



## **LEWIN, Werner**

Werner Lewin was born in 1921 in Potsdam, Germany to a wealthy family. In 1938, during Kristallnacht, he and his brother were saved by the heavy weight champion boxer Max Schmeling. The Lewins fled to Shanghai and remained there during the war years till their immigration to San Francisco in 1946. The Lewins became successful hoteliers, and partnered closely with the Hilton Hotels group.

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Interview date: 2010/04/17

Keyword: Hongkew Ghetto, Jews, Shanghai, WWII

Narrates his childhood in Potsdam, Germany, and his experience during the Kristallnacht in 1938, when he was saved by champion boxer Max Schmeling in the Excelsior Hotel. Recounts the family's move and subsequent livelihood in Shanghai and in the Hongkew Ghetto. Also discusses Hilton Hotels and the hotel industry in general.

Interviewer: Amelia Allsop

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