

A P P E N D I X I I I

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A P P E N D I X III

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THE CASE OF BRUNO JOACHIM KATZ

Mr. Semi Katz, a member of the Berlin Jewish Gemeinde, was interviewed at our office on February 20th, 1946, and was informed of his sister's address. Mr. K. was originally sought in Stettin, his home town. After Stettin became part of the Polish occupied territory, he came to Berlin. The tracing request reached us through our Paris office, and reports of his survival were immediately dispatched.

During the interview, Mr. K. requested our help in finding his son Bruno Joachim, born in 1922, who had left Stettin for the United States at the age of 14 and who was being taken care of by persons unknown to the father. The parents had planned to join their son, but this plan was interrupted by the War.

We started our investigation for Bruno Joachim with very meager information. We learned, however, that he lived for a time at Kew Gardens with a man named Darlington, but no personal data, nor any other personalities could be provided by the father. After several letters were sent to different JDC Committees, we contacted Mr. Darlington and sent him a long cable. Mr. Darlington cabled back the address of the teacher of the high-school which Bruno Joachim had attended. We communicated with this teacher who helped us to obtain Bruno Joachim's US Army draft number. We also learned through this teacher that after Bruno Joachim's graduation from highschool he attended special courses for radio technicians, after which he obtained a good position in New Jersey. Through further investigation with the War

Department we learned that Bruno Joachim was a member of the US Army, and we were able to write to him through his former unit which was stationed at Nuremberg/Germany, but failed to receive any response. By further correspondence with the War Department, we learned of T/5 Bruno Joachim Katz' death on May 26th, 1945. Bruno Joachim fought in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. He was a radio technician in his company. Just before he went into the Army, he married a school mate. We contacted her and she communicated with Bruno Joachim's father, mother and sister who survived the war by hiding.

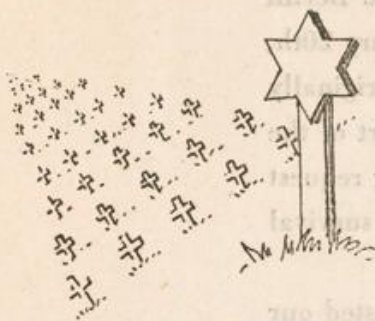
At the end of hostilities, Bruno Joachim and his lieutenant were placed in charge of several villages. He received permission to go to Stettin to search for his parents. On the way to Stettin near Ludwigslust the jeep in which they were riding slipped on the wet road, failed to make a curve and crashed against a tree. The accident occurred only 200—300 miles from his home town Stettin.

Through this office, Mr. and Mrs. Katz received permission to visit their son's grave at the US Military Cemetery at Margraten/Holland, located 10 miles West of Aachen/Germany. The parents brought a photograph from Margraten, displaying a white star of David on the grave of their son, whom they had not seen since he was 14 years old.

THE CASE OF ERNA PODHOLZER

It happens very often that sheer luck assists us in our investigations.

The above named was in constant tears and wanted to be contacted with her brothers in the United States. While she was filling out the usual tracing forms in our office, we were sorting out letters to be checked and distributed by the proper case



workers for further action. Among the letters we found a slip sent to us by one Sergeant Walton, who asked us, on behalf of Walter Lesheim of New York City, to search for Lesheim's sister, known to have been deported from Koenigsberg/East Prussia to Theresienstadt. The name of the sister was Mrs. Erna Podholzer, née Lesheim. Mrs. P. was very astonished when we took her form away, tore it up and instead, handed her the aforementioned letter.



This case was a mere coincidence.

THE CASE OF BORIS JAKOB

A tracing request from Palestine filed by a Mrs. O., née Jakob for Boris Jakob was received in the beginning of May 1946. Our investigation disclosed that Boris J. had been deported with his whole family to an unknown destination in the East on February 19th, 1942. There were a few survivors from this 29th East-Transport, but they were not in a position to give us any information on the above named. At the same time the National Refugees Service in New York City filed a tracing request for Boris Jakob and his family who were reported to have resided under the assumed name of "Schmidt". They gave us their exact address. The same National Refugee Service also informed us that the Jakob family had planned to leave Germany for Sweden and that all their papers had been cleared for emigration. This was done by the Swedish Legation before the War, but the Jakob family did not succeed in leaving Germany.

