

Jacob (Jack) Beverstein

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After graduating in medicine at Bologna in 1938, Jacob Beverstein emigrated to Great Britain, and then embarked for Canada in 1940 with his step-brother Lothar.

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From Germany to Italy

Jacob was born in 1912 in Wenkheim, a small village near Würzburg, the son of Hugo, a butcher, and Selma Heymann. His mother died in 1918, whereas his father was deported from the Warsaw ghetto and did not survive the Holocaust¹. Jacob attended the Oberrealschule in Halberstadt, Saxony, and in 1932 he enrolled at the Faculty of Medicine in the University of Berlin, where he completed the first year course; in the academic year 1933-34 he transferred to Florence, where he studied up to year five, with an interval at Leipzig in year three; lastly he moved to Bologna for his final year and graduated on 11 July 1938 with a dissertation on the clinical usefulness of bronchography («L'utilità clinica della broncografia»), receiving a mark of 110. From July 1938 to January 1939 he held an internship at the Ospedale di San Giovanni in Persiceto and in Imola².

The emigration trail

He then emigrated to Great Britain: leaving Genoa on the Johan De Witt, a ship of the Nederland Royal Mail Line, he arrived in Southampton on 29 March 1939³. He was placed in Kitchener Camp, at Sandwich in Kent, a camp

1 Cf. *Stern & Löbl Families Database* <<http://sternmail.co.uk>> (accessed 31 March 2019); *The Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names, ad nomen* <<https://yvng.yadvashem.org>> (accessed 31 March 2019). Hugo Beverstein was born in 1882 in Bevern, near Holzminden.

2 Cfr. the materials in ASUFI, AC, SS, f. «Beverstein Jacob»; ASUBo, *Archivio studenti, Medicina e chirurgia*, f. 10644, «Beverstein Jacob». Cf. also *Jüdische Studierende an der Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität zu Berlin 1933 bis 1938* <<https://www.hu-berlin.de>>.

3 UK National Archives, Kew, *Board of Trade. Commercial and Statistical Department and*

used for Jewish refugees⁴. With the onset of World War II, he was released on 14 December from internment as an enemy alien, since he was now a refugee; he moved to Ferring, in West Sussex, seeking work. On 3 July 1940 he set sail for Canada on the Ettrick, in the company of his brother Lothar (1921-2016), whom he had met again in London; their sister Ella Beverstein Kuvelmann (1914-2002) was living in Long Island⁵. He first settled in Toronto; in 1945 he appears to be working as a doctor at St Joseph's Hospital in London, Ontario; he later transferred to York, in the same area, where he worked as a surgeon⁶. Jacob married the Englishwoman Hope Nation (1914-2007), with whom he had two children. He died of a heart attack in 1983⁷.

Archive sources

- ASUBo, *Archivio studenti, Medicina e chirurgia*, f. 10644, «Beverstein Jacob».
- ASUFi, AC, SS, f. «Beverstein Jacob».
- *The Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names, ad nomen* <<https://yvng.yadvashem.org>>.
- *Jüdische Studierende an der Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität zu Berlin 1933 bis 1938* <<https://www.hu-berlin.de>>.
- Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa, *Voters Lists, Federal Elections, 1935-1980*, R1003-6-3-E (RG113-B).

successors. Inwards Passenger Lists, BT26, 1183, *ad nomen*.

4 This information is contained in the page dedicated to Beverstein in <<https://www.ancestry.com>> (accessed 31 March 2019).

5 UK National Archives, Kew, *WW2 Internees (Aliens) Index Cards 1939-1947*, HO 396/107, *Canada Internees 1939-1942: A-B, ad nomen*; The National Archives at Washington (DC), *Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1787-2004*, M1480, *Manifests of Alien Arrivals at Buffalo, Lewiston, Niagara Falls, and Rochester, New York, 1902-1954*, Roll 6, *ad nomen* (available online at <<https://www.ancestry.com>>). On Lothar, cf. the personal page in <<https://www.ancestry.com>> (accessed 31 March 2019) and the interview in USCSF, *Visual History Archive*.

6 Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa, *Voters Lists, Federal Elections, 1935-1980*, R1003-6-3-E (RG113-B).

7 Cf. the page dedicated to Beverstein in <<https://www.ancestry.com>> (accessed 31 March 2019).

- The National Archives at Washington (DC), *Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1787-2004, M1480, Manifests of Alien Arrivals at Buffalo, Lewiston, Niagara Falls, and Rochester, New York, 1902-1954, Roll 6, ad nomen.*
- UK National Archives, Kew, *Board of Trade. Commercial and Statistical Department and successors. Inwards Passenger Lists.* BT26, 1183, *ad nomen.*
- UK National Archives, Kew, *WW2 Internees (Aliens) Index Cards 1939-1947*, HO 396/107, *Canada Internees 1939-1942: A-B, ad nomen.*
- Page dedicated to Jacob Beverstein in <<https://www.ancestry.com>>.
- Stern & Löbl Families Database <<http://sternmail.co.uk>>.

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