

Timeline

February 24, 1910	Ruwin and Reska	Joe's parents married in Radom, Poland. Ruwin Rubinsztein (21), from Radom, son of Chaim Rubinsztein and Chaja Fyrman, marries Reska Kierszenblat (18) from Tomaszow, daughter of Mendel Kierszenblat and Ruchla Wajcman. *
Date Unknown	Solomon	Joe's eldest brother, birthdate unknown, dies in childhood before Joe was born.
May 30, 1912	Dawid Anszel	Joe's brother, born in Radom.
September 16, 1920	Chaim	Joe's identical twin brother, born in Radom.
September 16, 1920	Icek Jakub Rubinsztein	"Joe" born in Radom (During the war Joe's name was spelled "Juzek Rubinsztein," after the war "Jozef 'Joe' Rubinstein," in America: Joseph "Joe" Rubinstein). **
August 26, 1923	Abram	Joe's brother, born in Radom.
March 5, 1925	Irene Gusenda	Joe's future wife, born in Lallaing, France.
March 15, 1926	Laja	Joe's sister, born in Radom.
December 1926*	Ruwin Rubinsztein	Joe's father passes away. (Joe believes his father died in December. The exact year is unknown.)

- August 23, 1939** Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact signed between Germany and the Soviet Union, allowing Germany to invade Poland without interference and agreeing to later divide and annex Poland between them.
- September 1, 1939** Germany invades Poland.
- September 3, 1939** Britain and France declare war on Germany.
- September 8, 1939** Nazi march on Radom.
- September 17, 1939** The Soviet Union invaded eastern Poland.
- September 27, 1939** Warsaw (Poland's Capitol) surrendered to the Germans.
- October 1939** Germany annexed former Polish territories. Poland divided between the Germans and the Soviets.
- September 1940** Joe and his brother Abram are sent to a forced labor camp to dig trenches in Cieszanów, Poland. Joe returns to Radom in the fall after getting ill, followed later by his brother.
- April 7, 1941** Radom Ghetto gates are closed, imprisoning all area Jews.
- December 7, 1941** Japan attacks Pearl Harbor.
- December 8, 1941** United States declares war on Japan.
- Dec 11, 1941** Germany and Italy declare war on the United States.
- Dec 13, 1941** Hungary and Bulgaria declare war on the United States.
- Date Unknown** Between April 7, 1941 – April 30, 1942, Joe is taken from his home by the Nazis.
- April 28, 1942** Nazis conduct a major raid on the Radom Ghetto where many men are taken from their homes and sent to Auschwitz. c
- April 30, 1942** Joe arrives at Auschwitz-Birkenau, (Poland) assigned #34207.

August 5, 1942	The small ghetto in Radom, the Glinice district, is “liquidated.”
Aug. 6–17, 1942	The larger ghetto in Radom in the Śródmieście district is “liquidated.”
Date Unknown	Joe is transferred to Jawischowitz sub-camp and the Brzeszcze Coal Mine (under Auschwitz authority) where he worked as a coal miner. He later worked as a doctor’s assistant in a hospital treating coal miners.
October 10, 1944	Joe is treated at a hospital for a gastrointestinal illness.
June, 1944	Joe is transported from the Auschwitz controlled area to the Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany, assigned #117.666, and worked at a rock quarry there.
January 22, 1945	Joe leaves Buchenwald on “Transport S III.”
January 24, 1945	Joe arrived at the Ohrdruf concentration camp, Germany (under Buchenwald authority).
Date Unknown	Joe sent to a heavily fortified, underground artillery camp, possibly Dora-Mittelbau (Dora-Nordhausen or Nordhausen).
April 6-21, 1945	Joe arrives at Theresienstadt ghetto camp in Czechoslovakia. (Estimated date.)
May 5 -6, 1945	SS Commandant Rahm and the rest of the SS abandon camp.
May 6, 1945	Joe walked out of the Theresienstadt camp/ghetto to freedom. (Estimated date.)
May 9, 1945	Soviet troops take control of the camp.
May 1945	Joe moves to Duisburg-Hamborn, Germany where he meets his future wife.
September 27, 1947	Joe and Irene are married in Duisburg-Hamborn.
May 27, 1949	Joe and Irene’s son Chaim-Moni is born.

September 26, 1950 Joe, Irene, and their son leave Germany for America.

1965 Seven Jews reside in Radom, Poland. * * *

* Joe believed his mother was from Radom. Her marriage certificate lists Tomaszow, Poland. It is unclear if that was her place of birth or where she was living at the time of her marriage. Her parents lived in Radom when Joe was growing up.

** Throughout his life, Joe believed his birthday to be October 15, 1922. All documents from his time in the various concentration camps, including his Buchenwald information form, his resettlement processing center form in Wentforf for displaced persons, and the ship manifest, lists his birthdate as either October 15, 1922 or October 15, 1920. After the war, Joe obtained a copy of his birth certificate from Radom (one that had likely been re-copied by hand) stating that his birthday (and that of his twin Chaim) was actually two years earlier. It is uncertain which date is accurate. The September 16, 1920 birthdate is the one that Joe has since used. If Joe was born in 1922 instead of 1920, it would explain why he repeatedly talked about being a teenager when he was taken; i.e., he would have been 19 when he arrived at Auschwitz on April 30, 1942, rather than 21, the age he would have been if the September 1920 date was accurate. Family birth certificates sent from Radom show that Joe had another sibling, born May 3, 1917, named Szyja. Joe does not know anything about this sibling. Either the information on the re-copied birth certificate was inaccurate, or it is possible this was another of Joe's siblings that died before he was born (perhaps even shortly after birth). We do not have a birth certificate of the eldest son Solomon who passed away before Joe was born.

*** According to the Radom Regional Commission, 380,000 Jews from the entire Radom District lost their lives during the German occupation. A few hundred Jews settled in Radom for a short time after World War II, but soon left due to the hostility of the Polish population. By 1965, only seven Jews resided there.^{1,2}

Timeline Information Sources:

1. Stefan Krakowski. *Encyclopaedia Judaica*. © 2008 The Gale Group. Last accessed: September 10, 2014.

2. Pinkas Halpern, index; A. Rutkowski, in: B'ZIH, 15–16 (1955), 75–182; 17–18 (1956), 106–8; Sefer Milhamot ha-Getta'ot (19542), index; Sefer Radom (1961), a memorial book published in Hebrew and Yiddish.