

NAFTALI ALTER

Excerpt of testimony sent to Yad Vashem, Department of "Righteous Among the Nations"

My name is Naftali Alter, born May 25, 1925, and I lived during the war in Ostrowiec. My sister Yochewed, now Shif, also lived in Ostrowiec. When the war broke out, we lived with our parents who had 3 daughters and 2 sons.

My sister Yochewed and I were taken when the war broke out to work in the steel factory. We went back to our home daily after our work. In the first 'action' my sister and I were taken to where we worked before under the supervision of the Germans and Ukrainians. The rest of the family were taken to the death camp Treblinka. We worked all day and at night we returned to the Ghetto that were a few streets that were fenced in.

In January 1943 the second deportation and after the liquidation of the Ghetto, we were taken to barracks that were created near the steel factory and were guarded by the Germans. All the time I was working I was in contact with my sister Yochewed that worked in a different labor camp. At night she was returned to the barracks in the area where I was.

We thought of escaping as we saw that the Russians were advancing, and we knew the Germans would liquidate us. But there were attempts by others to escape to Poles that promised to save them but in the end the Poles revealed them to the Germans or killed them.

My sister had a friend named Henia Kudlowicz and a brother named Shamai, and before the war, they had connections with Poles. We learned they had a connection with a Pole named Henio Malkewich and he helped them with food at no cost and was willing to help them escape from the camp and hide them. The Kudlowicz family wanted me to escape with them and therefore they asked Henio if he can help us escape too and look for a hiding spot for all of us. He agreed and found a hiding spot for all four of us.

In the middle of May, the day they planned to escape, Henio cut the wire of the gate and took each of us, one at a time, on his bike from the camp to the forest. When we were all together, he led us to a home of a farmer that was willing to hide us for money. There we hid for a few months. Henio would come to see how we were doing.

One night, the farmer kicked us out from fear that the Germans may have discovered us. Then, Shamai Kudlowicz went to look for Henio, found him and right away found a new hiding spot with an elderly Pole Holowinski. He came with Shamai with risk of his life near German soldiers. We were stopped by the Germans, but he said we were Folks Deutsche, and we were Germans running away from the Russians.

We were with the elderly Pole a few months where Henio once again helped us with all our requirements. The Polish elderly woman didn't have the nerves for the situation and asked us to leave her home. We returned to the forest and Henio took care of our food and gave us a weapon and looked for a hiding spot with another Polish farmer. He dug a hole in the hayloft but later had to leave due to someone telling the Germans about us. The Germans looked for us but with luck we left just in time.

Henio once again found another hiding spot in a dairy farm, where they dug a hole and brought us food every day until the Russians liberated us.

Henio went with us to the city and took care of all what we needed after the liberation and guarded us because the Poles killed a few Jews in our town [he probably referred to the "Krongold Apartrtment" murders-Avi] ...and my sister Henio saved from Poles that wanted to kill her.

I must say that Henio never requested money from us but provided us food and clothing for the reason of friendship and love of mankind and putting himself and his family in danger.

We apologize that this testimony is late due to family reasons.

Since we were informed the Henio is very sick, we ask you act on this [giving him honor of *Righteous Among the Nations*] as soon as possible.

Signed:

Naftali Alter

Yochewed Alter Shif