

Max Litwin

May 24, 1911 – February 18, 1995

World War II

VA



**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**

National Cemetery
Administration



**Department
of History**

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Max Litwin (May 24, 1911–February 18, 1995)

By Sarah Schneider

Early Life: Family and Immigration to Providence, Rhode Island

Max Litwin was born on May 24, 1911 in Poland to Joseph Litwin and Fannie Litwin, née Mlawski.¹ Joseph Litwin immigrated to the US in 1914, most likely to establish himself in the US and earn enough money to bring over the rest of his family. In 1921, Litwin, his mother, and Litwin's siblings - an older sister, Sarah, and two younger sisters, Matilda and Helen - joined their father in the United States.² After the family settled in the US, Litwin's brothers Paul and Alfred were born.³ By 1930, the family of eight was living in Providence, Rhode Island where Joseph Litwin worked as a salesman at a furniture store, as is seen here on the 1930 US Census.⁴

A Jewish family, the Litwins were part of a wave of Eastern European Jewish immigrants who settled in Providence, Rhode Island in the late 1800s and early 1900s, when there was a “250 percent” surge in the state's population due to industrialization and the surge of manufacturing jobs. Much of this economic activity centered in Providence, which attracted Jewish and Italian immigrants in particular. By 1915, about two-thirds of Providence residents were immigrants or first-generation Americans. That same year, there were over 8,000 Eastern European Jews in the city.⁵

In the 1930s, Litwin lived and worked as an insurance agent and salesman in Providence.⁶ Litwin's father died in 1939, as is noted here in a 1941 City Directory, leaving Fannie Litwin to take care of the family.⁷ In 1940, four of Litwin's siblings still lived at home, while Sarah worked as a secretary and Matilda worked as a social worker in order to contribute to the family income.⁸ In 1940, Litwin married Edith Fine; the couple lived with Litwin's father-in-law in Providence.⁹ That year, Litwin worked as a salesman for a retail roofing company and his wife worked as a stenographer.¹⁰

Service in the US Army during World War II

On May 18, 1943, Litwin's brother Alfred enlisted in the US Army.¹¹ Litwin entered the military a few months later on August 17, 1943 at the age of thirty-two.¹² Jewish men such as Max and Alfred Litwin comprised about eight percent of those serving in the US military during World War II, "about twice their proportion to the population as a whole."¹³ Additionally, about 340,000 Jewish women served as nurses or in other roles in the US military during the war.¹⁴ Despite the discrimination and anti-Semitism that many Jews faced in the military, "military service had empowered Jews as Americans and as Jews" and many American Jewish soldiers were optimistic that the US would strive towards its purported values of democracy and equality.¹⁵ Before Litwin's service ended on September 14, 1944, he rose to the rank of Private First Class in the US Army.¹⁶

Post-Service Life and Work in Miami, Florida

Litwin may have worked in Miami, Florida soon after his military service.¹⁷ In the post-war period, Miami was one of the "fastest-growing Jewish communities" in the country, and Litwin may have been part of this movement of Jews to the sunbelt.¹⁸ From February to April of 1945 a Max Litwin posted in the *Jewish Floridian* newspaper about a business called "Hotel Roberts Tailors."¹⁹ The postings in the newspaper originally listed Litwin as being in business with Morris Enzer, but by April, Litwin is listed as the sole owner.²⁰ There was a Hotel Roberts in Miami, so the business probably provided tailoring services in the hotel or at a location nearby.²¹ There is not enough information to know for sure that this is the same Max Litwin, but it is likely that he ran the business.

Litwin ultimately lived on Bay Harbor Island in Florida's Miami-Dade County.²² At least three other Litwin siblings, Matilda, Sarah, and Alfred Litwin, also moved to South Florida.²³ Sarah and Matilda Litwin moved to Florida in the 1970s and were actively involved in the Jewish communities of Rhode Island and Florida throughout their lives.²⁴ Litwin may have had a similarly strong connection to his Jewish identity and the Jewish community. He died at the age of eighty-three on February 18, 1995 in Florida.²⁵ A memorial marker at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida pays tribute to his life and service.²⁶

Endnotes

1 “U.S. Veterans Gravesites, ca. 1775-2006,” database, *Ancestry.com*, <https://www.ancestry.com> (accessed June 12, 2017), entry for Max Litwin, Florida National Cemetery.; “1930 United States Federal Census,” database, *Ancestry.com*, <https://www.ancestry.com> (accessed June 12, 2017), entry for Max Litwin, Providence, Providence, RI.; “Matilda R. Litwin,” *The Providence Journal*, November 11, 1989, page A-09, NewsBank.

