁶

"Odczytanie listy" ("Reading the List") by Anka Grupińska

May 1

Towards the end of April the revolt reached its climax and so did the destruction inflicted by the enemy.

The fires had destroyed all houses of the ghetto, and the earth was torn up by bombs. May 1, international worker's holiday was approaching ... and we thought of ways to mark the holiday in a manner befitting the circumstances, and we finally decided to do it by a vigorous attack on the enemy.

We usually attacked only by night, but this time we went into battle in broad daylight. We came out and stood amidst ruins, waiting for the enemy to approach .

We saw Germans from a distance, and they saw us too, but misled by the steel helmets and the guns they thought we were German soldiers.

It was that mistake of theirs which enabled us to carry out our plan.

When the right moment came we attacked. Itzhak Sukenik (Koza), a member of Hashomer Hatzair sent a burst of fire at the Germans, felling three of them.

The rest were so taken by surprise that for a while they did not know what to do, then they started to chase us. We moved in the direction of our bunker, leaping from ruin to ruin. It was a long and difficult road which took nearly all dayWe returned to the bunker in the evening.

There were no casualties. We were happy to have celebrated May 1 in a manner befitting Jewish fighters. ¹⁷



Tuvia Borzykowski
Author of
'Between-tumbling-walls'

"Between-tumbling-walls" by Tuvia Borzykowski

May 7

The third week of the revolt marked the beginning of the worst period. In the entire ghetto there was not a single wall left standing to offer us cover.

The Germans had discovered most of the bunkers, and so our last base had gone . There was hardly any food or water left. We were at the end of our tether. ...

The people of 18 Mila Street expected their bunker soon to be discovered though it was the best concealed of all.

Our only hope was that the Germans would not find all the five masked tunnel entrances: this would give us the chance to come out fighting when they entered through one or two.



Mila Street during the War

It was Friday May 7 about 3 in the afternoon when we heard a great deal of movement above our heads:

Germans were walking to and fro with their nailed boots, banging on the ruins with heavy tools ... Our men took positions at the five entrances, ready to shoot ... this lasted 3 hours .

At 6pm the Germans left. Had they discovered the entrances and left to return the next day, or had they left because nothing was found ?

The Chief Command met that evening in order to seek ways of leaving the bunker that night, since coming out would be out of the question after sunrise.

One group was sent to investigate an entrance to the sewer on Smocza Street which led to the "Aryan" side.

Two fighters (Zivia Lubetkin and Hayim Frummer) went to the bunker on 22 Franciszkanska Street to persuade the owners to admit a number of fighters so they could make their own way through the sewer.



Zivia Lubetnik

A third group went out by a different route to seek a possibility of getting over to the Aryan side to contact Yitzhak Zuckerman to send aid.

This group consisted of Aharon Brusnik (Pawel), Itzak Sukenik, Lilka Zimak, Wanda Okhron, Siegfrieda Simson & Hela Schupper .

The group came through the sewer to a place on the Aryan side in Miodowa Street across from Krasinski Park, but fell into an ambush with the German and Polish police at the sewer exit where they were all killed except Hela and Pawel who escaped.

These two were later discovered by the Germans. Pawel was killed but Hela managed to escape and succeeded in reaching Zuckerman^{3, 14}



Hela Schupper²¹



Pawel²⁰

**“Odczytanie listy” (“Reading the List”) by Anka Grupińska
“Kazik, Memoirs of a Warsaw Ghetto Fighter” Simha Rotem**

1943 May 7

Copy

Teletype message

From: The SS and Police Fuehrer in the District of Warsaw

Warsaw, 7 May 1943.

Ref. Nr.: I ab/St/Gr-16 07-Journal Nr. 616/43 secret

Re:Large-scale Ghetto Operation.

To: The Higher SS and Police Fuehrer East, SS-Obergruppenfuehrer and General of Police Krueger-or deputy.

Cracow

Progress of large-scale operation on 7 May 1943, start 1000 hours. The combing-out parties today obtained the following results: 49 dug-outs discovered. Part of the Jews were caught. A considerable, not ascertainable, number of Jews who refused to leave the dug-outs and offered armed resistance were destroyed when the dug-outs were blown up. Altogether 1,019 Jews were caught alive today, 255 shot. The sum total of Jews caught so far rises to 48,342. Today we again encountered armed resistance in several cases, whereby we lost 1 SS man (wounded). We captured 4 pistols of various calibers and some stores of ammunition.

