

Prof. Dr. Józef Lipman (1931): Holocaust Survivor



Professor for petrochemical technology

1941 Takes refuge with Helena Leszczyńska, a Polish woman, during the pogrom

1942 Spends the nights in his father's former sawmill or his uncle's cellar to escape raids in the ghetto

1943 Hidden in the barn of the neighbouring Ukrainian family Popiel from June to October

1943/44 Temporary shelter in the ZAL Borysław; employed with farm work or sharpening spades

1944 The family is hidden for money by a Ukrainian peasant family. The last weeks before the liberation they live in the forest.

1946 Moves to Wałbrzych (Waldenburg) in Poland

1955 Technical University Wrocław: Engineer, Dr. habil. , Professor; numerous scientific publications and patents

Józef Lipman remembers life in Borysław ghetto in 1942:

»Life in the ghetto slowly became hell. When autumn and winter came, rain and frost arrived, and temperatures dropped to minus 15 degrees and even to minus 25 degrees all of which created a devastating and gaping void. Foods and fuel for heating were almost completely missing. Everything eatable or combustible had been eaten or burnt. Tuberculosis, typhus fever and starvation were rampant. On buildings in which people infected with typhus fever lived, a notice of warning could be seen saying "Fleckfieber". When you watched such a house from the outside, it seemed as if the house itself had fallen ill as well: dark windows, closed doors, silence all around and a terrible emptiness. From such a house death was emanating into the outside world. Gravediggers pushed the hearses with their own hands, sometimes a whole family was carried by them. They pushed their hearses down our street several times a day. The most terrible sight however were the children, being on the fringe of society they were begging with subdued voices in their Yiddish language: - lady, give me something to eat, I surely will pray for you. I will never forget this pleading to the day I die.«

source: Lipman, Memories of a lost childhood. Speech made at Görlitz, 2007, page 8