

Nazwisko GRYNBERG.....

Imiona HERSCHEL..... Pseudonim

Z domu

Data urodzenia 13.05.1915 Miejsowość, kraj ŁOSICE, POLSKA.....

Data śmierci 25.09.2009 Miejsowość, kraj WIELKA BRYTANIA.....

Lat życia 94.....

Adres cmentarza

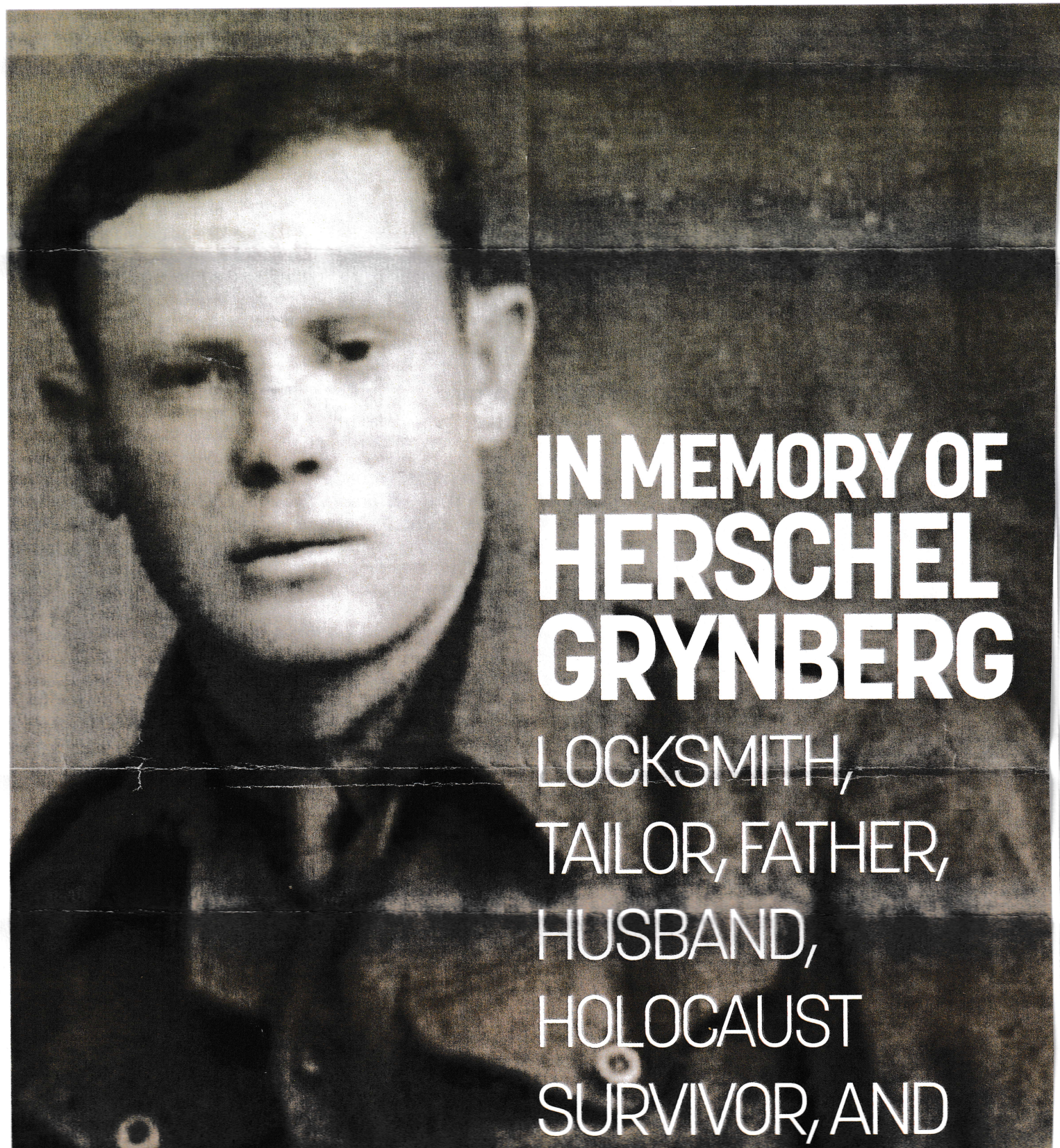
Źródła: MENORAH NR 5782 (2021).....