2 “1930 United States Federal Census,” database, *Ancestry.com*, <https://www.ancestry.com> (accessed June 12, 2017), entry for Max Litwin, Providence, Providence, RI.

3 *Ibid.*, “Rhode Island, State Censuses, 1865-1935,” database, *Ancestry.com*, <https://www.ancestry.com> (accessed July 18, 2017), entry for Max Letwin sic, Providence, RI, Ward 2. Note: The 1925 Rhode Island State Census lists the youngest brother as “Abraham,” but it appears to be referring to Alfred Litwin.

4 “1930 United States Federal Census,” database, *Ancestry.com*, <https://www.ancestry.com> (accessed June 12, 2017), entry for Max Litwin, Providence, Providence, RI.

5 *Ibid.*, 9-11, 16.

6 “Rhode Island, State Censuses, 1865-1935,” database, *Ancestry.com*, <https://www.ancestry.com> (accessed June 12, 2017), entry for Max Litwin, Providence, RI, 1935.; “U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995,” database, *Ancestry.com*, <https://www.ancestry.com> (accessed July 19, 2017), entry for Max Litwin, Providence, RI, 1937.

7 “U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995,” database, *Ancestry.com*, <https://www.ancestry.com> (accessed July 19, 2017), entry for Edith Litwin, Providence, RI, 1941.; “Rhode Island Deaths and Burials, 1802-1950,” database, *FamilySearch.org*, <https://familysearch.org> (accessed July 17, 2017), entry for Joseph Litwin sic.

8 “United States Census, 1940,” database, *FamilySearch.org*, <https://www.familysearch.org> (accessed July 17, 2017), entry for Fannie Litwin, Ward 3, Providence, RI.

9 “1940 United States Federal Census,” database, *Ancestry.com*, <https://www.ancestry.com> (accessed June 12, 2017), entry for Max Litwin, Providence, RI.

10 *Ibid.*

11 “United States World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946,” database, *FamilySearch.org*, <https://familysearch.org> (accessed July 17, 2017), entry for Alfred I. Litwin, Providence, RI.

12 “U.S. Veterans Gravesites, ca. 1775-2006,” database, *Ancestry.com*, <https://www.ancestry.com> (accessed June 12, 2017), entry for Max Litwin, Florida National Cemetery.

13 Hasia R. Diner, *The Jews of the United States, 1654 to 2000* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2004), 221.

14 *Ibid.*

15 Deborah Dash Moore, *GI Jews: How World War II Changed a Generation* (Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2004), 259.

16 “U.S. Veterans Gravesites, ca. 1775-2006,” database, *Ancestry.com*, <https://www.ancestry.com> (accessed June 12, 2017), entry for Max Litwin, Florida National Cemetery.; “U.S., Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File, 1850-2010,” database, *Ancestry.com*, <https://www.ancestry.com> (accessed June 12, 2017), entry for Max Litwin.

17 “Legal Notices,” *The Jewish Floridian*, February 16, 1945, page 5, University of Florida Digital Collections, <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00010090/00889/6x?search=max+litwin>.

18 Edward S. Shapiro, *A Time for Healing: American Jewry Since World War II* (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992), 134.

19 “Legal Notices,” *The Jewish Floridian*, February 16, 1945, page 5, <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00010090/00889/6x?search=max+litwin>.; “Legal Notices,” *The Jewish Floridian*, March 2, 1945, page 6, University of Florida Digital Collections, <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00010090/00891/6x?search=litwin>.; “Legal Notices,” *The Jewish Floridian*, April 20, 1945, page 6, University of Florida Digital Collections, <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00010090/00898/6x?search=litwin>.

20 Ibid.

21 W.A. Fishbaugh, *Hotel Roberts on West Flagler Street - Miami, Florida*, 1921, Photograph, State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, <https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/40352> (accessed July 18, 2017).

22 “Local...Litwin, Max,” *The Miami Herald*, February 22, 1995, page 4b, NewsBank.

23 “Matilda R. Litwin,” *The Providence Journal*, November 11, 1989, page A-09, NewsBank.; “Sarah Litwin,” *The Providence Journal*, May 11, 1990, page C-02, NewsBank.; “Area Deaths...Litwin, Alfred I.,” *The Palm Beach Post*, April 13, 2006, page 9B, NewsBank.

24 “Matilda R. Litwin,” *The Providence Journal*, November 11, 1989, page A-09, NewsBank.; “Sarah Litwin,” *The Providence Journal*, May 11, 1990, page C-02, NewsBank.