The location of the dug-out used by the so-called select "Party Directorate" is now known. It is to be forced open tomorrow. The Jews testify that they emerge at night to get fresh air, since it is unbearable to stay permanently within the dug-outs owing to the long duration of the operation. On the average the raiding parties shoot 30 to 50 Jews each night. From these statements it was to be inferred that a considerable number of Jews are still underground in the Ghetto. Today we blew up a concrete building which we had not been able to destroy by fire. In this operation we learned that the blowing up of a building is a very lengthy process and takes an enormous amount of explosives. The best and only method for destroying the Jews therefore stir] remains the setting of fires.

Our strength: as on the preceding day. Our losses: 1 Waffen-SS man wounded.

Termination of operation: 2100 hours, will be continued on 8 May 1943 1000 hours.

The SS and Police Fuehrer in the District of Warsaw.

Signed: Stroop

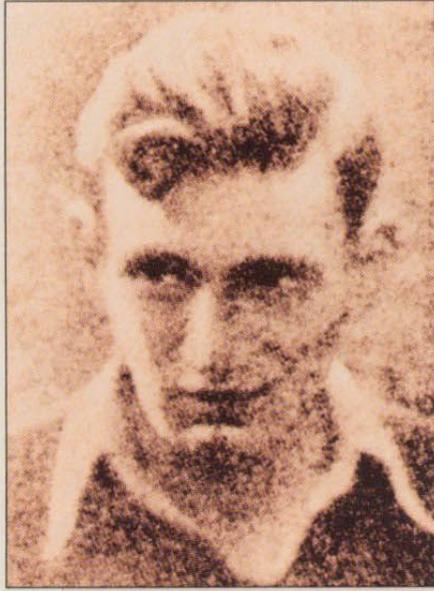
SS-Brigadefuehrer and Major general of Police.

Certified copy:

SS-Sturmbannfuehrer.

The Stroop Report -"The Warsaw Ghetto is no more" ¹⁵

Yitzhak Sukenik (Koza)



A member of Ha'shomer Ha'tzair. He was active in setting up arms workshops in the ghetto. During the uprising, he

excelled as a sniper. In May, he was sent through the sewage pipes to ask for help from the Jewish Fighting Organization in the Aryan sector of Warsaw. He died during a battle with the Germans at the age of 23.

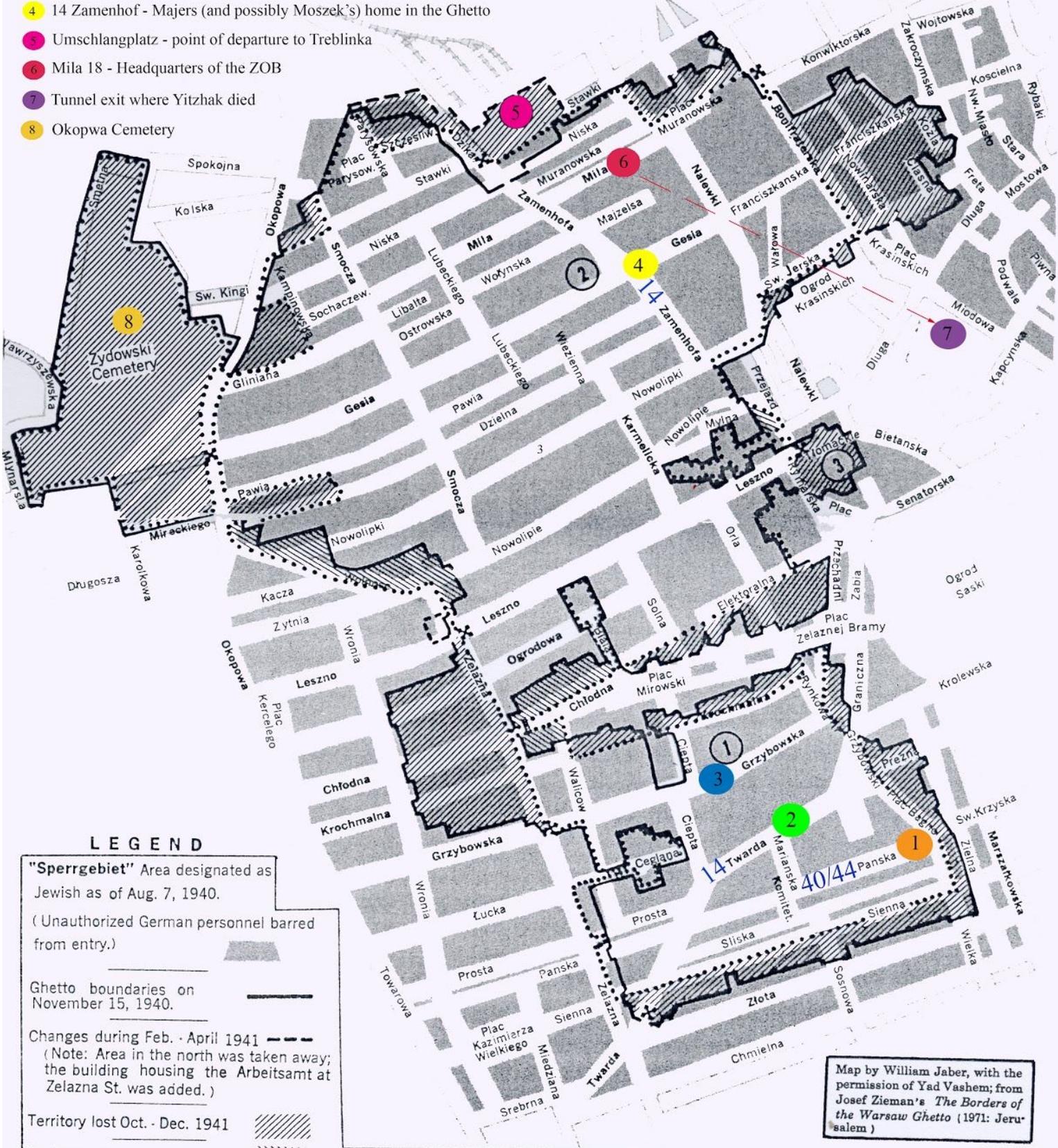
"Brave and Desperate. Warsaw ghetto Uprising"
Beit Lohamei Haghetaot. Ghetto Fighters House Museum.

