

Ivan Bur (1919-1980)



1942/1943 Bur takes over the house of the Jewish Schwartz family in Drohobycz

1943 Builds a bunker under the house to hide persecuted Jews, among them the Schwartz family

Late 1943 German and Ukrainian police search the house without results

August 1944 Liberation; 45 Personen survive in the bunker

1944: Drafted into the Red Army, takes part in the Battle of Berlin

Ivan Bur was not recognised as „Righteous Among the Nations“ because he demanded payment for the hiding place. He drew personal gain from his deeds and had love affairs with hiding Jewish women.

Bernard Mayer was among those hidden in the bunker. He writes in his memoirs:

»Ivan, at 22 years of age, saw an opportunity to make money and, at the same time, save Jewish lives. He was a risk-taker and the Nazis could have killed him if the Jews had been found in his house. If there had been more risk takers like Ivan, more Jews would have survived the Holocaust.«

source: Bernard Mayer: Entombed. My true story. How Forty-five Jews lived underground and survived the Holocaust. 2. Auflage, S. 208