Zawód SLUSARZ..... Tytuły naukowe

Rodzaj wojska Stopień wojskowy

Odznaczenia

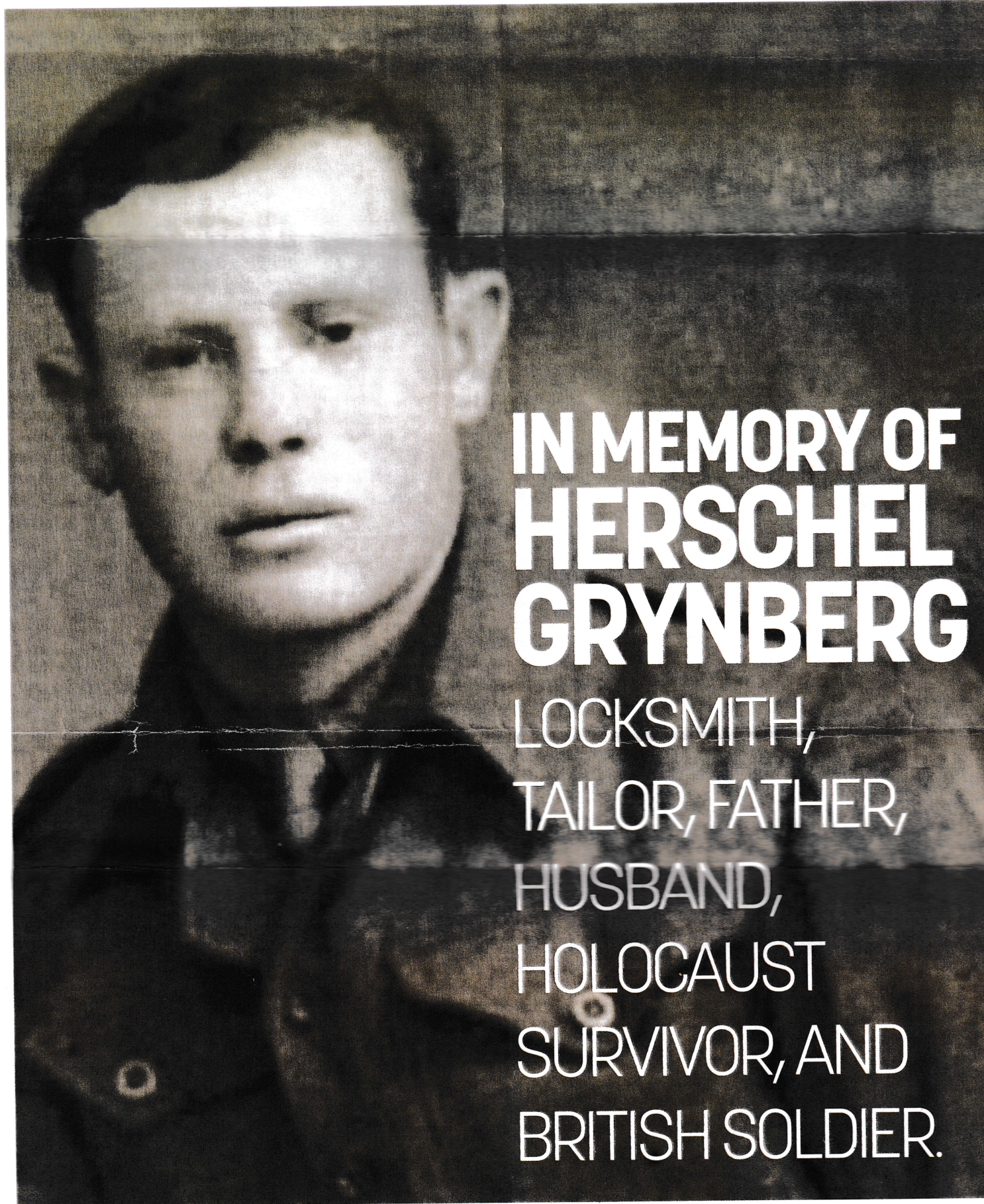
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2. KORPUS - Z SYBERII, PRZEZ EGIPT, POŁUDNIOWĄ AFRYKĘ DO ANGЛИ
PREMIER W. CHURCHILL ZGODZIŁ SIĘ NA WCIĘLENIE BYŁYCH POLSKICH
ŻOŁNIERZY POŁUDOWIA ŻYDOWSKIEGO (DEKERTERÓW) DO ARMII BRYTYJSKIEJ



**IN MEMORY OF
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LOCKSMITH,
TAILOR, FATHER,
HUSBAND,
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IN MEMORY OF HERSCHEL GRYNBERG

LOCKSMITH,
TAILOR, FATHER,
HUSBAND,
HOLOCAUST
SURVIVOR, AND
BRITISH SOLDIER.

By his son Warren Grynbarg

My father, Herschel Grynberg, was born on the 13th May 1915 in the family home in Losice Eastern Poland. My father worked in the Jewish shoe industry in Losice, well known for its fine quality boots and shoes. He then trained as a locksmith.