25 “Local...Litwin, Max,” *The Miami Herald*, February 22, 1995, page 4b, NewsBank.; “U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014,” database, *Ancestry.com*, <https://www.ancestry.com> (accessed June 12, 2017), entry for Max Litwin, Miami, 33154, Miami-Dade, FL.

26 “U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current,” database, *Ancestry.com*, <https://www.ancestry.com> (accessed June 12, 2017), entry for Max Litwin, Bushnell, Sumter County, FL.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
PLACE OR ABODE	NAME	RELATION	Sex	Personal Description	Color or race	Age at last birthday	MAJORITY	CITIZENSHIP		
342	15	11	Male	White	White	34	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	34
341	14	11	Female	White	White	33	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	33
340	13	11	Female	White	White	32	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	32
339	12	11	Female	White	White	31	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	31
338	11	11	Female	White	White	30	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	30
337	10	11	Female	White	White	29	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	29
336	9	11	Female	White	White	28	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	28
335	8	11	Female	White	White	27	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	27
334	7	11	Female	White	White	26	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	26
333	6	11	Female	White	White	25	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	25
332	5	11	Female	White	White	24	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	24
331	4	11	Female	White	White	23	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	23
330	3	11	Female	White	White	22	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	22
329	2	11	Female	White	White	21	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	21
328	1	11	Female	White	White	20	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
PLACE OR ABODE	NAME	RELATION	Sex	Personal Description	Color or race	Age at last birthday	MAJORITY	CITIZENSHIP		
342	16	11	Male	White	White	38	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	38
341	15	11	Female	White	White	37	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	37
340	14	11	Female	White	White	36	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	36
339	13	11	Female	White	White	35	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	35
338	12	11	Female	White	White	34	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	34
337	11	11	Female	White	White	33	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	33
336	10	11	Female	White	White	32	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	32
335	9	11	Female	White	White	31	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	31
334	8	11	Female	White	White	30	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	30
333	7	11	Female	White	White	29	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	29
332	6	11	Female	White	White	28	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	28
331	5	11	Female	White	White	27	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	27
330	4	11	Female	White	White	26	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	26
329	3	11	Female	White	White	25	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	25
328	2	11	Female	White	White	24	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	24
327	1	11	Female	White	White	23	U.S. born	U.S. born	1	23

HOUSEHOLD	PERSONS	NAME	RELATION	BIRTH DATA		RACE		SEX		MARRIAGE		EDUCATION		PLACE OF BIRTH		ANNUAL PERSONAL INCOME		CITIZENSHIP, ETC.		OCCUPATION AND INVESTMENT		EMPLOYMENT		MIGRATION	
				Year	Month	Color	Male	Female	Married	Single	Grade	Years	Foreign	Native	Income	Source	U.S.	Foreign	Industry	Establishment	Class	Employed	Unemployed	Year	Reason
1	1	W. M. Beck	Head	1863	1	W	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	1	M. Beck	Wife	1865	1	W	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
3	1	J. Beck	Son	1895	1	W	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
4	1	M. Beck	Daughter	1905	1	W	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
5	1	J. Beck	Son	1915	1	W	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
6	1	M. Beck	Daughter	1925	1	W	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
7	1	J. Beck	Son	1935	1	W	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
8	1	M. Beck	Daughter	1945	1	W	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
9	1	J. Beck	Son	1955	1	W	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
10	1	M. Beck	Daughter	1965	1	W	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
11	1	J. Beck	Son	1975	1	W	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
12	1	M. Beck	Daughter	1985	1	W	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
13	1	J. Beck	Son	1995	1	W	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
14	1	M. Beck	Daughter	2005	1	W	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
15	1	J. Beck	Son	2015	1	W	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
16	1	M. Beck	Daughter	2025	1	W	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
17	1	J. Beck	Son	2035	1	W	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
18	1	M. Beck	Daughter	2045	1	W	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
19	1	J. Beck	Son	2055	1	W	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
20	1	M. Beck	Daughter	2065	1	W	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
21	1	J. Beck	Son	2075	1	W	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
22	1	M. Beck	Daughter	2085	1	W	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
23	1	J. Beck	Son	2095	1	W	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
24	1	M. Beck	Daughter	2105	1	W	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
25	1	J. Beck	Son	2115	1	W	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
26	1	M. Beck	Daughter	2125	1	W	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
27	1	J. Beck	Son	2135	1	W	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
28	1	M. Beck	Daughter	2145	1	W	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
29	1	J. Beck	Son	2155	1	W	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
30	1	M. Beck	Daughter	2165	1	W	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
31	1	J. Beck	Son	2175	1	W	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
32	1	M. Beck	Daughter	2185	1	W	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
33	1	J. Beck	Son	2195	1	W	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
34	1	M. Beck	Daughter	2205	1	W	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
35	1	J. Beck	Son	2215	1	W	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
36	1	M. Beck	Daughter	2225	1	W	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
37	1	J. Beck	Son	2235	1	W	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
38	1	M. Beck	Daughter	2245	1	W	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
39	1	J. Beck	Son	2255	1	W	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
40	1	M. Beck	Daughter	2265	1	W	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
41	1	J. Beck	Son	2275	1	W	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
42	1	M. Beck	Daughter	2285	1	W	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
43	1	J. Beck	Son	2295	1	W	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
44	1	M. Beck	Daughter	2305	1	W	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
45	1	J. Beck	Son	2315	1	W	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
46	1	M. Beck	Daughter	2325	1	W	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
47	1	J. Beck	Son	2335	1	W	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
48	1	M. Beck	Daughter	2345	1	W	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
49	1	J. Beck	Son	2355	1	W	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
50	1	M. Beck	Daughter	2365	1	W	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	

