

Yakov Springer

June 10, 1921, Kalisz, Poland – September 6, 1972, Fürstenfeldbruck

Yakov Springer was the only member of his family to survive the Holocaust. His parents and siblings were deported to the *Litzmannstadt* Ghetto in occupied Poland and subsequently murdered, while he was able to flee to the Soviet Union.

He returned to Poland after the war, married in 1951 and had two children. He studied sports in Warsaw and later worked in the sport ministry's department of heavy athletics.

In 1957, the young family emigrated to Israel because of the antisemitic climate in Poland. There Springer established weightlifting as an athletic discipline and worked as a sports teacher.

In Munich, the experienced referee took part in his third Olympic Games for the Israeli team. His assignment there would have been finished on September 6.

Yakov Springer died in Fürstenfeldbruck as a result of his bullet wounds.

2 Yakov Springer (2nd from right) with his wife Shoshana, her mother, her brother and her sister (left to right), Pieszyce, Poland, ca. 1950

3 Yakov Springer (center) as a coach at the national *Wingate* sports center, Netanya, Israel, 1959

1 Yakov Springer as a referee, ca. 1960

4 The passport with which Yakov Springer traveled to Munich, Tel Aviv, August 25, 1969

“Sports teacher”