He had two sisters and two brothers. My father left home on Erev Shabbat in September 1939 as the Nazis were marching into Losice. The last thing his mother said to him was not to travel too far. This was the last time he ever saw his family and Losice, a place of happy childhood memories.

With thousands of other Poles, Jewish and non-Jewish, he crossed the River Bug into the USSR to escape the Nazis. He made his way by train to Bialystok to visit his Uncle Avraham. On the journey he was arrested by the Russian Secret Police (NKVD) and imprisoned as an 'enemy of the state'. He was taken to a prison in Brest Litovsk where he was locked up with thirty-five other prisoners in a cell built for seven.

After a prison number was given to him, he was photographed and fingerprints were taken. With other Polish Jews he was taken by wagon, then cattle-train to a forced labour camp in the remote town of Ukhta. On the four-day journey the only rations they received was salty fish, leaving then with an unbearable thirst because they were given no water to drink.

Work at Ukhta Corrective Labour Camp was gruelling, it consisted of felling trees in waist-high water, cleaning out rivers and building roads. In the summer of 1941 Hitler invaded Russia resulting in General Sikorsky, head of the Free Polish Army, based in London, and General Anders making an agreement with Stalin to release approximately 230,000 deported Poles from the labour camps.

This led to the creation of a Polish army, the Anders' Army. Men left the camps and trained with wooden guns on their shoulders and rags on their feet after which they trekked through Russia and Iran to Palestine. My father and his comrades then went with the Anders' Army through Egypt until they reached South Africa where they guarded Italian prisoners and brought them to prisoner-of-war camps in England and Scotland.



Herschel on the far left in Egypt with The Anders' Army

When they arrived in the UK my father was stationed in a Polish army camp in Galashields, Scotland where he underwent full military training in preparation for D-Day.

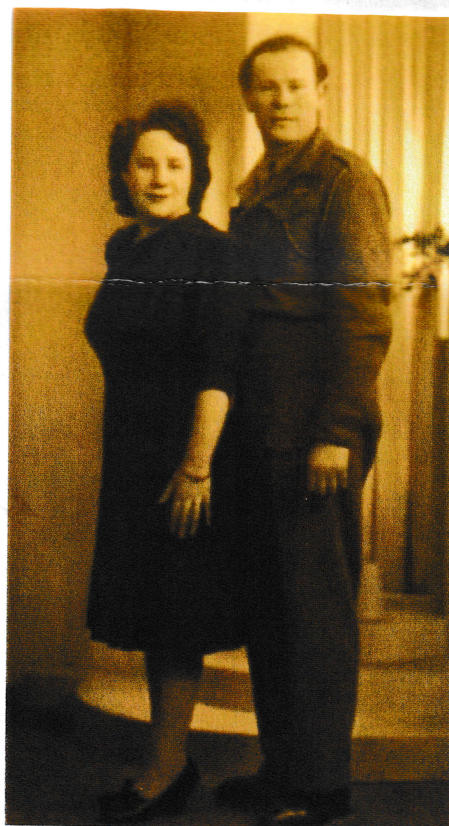
In early 1944 several groups of Polish Jewish soldiers, including my father, went absent-without-leave. My father's group went to London because of serious incidents of anti-Semitism with some of the Poles. Tom Driberg, a sympathetic Member of Parliament agreed to help them. One hundred and fifty soldiers, including my father were met at King's Cross Railway Station and spirited away into hiding. Their hope was to be recruited into the British Army.

After several debates in Parliament Prime Minister Winston Churchill agreed to the Jewish soldiers being transferred en-masse from the Polish Army into the British Army.

My father did not go into the Pioneer Corp as many foreign soldiers did but was conscripted into the Royal Engineers because of his experience as a locksmith. Soon my father was fighting on the Normandy Beaches. He fought through France, Holland and Belgium to Germany where he was stationed until 1946 in the British Army on the Rhine. He was demobbed in 1947 with a good service record.

He had met Rebecca Woolfe, my mother, who had been one of the Zionist helpers at Kings Cross Railway Station.

In 1947 my father was naturalised as a British citizen by the War Office and anglicised his name to Harry, he and Rebecca settled in the East End of London where he worked as a tailor until retirement in 1979.



My mother and father, London 1947

Following the war he did spend many years searching for his family. Records state that on the 24th August 1942 the family were transported to Treblinka with over 6000 other Jews from Losice and the surrounding shtetls. There are no photographs to remind him of his mother, father, brothers and sisters and he has no photographs of his once beloved Losice.

He died peacefully on the 25th September 2009 at the age of 94 years. ■

He fought through France, Holland and Belgium to Germany where he was stationed until 1946 in the British Army on the Rhine. He was demobbed in 1947 with a good service record.