NAME LITWIN, MAX		STREET ADDRESS 114 CYPRESS		155999	
1 CENSUS TRACT - 150		12 CITIZENSHIP U.S. <input type="checkbox"/> 1 NAT. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 PA. <input type="checkbox"/> 3 AL. <input type="checkbox"/> 4			
2 CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE PROVIDENCE		13 IF AT SCHOOL - NAME OF SCHOOL		19 USUAL OCCUPATION 003 AGENT	
3 TOWNSHIP PROVIDENCE		14 GRADE		20 INDUSTRY 34 INSURANCE	
4 COUNTY PROVIDENCE		15 ANY PHYSICAL DISABILITY BL <input type="checkbox"/> 1 TB <input type="checkbox"/> 4 EP <input type="checkbox"/> 7 HF <input type="checkbox"/> 2 HTD <input type="checkbox"/> 5 OTHER <input type="checkbox"/> 8 MEN <input type="checkbox"/> 3 CRP <input type="checkbox"/> 6		22 RESIDENT OCCUPATION 003 AGENT	
5 IF HEAD OF FAMILY - NO. IN FAMILY		16 EVER HAD MEAS. <input type="checkbox"/> 1 S. PVR. <input type="checkbox"/> 2 DIPT. <input type="checkbox"/> 3 SCHICK TEST <input type="checkbox"/> 4		23 INDUSTRY 34 INSURANCE	
6 SEX MALE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 FEMALE <input type="checkbox"/> 2		17 USUALLY WORK AT GAINFUL OCCUPATION YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 NO <input type="checkbox"/> 2		24 W. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 W.P. <input type="checkbox"/> 2 C. <input type="checkbox"/> 3 S.E. <input type="checkbox"/> 4 CLASS OF WORKER	
7 COLOR OR RACE WHITE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 NEGRO <input type="checkbox"/> 2 OTHER <input type="checkbox"/> 3		18 IF NO-15 HE SEEKING WORK YES <input type="checkbox"/> 1 NO <input type="checkbox"/> 2		25 IF NOT AT WORK - WHY NOT 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AT WORK 4 <input type="checkbox"/> PART TIME 2 <input type="checkbox"/> IND. DISP. 5 <input type="checkbox"/> NO WORK 3 <input type="checkbox"/> SICK 6 <input type="checkbox"/> PHYS. INCAP. 7 <input type="checkbox"/> RELIEF PROJECT	
8 COUNTRY OF BIRTH 79 POLAND		19 MONTHS EMPLOYED IN 1935 12		STATE OF RHODE ISLAND CENSUS LICENSED FOR USE UNDER PATENT 1,772,492	
9 DATE OF BIRTH JULY 12, 1912		20 IF NOT AT WORK - HOW MANY MONTHS IDLE		ADDRESS MET. INS. CO.	
10 MARITAL STATUS M. <input type="checkbox"/> 1 S. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 W. <input type="checkbox"/> 3 DIV. <input type="checkbox"/> 4		21 READ OR WRITE ENGLISH YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 NO <input type="checkbox"/> 2		DATE JAN. 4, 1936	
11 READ OR WRITE ENGLISH YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 NO <input type="checkbox"/> 2		22 AL. MADE		INITIALS N.E.M.	
LB.M. 130419 FORM P.C. 1 - 003		5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40		+	

