

Meeting: 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, SS 3A, AMS-MAA Special Session on History of Mathematics, I

1003-01-733 **Daniel S. Alexander*** (daniel.alexander@drake.edu), Department of Mathematics, Drake University, 2507 University Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50311. *Stefan Banach and the Weigl Institute: Banach During World War II*. Preliminary report.

The record of Stefan Banach's experience during World War II is slim. We know that during the Nazi Occupation he worked in a factory in Lwów which produced a typhus vaccine, but the details of that experience are not well-known. This presentation will hopefully add to this record by discussing the recollections of Waclaw Szybalski, McArdle Laboratory for Cancer Research, University of Wisconsin, who supervised Banach at the factory. The nature of Banach's work at the factory will be discussed as well.

Banach's story is intimately linked to that of the relatively unknown "Schindleresque" factory owner who employed Banach, Rudolf Weigl, inventor of the typhus vaccine, who in 2003 was honored by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations. Weigl's factory served not only as a refuge to members of the Lwów intelligentsia during the occupation, but also as a center of resistance, both militarily and culturally. An overview of Weigl's accomplishments will be given, with particular attention paid to the mathematical activity at his factory during the occupation.

Banach's mathematics will not be discussed, except in very broad terms. (Received September 28, 2004)