

Josef Baruhovic And His Gymnasium Class



My father, Haim Baruhovic, in a photo taken outside our home in Pristina after the war sometime during the 1950s.

Before the war, my father took all of our furniture and belongings to an agent in Zagreb to keep during the war.

After the war, the agent thought we would not return, but somehow my father tracked him down.

From the vast number of things we had given him, only a few were returned, including the piano. We brought it to Pristina and then to Belgrade.

After the war, we moved into the remaining house we had in Pristina. A Turkish family was living there but left relatively shortly after our arrival, and we lived there until 1952.

An urban development plan legislated that our house was to be destroyed, and our family was compensated to move out.

When we returned to Pristina after the war we went to synagogue on the holidays. Rabbi Josef Levi was the rabbi in Pristina at the time.

He had two or three helpers who helped with the service and his other duties. Religion and synagogue were not very popular then, but it was not forbidden.

My father continued fasting on Yom Kippur even after the war, but he could not give up smoking even for one day. What he did before the war I do not know.

In 1953 I left for Belgrade to begin my studies and graduated in 1959. My mother and sister followed and then my father in 1958-59 after he retired. He died in Belgrade in 1972.