

## 0.0002 CHAPTER GUIDE

### *Life & death in a 20<sup>th</sup> Century Jewish Shtetl.*

**BORN: AFTER THE CHMIELNICKI REBELLION OF 1648, A NUMBER OF JEWISH FAMILIES MOVED INTO, A SMALL VILLAGE IN SOUTHERN VOLYN, UKRAINE, CALLED TORCZYN. BY 1765 THE TOWN HAD 640 JEWISH OCCUPANTS.**

**DIED: ON JUNE 22, 1941 NAZI ARMIES ROLLED INTO THE UKRAINE, AND MOST OF TORCZYN'S 1400 JEWISH RESIDENTS WERE CONFINED IN A GHETTO. AT THE END OF AUGUST 1942 THEY WERE TAKEN TO THE JEWISH CEMETARY AND WERE SHOT AND BURIED. THE TOWN'S JEWISH POPULATION WAS NEVER RECONSTITUTED. THE BOOK IS A SERIES OF NARRATIVES.**

#### **GUIDE --**



**MOST OF THE INITIAL ACCOUNTS WERE RELAYED BY MEMBERS OF THE FERDEMAN CLAN—FERDE MEANS HORSE.**

**THEIR GRANDFATHER, SRACHEEL, OWNED A TRIPLEX THAT HAD BEEN IN THE FAMILY FOR A FEW GENERATIONS. HE LIVED IN ONE OF THE APARTMENTS.**



**HE HAD 5 (FIVE) CHILDREN BY HIS FIRST WIFE. -- BAYLA TZEENA.**

**3 BOYS: AARON; SHLOMO MOSHE; ELIYAH;  
2 GIRLS: RACHEL; LEAH**

**AFTER BAYLA DIED SRACHEEL MARRIED A WOMAN NAMED BOSSIE. MUCH BELOVED, SHE CAME WITH CHILDREN FROM AN EARLIER MARRIAGE. ONE OF HER DAUGHTERS,-SHEINDEL, MARRIED SRACHEEL'S SON-- AARON. .**



**SRACHEEL'S SECOND SON, SHLOMO MOSHE, LIVED IN THE BUILDING'S SECOND APARTMENT. HIS WIFE WAS CHIA KAILA MEISTER**



**CHIA'S HALF SISTER, RIFKA JOINED THE TORCZYN FAMILY AFTER HER HUSBAND DIED OF**



**TUBERCULOSIS. A SINGLE WOMAN WITH A SMALL INFANT, SHE WALKED TO TORCZYN WITH HER BABY AND ARRIVED SHORTLY BEFORE THE FIRST WORLD WAR. RIFKA AND HER SON MISHA LIVED WITH CHIA KAILA//SHLOMO MOSHE'S FAMILY FOR MANY YEARS. AND MISHA BECAME THE DE-FACTO "YOUNGEST BROTHER."**

**IN THE 1930'S RIFKA MARRIED RAFUEL, THE SON OF SHLOMO'S SISTER, THEY HAD A SON, AND WERE AMONG THE MANY WHO PERISHED IN THE HOLOCAUST.**



**THE THIRD SON—ELIYAH LIVED IN ONE OF THE APARTMENTS OF SRACHEEL'S HOUSE. HE HAD 5 (FIVE) DAUGHTERS. TWO MOVED TO ARGENTINA IN THE 1930S AND TWO OF THEIR CHILDREN ESTHER AND JOSE MOVED TO THE U.S. IN THE 1960S. THE REMAINDER OF THE ELIYAH FAMILY WAS LIVING IN TORCZYN WHEN THE NAZIS INVADED AND WERE AMONG THE MANY WHO WERE MURDERED IN 1942.**



**ONE OF SRACHEEL'S SONS, AARON, MARRIED BOSSIE'S DAUGHTER, HAD A CHILD, AND WENT TO THE U.S. TO EARN MONEY. YEARS LATER HE RETURNED TO TORCZYN AND TRIED TO MAKE A LIFE, BUT HE DIDN'T SUCCEED. AFTER A FEW YEARS IN THE RUSSIAN SHTETL AARON RETURNED TO AMERICA. THIS TIME HE BROUGHT HIS FAMILY AND TOOK SHLOMO'S OLDEST SON—DAVE--WITH HIM**



