

Aaron (Arthur) and Zosia (Sofia) Landes (May God Avenge them) and their late daughters Lena Levanon and Ada Goldshmidt

Aaron Landes was born July 2nd, 1890 in Boryslaw, Galicia. He was the youngest of the four sons of Gedalia (Gustav) Landes and Rachel (Regina) Wahl.

Aaron graduated from high school at the age of 19 and was accepted as a chemistry student at the Lwow Polytechnic Institute. He completed his studies with distinction and started to specialize in the field of oil production. He was hired by the "Galicia" firm in Boryslaw. Later he developed a unique method to produce gasoline from oil without losing its combustion characteristics. The method was patented in the Polish Patents administration and became the standard for gasoline production around the world. In doing so, Aaron boosted the oil production in Boryslaw, a town that was already known as the oil capital of Galicia.

While still in school, Aaron married Zosia Heimberg. Zosia, the oldest of 12 children was born in Drohobycz in 1894, the daughter of lawyer Salomon Heimberg and Malbina Hoch.

Her husband's senior position in the "Galicia" oil firm, allowed Zosia to live comfortably, not working out of her house and she dedicated herself to raising their two daughters, Lena (born 1920) and Ada (born 1924). Aaron, Zosia and their daughters traveled frequently on vacation to spa towns such as Krynica and Skole. Their spacious home in the Wolanka neighborhood in Boryslaw was frequented by the extended family.

When the German army neared the area at the end of June 1941, many friends and relatives fled to the Landes home hoping to find a refuge there as it was far from the town center. However, on July 1st, the Nazis occupied the town. Ukrainian police arrived at the Landes house, searched the home and confiscated valuables and housewares.

That same night Ukrainian police arrived at the house again this time with a name list. They told Aaron to get dressed and follow them for an "inquest". Since the Jews of Boryslaw never witnessed a pogrom, they had no idea about the ensuing danger. Zosia, who did not suspect that her husband was doomed, decided to accompany him to the police station. That was the last time they were seen alive.

Aaron and Zosia Landes were among the first 200 Jews of Boryslaw who were murdered that morning, July 2nd, 1941. The pogrom, committed by a large group of Polish and Ukrainian residents, had the full backing from the local police and Nazi soldiers. Aaron Landes turned 51 years old that same day.

A few days after the pogrom Lena and Ada fled to a relative's home in a neighboring town. In 1942, Lena, Ada and their friend Blanka Burg decided to flee and hide. They adopted false

identities of Christian girls and managed to get to Warsaw where they were able to secure fake identification papers. During the war years they moved from place to place in Galicia working as farm hands for Ukrainians, without uncovering their true Jewish identities.

After the war Lena z"l met Itzhak Levanon in a displaced persons camp in Bayerisch Gmain in Germany where he was on a mission for the Jewish Agency. They married, immigrated to Israel and settled in Kibbutz Mishmar HaSharon. They had three daughters.

Ada z"l married Shemaryahu Goldshmidt (Golan) and they had two daughters.