After some investigation among the neighbors at the address given to us, we learned that the Jakob family was not deported, but was in Berlin late in June 1945 carrying documents under the assumed name of Schmidt. The information in the deportation index appeared because the Jakob family was scheduled to be deported on that date. Checking the official Gestapo listings, we saw their names crossed out and marked with several

question marks. Apparently the Gestapo officials were not entirely sure about the sudden disappearance of the Jakob family.

Persons named Schmidt are very common! in Germany. At the time of our investigation difficulties were encountered and the press and radio could not be used for tracing purposes. We then continued to check the information that the Jakob family had been seen in June 1945 in Berlin-Wannsee. In one of the Berlin-Wannsee hospitals we learned that a Swedish nurse had left Berlin for Stockholm. She was a representative of the Swedish War Help and a member of the Swedish Underground Activity in Germany. After we had finally succeeded in obtaining her address, we cabled to Stockholm and learned that the "Schmidt" family was deported to an internment camp in Krasnogorsk/Soviet Union.

Our communication to the Swedish Government and to the different Swedish organizations engaged in relief work during the war did not bring us any closer. We learned that when the Russians had entered Wannsee, Mr. Jakob told them his story and requested permission to resume his real name, and pleaded with the Russian Military Government in Wannsee to let him and his family go to Sweden. Instead, Mr. J., his wife and daughter were put into jail. They were deported to the Soviet Union under suspicion of being either spies or "refugees from the East".

On August 26th, 1946, a pale and undernourished old man with his wife and daughter who were barefooted and tired, entered our office. He showed us a slip of paper which said in Russian: "Boris Jakob, his wife Trude and daughter Sara are permitted to go to Berlin. All Security Police guards are requested to let them pass."

Cables were immediately dispatched to his relatives. Clothing, food, shelter and medical treatment were given to them by the JDC.

However, to complete this story we want to inform our readers that the Swedish Consulate supplied Mr. J. and



his family with forged papers because they were prospective emigrants. The Jakob-Schmidt family succeeded to survive the Battle of Berlin and after the Russians had taken Berlin, the Swedish Consulate tried to get them to Sweden via Moscow. The request of the Swedish Consulate was approved by the Russian Kommandatura and a transport of neutrals and allied citizens was sent to Moscow, from which point they were to continue their journey to Sweden.

When this transport reached Moscow those aboard the train were suspected of being a group of fleeing fascists and all these allied nationals, including the Jakob-Schmidt family, were put into the Krasnogorsk internment camp. The Jakob-Schmidt family was treated exceptionally bad, as the Russian Security Police had learned that they were travelling under an assumed name. They could not believe that there were Jews alive in Germany. After several months of suffering, hard labor and torture, and after the allied consulates had used pressure on the Moscow officials, the whole group was released. Mrs. Jakob had typhoid when she reached Berlin. Their faces reminded us of those we had seen in Dachau, Buchenwald and Belsen, in May 1945.

THE CASE OF PETER FUCHS

A cooperating relief agency in England requested us to obtain a birth certificate for a little boy who was freed from Theresienstadt and brought to England. The boy, Peter Fuchs, was about to be adopted by an American family and was all set to leave. However, no official papers could be gotten unless documentary evidence was provided as to his exact date and place of birth, and other particulars.

Seemingly the red tape in emigration offices did not recognize the fact that personal data or documents of surviving concentration camp prisoners could not be obtained,

because cities were wiped out during the War and millions of very valuable documents were lost.

Something had to be done about this little boy. It was known that after his parents were deported, he was kept in a children's home. On February 19th, 1943 the child was found by the German Police, sitting on one of the benches in the Tiergarten in Berlin. After it was established that the child was Jewish, they brought him to a children's home.



While comparing notes with the Jewish Gemeinde lists and our deportation index we established the exact date of birth of Peter who was born on October 22nd, 1942. The lists of the Tiergarten police precinct were checked, and we learned of several people deported on the 19th of March 1943 from the Tiergarten area. Among them was a family consisting of a couple and their son. The Gestapo arrest-documents showed that the child had disappeared. It was through this very police precinct that the exact date of deportation and personal data of the Fuchs family were established. Through the registration office we obtained a copy of the birth certificate and passed it on to England.