The WARSAW GHETTO

1940 - 1942



- 1 Panska 40 - Cesia & Cewel died at home during the siege of Warsaw
- 2 Twarde 14 - Pre War - location of the bag factory & home of Cesia Suknik
- 3 Grzybowska Street - Majer's Bakery in 1941
- 4 14 Zamenhof - Majers (and possibly Moszek's) home in the Ghetto
- 5 Umschlangplatz - point of departure to Treblinka
- 6 Mila 18 - Headquarters of the ZOB
- 7 Tunnel exit where Yitzhak died
- 8 Okopwa Cemetery



LEGEND

"Sperrgebiet" Area designated as Jewish as of Aug. 7, 1940.

(Unauthorized German personnel barred from entry.)

Ghetto boundaries on November 15, 1940.

Changes during Feb. - April 1941 (Note: Area in the north was taken away; the building housing the Arbeitsamt at Zelazna St. was added.)

Territory lost Oct. - Dec. 1941

Territory added Oct. - Dec. 1941

Boundary on July 22, 1942.

Ghetto gates ✕
Overpass 🚧

Judenrat headquarters ①
Judenrat prison ②

Tomaka synagogue ③
Umschlangplatz ④

Map by William Jaber, with the permission of Yad Vashem; from Josef Ziemann's *The Borders of the Warsaw Ghetto* (1971: Jerusalem)

References

- 1 Belgian Documents
- 2 [Polish Business Directory](#)
- 3 "Odczytanie listy" ("Reading the List") by Anka Grupińska
- 4 [Yad Vashem Testimony](#) for Cesia, [Yad Vashem Testimony](#) for Srul/Cewel
- 5 http://cemetery.jewish.org.pl/id_28646/info/
- 6 "The Jews of Warsaw, 1939-1943: Ghetto, Underground, Revolt "
By Yisrael Gutman
- 7 [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#)
- 8 [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#)
- 9 "Destruction and Rebellion of the Jews of Warsaw" Neustadt Kinge
- 10 "From that flame" מן הדליקה ההיא by Chaim Primer & Aharon Karmi
- 11 "The Resistance and the Revolt in the Warsaw Ghetto" - המרי והמרד בגיטו ורשא Nachman
Blumental & Joseph Karmish
- 12 [Yitzhak Sukenik Ghettos Fighters House Archives](#)
- 13 Mordechai Anielewicz [Wikipedia](#)
- 14 "Kazik, Memoirs of a Warsaw Ghetto Fighter" Page 163 by Simha Rotem
- 15 [The Strop Report - "The Warsaw Ghetto is no more"](#)
- 16 [Mordechai Growas - Ghettos Fighters House Archives](#)
- 17 "Between-tumbling-walls" by Tuvia Borzykowski
- 20 [Aharon Bryskin \(Pawel\) - Ghettos Fighters House Archives](#)
- 21 [Helen Schupper - Jewish Women's Archive](#)

Acknowledgment for help with this research

[POLIN Museum Warsaw](#)
[The Ghetto Fighters' House](#)
David Rozenblum