

Bernard Mayer (1928-?)



Psychiatrist

1942/43: Forced Labor in the Drohobycz Municipal Workshops (Städtischen Werkstätten) Drohobycz

Autumn 1942: Sleeping quarters are transferred to the workshops

April 1943: Transferred to Drohobycz forced labor camp

1943/1944: Hides in an bunker under the house of Ukrainian Ivan Bur

August 1944: Liberation; 45 Persons survive in the bunker, among them his mother and brother

1945: Moves to Poland

1947: Emigrates to the USA

1949: Memoirs published under the title „Entombed“

Bernard Mayer on hiding in the bunker:

»Here I was in the finished bunker! The air was so hot that, as I looked around, I saw everyone dressed only in underwear. [...] We were totally isolated from the outside world. Our only contact was with Ivan, who dug up the dirt in the corner of his cellar, lifted the cement plate, and lowered himself into our underground hiding place. Ivan's usual task was to bring a sack of barley, a bag of imitation coffee, and paper for the toilet. [...] Whenever he brought supplies, Ivan told us news about world events and happenings in town. We were especially anxious to know if there were labor camps still left in Drohobycz and what was happening on the eastern front.«

Source: Bernard Mayer: Entombed. My true story. How Forty-Five Jews lived Underground and survived the Holocaust, p. 109, 123