

MOSHE ZWI SHAMIR

BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE



Moshe Zwi Shamir was born on April 17, 1922, in Cernăuți, Romania (now Chernivtsi, Ukraine) to Orthodox Jewish Parents Rifka and Avraham Schmucker. Moshe attended a four-grade Yiddish school, was a member of the Gordonia Zionist youth movement, and sang in the Jewish Choral Temple choir. He started apprenticeship in a haberdashery store at the age of twelve. During World War II, Cernăuți was under Soviet and German occupation. During German occupation, he was in six ghettos and two concentration camps. After the war, he joined a Zionist resettlement training program and prepared to immigrate to British Mandatory Palestine. In December 1947, the ship he was taking to British Mandatory Palestine was seized by the British border patrol; all of the passengers were interned

in Cyprus. After he was released from the internment camp, Moshe made his way to the newly established state of Israel. He worked for the Mossad (the national intelligence agency) and in 1954, he married Judith Klein. The couple had two sons, Avichai and David, and two grandchildren. The interview was conducted on November 2, 1998 in Netanya, Israel.