**ONE DAUGHTER RACHEL (EHRlich) MARRIED A MAN FROM THE NEARBY TOWN OF ROZHYSHE. THEIR SON ZEV EHRlich MOVED TO TURKISH PALESTINE. ZEV'S SON, RACHEL'S GRANDSON, IS AHOVIA EHRlich. HE LIVES IN AVICHAIL, A MOSHAV IN ISRAEL**



**ONE OF SRACHEEL'S DAUGHTERS, LEAH MARRIED AND STAYED IN TORCHIN. HER SON RAFUEL MARRIED RIFKA, MISHA'S WIDOWED MOTHER.**



**SHLOMO MOSHE AND KAILA HAD 4 SONS: DAVE (DOVID), HARRY (USHER), NEIL (SHMEIL) AND MANUEL (MENDEL). AND TWO DAUGHTERS: SURCA AND FAY. BETWEEN 1900 AND 1939 ALL MANAGED TO MOVE TO THE U.S.**

**THE EARLY CHAPTERS TELL OF LIFE IN THE SHTETL BEFORE 1914.**

**TWO CHAPTERS ARE THE STORY OF ZEV EHRlich, THE COUSIN WHO WENT TO TURKISH PALESTINE AND LATER BECAME A PIONEER IN THE NEW STATE OF ISRAEL**

**SEVERAL CHAPTERS LIFE IN THE SHTETL DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR**

**THE SCENE SHIFTS TO AMERICA DURING THE WAR YEARS AND AFTER THE WAR. TWO OF SHLOMO MOSHE'S SONS, DAVE AND HARRY, NOW LIVED IN AMERICA. THEY WORKED, MARRIED, HAD CHILDREN, AND WHEN POSSIBLE SENT MONEY AND HELPED BRING THE REST OF THE FAMILY TO THE U.S.**

**AFTER THE FIRST WORLD WAR THE WESTERN UKRAINE BECAME PART OF A NEW COUNTRY CALLED POLAND AND TORCHIN BECAME A POLISH SHTETL.**

**A CHAPTER CONTAINS STORIES OF LIFE IN THE SHTETL**

**SHLOMO MOSHE'S NUMBER 2 SON, HARRY (USHER), VISITED THE FAMILY IN EUROPE.**

**ONE BY ONE MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY EMIGRATED TO THE NEW WORLD: NEIL, MANUEL, SURCA, FAVISH, CHIA KAILA, AND FAY EACH HAD A UNIQUE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE.**

**AFTER HE CAME TO THE U.S., BROTHER NEIL MARRIED CLARA, A POLISH TRANSPLANT WITH A UNIQUE STORY.**

**MISHA, THE COUSIN WHO WAS PART OF THE FERDMAN FAMILY REMAINED IN TORCYN AND BECAME A RADICAL ZONIST.**

**IN 1939 THE RUSSIANS OCCUPIED THE UKRAINE AND TORCZYN BECAME A RUSSIAN VILLAGE.**



**MISHA--A POLITICAL ACTIVIST- BECAME A MARKED MAN. HE ESCAPED TO LITHUANIA, BUT WAS UNABLE TO GO FURTHER. HIS LIFE WAS ULTIMATELY SAVED BY THE JAPANESE STATESMAN CHIUNE SUGIHARA. MISHA THEN SPENT THE SECOND WORLD WAR IN SHANGHAI..**



**IN 1941 THE NAZIS INVADED RUSSIA,. MOST OF TORCZYN'S JEWS WERE TRAPPED AND MASSACRED, BUT A FEW.SURVIVED AND WERE ABLE TO TELL THE STORY OF THE SHTETL'S FINAL DAYS. ONE OF THE SURVIVORS WAS HIDDEN A UKRANIAN FAMILY. (PHOTO LEFT)**



**50 MILES WEST OF TORCYN A JEWISH FAMILY IN THE TOWN OF VOLODYMYR VOLYNSKY MANAGED TO SURVIVE. THEIR SONS EVENTUALLY CAME TO THE US**



## **The Bermis CHAPTERS 41-46**

**IN 1932 MANUEL, THE YOUNGEST FERDMAN SON, CAME TO US AND MARRIED SYDINE, A WOMAN WHO WAS BORN AND RAISED IN A SHTETL ON THE POLISH SIDE OF THE BUG RIVER.**

