

Marcel Drimer

Born May 1, 1934, Drohobycz, Poland

Marcel Drimer was born in Drohobycz, Poland, a small town now part of Ukraine. His father, Jacob, worked as an accountant in a lumber factory while his mother, Laura, raised Marcel and his younger sister, Irena.

When Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939 the town of Drohobycz fell under Soviet control in accordance with the German-Soviet Pact. While Jews were not singled out during this period, Drohobycz was changed into a Soviet town and Marcel was made to go to a Russian kindergarten.

On June 22, 1941 Germany violated the German-Soviet Pact and attacked Soviet territory. Within a few weeks Drohobycz was occupied by German forces. In August 1942 Marcel and his family were forced into the Drohobycz ghetto and lived in one room with little food. Deportations were common and much of Marcel's family was taken from the ghetto to concentration camps where they were systematically murdered. During these times Marcel and his parents hid in secret bunkers in hopes of escaping deportation. Before the liquidation of the ghetto, Marcel's father was able to bribe a guard and the family escaped to Mlynki Szkolnikowe, a small village near their hometown. In August of 1943 a Ukrainian family hid Marcel and eleven other Jews. While originally hidden in the stable, fear of being found caused the family to hide in an underground hole for the remainder of the harsh



winter. Capture by the Nazis would mean death for not only Marcel and his family but also for the family hiding them.

In August of 1944 the Soviet Army liberated Marcel and his family. Due to the hunger and physical deprivation of his time in hiding, Marcel's legs would no longer support his body and he would have to relearn how to walk. During the fall of 1945 Marcel and his family moved to Walbrzych where he finished high school and graduated from engineering college in Wroclaw. In 1961 Marcel moved to the United States.