

## **Maurice Hartstein**

Wartime Experience: Hidden

Maurice Hartstein was born in Paris in January 1935 and lived there with his Polish-born parents. When war broke out, the family sought shelter from the bombings in the Métro, walking on the tracks from one station to another .

Maurice's father was arrested in 1941 and sent to the camp at Pithiviers. Alone, his mother shouldered the burdens of the whole family. Maurice became seriously ill with lung disease and was hospitalised. When his condition worsened, his father obtained a special permit from the camp to visit for two days, pledging to return. He was told that if he did not return on time, no other Jew would ever be issued a similar permit. He respected this commitment, returned to Pithiviers and was deported to Auschwitz in June 1942. Seven months later, Maurice's mother was arrested in a roundup of Jews in a métro station. In March 1943, she was deported to Auschwitz.

That day, Maurice and an aunt were in a café when three French policemen came in to arrest them. Two German soldiers seated at a table motioned to Maurice to come over to them and put him on their knees. A few minutes later, his aunt left with the police. She was sent to Auschwitz and never returned.

Maurice had another narrow escape when he and his grandmother, with whom he was staying, were arrested and put on a bus. A Christian family friend called to him, "Maurice, come with me! You are French!" He jumped off the bus and was taken to Lyon, where he remained hidden for two years, staying in nearby villages and in a Catholic school.

After the war, Maurice returned to Paris. Now an orphan and a ward of the state, he lived in a children's home until he was 18. All the members of his family except for one aunt died in the camps between 1941 and 1943. Maurice eventually made a career in the airline industry. He and his wife live outside Paris with their two children.

The people who saved Maurice during the war have been recognized as Righteous Gentiles by France and Israel.

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### **Des dossiers du Mémorial de la Shoah–Paris**

Maurice HARTSTEIN

Maurice HARTSTEIN né le 27/01/1935 à PARIS de Léon, Aron, Lévy HARSTEIN (POLOGNE) et Jenta IGIELMAN (POLOGNE) émigrés en France en 1923 et 1931.

Fils de déportés. Convoi n° 4 du 25/06/1942 pour mon père depuis Pithiviers pour AUSCHWITZ et Convoi n°46 du 09/02/1943 pour ma mère depuis Drancy, même destination.

Enfant caché

Enfance heureuse dans le quartier de Montmartre. Mon père était bon pianiste, ma mère parlait bien le français. Ils étaient commerçants ambulants sur les marchés de Paris. Le 13/05/1941 mon père est arrêté et conduit au camp de Pithiviers. En janvier 1943, ma mère est arrêtée et conduite immédiatement au camp de Drancy. Ce même mois je suis conduit au commissariat du 18ème arrondissement de Paris puis évacué par un autobus, destination DRANCY. En cours de route je m'évade encouragé par Madame Raymonde, une amie de mes parents. Conduit à LYON, confié à Mme SAIGNEMORTE qui me cachera dans divers lieux du Dauphiné. Juin 1945, retour à PARIS, confié aux bons soins de l'OSE, j'y resterai jusqu'à mes 18 ans. Puis la vie quotidienne, travail, mariage, enfants. Une carrière au SENEGAL dans les transports maritimes puis dans l'aéronautique. Retour en France en 1969.