**SYD'S FATHER HAD EMIGRATED TO THE U.S. IN THE EARLY 1900S. AT THE TIME, HER MOTHER, TZIVIA, REFUSED TO COME TO A GODLESS COUNTRY. SHE AND HER CHILDREN STAYED IN POLAND. DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR RETREATING COSSACKS BURNED TZIVIA'S VILLAGE AND SHE AND THE CHILDREN SPENT THE WAR YEARS IN THE HOME OF A RELATIVE WHO LIVED IN THE POLISH TOWN OF HRUBIESOW. AFTER THE WAR TZIVIA DECIDED TO JOIN HER HUSBAND IN AMERICA.**

**CHAPTER 41 THE STORY OF SYD BERMI**



**SYD'S BROTHER SAM WAS BORN IN POLAND AND LIVED IN ST LOUIS.**

**SYD'S SISTER. JANE WS BORN IN THE U.S. AS A YOUNG GIRL SHE ACCOMPANIED HER MOTHER, TZIVIA, WHEN SHE VISITED**



**RELATIVES IN POLAND. TZIVIA'S FAMILY DIED IN THE HOLOCAUST**

**AFTER HER SHTETL WAS BURNED SYD'S MOTHER AND HER CHILDREN WALKED 30 KM TO THE TOWN OF HRUBIESOW AND LIVED WITH RELATIVES. THIRTY YEARS LATER THE PEOPLE THEY ONCE LIVED WITH WERE TAKEN TO AUSCHWITZ AND KILLED. ONE OF THE COUSINS, SHEINDEL GOLDFARB. SURVIVED AND EVENTUALLY MOVED TO ISRAEL.----- SHEINDEL AND AVRAM**





**THE STORY OF SYD'S COUSIN JACK HARTSTEIN'S FAMILY. THEY LIVED IN A DIFFERENT SHTETL AND EMIGRATED TO THE U.S. (JACK AND MERLE)**

## **THE GERMAN JEWS**

**CHAPTER 49: MARION SEIDEMANN'S PARENTS WERE HIDDEN BY RIGHTEOUS GENTILES IN HOLLAND. MARION WAS BORN 6 WEEKS BEFORE THE WAR ENDED—THEN, WHEN SHE WAS AN INFANT, THE HOUSE WAS RAIDED BY THE NAZIS.**



**CHAPTER 52 AND 53 THE SEIDEMANNS OF BOCHUM GERMANY—MANY OF WHOM DIED IN THE HOLOCAST.**

**MARION'S MOTHER WAS A BENJAMIN.**



**CHAPTERS 61 THROUGH 64 TELLS THE STORY OF SOME MEMBERS OF HER FAMILY**

**63 THE FAMILY BENJAMIN**



**65 INGE BELIK A RELATIVE OF MARION'S MOTHER GRETE BENJAMIN WENT TO ENGLAND ON A KINDERTRANSPORT AND POST WAR MOVED TO ISRAEL**

**ONE OF JULIUS' SISTERS, HANAH SURVIVED AND MADE IT TO THE U.S. HANAH SEIDEMANN MARRIED MAX MISHKOVSKI, LATER MISCHOW  
Hannah and Max**



**71 HELGA MISCHOW, MARION'S COUSIN  
72 SENTA CANN, MARION'S COUSIN**



**73 FRED MISCHOW MARION'S COUSIN**



**81, 82, 83 84 HENRY CANN SENTA'S HUSBAND  
85 HILDA HOMER HENRY'S SISTER**

**Henry Hilda and family**



**86: ONE OF MARION'S BEST FRIENDS GROWING UP WAS RUTH SAMUEL. RUTH WAS BORN IN SHANGHAI OF GERMAN JEWS. RUTH'S MOTHER HILDA DECIDED TO GET OUT OF GERMANY AFTR SURVIVING KRISTALLNACHT; THIS IS HILDA'S STORY.**

**IN THIS ARCHIVE I TRIED TO BE TRUE TO THE STORIES,  
RECOLLECTIONS, AND MEMORIES OF MANY PEOPLE. WHEN  
POSSIBLE I USED THEIR WORDS.**