

Laszlo And Jozsef Nussbaum



Two of my uncles are in the picture: the eldest, Laszlo Nussbaum, and the one born after my father, whose name was Jozsef Nussbaum. Actually only these two survived World War II. My father didn't come back from Buchenwald, and the youngest brother who lived in Budapest, died in forced labor in Ukraine. The photo was probably taken in 1945 when the two brothers supposedly met in Paris. The eldest brother in Paris lived a bohemian life. He lectured at the Sorbonne and he had a lot of money. For example he went to Nice for the summer holidays and he spent all his money there. It happened that my father didn't receive any letters from him for a long time, and then a letter came from Zanzibar or somewhere that he didn't have funds to get back to Paris and he wanted them to send money. He never got married. But he had partners until the end of his life. He had no Jewish girlfriends but he didn't change his Jewish religion. He is buried in the Jewish part of a cemetery in Paris. The third brother was a doctor until 1937 in Germany, but in 1937 the situation was unbearable. He stayed two more years, until 1939, and then he went to London. Refugees from all over the world were gathering in London. He couldn't be a doctor there, but he had a brilliant idea: one couldn't go to America just like that, so he had one chance: to get married to somebody. He just took out the phonebook and called somebody up - I only found this out later. He called mostly women with nice names and he told them his intentions frankly. In the end somebody went along with it. He fled with an American woman to New Jersey, near New York. This was about 1940-41. He couldn't be a doctor yet, because he would have needed to have his diploma acknowledged. In the meantime, America entered the war in 1942. He attested immediately as a volunteer - as I found out later - because he would have been drafted anyway, but he needed to be a volunteer in order to obtain American citizenship faster. There he could be a doctor, in the war his diploma was acknowledged. He returned to America after the war and worked as a doctor until he died. He lived with his wife; they had no children. He died in San Antonio in 1981.