The parents of Peter did not return from their deportation to Auschwitz.

THE CASE OF ARTHUR BLANK

The Chief Rabbi's Religious Emergency Council in L. requested our assistance in tracing Mr. Arthur B. who was a judge in the Russian Sector of Berlin and who disappeared on January 20th, 1946, according to information sent by his wife, Mrs. B., to her brother-in-law in Pittsburg. After checking with the police we found that Mr. B. had been arrested by a special order of the Russian Security Police. We invited Mrs. B., who lived in the Russian Sector for an interview. We learned that Mr. B., a well-known lawyer, who had been in the Concentration Camp, was given a job by the Board of "Victims of Fascism" as a

presiding judge in the Russian Sector of Berlin. Shortly before his arrest by 3 people in civilian clothes (but with Russian military boots) he had sentenced two people to five years prison as thieves and black market operators. Mr. B. and his wife were threatened with arrest by a high ranking German Police official working in the Russian Sector and holding an important post. This police-official had worked for the Nazi Security Police during the War.

We checked with the German Police in the US Sector, and found this German Police official to be a shady character with an established bad reputation. This police official and the two individuals caught redhanded and sentenced to jail, were employed by the Russian Security Police and were on duty in the British Sector. The British on the other hand, had contacted Judge B. in connection with the Black Market activities and since the two persons arrested lived in the Russian Sector, they were brought to court there. The Russian Security Police believing that Mr. Arthur B. was working against them, arrested and deported him to an unknown destination. As previously mentioned, this occurred on January 20th, 1946.

The case is under investigation by the Allied Kommandatura and Military Governments here since the beginning of 1946. However, no results have as yet been obtained.

THE CASE OF JOSEF BERLOWICZ

At the time when thousands of Jews were fleeing the mass pogroms in Poland, we received a tracing request for Josef Berlowicz, a resident of Kielce. Although our letters to the Polish Military Mission were answered, no results could be obtained through official Polish representatives. A member of the Czestochowa Jewish Community visited Berlin, and we asked him to see to it that our repeated letters be given the necessary attention.



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 Georgetown Jewish Community visited Berlin, and we asked him
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About four weeks later, one of the fleeing Jews from Poland brought us a report of the Czestochowa investigation, and also a few documentary photographs which are appended hereto.

Just before the pogroms started in Kielce, Josef Berlowicz and his family resolved to leave town. They hired a Polish truck which was supposed to bring them to larger Jewish communities, from where they hoped to be able to reach the US Zone of Germany.

The night before their departure, and after they bade their neighbors farewell, several members of the Polish A. K. Movement entered their house at Piratziego 4, robbed them of their possessions (some 30 000 Zlotys) forced them out of their house. They threatened to shoot the Berlowicz family, if they did not pay an additional 10 000 Zlotys. Janka Berlowicz, a relative of Josef, ran to a neighbor and brought back 7 000 Zlotys. The Poles took the money, but shot the family anyhow.

Some 80 Polish armed bandits surrounded a section of the town, occupied the post and police offices and participated in the robbery and killing of several more families.

The Polish driver of the Berlowicz family and one of the neighbors who happened to talk to him were shot too.

The attached photographs were taken by the Polish authorities.

THE CASE OF HANS MILLER

We are fortunate to have cases like the one of Hans Miller which are most gratifying and rewarding to our workers.

Hans left Germany for England on a children's sightseeing transport at the age of 10. His parents who



were in Berlin agreed that he remains in England. He lived in a children's home and studied at a good school. The boy was 17 when the War broke out. These teen-age boys were evacuated to Canada and placed in internment camps because of their German nationality. The above information was already known to us, since it was supplied by the inquirer. The father of Hans M. did not know the exact address of the internment camp in Canada, nor, when he was sent out to England. The search for Hans M. started in December 1946. The exact address and information as to his present whereabouts were given to his father in February 1947. In March, we were visited by a tall, smiling Canadian soldier and his father, who, with a strong British accent, said: "You have done a fine job."

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