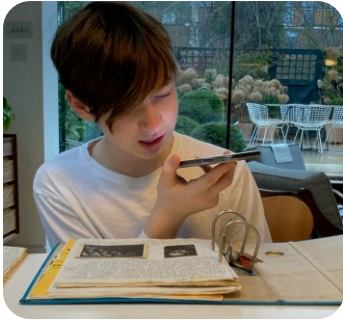


From Jack Lesser



For my Barmitzva project I was wondering what to do to develop my understanding of Judaism and things related to the subject. I believe that volunteering is a very necessary and good thing to do however I'm doing that for my DofE (Duke of Edinburgh award scheme) so I thought that I could take this opportunity to find out more about my own family's history. That's when my dad and I came upon my Great Grandpa's life story, which he

wrote many years ago - "My First 80 years".

His name was Sammy Pelten. He was born in 1902 in Warsaw, the capital of Poland. My middle name is Samuel, named after him but I never met him. He died in 1989. The story is from his experiences all throughout his life including both World Wars. Luckily, he escaped from Nazi Europe to England, and began a new life in Belsize Park in London. His story is fascinating, and it meant that I could learn more about my family's history and its relationship to Judaism.

However, there was one problem, all his writing was done by hand on scrap pieces of paper with loose pictures and letters. All held in two big folders. So, my dad and I decided that we would read each page into our phones to turn it in to text so we can make it into a proper book which would mean that me and my cousins and other family members could read it properly and learn about our family history. We started this project a couple of weeks ago and have already made good progress but there is still much more to do, and I look forward to reading and writing up his words.